

《基地组织释放2011年被抓的南非公民》

A South African man who was kidnapped by al Qaeda from Mali has been released and is back home, South African authorities said.

Stephen McGowan was abducted while on holidays with his family in Timbuktu in November 2011.

No ransom has been paid to secure his release, said the authorities.

According to CGTN's Yolisa Njamela, Stephen McGowan was held captive for almost six years.

He was abducted by the Islamist terror group in November 2011 at a hotel in Timbuktu along with a Swedish and a Dutch national.

McGowan was in Timbuktu as a tourist, traveling by motorcycle. International Relations Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane says McGowan was released last Saturday. The South African government had not paid ransom for his release.

McGowan is undergoing medical check-ups, and is in good health and spirits, according to his family.