VAST Challenge 2014

Mini-Challenge 1 Guide for Reviewers

Mini-Challenge 1 is a text-based data collection concerning the kidnapping of the GASTech employees by members of the social movement group Protectors of Kronos (POK). This mini-challenge forms much of the foundation of the entire 2014 challenge as it contains information that both captures the history of the POK, GASTech, and of the region overall, and also the particulars about the kidnapping that took place.

## The Task

The contestants are asked to answer three questions, using visual analytic techniques to support their investigation:

1. Provide a visual representation of the structure of the Protectors of Kronos network, with supporting evidence.
   * Who are the leaders?
   * Who is part of the extended network?
   * How has the group structure and organization changed over time?
   * Where are the potential connections between the POK and GAStech?

Provide novel visualizations appropriate for communicating key information to the busy leaders of the investigation. Please limit your response to no more than eight images and 500 words.

1. Describe the events of January 20-21, 2014. What is the timeline of events? Please limit your response to no more than ten images and 500 words.
2. Identify at least two possible explanations why the GAStech employees may be missing. What evidence do you have to support each of these explanations? Please limit your response to no more than three additional images and 200 words.

So, the underlying purpose of these questions is to provide support to the imaginary investigation team *leaders*.

## The Data

The following datasets are provided to contestants:

* A map of the Mediterranean island of Kronos
* Descriptions of Kronos and Tethys
* A chart describing the local GAStech organization
* A spreadsheet of GAStech employee records
* Resumes and short biographies of many, but not all, of the GAStech employees
* Historical reports
* Relevant current and historical news reports from multiple domestic and translated foreign sources
* Email headers from two weeks of internal GAStech company email

A large part of this challenge is for the participants to familiarize themselves with the data and create a plan for how to use datasets to answer the questions. Some of these datasets are trickier than others.

# Answers to Questions

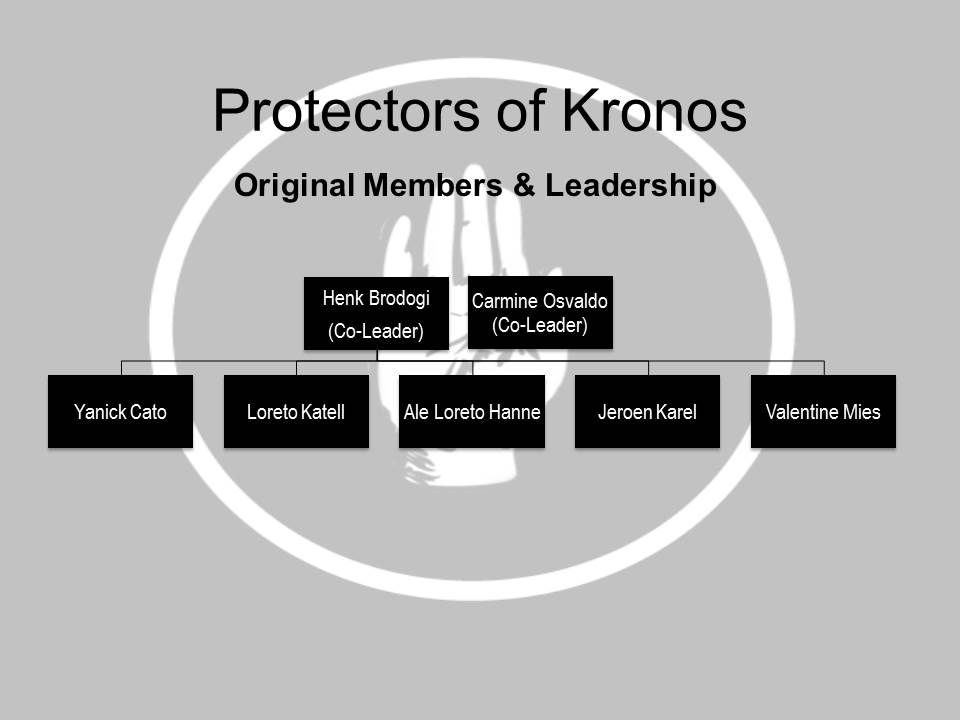
## Question MC1.1:

