

**RELEASED: Thursday, 21st September**

## **THE RANSOM: FOUR CORNERS**

**Airs Monday 25th September at 8.30pm**

**The Ransom: inside the murky world of international kidnapping and hostage negotiation.**

*"I work for a client in a critical situation who is in physical danger. My only objective is to get him out alive as quickly as possible. That's all. Arresting, judging... not my problem." Hostage recovery agent*

Every year more than 30,000 people are kidnapped around the world. A small number are taken for political reasons, many more are held for financial gain.

*"It was all about money, money, money, money...I mean it was purely business." Former hostage*

Rescuing these hostages is an expensive and often dangerous affair, conducted far from the public's gaze.

With exclusive access to leading hostage recovery agents, *The Ransom* reveals the cat and mouse games employed to bring a hostage out alive.

*"The discipline of hostage negotiation, it's more of an art than a science. You have to think, as a negotiator, you're looking at: what is the hostage taker's real motivation in this situation?" Hostage recovery team leader*

These agents have deep experience in dealing with kidnap, extortion and emergency evacuations in some of the highest risk locations in the world.

*"Finding people that have a lot of experience doing that sort of thing is not easy. It's not as if you can do a Google search and come up with a list of qualified candidates." Hostage recovery team leader*

Working hand in glove with these teams are specialist kidnap and ransom insurers who have created a lucrative new line of business by offering policies covering everything from missing ransom money to severed fingers and death.

*"It's a profitable business, we work to be profitable, but one claim can really hurt you, and hurt your book that year, it can be really severe." Insurance broker*

The program captures one rescue operation unfolding before the cameras, as hostage negotiators strategise over how to handle the life or death emergency.

*"If you pay what they ask too quickly, you expose yourself to another risk of abduction. If it has been easy to get your money, word gets about that you're*

*an easy touch. And you become for them a potential new profitable victim.”*  
*Advisor*

**The Ransom, directed by Remi Laine and presented by Sarah Ferguson, goes to air on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 8.30pm. It is replayed on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 1.00pm and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> at 11pm. It can also be seen on ABC NEWS channel on Saturday at 8.10pm AEST, [ABC iview](#) and at [abc.net.au/4corners](#).**

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