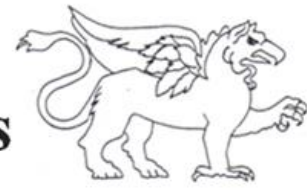




*Specialised*  
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**PROJECT:**  
**THE LINK BETWEEN  
MOBILE BANKING APPS'  
FACIAL RECOGNITION  
AND KIDNAPPINGS IN  
SOUTH AFRICA**

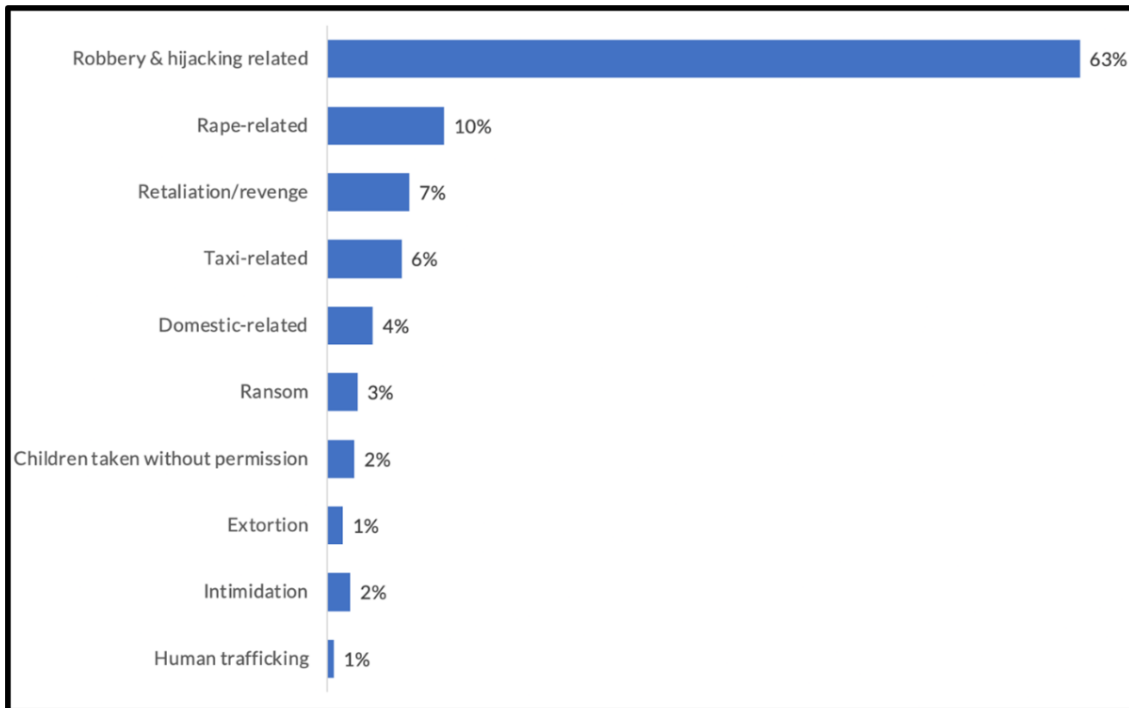
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*Is there a connection between mobile banking apps' facial recognition and kidnappings in South Africa?*

*In the chart below, you will see a breakdown of reported kidnappings over the past 12 months.*

*A very large percentage of these kidnappings were committed for financial gain.*

*Over the past 36 months, kidnappings in South Africa have increased by more than 100% over every 3- to 6-month period.*