*Provide a visual representation of the structure of the Protectors of Kronos network, with supporting evidence.*

* *Who are the leaders?*
* *Who is part of the extended network?*
* *How has the group structure and organization changed over time?*
* *Where are the potential connections between the POK and GAStech?*

The POK evolved over the years from an environmental concerns organization to a terrorist group. One key to a successful answer to MC1.1 is to show how visual analytics supported the development of the organization charts…just a set of Powerpoint-like slides are an insufficient response.

If the POK were to have an original organization chart, it would look something like this:



Some activities within the organization of interest over time include:

* Bodrogi hands control over to Karel in 2001
* M. Vann becomes influential in 2004
* Karel recruits Marek in 2005
* Jakab moves from Save Our Wildlands to POK in 2005
* POK reorganizes in 2009
* Karel is arrested and dies in jail under suspicious circumstances in 2009
* M. Vann consults the Asterian People’s Army in 2010, and thereafter leads a more violent direction for POK activities

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Contestants’ depictions may include a link to the APA, or linkages to particular government officials, or even information about key geographic locations such as Tethys or Elodis.

## Question MC 1.2:

*Describe the events of January 20-21, 2014. What is the timeline of events? Please limit your response to no more than ten images and 500 words.*

The timeline for the January 20 kidnapping revolves around the great GAStech meeting that is occurring at headquarters and provides the opportunity for POK to obtain hostages for ransom. An abbreviated set of the main events in the timeline follow:

January 20

1010 – The Board concludes its meeting and begins to move out to the celebration being thrown at City Hall

1015 – A fire alarm is pulled by an POK insider as a distraction. CEO Sanjorge may or may not be aware of this alarm – he is traveling to the party via helicopter and leaves. Fire engines arrive.

1115 – Sanjorge is at the reception, but other execs are missing. No information is forthcoming from GAStech or the police/fire department.

1205 – Sanjorge probably has decided something is wrong, and not only exits the reception in his helicopter, he exits the country in a private plane

1240 – By this time, the police and press are completely engaged and completely baffled.

1315 – Employees are back inside GAStech but clueless. Press start to call various people at GAStech, but get no information.

1340 – GAStech Tethys spills the beans that the execs are missing. The press runs with this information, but don’t have a definitive list of who is missing.

1805 – Sanjorge’s plane had arrived in Tethys, refueled, and starts back to Kronos with negotiators, an attorney, and security. Sanjorge stays in Tethys.

1930 – A news conference is held by a representative from Abila police. “Several GAStech employees appear to be missing. Anyone seeing unusual activity is asked to contact the Abila police”. They reveal that 14 employees are missing.

2200 – Tethys federal law enforcement and ministry of foreign affairs staff arrive at the Abila airport and are seen going into the Abila police headquarters.

January 21

0900 – Police news conference. Abila police are working with law enforcement and government from Tethys. They revise the number of missing people from fourteen to ten. Names of the missing have not been released.

1200 – POK news release to the media. POK claims responsibility for the kidnapping of key GAStech officials. POK demands a $20M ransom in order to obtain the release of the kidnapped individuals.

Participants should be clear on what are information elements drawn from the provided data and what are hypotheses or speculations on their part.

## Question MC 1.3:

*Identify at least two possible explanations why the GAStech employees may be missing. What evidence do you have to support each of these explanations? Please limit your response to no more than three additional images and 200 words.*

Possible explanations for the missing employees must be well-reasoned and supported by evidence taken from the provided data. Here are a few possible responses (although each of these would have to be supported by data as well):

1. The GAStech executives (except for Sanjorge) have been kidnapped by the POK and are being held for ransom.
2. The GAStech executives have been kidnapped by an unknown group (that is, the POK information is a deception of some sort…) and the POK are being used to further some other group’s agenda.
3. The government and GAStech are plotting together to get rid of the POK and have created an elaborate disappearance to “frame” that bothersome organization.

