No Changes This Week:

Please be aware System Risk Management has asked all members to prohibit travel to extreme risk countries and regions. Please reference memorandum from the Chancellor regarding procedures relating to international travel to be followed by all System members found at this link:


Should you have any questions, please contact me directly. Thank you.

Henry Judah, AIC CPCU CLU ChFC | Associate Director
System Risk Management
hjudah@tamus.edu

1262 TAMU | College Station, TX 77840-7896
Tel. 979.458.6234 | Cell 979.820.2006 | Fax 979.458.6247 | www.tamus.edu

Country Travel Advisory List:

Any travel to the below listed countries requires an International Travel Questionnaire submission to System Risk Management for review.

- Afghanistan
- Central African Republic
- Cuba
- Gaza Strip
- Libya
- North Korea
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Syria
- Yemen

Any travel to the specified regions within a country noted below requires an International Travel Questionnaire submission to System Risk Management for review.

Information on Travel Restrictions From Listed Countries: Sudan, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia and Yemen.

• **Armenia**: Within 2km of the line of contact in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

• **Azerbaijan**: Within 2km of the line of contact in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

• **Cameroon**: Far North (Extreme-Nord) region and within 50km of Cameroon’s shared border with Nigeria in the country’s North (Nord) and Adamawa (Adamaoua) regions.

• **Chad**: Ennedi-Est, Ennedi-Quest, Wadi Fira, Quaddai and Sila (which border Sudan), the southern regions of Logone Oriental, Mandoul, Moyen-Chari and Salamat, the northern regions of Tibesti, Borkou and Ennedi-Qest (which border Libya) and the western Kanem and Lac regions.

• **Democratic Republic of Congo**: The eastern Nord-Kivu, Sud-Kivu, and Tanganyika provinces, as well as the north eastern Ituri, Haut-Uele and Bas-Uele provinces and the southern Kasia Central province.

• **Egypt**: North Sinai governornate.

• **Eritrea**: Within 20km of Eritrea’s borders with Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Sudan.

• **Ethiopia**: Within 20km of Ethiopia’s border with Eritrea in the Tigray and Afar regions, within 20km of the South Sudan border in the Gambela and Benishangul-Gumuz regions, and the Somali region (excluding the two northern zones of Fafan, formerly Jijiga, and Sitti, formerly Shinile).

• **Iran**: Sistan va Baluchestan province.

• **Iraq**: Baghdad, Anbar, Salah ad-Din, Kirkuk, Diyala, Ninewa, Karbala and Babil governorates and the northern Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)-held and disputed territory west of the Green Line.

• **Israel**: Within 2km of the shared Gaza Strip-Israel border in southern Israel and all travel to the Gaza Strip due to the threats of conflict and secondary threats of kidnapping and terrorism.

• **Japan**: Within a 20km radius of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okuma.

• **Kenya**: Within 50km of the Somali border in the Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Lamu counties.

• **Lebanon**: An area within 15km of the shared border with Syria in the Bekaa and North governorates and Palestinian refugee camps across the country.

• **Mali**: Gao, Kidal, Mopti and Timbuktu regions.

• **Mexico**: Due to the high risks of kidnapping, violent crime and an escalating drug cartel-related conflict, red24 currently advises against non-essential travel to the countryside outside of major cities and primary resort areas as well as the states of Tamaulipas, Michoacan, Coahuila, Sinaloa, Nayarit and Guererro.
• **Niger:** Within a 50km radius of Niger’s shared border with Nigeria in the administrative regions of Diffa and Zinder and to within a 100km radius of Niger’s shared borders with Chad, Algeria, Libya and Mali.

• **Nigeria:** Adamawa, Borno, Yobe and Gombe in the northeast. Rural and remote areas within Kaduna, Bauchi, Plateau, Benue, Zamfara, Enuge and Taraba states in the “Middle Belt” and the Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta and Rivers states in the south.

• **Pakistan:** Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces.

• **Philippines:** The southern Mindanao region and the Sulu Archipelago.

• **Russia:** Chechnya, Ingushetia, Dagestan and Kabardino-Balkaria (including the Mount Elbrus region).

• **Saudi Arabia:** Within 10km of the shared border with Yemen.

• **Somalia:** Most of Somalia except Puntland and Somaliland.

• **Sudan:** Dafur region, South Kordufan state, Blue Nile state and the disputed Abyei region.

• **Ukraine:** The Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the Crimean Peninsula.
News summary

**Americas**
- **HAITI** - Heavy rainfall causes damage and disruptions nationwide
- **UNITED STATES** - Boil water advisory issued in Greenville, Ohio
- **UNITED STATES** - Ongoing mumps outbreak in Anchorage
- **UNITED STATES** - Solidarity protest held in Washington

**Asia and Pacific**
- **CAMBODIA / VIETNAM** - (Update) Tropical Storm Kirogi makes landfall
- **INDIA** - Possible attacks during CPI-Maoist 'formation week'
- **INDIA** - Strike action called for Manipur State
- **INDIA** - Truckers' strike continues in Bihar State
- **INDONESIA** - (Update) Evacuations reported in Papua Province due to ongoing security problems
- **INDONESIA** - Security to be elevated ahead of separatist anniversary
- **JAPAN** - Anti-US protests possible in Okinawa during controversial trial
- **KAZAKHSTAN / KYRGYZSTAN** - Border disruptions ongoing
- **NEW ZEALAND** - (Update) Increasing mumps cases reported in the Auckland Regional Council
- **PAKISTAN** - (Update) Police may disperse ongoing protests in Islamabad and Karachi
- **PHILIPPINES** - ASEAN summit to take place in Bohol Province
- **SRI LANKA** - Rioting results in casualties in Galle District

**Europe and Russia**
- **FRANCE** - Apparent personal dispute leads to casualties in Paris
- **GREECE** - Unionised metro rail workers in Athens call for strike
- **IRELAND** - Ongoing measles outbreak in Dublin and Meath County
- **ITALY** - (Update) Unionised ground crew to strike in Tuscany Region
- **PORTUGAL** - Severe weather warnings issued in Azores
- **SPAIN** - Medical Workers' strike planned in Madrid
- **UKRAINE** - Dniproavia airline ceases operations
- **UNITED KINGDOM** - (Update) Ban on in-flight electronics eased
- **UNITED KINGDOM** - Nationwide RMT rail workers' strikes
Middle East and North Africa

ISRAEL - Ultra-Orthodox faction calls for road blockades nationwide
LEBANON - Independence Day to be celebrated nationwide

