

After latest kidnap attempt, crypto types tell crime bosses: Transfers are traceable

The sudden spike in copycat attacks in France, Belgium, and Spain over the last few months suggests that crypto robbery as a tactic has caught the attention of organized crime. (This week's abduction attempt is already being investigated by the organized crime unit of the Parisian police.)

Crypto industry insiders seem convinced that organized crime likes these attacks because of a (mistaken) belief that crypto transfers are untraceable. So people like Chainalysis CEO Jonathan Levin are trying to clue in the crime bosses.

"For whatever reason, there is a perception that's out there that crypto is an asset that is untraceable, and that really lends itself to criminals acting in a certain way," Levin said at a recent conference covered by the trade publication Cointelegraph.

"Apparently, the [knowledge] that crypto is not untraceable hasn't been received by some of the organized crime groups that are actually perpetrating these attacks, and some of them are concentrated in, you know, France, but not exclusively."

<https://arstechnica.com/security/2025/05/fractured-skulls-and-ski-masks-more-crypto-kidnap-madness-on-the-streets-of-paris/>