There is not yet a complete picture for the actual scenario from the MC1 information, so some gaps in the analysis are to be expected, but should also be identified.

# Supporting Information

The following information is provided for additional background.

## A Tour through the Data

*A map of the Mediterranean island of Kronos*

This image merely provides some setting information for the investigation. Kronos is an island in the Mediterranean, and if you allow your imagination to go along with the scenario, it sits just north of Crete. The map shows the general location of two cities important in the history of this scenario, Abila and Elodis. It also indicates the country of Tethys is to the north west of the island, perhaps somewhere in Europe.

*Descriptions of Kronos and Tethys*

The “FACTBOOK” files provide additional details about the two countries of specific interest. Some of these data points may be useful in forming hypotheses, others might help clear up questions about the countries.

*A chart describing the local GAStech organization*

This is a handy organization chart of the GAStech company. It provides a visual depiction of where everyone sits in the company structure.

*A spreadsheet of GAStech employee records*

So, where the org chart provides the high level information, the employee records provide detailed background on all the employees, from CEO Sanjorge downward.

*Resumes and short biographies of many, but not all, of the GAStech employees*

The executive team has short bios; the workers have resumes. Some of these documents show where certain employees originated from in Tethys, while other employees are native Kronosians.

*Historical reports*

The two historical documents, the 10 year report and the 5 year report, are key information sources for this challenge. The 10 year report is posited as a thesis published 10 years ago describing the social movement that ultimately became the more radical POK. The 5 year report is an updated review of the POK from (of course) five years ago. It continues where the first report leaves off, with additional information about the organization, its evolution, and its membership. Both documents contain names and dates relevant to MC1.1 questions.

*Relevant current and historical news reports from multiple domestic and translated foreign sources*

The set of data under the directory “Articles” contains the bulk of the information about the circumstances surrounding the kidnapping, and the reporting during the kidnapping. The information ranges from 1995-2014, so it is especially important that contestants are mindful of the analytic timeline.

There are several articles from several newspapers. However, there are five major newspapers that cover the key elements of this mini-challenge. They are:

Homeland Illumination: a POK advocate

Kronos Star: a government of Kronos advocate

The World: a business-oriented newspaper

Abila Post: a “law and order” paper focusing on local issues

International Times: a newspaper with an international perspective, somewhat in the style of the BBC.

Other newspapers essentially pick up news articles from these papers and repeat/recast them. Foreign translations make the articles somewhat garbled, but all other sources lead back to an article from these papers.

During the key kidnapping period of January 20-21, the Illumination, the Star and the Post ran blog reports of the events, which typically appear with time tags. MC 1.2 should be heavily populated with supporting evidence from these blog reports, as opposed to historical documents. The timeline should be reporting on an hour-by-hour basis at that point.

*Email headers from two weeks of internal GAStech company email*

This dataset contains information that could be used by contestants to create hypotheses about who might be involved in the kidnapping, through delving into the social network created via the email links. The email titles, while short, can be suggestive of items to consider.