Sub-Saharan Africa

BURKINA FASO - Increased security reported in central Ouagadougou
BURKINA FASO - Nationwide education sector strike
BURKINA FASO - Suspected militants kill at least five in Taouremba
CAMEROON - Chinese national killed near Betare Oya
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - Disruptions due to flooding in Kinshasa
GABON - Major highway blocked near Libreville
GHANA - Nationwide protests expected
KENYA - Disruptive demonstrations in Nairobi
MALI - Demonstration expected in Bamako
NIGERIA - Students threaten protest action in Abuja
NIGERIA - Suicide bombings in Alakaramti village, Borno State
SENEGAL - Opposition protests possible in urban centres
ZIMBABWE - Political developments and nationwide protests

Americas

HAITI (Country risk rating: High); November 15 to 19; Heavy rainfall causes damage and disruptions nationwide

Heavy rainfall since November 15 has resulted in flooding in portions of northern and southern Haiti. At least five people have died in Saint-Louis-du-Nord, Nord-Ouest Department and in Les Cayes and Ile-a-Vache, Sud Department. Estimates indicate that approximately 10,000 structures have been inundated by floodwaters. The flooding has resulted in overland transport disruptions, particularly in Nippes, Nord-Ouest, and Sud departments. Several roads have either collapsed or been rendered impassable by floodwaters. It could take days or weeks to repair and replace transportation infrastructure throughout the affected area. Goods shipped by truck could be significantly delayed until floodwaters recede and landslides are cleared by authorities.

Advice: Seek updated information with local contacts on road conditions before driving in areas where heavy rainfall or flooding has occurred. Avoid rivers, streams, and creeks that are prone to flash flooding. The outbreak of waterborne disease is possible; pay close attention to food and water safety if operating in the region.

UNITED STATES (Country risk rating: Medium); November 18; Boil water advisory issued in Greenville, Ohio

Officials in Greenville, Ohio, issued a boil water advisory for the city the evening of November 18. The advisory was released due to high turbidity in the water supply, blamed on mechanical failure at the water plant. Authorities said that the boil water advisory will likely remain in effect until at least November 21. Greenville is located about 50 km (30 miles) northwest of Dayton.

Advice: Boil water for one minute and allow it to cool prior to consumption. Follow these instructions for all water uses, including drinking, cooking, personal hygiene, and preparing food. Consider stocking up on bottled water supplies.
UNITED STATES (Country risk rating: Medium); November 20; Ongoing mumps outbreak in Anchorage

Health officials have identified 62 cases of mumps in Alaska since May through November 15. According to officials, most of the infected individuals are residents of or have spent extensive time in Anchorage. Alaska reported only two mumps cases state-wide during all of 2016. Mumps is typically rare in the US, where childhood vaccination against the disease is common. However, sporadic cases and outbreaks can occur when the virus is introduced into unvaccinated and partially vaccinated populations. The US has reported more than 5,095 mumps cases nationwide since the start of 2017 through November 11.

Advice: Visit a doctor to ensure vaccination against mumps or confirm immunity through previous infection. Emphasise basic health precautions: wash hands frequently with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap and water are unavailable. Call ahead before visiting a doctor if mumps infection is suspected to help prevent the spread of the disease at clinics and hospitals.

UNITED STATES (Country risk rating: Medium); November 19; Solidarity protest held in Washington

Activist group The Hispanic Federation held a solidarity protest march in Washington, DC, on November 19. The march was held in support of Puerto Rico, to highlight the perceived government failure to respond adequately to the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. The group also demanded the elimination of the Jones Act, which they claim has caused high prices for goods, and will call for the forgiveness of Puerto Rico's debt. While the protest resulted in localised disruptions, no major incidents were reported.

Asia and Pacific

CAMBODIA / VIETNAM; November 19 and 20; (Update) Tropical Storm Kirogi makes landfall

Kirogi weakened into a tropical depression and made landfall near Phan Rang-Thap Cham in Ninh Thuan Province, Vietnam, on November 19. The system is forecast to further weaken into a remnant low through late on November 20 as it moves along a westerly track into southern Cambodia before dissipating. The system could bring sustained winds of up to 55 kph to coastal areas of southern Vietnam through early November 20. Heavy rainfall is likely in much of southern Vietnam and Cambodia. Flash flooding may occur in areas experiencing heavy rainfall, while storm surge could produce coastal flooding. Landslides are also possible. High wind gusts could down trees and utility lines; power outages may occur. Ground and maritime transport disruptions are likely in southern Vietnam and Cambodia through at least November 20. Heavy rainfall and landslides could block roads and wash away bridges, leading to severe traffic disruptions. Rail disruptions are also possible. Officials could suspend shipping operations at some ports in southern Vietnam. Flight delays and cancellations are possible at Ho Chi Minh City (SGN), Phnom Penh (PNH), and other regional airports.

Advice: Charge battery-powered devices and stock up on bottled water and non-perishable food in case power is lost. Seek updated information on road conditions before driving due to the threat of flooding and landslides in areas affected by the storm. Use extra caution if operating in mountainous areas or around streams and other watercourses. Confirm flights if travelling to southern Vietnam or Cambodia.

INDIA (Country risk rating: High); December 2 to 8; Possible attacks during CPI-Maoist 'formation week'

The outlawed Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) will observe the 'formation week' of its armed wing, the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA), from December 2 to 8. An upsurge in violence is possible around the anniversary period in Maoist-affected states, in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar; Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Odisha. CPI-Maoist rebels could attempt to sabotage transport and energy infrastructure before and during the event; targeted attacks on security personnel, rural government offices, and other state interests are also possible. The rebel group may also organise localised or region-wide bandhs (shutdown strikes), which could force the suspension of some bus and train services and disrupt commercial truck traffic in CPI-Maoist strongholds. Security forces will be on heightened alert in all areas affected by the CPI-Maoist insurgency around the PLGA formation week observance. CPI-Maoists are not known to have significant operational capabilities in urban areas, and the event should have few security implications for
people operating exclusively in major cities in Maoist-affected states, including Bhubaneswar, Patna, Raipur, Ranchi, and Vishakhapatnam.

Advice: Maintain a very low profile and use maximum caution if operating in rural areas of insurgency-affected districts, including around mines and hydroelectric facilities. If possible, avoid areas with large concentrations of security personnel outside cities that could be potential targets for Maoist violence. Seek updated information on security conditions before driving through rural areas where the PLGA has a known presence. If possible, do not travel on trains that traverse Maoist-affected areas at night.