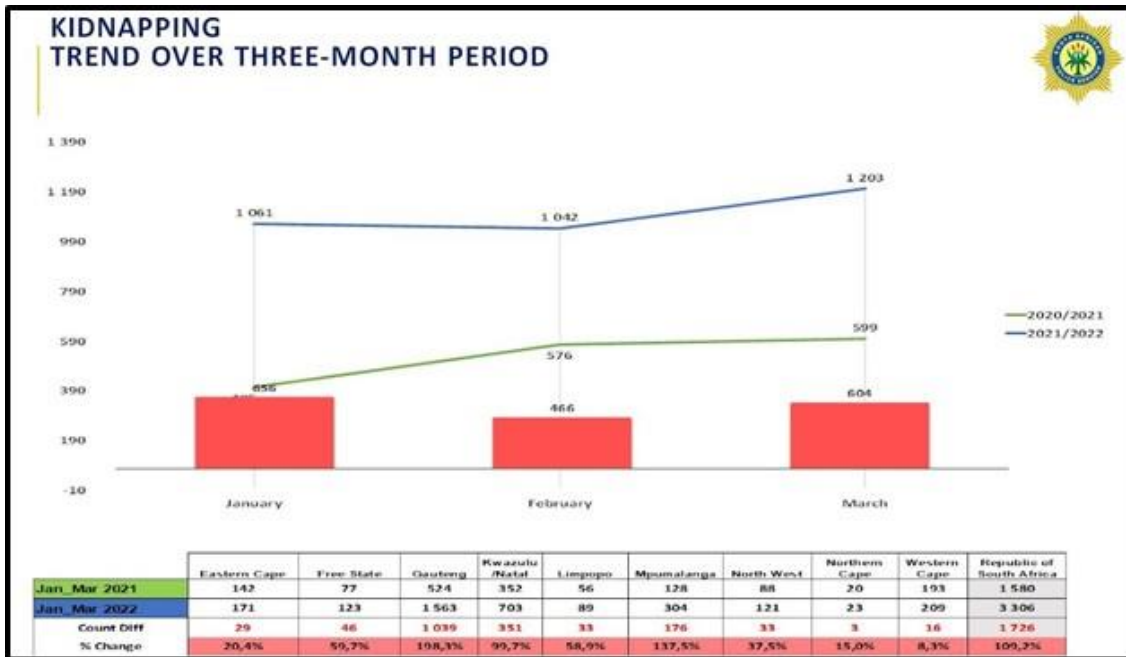


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**WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED THE  
DRAMATIC RISE  
IN KIDNAPPINGS FROM 6,623 IN 2019  
TO ALMOST 11,000 IN 2021?**

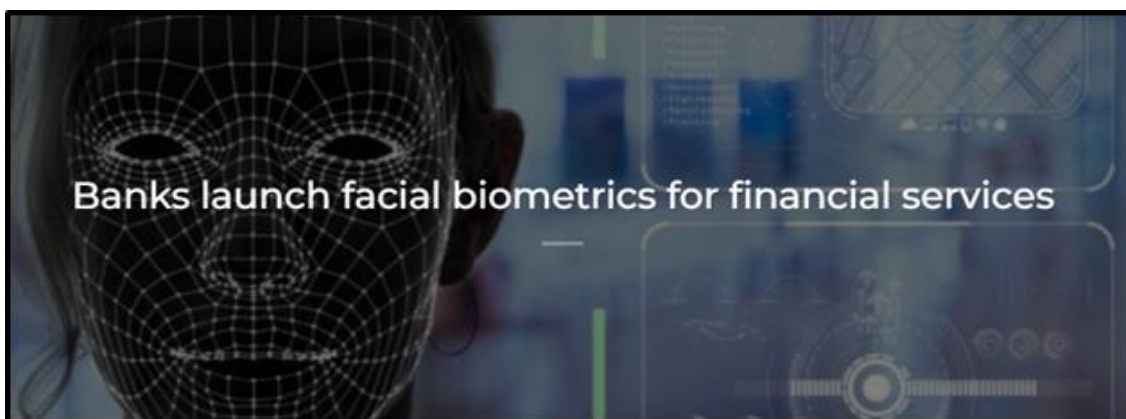
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- The impact of the nationwide lockdowns during the Covid pandemic could have played a part in the increased rates of kidnappings as well as other violent crimes in 2021, but based on the evidence from many cases, along with the modus operandi and the methods used by kidnapers, the reason for the increase in kidnappings and especially kidnappings that end in murder, could be that criminals were forced by technology to adjust the way that they have operated in the past.
  - A common phrase used in the criminal underworld known as; "a hit and run crime" meant to commit a crime and get away with as much as possible, as quickly as possible.
  - The opportunity for criminals to commit these crimes has been reduced over recent years, mainly owing to technology that is aimed at increasing online security.
  - This means that it has become more difficult for criminals to rob a victim from a distance.
  - It also means that a criminal now has to get closer to his victim, raising the risk of physical safety to both the criminal and his intended victim.
-



The chart above shows a 109% increase in kidnappings between the years 2021 and 2022 over a three-month period.

