



Meredith Wilson

Founder and CEO, Emergent Risk International, LLC

Meredith Wilson is the Founder and CEO of Dallas-based [Emergent Risk International, LLC](#). ERI empowers companies to address the impact of geopolitical risk on their business through intelligence and analysis. Founded in 2014 ERI specializes in helping companies build and strengthen internal business and risk intelligence programs through intelligence, analysis, consulting, technology and training. It is ERI's belief that the most effective intelligence programs are those that reside inside the organization built on specialized knowledge of the company and its business. ERI's clients include some of the largest multi-national companies in the United States and abroad.

Ms. Wilson has over 20 years experience in international environments, the energy sector, major corporations and the US intelligence community. Before founding ERI, Ms. Wilson worked in international mining, for the US Defense Intelligence Agency, ConocoPhillips and Kosmos Energy. She served as a business intelligence advisor to the National Intelligence Officer for Science and Technology and regularly provides briefings to business executives and members of the USG. She is a cofounder of the Private Sector Intelligence Council (PSIC), a Director for the Association for International Risk and Intelligence Professionals (AIRIP), and an Advisory Board member for the Dallas-Ft. Worth Global Chamber and the Southeastern Analysts' Roundtable (SEAR). She has a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and a Masters Degree in History. She has lived and worked globally, including extensive stints in Europe, Vietnam, Malaysia and Australia and speaks Indonesian and Malay.



Rachel Briggs, OBE

Executive Director of Hostage US

Rachel Briggs OBE is Executive Director of Hostage US, a nonprofit that supports hostages and their families, during and after a kidnapping. Rachel helped to set up and was the founding Director of Hostage UK, which she formed with Terry Waite. It was the world's first support service for the victims of hostage taking. She relocated to Washington, D.C. to set up Hostage US and leads further international expansion of the Hostage movement globally.

Ms. Briggs is a distinguished researcher and writer on issues of national security, has advised governments and corporations across Europe and North America, ran a working group for the European Union on the use of technology in tackling terrorism, and is a regular media commentator. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Global Center on Cooperative Security, which works with governments around the world and international institutions to tackle the challenge of violent extremism. She is also an Associate Fellow of Chatham House.

In recognition for services to hostages and their families, Ms. Briggs was awarded an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) by Her Majesty the Queen.