INDIA (Country risk rating: High); November 21 and 22; Strike action called for Manipur State

The Coordination Committee (CorCom), a grouping of at least four Manipur-based insurgent groups, has called for a state-wide shutdown strike from 0500 on November 21 to 0800 on November 22. The action aims to protest Indian President Ram Nath Kovind's visit to Imphal to inaugurate the annual, 10-day Sangai Festival, which starts on November 21. The shutdown could affect transport services and business operations, particularly in the Imphal region. Militants could target vehicles and businesses that defy the strike, and minor bombings are possible. Authorities have gone on high alert ahead of the festival, which is Manipur's biggest state-sponsored tourism fair. Nearly 50,000 delegates will attend the event, including national leaders, policymakers, industry experts, businesspeople, and exhibitors from over 20 countries. Expect extremely tight security in Greater Imphal, especially in and around the main festival venue at Hafta Kangjeibung. Increased security measures may include roadblocks and police checkpoints, which could prompt localised traffic delays. Militants may attempt to target the high-profile festival; however, increased security at the venue may prompt attacks on secondary targets, including security personnel and installations, government buildings, markets, transport centres, and religious sites. Such attacks are most likely to occur in the Imphal region, but cannot be ruled out anywhere in the state, as rebels are active in all districts of Manipur.

Advice: Confirm all business appointments and transport reservations during the strike. Seek updated information about current security conditions and any potential road closures before driving outside Imphal or routing shipments through Manipur. Consider avoiding the festival venue and nearby areas unless attending the event. Use caution around government buildings, large concentrations of security personnel, and other crowded locations that could be potential militant targets.

INDIA (Country risk rating: High); November 16 to 20; Truckers' strike continues in Bihar State

Unionised truck drivers launched an indefinite strike in Bihar State on November 16 to demand amended laws affecting trucking sector and the withdrawal of expensive permit registration fees. The action continues on November 20. The strike - which is sponsored by Bihar Motor Transport Federation (BMTF) - has taken nearly 130,000 trucks off the road in the state. The action has the potential to paralyse ground-based shipping throughout Bihar, and could prompt shortages of fuel and other essential commodities. Government officials had not scheduled any talks with BMTF leaders to end the strike as of morning of November 17. Severe supply chain disruptions are possible if the walkout is protracted. Lingering shipping delays may continue for several days even after the strike is over due to cargo backlogs at distribution centres. Striking truckers may stage demonstrations and set up roadblocks during the action, which could significantly disrupt ground transport, especially if drivers park their vehicles on major roadways. Clashes between police and protesters are possible, though major unrest is unlikely.

Advice: Stock up on fuel and essential goods. Plan accordingly for major supply chain disruptions if moving cargo through or within Bihar State. Contact freight forwarders for updated information, and consider routing time-sensitive shipments on routes that circumvent Bihar. Clearing backlogged cargo could take several days after the strike ends; plan accordingly for delivery delays. Monitor local media for updates on protests and related transport disruptions. Detour around any blocked routes, as clashes could erupt if police try to forcibly disperse protesters.

INDONESIA (Country risk rating: High); November 18; (Update) Evacuations reported in Papua Province due to ongoing security problems

On November 18, PT Freeport Indonesia (PTFI) asked workers' dependents to prepare for temporary relocation from Tembagapura, Papua Province, due to ongoing security problems. About 10 gunmen believed to be affiliated with National Liberation Army of West Papua - Free Papua Movement (TPNPB-OPM) separatist figure Sabinus Waker fired shots at a PTFI vehicle and burned a haul truck at the Wanagon Bawah (Lower Wanagon) overburden deposition area below the
Grasberg open pit at about 0600 on November 18. The attack was the first inside a PTFI worksite since a spate of shootings started around Tembagapura on October 21. Expect a robust security presence along all roads leading to Tembagapura. Operational disruptions are possible in the Grasberg mining district if more shootings occur, crew transfers cannot be completed safely, or Task Force Amole personnel are unable to secure outlying parts of the mining area. The mine access road could be closed on short notice, potentially stranding some workers on the mountain. Most recent problems have been concentrated around Tembagapura, but security incidents on the road between Timika and Tembagapura could cause further disruptions. A roadblock of deliberately felled trees at MP 63 reportedly prevented a bus convoy from reaching Timika from Tembagapura on November 15. At least one northbound convoy departed Timika the following day, but bus traffic from Tambera apura was suspended.

**Advice:** Seek updated information about security conditions before driving or routing shipments between Timika and Tembagapura and the PTFI ore mill at MP 74. Travel in armoured vehicles if driving is unavoidable around Tembagapura. Be prepared to shelter in place if gunfire occurs or emergency sirens are activated. Stay away from areas west of Tembagapura, including the town's police station.

**INDONESIA (Country risk rating: High); December 1; Security to be elevated ahead of separatist anniversary**

Police and soldiers will be on increased alert in Papua and West Papua provinces until December 1, the anniversary of the declaration of a sovereign 'West Papua' state by the New Guinea Council, a representative body sponsored by the Dutch colonial administration in former Nederlands Nieuw-Guinea. Pro-independence rallies typically take place on the anniversary, particularly in the provincial towns of Jayapura and Manokwari. Small-scale attacks by pro-independence fighters are also possible, although they are more likely to occur in remote highland areas rather than major population centres. Pro-independence supporters could engage in other acts of civil disobedience, including raising the banned Bintang Kejora (Morning Star) separatist flag, which is an act of treason under Indonesian law. Potential flashpoints include the Papua and West Papua provincial capitals of Jayapura and Manokwari, as well as Biak, Serui, Nabire, Aepora, Sentani, Sorong and Timika, as well as elsewhere. The western half of the island of New Guinea remained under Dutch control until the 1960s. After the declaration of a separate state in 1961, then-Indonesian President Sukarno ordered the Indonesian military to occupy the region. In 1969, a UN-sponsored plebiscite - the results of which were widely viewed as engineered by Jakarta - officially ceded the region to Indonesia. Security forces have been under scrutiny for alleged human rights abuses against Papuan demonstrators, and pro-independence activists could try to organise disruptive protests to provoke a security response to draw attention to their cause during the anniversary. Authorities may round up Papuan separatist activists ahead of the anniversary to try to prevent large-scale outbreaks of unrest.

**Advice:** Avoid all demonstrations. Strictly avoid any sites where the Morning Star flag appears (the flag has blue and white stripes with a red panel emblazoned with a white star).