## Dramatis Personae

This list may assist you in understanding the who’s-who in this Mini-Challenge:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Gender** | **Title/Info** |
| Adan Trais | Male | Minister of Armed Forces (2006 - ) |
| Aden Braich | Male | Government Spokesman (1988 - 1995) |
| Adian Koppolis | Male | Assistant Police Comissioner - Elodis |
| Adrien Carman | Male | Kronos Police Department Spokesman (2006 -) |
| Ale Loreto Hanne | Male | Original POK Member |
| Andreas Kapelou | Male | Brother of President Dorel Kapelou / Father of Vincent Kapelou |
| Antaura Karel | Female | Wife to Jeroen, mother of Elian |
| Beatriz Fluss | Female | Wife of Hank Fluss |
| Benito Cadau | Male | Minister of Agriculture (1990 - 2001) |
| Carla Forluniau | Female | Admin at GAStech |
| Carmine Bodrogi | Male | Arrested for Drug Possession with Intent to Deliver |
| Carmine Edris | Male | Victim of GAStech Truck Crash |
| Carmine Gurganus | Male | Government Spokesman (2000 - 2005) |
| Carmine Osvaldo | Male | Original POK Member - Co-leader, husband of Hanne |
| Celia Edris | Female | Victim of GAStech Truck Crash |
| Cesare Nespola | Male | Minister of Health (1995 - 2001) |
| Claudio Hamaeth | Male | Minister of Agriculture (2001 - ) |
| Claudio Morluniau | Male | Director Port of Abila |
| Cornelia Lais | Female | Admin at GAStech |
| Dante Argoelus | Male | Minister of Culture (2001 - ) |
| Donato Petri | Male | Writer for Kronos Star |
| Dorel Kapelou II | Male | President (2000 - ) |
| Dr. Jayala Mahmed |  | CARING Singapore |
| Dr. Ronald Gerard | Male | Resident at Abila General Hospital |
| Edvard Bugeilio | Male | Minister of Culture (1990 - 2001) |
| Edvard Vann | Male | GAStech - Kronos Security Guard interrogated - referenced in The Abila Post 20Jan2014 GAStech Employee interrogated/released |
| Elian Karel | Male | POK Martyr / Activist |
| Emile Siarad | Male | Government Spokesman (1995 - 2000) |
| Emile Voiles | Male | Presidential Council (2001 - ) |
| Emilio Haber | Male | Kronos Police Department Officer |
| Eva Thayer | Female | Writer for Kronos Star |
| Federigo Accardi | Male | Fire Captain of the Abila Fire Department |
| Felix Peairs | Male | Presidential Council (2006 - ) |
| Francisco Chadiau | Male | Minister of Armed Forces (1995 - 2001) |
| Hagar Awelon | Female | Shop-owner in Siopa District |
| Haneson Ngohebo | Male | Writer for Abila Post "On the Scene Blog" - at GAStech Headquarters |
| Hank Fluss | Male | Former CEO of GAStech / deceased |
| Hanne Osvaldo | Female | Wife of Carmine |
| Henk Bodrogi | Male | POK Original |
| Hennie Osvaldo | Male | Current POK Member, son of Carmine and Hanne, born 1992 |
| Henry Gad | Male | Minister of Armed Forces (1990 - 2001) |
| Inge Ferro | Female | Current POK Member, niece of Henk Bodrogi, born 1992, daughter of  Katje Ferro and Loreto Bodrogi |
| Ingmar Casablancas | Male | Environmental Safety Advisor - referenced in The World 13Nov1998  WFA blast GAStech |
| Ingrid Sanjorge | Female | Wife of Sanjorge Sr / Mother of Sanjorge Jr |
| Isia Vann | Male | Current POK Member, son of Lemual and Neske, born 1990 |
| Ivar Blanes | Male | Tethan Interior Minister |
| Jeroen Karel | Male | POK Original |
| Jim Cordon | Male | FoodSupport |
| Jirair Rocha | Male | Current POK Member, born 1992, brother of Joakim Rocha |
| Joakim Rocha | Male | Current POK Member, born 1990, brother of Jirair Rocha |
| Joclyn Reynolds | Female | Wellness for All Project Manager |
| Jules Jecovic | Male | Minister of Energy |
| Juliana Vann | Female | POK Martyr |
| Julius Uren | Male | Presidential Council (2011 - ) |
| Katje Bodrogi Ferro | Female | Sister of Henk Bodrogi, mother of Inge Ferro |
| Kriste Brontes | Female | POK Sympathizer / Protester |
| Lelio Masin |  | Writer for Kronos Star |
| Lemual Vann | Male | Father of Juliana Vann, husband of Neske |
| Lorenzo Di Stefano | Male | POK dominant personality post 2005 |
| Loreto Bodrogi | Male | Current POK Member, son of Henk Bodrogi,  born 1992, cousin to Inge Ferro |
| Loreto Katell | Male | Original POK Member |
| Lucio Jakab | Male | POK dominant personality post 2005 |
| Luis Araullo | Male | Former President (1990 - 2000) |
| Maha Salo | Female | Reporter for the Kronos Homeland Illumination |
| Mandor Vann | Male | Younger Brother to Lemual Vann / Uncle to Isia Vann;  has lead efforts to adopt increasingly violent acts |
| Marcella Trapani | Female | Writer for Kronos Star |
| Marcellus Edris | Male | Victim of GAStech Truck Crash |
| Marcus Treharne | Male | Presidential Council (2001 - ) |
| Mark Dacus | Male | Presidential Council (2006 - ) |
| Michale Kraft | Male | Attorney for Elian Karel |
| Minke Mies | Male | Current POK Member, son of Valentine Mies, born 1993 |
| Mira Bodrogi | Female | Wife of Henk Bodrogi |
| Miriam Avila | Female | Adminstrative Assistant - Tethys - referenced in The Abila Post 20Jan2014 |
| Neske Vann | Female | Mother of Juliana Vann, wife of Lemual |
| Petra Hohimae | Female | Presidential Boat Captain |
| Petrus Gerhard | Male | Writer for Homeland Illumination |
| Pondo Reese | Male | Editor of the Elodis Weekly Journal |
| Prof Oskar Wertz | Male | Tethys University |
| Ravi Danisliau | Male | Abila Airport Fueler |
| Rebecca Cato | Female | Citizen of Elodis / Witness to GAStech Explosion |
| Rufus Drymiau | Male | Government Spokesman (2005 - ) |
| Ruscella Haber | Female | Admin at GAStech, Aunt of Minke Mies |
| Sal Hiachach | Male | Minister of Health (1990 - 1995) |
| Sara Tuno | Female | Writer for Abila Post - at government reception |
| Shawn Pastorini | Male | Journalist for International Times |
| Silvia Marek | Female | Leader of POK (2009 - ) |
| Span Kwinze | Male | Energy Commentator |
| Sten Sanjorge Jr | Male | President and CEO of GAStech |
| Sten Sanjorge Sr | Male | Former President of GAStech / deceased |
| Terek Kamal |  | Truck Driver |
| Tomas Sarto | Male | Minister of the Interior (199?) |
| Torsten Trucco | Male | Hospital Administrator Abila General Hospital |
| Valentine Mies | Male | Original POK Member |
| Valeria Edris | Female | Victim of GAStech Truck Crash |
| Vincent Kapelou | Male | Minister of Health (2001 - ) |
| Willem Gracias | Male | Centrum Children's Hospital President (Tethys) |
| Yanick Cato | Male | Original POK Member |
|  |  |  |

