

Whispering Bell[®]

Security Risk Management



Established in 2009, Whispering Bell has rapidly expanded across the Middle East and North Africa region and now provides security risk mitigation support to clients from the oil and gas, critical national infrastructure, energy, telecommunications, maritime, aviation and government sectors in complex and high-risk environments.

The British-Arab origins of our company have afforded us the flexibility and cross-cultural understanding necessary to develop long term and practical solutions for our clients.

We are comprised of passionate security, risk management and financial professionals, specializing in integrated physical and operational security solutions with a core focus on service delivery.

By listening to our clients' needs and sharing our experience, each one of our solutions is unique and built around the specifics of the country, sector and people within the client's organization.

SECURITY CONSULTING SERVICES

Whispering Bell provides the full range of security and risk consulting services required to deal with the complexities of operating in some of the harshest business environments in the world.

The MENA region's diverse and unique cultures produce outstanding opportunities yet equal challenges that must be understood and mitigated at all stages of a project's lifecycle. Research and planning underpin our advice, and thanks to the experience gained over multiple client engagements, we can bring together the right team of

people and ideas to support even the most complex requirement.

We offer the following services:

- Corporate security strategy guidance and planning
- Security risk assessments
- Risk management
- Security design and engineering
- Security operations management
- Evacuation planning and evacuation operations
- Close protection



CORPORATE SECURITY STRATEGY GUIDANCE AND PLANNING

Risk management must be formulated at the highest echelon of a business before implementation at the operational level by experienced and well trained staff. We work with clients' C Suite executives at the earliest stage of a project in order to shape the risk landscape, understand the specifics of the client operation and then produce the plans and structures that cascade to the operations staff. Whispering Bell's senior consultancy team integrate into a client's management structure to produce the most bespoke and practical security strategies.

SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENTS

The development of security risk assessments is a scalable discipline that can be applied from single sites to critical national projects. Through multiple client engagements on some of the most iconic modern infrastructure projects in the region, Whispering Bell's consultants have gained world class experience in this field which can be scaled to almost any new client engagement.



CASE STUDY

Whispering Bell senior consultants were embedded into the structure of a European national oil company in order to conduct a company-wide strategic risk assessment from which a corporate security plan was developed and rolled out across its diverse operations.



CASE STUDY

Whispering Bell conducted a strategic security risk assessment of a refinery complex in a Gulf country, following an increase in threat across the GCC. The risk assessment was dovetailed into a broader review of the site's physical security measures and we were engaged on a long-term basis to manage the implementation of the upgrade to the site's security structures.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Whispering Bell's consultants come from various backgrounds including the military, intelligence services and commercial sectors and our services include security master planning, policy and procedures development, crisis management development/workshops/training, development of plans and SOPs from site to project-level, site security surveys, stress tests for company SOPs and Emergency Plans.

SECURITY DESIGN AND ENGINEERING

Whispering Bell consultants are able to offer advice on secure architectural and environmental design by applying the proven concept of 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design – CPTED'.

SECURITY OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

Our teams work to understand if and how your current security arrangements can be improved and help fill the gaps with cost effective strategies such as guard forces, mobile security teams, operations control centers, quick response teams, personnel and asset tracking, embedded Security Managers.

EVACUATION PLANNING AND EVACUATION OPERATIONS

Our team has been involved in many of the key evacuation operations over the last decade in the region and has built extensive knowledge and refined best practices for evacuation planning and training.



CLOSE PROTECTION

Through our local partner network, we regularly support client travel across the MENA with qualified local or international Close Protection Officers who are able to deploy at short notice if necessary. We can also arrange airport meet and greet services and secure transportation where required.



CASE STUDY

We provide retained management services to a US Oil and Gas company and have developed their global journey management plan, security policy in Nigeria, as well as conducted site assessments in Pakistan, Iraq and Nigeria.



CASE STUDY

Our design engineers have worked on multiple complex projects in the region including airports in Qatar, Libya and Malaysia as well as large industrial projects in Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Iraq.



CASE STUDY

Whispering Bell has been providing a turnkey security solution for the past 8 years for an International Oil Company in Libya which includes mobile and static security, in-country management, asset and people tracking as well as round the clock intelligence reporting.



CASE STUDY

We supported multiple client land, sea and air evacuations in the Summer of 2014 and Spring of 2019 following the outbreak of heavy inter-militia fighting in Tripoli and the sudden degradation in the country's overall stability.