**JAPAN (Country risk rating: Low); November 21 to December 1; Anti-US protests possible in Okinawa during controversial trial**

Anti-US activists could hold protests in Okinawa during the ongoing murder trial of a former US military contractor. Protests are most likely to occur near the trial site at the Naha District Court in Naha. While several dozen to a few hundred protesters are likely to rally during trial hearings, a larger crowd may gather outside the court complex on December 1, when the court is expected to deliver a ruling. Protests may also occur near US military bases and the US Consulate General. Police may increase security outside the court complex and other potential protest sites as a precaution. Violence is unlikely, though minor clashes cannot be ruled out. Localised traffic disruptions are possible during larger rallies. Prosecutors have accused the suspect of raping and murdering a 20-year-old Okinawan woman on a road in Uruma City in April 2016. The suspect - who worked as a civilian contractor at Kadena Air Base at the time - has admitted to assaulting the woman and abandoning her body, but denied he intended to kill her. The murder triggered numerous large-scale protests by Okinawans opposed to the continued US military presence on the island, which hosts 75 percent of US forces in Japan. Protests could also continue after the trial if the court fails to convict the suspect or deliver a punishment that meets the expectations of activists and locals.

**Advice:** Avoid all protests, and use caution near potential demonstration sites, especially Naha District Court; rallies may not be announced in advance. Use alternative routes to avoid the immediate area around the court complex, and allow additional time to reach destinations.

**KAZAKHSTAN / KYRGYZSTAN; November 17; Border disruptions ongoing**
As of November 17, protracted delays were continuing at border crossings between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, including Korday-Akjol, Kara-Su-Aktilek, and Chon-Kapka. The estimated waiting time at Chon-Kapka crossing on November 17 was up to eight days. Expect extensive transport and logistics delays on both sides of the border through at least November 30, despite the fact that an agreement to resolve the border dispute was reached on October 18. Kazakh authorities introduced enhanced border checks at all border crossings with Kyrgyzstan on October 10. The reason for the diplomatic and trade dispute remains unclear, although Kazakh authorities have officially claimed that increased security and customs checks were put in place to crack down on smuggling and prevent the importation of contaminated fruit and counterfeit goods. However, several sources have claimed that the conflict is related to alleged meddling by Kazakhstan ahead of the October 2017 presidential election in Kyrgyzstan. Although the election occurred on October 15, hundreds of trucks are still waiting to pass into Kazakhstan at the Chon-Kapka, Korday-Akjol, and Kara-Su-Aktilek border crossings. Both countries are members of the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), and about 80 percent of the trucks idled at the Kazakh border are reportedly destined for Russia.

Advice: Plan for supply chain disruptions at least through December 1, when the new Kyrgyz president will take office. Allow additional time to cross the border.

NEW ZEALAND (Country risk rating: Low); November 20; (Update) Increasing mumps cases reported in the Auckland Regional Council

Health officials have identified more than 800 cases of mumps in the Auckland Regional Council since the start of 2017 through November 13, with the majority occurring among individuals between 10 and 29 years of age. At least 415 of these cases were identified between September 18 and November 13. Only 20 mumps cases were reported nationwide in all of 2016. A 'Watch-Level 1' travel health notice issued by the US CDC due to mumps activity remains in place. This level of notice emphasises the need for travellers to practise usual health precautions - predominantly ensuring vaccination and practising hand and respiratory hygiene, in the case of mumps. Mumps is a highly contagious viral disease spread through airborne droplets created when an infected individual coughs, sneezes, or speaks. Infected individuals can also expose people around them by contaminating surfaces with secretions from the nose, mouth, and throat. Symptoms of mumps typically appear 16 to 18 days after exposure but can develop up to 25 days after exposure. Such symptoms generally include fever, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, and a characteristic swelling of the cheeks and jaw caused by swollen salivary glands. Some patients develop mild or asymptomatic infections. In rare cases, complications can lead to deafness or infertility. Vaccination is the most effective way of preventing mumps infection. However, at least two doses are recommended to optimise immunity.

Advice: Visit a doctor to ensure vaccination against mumps or confirm immunity through previous infection. Emphasise basic health precautions: wash hands frequently with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap and water are unavailable. Call ahead before visiting a doctor if mumps infection is suspected to help prevent the spread of the disease at clinics or hospitals.

PAKISTAN (Country risk rating: High); November 20; (Update) Police may disperse ongoing protests in Islamabad and Karachi

Security personnel may move to forcibly disperse an indefinite sit-in by two hardline Muslim organisations at the Faizabad Interchange - the key route linking Islamabad and Rawalpindi - by November 20. The Islamabad High Court had ordered an end to the protest by 1000 on November 18, but authorities granted an extended the deadline until November 20, to allow for further negotiations. Reports indicate that a large contingent of security forces deployed to the area the morning of November 18, and nearby businesses and schools suspended operations due to the high potential for clashes should authorities move to break up the gathering. Supporters of Tehreek-i-Labaik Ya Rasool Allah Pakistan launched a sit-in at Numaish Chowrangi in central Karachi the evening of November 18, in solidarity with an ongoing protest by the group in Islamabad. Violent skirmishes were also reported at the Faizabad Interchange on November 19, with at least nine people having been injured. Security is elevated near the Faizabad protest camp and in and around Islamabad's Red Zone, the location of several embassies and major government buildings. Demonstrations have prompted severe traffic disruptions in all affected cities, particularly in Islamabad. Police have closed several roads in these areas. Any attempts by the government to forcibly disperse the activists could prompt violent demonstrations by hardline Muslim organisations and political parties throughout the country.

Advice: Strictly avoid areas near the protest sites in Karachi and Islamabad, particularly near the Faizabad Interchange. Keep in touch with local contacts for updates on the protest; violence could erupt and spread with little warning. Plan for increased security and associated disruptions; allow additional time to reach destinations. Heed the instructions of security personnel, and remain non-confrontational if questioned.
PHILIPPINES (Country risk rating: Medium); November 26 to 30; ASEAN summit to take place in Bohol Province

Authorities plan to bolster security in Bohol Province in conjunction with the 25th Meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) on November 26 to 30. The meetings will occur at the Henann Resort Alona Beach in Panglao. At least 200 delegates are slated to attend the meetings. Authorities will deploy approximately 3,000 security personnel in Bohol during the meetings. The regional intelligence division has reported the presence of security threats in Bohol, although the regional police later claimed there are no direct threats to the event. Tight security is also likely around the hotel where the meetings will take place and on routes leading to the venue. Security personnel may stage patrols and set up security checkpoints; motorists and pedestrians could be randomly checked for weapons and explosives. Unannounced road closures and traffic diversion may occur, prompting localised traffic disruptions. Security will likely be tightened at all entry points into the province. Small rallies are possible during the event, although demonstrations are not likely to cause major disruptions. Minor skirmishes between protesters and security personnel cannot be ruled out.