## Detailed Background on the POK

The Protectors of Kronos (POK) were formed in 1997 by a group of citizens from Elodis, Kronos as a grassroots effort to address contamination of the nearby Tiskele River their source of irrigation, culinary, and potable water that grew into a Social Movement Organization (SMO). The initial stages of the SMO saw the founding members of the POK being: Henk Bodrogi, Carmine Osvaldo, Ale L. Hanne, Jeroen Karel, Valentine Mies, Yanick Cato, and Joreto Katell. During the initial stages of the effort Henk Bodrogi and Carmine Osvaldo emerged as co-leaders.

Jeroen Karel and Valentine Mies discover GAStech waste discharge pipe from their gas drilling operation spilling into the Tiskele River, about 25 km upstream from Elodis. The SMO established an identity brand and a specific agenda: to bring clean water to Elodis and clean up the contamination in the river. The group formalized their identity with the Protectors of Kronos and a logo consisting of an open right hand within a white circle on a black background. The POK reached out to an international agency specializing in clear water for communities Wellness for All (WFA). WFA encourage POK to engage GAStech regarding water contamination and after several months of denials, Hank Fluss, COO of GAStech, agreed to a meeting. Bodrogi was encouraged with Fluss taking the POK’s issues back to GAStech CEO Sten Sanjorge, Jr.

