

Guard against Carjacking

Common techniques.

- a. **The Bump**—The attacker bumps the victim's vehicle from behind. The victim gets out to assess the damage and exchange information. The victim's vehicle is taken.
- b. **Good Samaritan**—The attacker(s) stage what appears to be an accident. They may simulate an injury. The victim stops to assist, and the vehicle is taken.
- c. **The Ruse**—The vehicle behind the victim flashes its lights or the driver waves to get the victim's attention. The attacker tries to indicate that there is a problem with the victim's car. The victim pulls over and the vehicle is taken.
- d. **The Trap**—Carjackers use surveillance to follow the victim home. When the victim pulls into his or her driveway waiting for the gate to open, the attacker pulls up behind and blocks the victim's car.

General

- e. Keep all doors locked and windows up while the vehicle is in transit, but especially so in the centre of town and at roundabouts or traffic lights.
- f. Keep to main roads even if this makes the journey longer.
- g. Avoid short cuts even in daylight (sometimes there is no choice, but you should minimize your exposure and do not stop at roadside stalls to buy goods).
- h. Drivers should prefer not sitting in their vehicles waiting for passengers who are shopping etc.(80% of car snatches involve gunmen overpowering drivers daydreaming in their vehicle).
- i. Lock and move away from the vehicle, but keep it within sight. Stay constantly vigilant when returning to the vehicle, **this is the time when you are most vulnerable to an attack.**

In the event of a Hijack

- a. Remain constantly alert at all times while driving the vehicle to any possible attack scenario. Should you see from a distance the possibility of an attack (or other security related incident) take some means of evasive action.
(In general this will mean you making “U Turn” and finding an alternative route. Do not try any fancy evasive action if you haven’t been trained, it will invariably go wrong).
- b. If an armed attacker has focused his attention towards your stationary vehicle the considerations become very different, try to remember the following;
 1. First and foremost forget bravado.
 2. If you try to run the attacker down you are likely to get hurt.
 3. Mentally accept that you might lose your vehicle.
 4. At the approach of an attacker, remember that he is likely to be hyped up and nervous.
 5. Do not attempt to drive away, he might fire at you.

Dos;

- React as calmly as possible,
- Showing your agreement to give up the vehicle.
- Keep your hands well in sight of the attacker (Reaching for a handbag or other valuables might be interpreted as reaching for a weapon).
- If there are other persons in the vehicle, instruct them to act accordingly.
- If wearing a seat belt, make sure you are in full view of the Hijacker before undoing the restraint.

The general policy adopted in Pakistan at present seems to be that any hijacker prefers the driver to remain in the vehicle while they test drive the vehicle for hidden alarms or inhibitors or cut-outs. If your vehicle has any such device, it should be indicated to the hijacker as soon as possible.

DON'Ts;

- Avoid eye contact with the hijacker, (they may recognize your anger and fear and become over excited by your reactions and may also think that you are trying to memorize their features for later identification purpose).
- Do not make any hasty movements.

- Do not talk to the hijacker unless he demands it.
- Do not reveal your anger.
- Do nothing to antagonize. (If released from the vehicle, walk away quietly with your eyes averted from the Hijacker's direction).

If you suspect an Attack while in transit

- Do not stop the vehicle.
- Keeps the vehicle moving, even at five miles an hour; (statistics prove that it is harder to hit a moving object than stationary)
- You should tell the passengers to get down across the back seat and those in the front seat to get down below the dash board.
- You should drive as quickly but as calmly as possible.
- You should try to avoid making rash or dangerous high speed maneuvers (unless trained).
- Ensure that the doors and windows are fully closed and locked.
- Make for a **“Safe Haven”** (Police Stations, Diplomatic Mission, Hotel, Hospital or similar) as soon as possible. (On arrival at the safe location wait for the threat to subside and report the incident to the Security Authorities; mentioning notes of any valid identification signs).

Remember as the driver of the vehicle;

“You must remain calm while others around you are falling apart”

CONCLUSION

1. Avoidance is the best way to prevent an attack.
2. Use your judgment to evaluate the situation and possible reactions.
3. Know safe areas to go to in an emergency.
4. Always carry your cell phone or Satellite Phone.
5. Non-confrontation is often the best response. The objective is not to thwart the criminal but to survive!