Advice: Prepare for tight security in Tagbilaran City and Panglao ahead of and during the event. Plan accordingly for road closures and associated traffic disruptions. Allow extra time to reach destinations due to possible additional security screenings. Heed the instructions of security personnel and remain non-confrontational if questioned. Carry proper identification at all times.

SRI LANKA (Country risk rating: Medium); November 17; Rioting results in casualties in Galle District

Riots allegedly motivated by ethno-religious tension between the predominantly Buddhist Sinhalese community and members of Sri Lanka's Muslim community took place in Ginthota, Galle District, on November 17; at least 19 people were arrested in connection with the unrest. The unrest escalated following a series of retaliatory attacks in connection with a traffic collision. Sinhalese mobs attacked Muslim businesses and places of worship, while several residences owned by Sinhalese people were attacked. In response to the situation, authorities deployed additional security forces and imposed an overnight curfew in Ginthota and surrounding areas. Buddhist mobs have targeted Muslim interests on several occasions over the past few years. Developments in Myanmar - where the conflict between predominantly Muslim Rohingyas and the Buddhist majority has intensified - appears to have increased anti-Muslim sentiment in majority-Buddhist Sri Lanka. Prominent hardline Buddhist monks have played a key role in stirring up anti-Muslim sentiment, and unrest could become more disruptive if ultra-nationalist groups attempt to use the situation in Myanmar for political gain. The majority of Muslims in Sri Lanka speak Tamil as their native language, creating linguistic as well as religious differences with the Sinhalese-speaking, Buddhist majority.

Advice: In general, ethnically-motivated protests should be avoided as a precaution.

Europe and Russia

FRANCE (Country risk rating: Medium); November 18; Apparent personal dispute leads to casualties in Paris

A police officer opened fire in a suburban area along Rue du Bocage in Sarcelles, a northern suburb of Paris, around 2045 on November 18, killing at least three people and injuring two others. The officer fatally shot himself after the incident. The motive for the violence remains unclear; however, authorities noted that two family members of the police officer are among the casualties, suggesting a personal dispute, rather than terrorism, was the motivating factor.

GREECE (Country risk rating: Medium); November 21; Unionised metro rail workers in Athens call for strike

Unionised workers plan to stage a 24-hour strike on the Athens Metro on November 21 to protest privatisation plans. Organisers have pledged to fully suspend metro operations during the strike along lines 2 and 3; Metro Line 3 serves the route between central Athens and Athens Eleftherios Venizelos Airport. It is unclear if operations will continue on Metro Line 1, known as the Piraeus-Kifissia electric railway (ISAP). Unless the strike is averted, crowding on alternative forms of public transport, higher demand for taxis and app-based ride-sharing services, and increased congestion on roadways in
the city centre are likely. Striking metro workers may also stage protests outside of government offices or at metro stations. Significant disruptions are not anticipated from any demonstration, but localised skirmishes cannot be ruled out.

**Advice:** Use alternative means of transport and plan accordingly for delays. Allow additional time to reach destinations in Athens, especially if travelling to or from Athens Eleftherios Venizelos Airport.

**IRELAND (Country risk rating: Low); October to November 15; Ongoing measles outbreak in Dublin and Meath County**

Health officials have reported 17 confirmed cases of measles in the capital, Dublin (12 cases), and Meath County (five cases) since October through November 15. Measles activity is typically sporadic in Ireland, where childhood measles immunisation rates are generally high enough to prevent widespread disease activity but not high enough to prevent sporadic outbreaks. Health officials reported a range of 2 to 270 cases nationwide between 2011 and 2016. Since the start of 2017, officials have identified 32 cases through November 11. Measles spreads through airborne droplets created when an infected individual coughs, sneezes, or speaks. Infected individuals can also expose people around them by contaminating surfaces with secretions from the nose, mouth, and throat. Symptoms of measles typically appear 7 to 21 days after exposure, but patients become contagious up to five days before symptoms appear. Such symptoms generally include fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and a red rash that begins on the face and spreads downward. Serious complications - including pneumonia - can occur, especially in children younger than five years old, adults older than 20 years old, and people whose immune systems are weakened by other acute or chronic health conditions.

**Advice:** Visit a doctor to ensure vaccination against measles or immunity through previous infection. Emphasise basic health precautions, especially frequent hand washing with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap and water are unavailable. If you suspect measles infection, call ahead before visiting a doctor to prevent the spread of the disease at clinics or hospitals.

**ITALY (Country risk rating: Low); November 21; (Update) Unionised ground crew to strike in Tuscany Region**

Unionised ground crew staff are planning to strike from 1300 to 1700 on November 21 at Bologna Guglielmo Marconi (BLQ) airport in the Emilia-Romagna Region and at the Florence Peretola (FLR) and Pisa International (PSA) airports. Baggage handlers and check-in staff are in a dispute with airport authorities over labour issues. Unless averted, the strikes could prompt flight delays due to slowdowns in baggage processing. Residual flight disruptions could extend beyond the end of the strikes as airlines clear cargo and passenger backlogs.

**Advice:** Confirm flights before departing for BLQ, FLR, and PSA on November 21. Arrive at the airports well in advance of your flight. Allow additional time for check-in and baggage retrieval. Plan for cargo flight disruptions.

**PORTUGAL (Country risk rating: Low); November 19 and 20; Severe weather warnings issued in Azores**

Forecasters at the Portugal Meteorological Office issued severe weather alerts for the Azores on November 19. A Red alert (the second-highest of five levels) for heavy rain was issued and will remain active through 2100 on November 20, and an Orange alert (the middle of five levels) for wind will remain active until 1800 on November 20 for the central Azores. A Yellow alert (the second lowest) for possible thunderstorms is active until 0300 on November 20 for the island of Lajes das Flores; officials note that the Yellow alert could be raised to Orange in case the weather intensifies. Winds of over 75 kph (47 mph) are possible, with rainfall accumulations of up to 10 cm (4 inches) are possible during the storm. The severe weather could prompt delays and cancellations at the following airports: Corvo, Horta, Flores, Graciosa, Pico, Santa Maria, Sao Jorge, Sao Miguel, and Terceira. Heavy rainfall is likely to cause areal and flash flooding throughout the archipelago; high winds, coupled with saturated ground, could topple trees and power lines, leading to power outages. The heavy rain will likely result in mudslides, which could block roads. Officials could be prompted to restrict port operations and ferry sailings during the storm.