The first serious schism in the group began with the August 18, 1998 death of ten-year old Juliana Vann from leukemia associated with benzene toxicity. Mies won out and with the iconic image public awareness for the POK across Kronos began rising. WFA water testing in 1998 indicated high levels of chemicals associated with Hyper Acidic Substrate Removal, a technology associated with natural gas drilling operations. Membership in the POK increased following the death of Juliana and the publication of the scientific reports from WFA. Jeroen Karel stepped into the role as recruiter and personnel organizer. The POK are recognized as a formal SMO, moving their primary lobbying efforts to Abila, the capital of Kronos. They begin to stage public rallies to pressure the government into action. After a series of meetings, the Minister of Health Cesare Nespola announced in July 1999 he would sponsor a bill on oil and gas development that would fund health care and clean water projects. Negotiations with Hank Fluss are discontinued due his declining health. Beyond Nespola, the POK found most other government doors closed to them. In March 2001 the Government of Kronos Assembly voted down Nespola’s proposed tax and in June 2001 Nespola died.

Following an explosion at a GAStech site near Elodis, the POK staged a protest in August 2001 that ended in the first arrests associated with the group. The founding members began transitioning out with Henk Bodrogi turning over public appearance responsibilities to Elian Karel. In October 2001, Bodrogi officially stepped down handing over all his responsibilities to Elian Karel. By the end of 2001 all the original members had stepped aside. 2002 saw Karel’s leadership energize the POK and shift the agenda to also include an accounting of actions by government officials. The public concern about bribes and corruption brought many more supporters into the fold. Karel proved to be a persuasive recruiter focusing his efforts in Abila, the capital of Kronos. Karel staged numerous peaceful environmental rallies. After the 2005 Tiskele River fire the tone of the POK protests changed marked by an increase in civil disobedience and militant, violent action. It was not clear if this was tactical change by Karel or if he had lost some measure of control over more radical members of the group. In 2009 the POK reorganized, renewing their pressure on the Government of Kronos. The new members are young, mostly male, had lived with injustice for years and were angry. They had not ruled out kinetic solutions and reintroduced the Juliana Vann campaign adding additional persons who have died.

Elian Karel died in jail on June 19 2009. He died in police custody and the POK suspects he was beaten to death. This event galvanized the POK to escalate to more violent methods. Sylvia Marek assumed leadership of the POK after his death. The second serious schism followed the death of Karel with one faction led by Sylvia Marek advocating a continued peaceful approach whereas Mandor Vann advocated a much more violent approach. Following the death of Karel the POK escalates their game to include large protest rallies in Abila, firebombing of police stations and other government offices, shooting buildings, vandalism, etc. The public appears to be sympathetic as the POK logo has been appearing around Abila. In February 2010 Mandor Vann and two others sought training from the Asterian People’s Army (APA) in Asteria with the intention of gaining the expertise needed to move the POK from a benign social movement to a force able to effect change through violent means. The first anniversary of Karel’s death is marked by organized protests including pictures of POK martyrs Elian Karel and Juliana Vann.

Concerned about the POK’s use of Karel as a martyr to promote the cause, the Government of Kronos begins to paint the POK as a disruptive entity that works against the common good. For example, when police respond to a public POK rally they do so with an increasingly disproportionate show of force. After a year in an APA training camp, Mandor Vann returns to Kronos in early 2011. Unbeknownst to the POK leadership Mandor began investing in the drug production and smuggling trade by building laboratories to create synthetic drugs (MDMC) and shipping them to APA-affiliated dealers in Tethys. Mandor intended these criminal ventures to fund a more violent effort to end the GAStech/Kronos cycle of corruption and pollution.

The second anniversary of Elian Karel’s death is marked by another large protest with vandalism and minor skirmishes with police. A new POK logo is introduced at the rally: it is a clenched fist holding a knife. Carmine Bodrogi, a relative of a known POK family, was arrested for attempting to smuggle drugs from Kronos to Tethys (possession/delivery). Mandor Vann began surreptitiously placing members inside of GAStech to further the violent agenda. March, 2012 Vincent Kapelou, the Minister of Health and the President’s nephew receives death threats from the POK.