CASE STUDY

Whispering Bell provided a global financial services organisation with a large team of trained Close Protection Officers in Egypt during the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations tournament. The team supported multiple tasks from VIP protection, mobile escorts to airport meet and greets.

BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES

Whispering Bell provides risk reporting, due diligence and market advisory services to multinational corporations and international investors operating in challenging and emerging environments in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia.

With a network of local service partners and contacts, we provide both strategic and ground-level information, enabling stakeholders to mitigate risks, identify opportunities and optimize decision-making across the region.

Whispering Bell has been operating in and collecting data from emerging and frontier markets for over 10 years. We are staffed by people who live and work in the region, understand the local context and speak the languages of the countries in which we report.

Our services include the following:

- Political and security risk assessments
- Market advisory
- Due diligence and investigations
- Litigation support

POLITICAL AND SECURITY RISK ADVISORY

We offer daily, weekly and bespoke reports that enable decision-makers to operate with confidence in some of the most hostile environments in the MENA region. Live incident alerts are disseminated to clients to inform their operations teams of critical events as they unfold and allow them to make quick and accurate decisions in times of confusion and uncertainty.

Our reports are based on a combination of sources including around the clock research and data gathering, historical statistical analysis, open source information, social media platforms and most importantly, our on-the-ground network of contacts.

We are well equipped to offer the following services throughout the MENA:

- In-depth analysis of security threats at the country, regional, city and even neighbourhood-level
- Bespoke political assessments looking at the short, medium and long term risks to business
- Project-specific risk assessments including mitigation plans
- Live incidents alerts



CASE STUDY

Whispering Bell analysts support a number of major international oil companies throughout the region by monitoring emerging threats, providing detailed security assessments and forecasting political developments with the potential to impact personnel, assets and business operations.



MARKET ADVISORY

We are committed to helping senior management identify and mitigate potential core business challenges. This commitment has shaped our values and professional practices throughout a number of key geographies, particularly in the MENA region. We have worked on many projects undertaking commercial analysis, on-the-ground data collection and business analysis, to more concretely understand the value and long-term viability of our clients' prospective new business ventures.

Our services include:

- Market entry and market topography research
- Competitive assessments
- Third party valuation
- Business plan validation
- Deal sourcing and origination



CASE STUDY

Whispering Bell was asked to perform a target identification and subsequently third-party valuation and competitive analysis of an IT consulting firm in Istanbul for a regional operator.

In response, our client acquired the target company and was able to leverage a competitive bid given their in-depth understanding of the target company's price point in the market and strength of their sales pipeline.

DUE DILIGENCE & INVESTIGATION

Informed decision-making is key for any organization looking to enter new markets or considering a strategic business opportunity. Our team of professional investigators has extensive experience in delivering on the ground results to multinational corporations and individuals across a number of critical areas including asset recovery and integrity due diligence.

Working with regional assets, the team has led major national and international fraud investigations, managed highly confidential enquiries and due diligence projects throughout Europe, Africa, Asia and has extensive experience partnering with clients from the banking, investment and insurance sectors.

Our services include:

- Corporate investigation and due diligence
- Asset tracing
- Beneficial ownership
- Company and key personnel reputational assessments
- FCPA and Bribery Act assessments



CASE STUDY

An international pharmaceutical company contracted Whispering Bell to investigate the possible illegal importation of medicine into a Gulf country, culminating in a report of findings based on site visits, procurement of samples and analysis of identification numbers and packaging materials.

LITIGATION SUPPORT

Whispering Bell is experienced in supporting legal firms and their clients in gathering and verifying data and evidence for litigation and due diligence purposes.

Our robust cyber forensics capability, coupled with a network of researchers and analysts experienced in working among hostile markets and failing states, means that we can access information and provide evidentiary insights where others cannot.

Our services include:

- Evidentiary support
- Computer and IT device forensics
- On-the-ground data collection through the Middle East and Africa
- Asset tracing
- Third party valuation
- Commercial due diligence, by 'piercing the corporate veil'
- Partner vetting



CASE STUDY

Whispering Bell was tasked with identifying the assets held or controlled by a businessman with current litigation ongoing out of London. Whispering Bell was able to identify beneficial ownership of unreported properties and stakes held in an unreported holding company domiciled in Mauritius through close family members.



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