**Advice:** Do not attempt to drive through flooded areas. Consider deferring travel until the weather has eased. Check that routes are clear before setting out, and allow extra time for travel. Confirm flights before checking out of accommodations or leaving for the airport. Plan for residual disruptions and power outages after the storm's passage. Confirm fuel supplies for generators in case power outages are protracted.
SPAIN (Country risk rating: Low); November 27; Medical Workers' strike planned in Madrid

Approximately 20,000 unionised medical workers at Madrid's private health centres - including facilities in the public domain, but under private management - threaten to stage an indefinite strike from November 27. The workers are demanding better working conditions following failed negotiations between the unions and the Association of Private Clinics of the Community of Madrid (ACPM). If the strike is not averted, disruptions to services at private hospitals - including Clinica Centro, Adeslas, and Vithas - could be considerable. Spanish law requires that minimum services be provided during strikes, so emergency services at medical facilities should not be affected. While the unions have as yet made no specific calls for such gatherings, participants could stage strike-related protests, particularly near their places of employment. Any demonstrations that materialise will probably remain peaceful, resulting only in localised traffic disruptions, but isolated scuffles cannot be ruled out.

Advice: Confirm all outpatient appointments at private hospitals. Prepare accordingly for the possibility of delays at healthcare facilities not participating in the strike due to increased demand. As a precaution, avoid any protests that may materialise.

UKRAINE (Country risk rating: High); November 17; Dniproavia airline ceases operations

Ukrainian carrier Dniproavia (Z6), with its main hub in Dnipro International Airport (DNK) in Dnipro (Dnipropetrovsk), ceased all operations on November 17 due to bankruptcy. The final sale of the airline is likely to be confirmed in the coming days, which will determine how existing commitments to passengers and creditors will be handled. A case on the bankruptcy of Dniproavia was initiated by the Economic Court of Dnipropetrovsk region on November 13. The last date that creditors may file a claim against Dniproavia is December 13. However, as of Nov. 15, the carrier had no aircraft in its possession. Dniproavia's fleet of Embraer-145s was purchased by Windrose Airlines (7W), based at Boryspil International Airport (KBP). Windrose is likely to operate flights to destinations previously serviced by Dniproavia.

Advice: Book flights in advance on alternative airlines on routes formerly served by Dniproavia. Alternative flights could overbook rapidly. Do not check out of accommodations until onward travel is confirmed.

UNITED KINGDOM (Country risk rating: Low); November 17; (Update) Ban on in-flight electronics eased

On November 17, Middle East Airlines (ME) and British officials confirmed that authorities had lifted restrictions on passengers carrying large electronic devices in aircraft cabins on nonstop ME flights between Lebanon's Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport (BEY) and London Heathrow (LHR) in the UK. The aircraft cabin electronics ban is still in effect on British Airways (BA) direct flights between Beirut and London. The UK previously lifted electronics bans for flights to the UK from Tunis-Carthage International Airport (TUN) in Tunisia; Sabiha Gokcen International Airport (SAW) in Istanbul, Antalya Airport (AYT), Milas-Bodrum Airport (BJV) and Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport (ADB) in Turkey; Royal Jordanian (RJ) flights from Queen Alia International Airport (AMM) in Amman, Jordan; and Cairo International Airport (CAI) in Egypt. On March 21, the Department for Transport announced new aviation security measures concerning the possession of electronic devices in aircraft cabins on flights to the UK from six countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Under the restrictions, passengers are prohibited from carrying phones, laptops, and tablets larger than 16 cm (6.3 inches) long, 9.3 cm (3.7 inches) wide, and 1.5 cm (0.6 inches) deep in the cabins of aircraft on direct flights to the UK. The restrictions do not apply to other types of devices or outbound flights from the UK to the countries in question.

Advice: Contact airlines for specific information about the restrictions if booked on direct flights to the UK from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, or Turkey. Arrive at the airport earlier than normal due to possible security screening delays at regular checkpoints and/or departure gates. Do not store sensitive data on devices placed in checked baggage due to potential theft; consider using external storage devices.

UNITED KINGDOM (Country risk rating: Low); November 19 to December 31; Nationwide RMT rail workers' strikes

Unionised Rail, Maritime, and Transport union (RMT) workers initiated a strike on November 19, the first in a series of planned labour actions, as a result of an ongoing dispute with management over weekend scheduling. The November 19 strike resulted in moderate disruptions to Arriva's CrossCountry rail service, which ran limited services between 0900 and 1900. Workers intend to stage additional 24-hour walkouts on November 26 and December 9, 24, and 31. While it appears likely that the Nov. 19 walkout will proceed, negotiations to resolve the dispute are ongoing, and future actions may be
cancelled. CrossCountry will announce cancellations a day prior to each walkout, as disruptions may vary depending on participation. Workers might stage protests outside major stations, including picketing entrances and ticket lines. Expect increased demand for alternative forms of transport, including other rail networks, buses, and rental vehicles. Heavier use of private vehicles could cause increased traffic congestion and delays.

**Advice:** Confirm the CrossCountry rail schedule during periods of announced labour action; use alternative means of transport. Plan accordingly for increased traffic congestion and reduced taxi availability in affected metropolitan areas.

---

**Middle East and North Africa**

**ISRAEL** (Country risk rating: **High**); November 19; Ultra-Orthodox faction calls for road blockades nationwide

The ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) Peleg Yerushalmi faction has called for continuing nationwide roadblocks from November 19 to protest the sentencing of individuals avoiding military service. Similar past protests have taken the form of daily roadblocks in or by the entrances to Haredi communities nationwide, with locations changing quickly. Expect increased security and traffic disruptions near any demonstrations. Protesters might also block public transportation. Police will probably dismantle any roadblocks; clashes between protesters and police are possible. The Peleg Yerushalmi faction of the Haredi community is more adamantly opposed to the draft than other Haredi factions. Israel permits Haredi students to be exempt from the draft, but only if they first register and then defer service. On November 19, Israeli courts sentenced three young men who had refused to register for the draft to 90 days in military prisons, and eight others received shorter sentences. The issue of military service for ultra-Orthodox Jews has become politically important in Israel, as the percentage of the population that is Haredi and exempt from the draft continues to grow. Haredi were initially granted exemption from service at the founding of the state of Israel when they numbered only a few hundred. However, they currently number over 15 percent of Israel's population. Since the community is disproportionately lower-income, many Israelis perceive the Haredi to be receiving government benefits, despite not having served in the military or participated in community service, drawing the ire of many of the 75 percent of non-Haredi Israelis who have served. However, attempts to expand military service have been met with strong resistance by Haredi political groups and angry protests by the Peleg Yerushalmi.

