



James Wright Foley

James Wright Foley, an American journalist and freelance war correspondent was abducted November 22, 2012 while working as a reporter during the Syrian Civil War. He was beheaded on August 19, 2014 in response to American airstrikes in Iraq, thus becoming the first American citizen killed by the self-described Islamic State.



Steven Joel Sotloff

On August 4, 2013, Steven Joel Sotloff, an American-Israeli journalist was abducted while working as a reporter during the Syrian Civil War. On August 19, 2014, ISIS released a video titled "A Message to America", showing the beheading of fellow journalist James Foley. At the end of the video, ISIS threatens the President of the United States, Barack Obama, telling him that "his next move" will decide the fate of Sotloff. On September 2, 2014 a video, entitled "A Second Message to America", was discovered purportedly ahead of its intended release showing Sotloff's beheading in response to American airstrikes on the Mosul Dam in Iraq.



David Cawthorne Haines

In March of 2013, David Cawthorne Haines, a British humanitarian worker, was abducted while working to help the internally displaced in Syria. He was shown at the end of the Steven Sotloff beheading video as the intended next victim if airstrikes against ISIS did not cease. The UK Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond revealed that David Cawthorne Haines was one of the intended targets of a failed American rescue mission on July 4, 2014. His beheading was depicted in a video entitled "A Message to the Allies of America", released by ISIS on September 13, 2014.



Alan Henning

Alan Henning was a British taxicab driver, turned volunteer humanitarian aid worker. He was part of a team of volunteers delivering goods in December 2013 to people affected by Syria's civil war. Masked gunmen abducted Alan Henning on December 26, 2013. A video released by ISIS on October 3, 2014, depicted his beheading. The executioner blamed the UK for joining the U.S. led bombing campaign against ISIS. At the end of the video, the American aid worker Peter Kassig is shown as the next intended victim.



Peter Kassig (Abdul-Rahman Kassig)

Peter Kassig worked in Syria and Lebanon as a humanitarian worker for a non-governmental organization he founded in the Fall of 2012 to provide refugees in Syria and Lebanon with medical assistance, supplies, clothing, and food. He was abducted on October 1, 2013, in eastern Syria delivering food and medical supplies to refugees. While in captivity, Peter Kassig converted to Islam and changed his name to Abdul-Rahman Kassig. His parents released a video in which they stressed that his conversion to Islam was not forced, and that his path to conversion began before he was taken captive. On November 16, 2014, ISIS posted a video showing his executioner standing over a severed human head. The beheading itself was not shown in the video. The White House later confirmed the person killed was Peter Kassig. A *Daily Telegraph* security expert speculated that Kassig may have defied his captors, and refused to provide a beheading video statement.



Haruna Yukawa and Kenji Goto

Haruna Yukawa was a private military contractor providing protection to Japanese companies in areas of conflict. In April 2014 while in Syria, he was abducted by the Free Syrian Army. Japanese journalist Kenji Goto was brought in to interpret, and secured Yukawa's release. Both went back to Japan, but Yukawa soon returned to Syria and was again abducted. In October 2014, Goto returned to Syria to try to secure Yukawa's release once again when he was abducted. The two appeared in a video in January 2015 in which ISIS gave the Japanese government a deadline of 72 hours to pay a ransom for their release. When the deadline passed, a video of Yukawa's beheading was released. By the end of the month, the group released another video of the beheading of Goto, in which the executioner proclaimed to Japanese prime minister Shinzō Abe "Let the nightmare for Japan begin."



Kidnapping and Beheading of 21 in Libya

Twenty Egyptian Christians were kidnapped along with a man from Ghana in the Libyan coastal city of Sirte in two separate incidents in December 2014 and January of 2015. On February 15, 2015 a five-minute video titled “A Message Signed With Blood to the Nation of the Cross” was published showing the beheading of the captives on a beach along the Mediterranean coast. The lead executioner speaks in fluent English with an American accent, and emphasizes that the fighters are a part of the broader Islamic State group. He implies that the executions are revenge for the killing of Osama bin Laden by American commandos and his burial at sea. After the executions the ISIS leader states, “We will conquer Rome, by Allah’s permission”. The video bears the logo of Al Hayat, the self-proclaimed Islamic State’s media arm. Unlike the cellphone videos typically made by Libyan militants, the video is as polished as previous Islamic State videos, with slow motion, aerial footage and the quick cuts of a music video. The only sound in much of the background is the lapping of waves. Following the release of the video, several experts argued that it had been digitally manipulated and that the actual murders were likely filmed in front of a green screen and then superimposed onto the footage of the beach. On February 21, 2015 the Coptic Pope Tarwados II announced that the victims will be considered martyrs of the Coptic Orthodox Church and that their deaths will be commemorated every February 15th.



Execution of 30 Ethiopian Christians in Libya

On April 19th 2015, a video was released by the media arm of the self-proclaimed Islamic State depicting the execution of two groups of Ethiopian Christians captured in Libya. The 29-minute video titled "Until There Came To Them Clear Evidence" depicts two groups of men, one in orange jumpsuits and the other in black, being killed in separate locations in Libya, according to the video's narrator. One group is beheaded on a beach along the Mediterranean Sea, while the other group is shot in a Southern Libyan desert location hundreds of miles away. A masked fighter brandishing a pistol delivers a long statement, saying Christians need to convert to Islam or pay a special tax prescribed by the Qur'an. After the statement is read, the video switches between footage of the two executions. With the confirmation of the deaths of their nationals, the Ethiopian Parliament declared a three-day national mourning period to honor the victims.