Kidnappings for financial gains have been on a drastic rise since the start of 2021, and this has coincided with something else that also happened towards the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021.



*Most South African banks started implementing facial biometrics on their banking apps between November 2020 and March 2021.*

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*Throughout the rest of 2021,  
the security of the banking apps increased  
and facial verification for larger payments  
started becoming the norm.*

*On some of the banking apps you  
need to do facial verification to  
add a new recipient.*

---

### **HOW DID THIS AFFECT THE KIDNAPPING RATES?**

- Armed robbers and kidnappers had to improvise as they could no longer simply take a phone from a victim, forcing them to provide the pin to their banking app and then leave the victim next to the road or tied up in a field.
  - Instead, with increased security and the implementation of facial recognition for larger transactions, the criminal realized that he would have to keep the victim with him if he wanted to have a chance of emptying the bank accounts of the victim with success.
- 

### **WHY KIDNAPPING TURNS TO MURDER:**

- The risk of being recognised or more easily identifiable by the victim certainly plays a role in these cases.
  - In some of these cases, the criminal spends 3 to 4 days with the victim whilst emptying the bank accounts belonging to the victim.
  - The risk involved for these criminals drastically increases with every minute they spend with the victim.
  - They have to be on the move constantly, as mobile devices can be traced to a location.
  - They have to keep the victim with them, raising the risk that the victim might do something to draw the attention of nearby people.
  - They have to mask and unmask the victim on several occasions whilst making payments from the victim's bank account,
  - This raises the risk that the victim may be able to identify them, especially considering the fact that a large number of these cases involves a suspect who is known to the victim.
-

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*Crime is never excusable, and you cannot blame the increase in security in one area for the unforeseen decrease in security in another area.*

*Banks implemented facial recognition to protect the online security of their clients.*

*The implementation of facial biometrics has contributed to lower risks for users online, but in a country riddled with crime and corruption, it may very well have opened the door to a whole new breed of criminals.*

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**PREVIOUS RELEVANT PROJECTS:**

- <https://mikebh.link/39pCy7>
- <https://mikebh.link/kfBhXR>
- <https://mikebh.link/v4rs1u>

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**CONTACT MR MIKE BOLHUIS FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES, RECOMMENDATIONS, PROTECTION, OR AN INVESTIGATION IF NEEDED.**

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**ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED WITH THE UTMOST PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY.**

**FORWARD THIS DOCUMENT TO EVERYBODY.**

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Regards,

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<https://www.facebook.com/MikeBolhuisOfficial>

**EXTREMELY IMPORTANT:** All potential clients need to be aware that owing to the nature of our work as specialist investigators there are people who have been caught on the wrong side of the law - who are trying to discredit me - Mike Bolhuis and my organisation Specialised Security Services - to get themselves off the hook.

This retaliation happens on social media and creates doubt about our integrity and ability. Doubt created on social media platforms is both unwarranted and untrue.

We strongly recommend that you make up your minds concerning me and our organisation only after considering all the factual information - to the exclusion of hearsay and assumptions.

Furthermore, you are welcome to address your concerns directly with me should you still be unsatisfied with your conclusions. While the internet provides a lot of valuable information, it is also a platform that distributes a lot of false information. The distribution of false information, fake news, slander and hate speech constitutes a crime that can be prosecuted by law. Your own research discretion and discernment are imperative when choosing what and what not to believe.

**STANDARD RULES APPLY:** Upon appointment, we require a formal mandate with detailed instructions. Please take note that should you not make use of our services – you may not under any circumstance use my name or the name of my organisation as a means to achieve whatever end.

**POPI ACT 4 of 2013 South Africa:** Mike Bolhuis' "Specialised Security Services" falls under Section 6 of the act. Read more here: <https://mikebolhuis.co.za/popi-act-4-of-2013-section-6-mike-bolhuis/>

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**SSS TASK TEAM:**

<https://mikebh.link/Task-Team-2023>

**SSS CYBERCRIME UNIT:**

<https://mikebh.link/CyberTeam>

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# *Specialised* Security Services



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You are receiving this email to inform and keep you up to date with violent and/or economic crimes. This is important to enable you to inform and protect your loved ones and everyone you know.

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