On the third anniversary of Elian Karel’s death, the POK organized a protest rally along with a sit-in in front of the presidential manor and in front of the Abila capital building. The government set a large police force in riot gear to end the sit-in, which ultimately ends in violence. Protests and demonstrations continue through the end of the year. The protests and demonstrations continue with increased violence on both sides. Another anniversary of Karel’s death passed with another planned protest.

Mandor Vann selected the January 20 date of the executive meeting for the GAStech kidnapping. The GAStech IPO makes CEO Sanjorge Jr. a billionaire.

## Detailed Timeline of January 20 – 21

January 20

0800 – GAStech employees at work as normal. Big GAStech board meeting happening from 8-10 a.m., and then will attend a private reception celebrating the successful IPO and Kronos-GAStech partnership at the Abila City Hall immediately afterward.

0900 - Reporters are set up outside the GAStech HQ to take pictures of the exiting Board members and attempt to interview people as they leave the meeting to head to the reception. Reporters are set up both front and back of the building.

1010 – Board meeting breaks up. Execs see the reporters at all building entrances and want to avoid them.

1015 – Fire alarm is pulled by a POK insider. All employees go streaming out of the building. The execs (soon to be kidnap victims) head out to their cars with their drivers through the confusion; the cars drive away without any opportunity for interviews, but at least a few reporters see the cars drive off. Sanjorge’s helicopter takes off from the helipad on the roof of the GAStech building.

1025 – Fire department shows up at the facility and proceeds to do a search of the building.

1030 – Sanjorge arrives at the reception. There are reporters present to greet him as he walks from the helipad on the lawn but he gives no interviews, just waves to the reporters and keeps walking, with his bodyguards protecting him. Reporters stay put waiting for the other officials to arrive from GAStech.

1115 – People at the private reception become concerned; Sanjorge has arrived but the other senior leaders who were expected to be present haven’t shown up. Sanjorge’s people call back to the office; nobody answers because they are still evacuated for fire alarm.

Reporters at the reception site give initial indication that the other leaders haven’t arrived and may accuse them of trying to dodge reporters and wait out until the reporters have departed / given up. The reporters have no intentions of leaving.

1145 – Fire department finds no fire; gives all clear and people go back into the building at GAStech headquarters.

1155 – Sanjorge’s minion calls back to the HQ again to find out where the CEOs are, but no one answers the phones.

1205 – Sanjorge’s helicopter takes off to go to the airport

1215 – Police are called to the GAStech headquarters out of concern that the executives have not turned up. This call is caught on a police scanner by a reporter. Some reporters go back to GAStech headquarters to check it out. Others remain at the site of the reception.

1220 – “Unconfirmed reports” of disappearance of the leadership appear in the breaking news.

1225 – Sanjorge’s small private plane takes off for Tethys.

1230 – Initial media speculation reported that the executives, newly vested with their financial gains, have taken off for some exotic locale to celebrate and wait for the media attention to die down.

1240 – Additional police investigators arrive at GAStech headquarters. The investigators do not give any interviews or comments. Police set up a barrier around the building, as a crime scene. Reporters start watching the hospitals and morgue etc.

1315 – Reporters place calls to senior executive offices in GAStech’s Abila offices. The reporter asks to speak to Orhan Strum, the COO. Orhan’s administrator says that he is unavailable. Reporters then place additional calls and GAStech stops answering the phone.

1340 – Reporters place calls to GAStech in Tethys. An unsuspecting administrator spills the fact that some members of the leadership are in fact missing. This information is released in the news cycle with great fanfare. At this point, there is no information about who has been kidnapped, or whether it is in fact a kidnapping at all.

1502 – A few police depart GAStech headquarters. Reporters pepper police with questions, but get no response. The police department leaves a couple of people at the GAStech headquarters to secure the building. The police remain in the building, and send around detectives to interview employees.