**Advice:** Avoid all protests. Allow extra time to reach destinations if travelling through ultra-Orthodox majority areas.

**LEBANON** (Country risk rating: **High**); November 22; Independence Day to be celebrated nationwide

Lebanon will celebrate Independence Day on November 22. During the observance, a military parade will take place along Shafiq Al Wazzan Avenue in central Beirut, leading to the closure of the road from 0600-1400. Authorities may also close some adjacent streets during the celebrations. In response to ongoing political ambiguity, activists could organise demonstrations against Saudi Arabian involvement in Lebanese politics during the Independence Day holiday. The largest of any protests will likely take place in Beirut, possibly in Riad El Solh Square or Martyrs' Square. Violence is possible if security forces attempt to disperse protesters using force. Expect increased security and localised traffic disruptions. Tensions remain high in Lebanon following Prime Minister Saad Hariri’s November 4 surprise resignation that he announced while in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Hariri is reportedly set to return to Lebanon ahead of the Independence Day celebrations for the first time following his resignation announcement. Hariri’s failure to return to Lebanon immediately following his speech prompted allegations that Hariri’s resignation was not made of his own volition, and that he was coerced by Saudi officials. During his November 4 address, Hariri claimed to have survived an assassination plot in Beirut several days earlier, and feared another plot similar to the one that killed his father, then-Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, in 2005.

**Advice:** Allow additional time for commuting near Shafiq Al Wazzan Avenue, Riad El Solh Square, and Martyrs’ Square on November 22. Avoid protests. Obey instructions of local security personnel.

---

**Sub-Saharan Africa**
BURKINA FASO (Country risk rating: High); November 20; Increased security reported in central Ouagadougou

Additional security measures are in place along Kwame Nkrumah Avenue in central Ouagadougou on November 20, after reports of gunfire near the Palm Beach Hotel during the evening of November 19. Authorities deployed gendarmes and police officers to the area, located near Ouagadougou Airport (OUA). The weapons fire initially prompted fears of a possible terror attack; however, subsequent reports from eyewitnesses have indicated that the incident was likely a botched armed robbery. Officials have launched an investigation into the crime. Expect increased security measures and additional checkpoints along Kwame Nkrumah Avenue in the coming hours. The affected area is near Cappuccino Cafe and Aziz Istanbul restaurant that were targeted by Islamist extremists in separate attacks in January 2016 and August 2017, respectively. Both events involved well-armed militants targeting venues catering to expatriates, foreign travellers, and local elites. Despite increased security measures in the capital, Ouagadougou remains vulnerable to further terrorist infiltrations. Extremist outfits in the greater Sahel region are still active and have consistently demonstrated that they have the intent and ability to strike high-profile targets in West Africa. Burkina Faso's security apparatus has yet to fully recover from the fall of former president Blaise Compaore in 2014 and a subsequent failed coup in 2015, and coupled with porous borders and proximity to the Malian conflict theatre, the country remains vulnerable.

Advice: Follow all instructions from security personnel. Maintain a low profile and exercise heightened vigilance in public spaces that cater to foreigners. Do not linger near entrances to hotels, restaurants, or other sites where foreigners tend to congregate. Register and maintain contact with your diplomatic mission.

BURKINA FASO (Country risk rating: High); November 27 to 30; Nationwide education sector strike

Unionised teachers will hold a nationwide strike over working conditions and reforms from November 27 to 30. Teachers will also hold sit-in protests every Thursday between 0700 and 1000 at unspecified locations. More demonstrations are possible across the country during the strike, including outside the National Ministry of Education and Alphabetization (MENA) in Ouagadougou. Additional police are likely to deploy at the MENA and sensitive locations where protests may occur. Police will likely use teargas to disperse crowds if violence or vandalism take place. Traffic disruptions can be expected around larger rallies.

Advice: Avoid all protests as a precaution. Leave the area immediately and seek shelter in a secure location if security disturbances occur. Allow additional time to reach destinations in downtown Ouagadougou.

BURKINA FASO (Country risk rating: High); November 17; Suspected militants kill at least five in Taouremba

At least five people died and several others suffered injuries when six suspected militants attacked the village of Taouremba in the Sahel Region in northern Burkina Faso at 1100 on November 17. The gunmen were armed with Kalashnikovs and killed a local administrative official and four members of the Koglweogo self-defence group while attacking a local drinking establishment and an adjacent market. The suspects reportedly fled on motorcycles in the general direction of Tongomayel and Djibo. Taouremba is in Soum Province, 56 km (35 miles) east of Djibo and 44 km (27 miles) south east of the Inata mine. According to government statistics, Islamist militants have been responsible for about 80 attacks in Burkina Faso - mostly in far-northern parts of the country - since early 2015. These attacks have left more than 130 people dead.

Advice: Seek updated information about security conditions before driving in the Sahel Region. Travel in guarded convoys during daylight hours if driving overland is unavoidable.

CAMEROON (Country risk rating: High); November 15; Chinese national killed near Betare Oya

A mob beat a Chinese miner to death near Longha Mali, around 5 km (3.1 miles) from Betare Oya, on November 15, in retaliation for the alleged murder of a resident. The victim reportedly shot a Cameroonian during an altercation motivated by a land dispute. The crowd also attacked a mining site run by Chinese nationals, wounding five others. The foreign nationals were likely targeted due to their involvement in gold mining, which residents claim has resulted in the confiscation of farmland. Related tensions began when a Chinese company established a mining operation on both banks of a river outside Betare Oya in early 2017. Local officials demanded one bank be returned to farmers, but the miners reportedly refused to concede and continued extraction operations.
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (Country risk rating: High); November 16 to 20; Disruptions due to flooding in Kinshasa

Residual transport disruptions are likely over the next few days in Kinshasa following heavy rains on November 16, which caused widespread flooding across the city. The most severe inundations occurred in low-lying areas near rivers, including Ndjili, Masina, Matele, Saio, Kauka, Kinkole, Limete, Mount Ngafula, N'sele, and near Martyrs Stadium (Stade des Martyrs). Building collapses in low-income areas of the capital injured several people. Although no further heavy rains are predicted, sudden unexpected downpours could intensify existing flooding. Roads could remain blocked by debris and floodwater may damage bridges. Power and communication disruptions, including internet outages, are possible. Prepare for an increased risk of water- and insect-borne diseases such as dengue fever, malaria, and cholera. The flash flooding in Kinshasa was a result of unusually heavy rains, and was exacerbated by limited urban planning. The limited drainage systems of Kinshasa are often poorly constructed and unable to drain floodwaters adequately. The issue is compounded by poor maintenance to remove debris and silt from drains and sewers.