1515 – Report from the Abila airport indicating that a private plane departed with eight people aboard at around 2:30 pm. The plane is a chartered jet; heading for Rome.

1517 – One GAStech employee reports to police detectives that he saw a couple of shadowy figures lurking outside the Board meeting room, and the employee doesn’t think these people were GAStech employees. The figures were dressed in black and seemed to be standing in the background.

1530 – News reports seize on these shadowy figures and report that GAStech employees may have been kidnapped.

1710 – Another person who said she was supporting the GAStech Board meeting and didn’t see any shadowy figures lurking anywhere. The “shadowy people” were the caterers for the breakfast meeting.

1730 – By this point, buoyed by the information gathered from the departing GAStech employees, the media begins reporting broadly that there are allegations of a kidnapping of some undetermined number of employees of GAStech and that the POK is thought to be involved.

1740 – Attempts to reach leaders of the POK for comment are unsuccessful.

1745 – The Post interviews a refueler at the airport. Someone reports that two jets left earlier in the day.

1800 – Reports from the Abila airport indicate the private plane departure earlier in the day was a delegation from another foreign company considering investment in Kronos. There is no connection to GAStech, or the GAStech employee disappearances.

1805 – Report from Tethys that the Sanjorge airplane arrived in Tethys a few hours ago, refueled and departed immediately with six people aboard (media person, negotiator, attorney, two security, and an admin).

1830 – Report from the Abila airport that a senior security executive and entourage arrived earlier that same day from the Tethys GAStech headquarters in an unmarked private plane. The security executive and entourage go directly to the Abila GAStech headquarters.

1835 – Speculation in the media that the GAStech security expert is on site to support the investigation or conduct hostage negotiations. Speculation that kidnapping for money is a potential motive due to the executives’ new wealth.

1900 – One of the last employees released by the Abila police after questioning (Edvard Vann) is interviewed by reporters. He is insulted by the insinuation on the part of the police that because he has a similar name to people in POK, he may be involved in the disappearance. This interview leads reporters to speculate that GAStech employees have been kidnapped, and that the POK is connected to the kidnapping. The employee is from Abila and works at GAStech, but is not related to POK.

1930 – A news conference is held by a representative from Abila police. “Several GAStech employees appear to be missing. Anyone seeing unusual activity is asked to contact the Abila police.” When asked if the employees have been kidnapped, the police representative replies “The case is under investigation and more information will be released as facts are learned. Please report any unusual activity to the Abila police.”

1935 – Another quote from the news conference with Abila police: “There is no indication that the individuals have left the island of Kronos”, so fears are growing that the individuals have been kidnapped.

1940 – Another quote from the news conference: “There are approximately fourteen individuals unaccounted for among the GAStech staff. It has not yet been determined if all of these individuals are in fact missing.”

2015 – Interview with low-level government official who was involved in the reception earlier in the day. “Investigators are working around the clock to ensure that the kidnapped GAStech employees are found and that the perpetrators are brought to justice.”

2045 – Background on the high security typically maintained at the GAStech facility; most senior executives have drivers employed by the company.

2100 – Summary article that captures the high level details of what took place during the day.

2200 – Tethys federal law enforcement and ministry of foreign affairs staff arrive at the Abila airport and are seen going into the Abila police headquarters.

January 21:

0700 – As day two of the kidnapping crisis begins, Abila police, assisted by detectives from Tethys, are investigating what exactly transpired following the GAStech board meeting. Up to fourteen people may be missing.

0900 – Police news conference. Abila police are working with law enforcement and government from Tethys. They revise the number of missing people from fourteen to ten. Names of the missing have not been released.

1000 – GAStech company news conference. The CEO, Sanjorge, is not missing and has returned to Tethys. “Our hearts go out to the families of the kidnapped. We are working for a speedy and safe resolution to this crisis.”

1200 – POK news release to the media. POK claims responsibility. POK demands a $20M ransom in order to obtain the release of the kidnapped individuals.