Advice: Confirm route viability with trusted local contacts before conducting ground movements. Do not attempt to cross submerged sections of roadway. Ensure generators have a sufficient fuel supply in case of protracted power outages. Charge portable electronic devices when possible, and restrict mobile phone use to emergencies if operating in an area without power.

GABON (Country risk rating: High); November 20; Major highway blocked near Libreville

Overland movement is largely suspended along the N1 Highway as of November 20, after torrential downpours and a bus accident blocked the road at Nkoltang, approximately 30 km (18.6 miles) east of Libreville. Crews have yet to commence repair works; several vehicles were stranded near Nkoltang. Severe traffic disruptions are likely to persist in the coming days. The N1 is the only road connecting Libreville with the rest of the country. A protracted closure could result in shortages in Libreville, primarily food stuffs.

Advice: Seek alternative modes of transport for all domestic movements in and out of Libreville until further notice. Air travel is generally recommended for travel inside Gabon. Adjust scheduling and transport itineraries to account for disruptions. Consider using 4x4 vehicles for all inter-city travel due to poor road conditions.

GHANA (Country risk rating: Medium); November 2 to 20; Nationwide protests expected

Teachers-in-training threatened to stage demonstrations at public training college campuses throughout Ghana starting from November 17. The protest campaign aims to pressure the government to resolve an ongoing strike by teachers over allowance arrears and poor working conditions that began on November 2. Students have also held related protests to denounce the ongoing teachers' strike and campaign; and further associated protests are also expected. Protests are expected to remain peaceful, but traffic congestion may be a problem around affected campuses and/or any other rally sites. Demonstrators could also march to government buildings, especially Ministry of Education offices. Ghana has about 40 teacher-training colleges throughout the country, but protest-related disruptions are more likely in Accra, Kumasi, and other large cities.

Advice: Avoid protests as a precaution. Allow additional time to reach destinations; consider using alternative routes to avoid public training colleges.

KENYA (Country risk rating: High); November 19; Disruptive demonstrations in Nairobi

Demonstrators blocked roads and torched three vehicles in the Mathare neighbourhood of Nairobi early on November 19. Residents were protesting the apparent murder of four locals, whose bodies were found in the area earlier that morning. Security forces dispersed the demonstrators and have reportedly restored calm in the area. While authorities said they are investigating the deaths, additional protests against perceived police inaction and insecurity could materialise in the coming days. Given the emotive nature of the residents' grievances, further related-protests are possible in the coming days. Police will likely use tear gas and water cannon to disperse crowds that gather without authorisation. Protesters could pelt stones at police and vehicles passing near confrontations with officers. Traffic and commercial disruptions are possible near protest activity.
Advice: Monitor local media for announcements of additional protests. Avoid all demonstrations; confirm route and destination security if travelling near protest sites. If crowds form nearby, leave the area immediately and seek shelter in a secure location.

MALI (Country risk rating: High); November 20; Demonstration expected in Bamako

Activists plan to protest outside the Libyan Embassy in Bamako on November 20 over the treatment of illegal migrants. Demonstrators also intend to rally at Pyramide du Souvenir square. The demonstrations were prompted by the airing of a CNN documentary that depicted alleged slave markets selling illegal migrants in Libya. Additional rallies over the issue could materialise in the coming days. Expect heightened security and localised transport disruptions near rally venues, especially Pyramide du Souvenir square and the Libyan Embassy. It is unclear whether authorities have sanctioned the protests; unconfirmed reports indicate that demonstrations were banned as part of the state of emergency in effect nationwide. Security forces will likely forcibly disperse any unauthorised protest, possibly leading to localised clashes.

Advice: Avoid all protests. Allow extra time to reach destinations if travelling near Libyan Embassy or Pyramide du Souvenir square. If crowds form nearby, leave the area immediately and seek shelter in a secure nongovernmental location.

NIGERIA (Country risk rating: High); November 16 to 27; Students threaten protest action in Abuja

Student groups have threatened to stage protests outside the presidential palace (Aso Villa) in Abuja's Three Arms Zone from November 27 if an indefinite polytechnic teacher strike is not withdrawn. Teachers affiliated with the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP) launched a nationwide work stoppage over the non-implementation of a previous labour agreement on November 13. The teachers' strike has already triggered protests. On November 16, students blocked access to the Rufus Giwa Polytechnic campus in Owo, Ondo State. Further spontaneous gatherings are possible at other polytechnics throughout the country. Expect increased security measures and possible roadblocks in the vicinity of Abuja's Three Arms Zone and polytechnic campuses if student protests materialise. Police often block access to the presidential palace, and they will most likely use tear gas to disperse protesters who refuse to obey orders. Student demonstrators may block roads around campuses. Clashes are possible between police and protesters, particularly if security forces use force to disperse demonstrators.

Advice: Avoid all protests, and exercise caution around polytechnic campuses if teachers continue to strike. Allow additional time to reach hotels, offices, and diplomatic missions in central Abuja if student demonstrations occur in the capital.

NIGERIA (Country risk rating: High); November 15 and 18; Suicide bombings in Alakaramti village, Borno State

Authorities confirmed that multiple suicide bombers attacked Alakaramti village on the outskirts of Maiduguri, Borno State, early on November 18. Two assailants detonated their explosives outside the village shortly after midnight, killing only themselves. Around 0630, another two attackers set off their bombs in Alakaramti, killing at least one person and injuring four others. The wounded were evacuated to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital for treatment. Security personnel secured the incident areas and cleared them of any remaining explosive devices. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, but the involvement of Boko Haram extremists is likely. Competing factions of Boko Haram pose a very high threat of targeted attack in north east Nigeria, and often target vulnerable camps at the periphery of urban areas that house those displaced by associated violence. Boko Haram suicide bombings occur weekly, and such attacks in northeast Nigeria and bordering countries have increased significantly over the past six months. The group has also attacked mosques, markets, security checkpoints, and government buildings throughout Borno State. On November 15, four suicide bombers launched an attack near Muna Garage in the eastern outskirts of Maiduguri, killing at least 12 people and injuring more than twenty others.

Advice: Follow all instructions from security personnel. Maintain a very low profile, restrict night-time movements, vary routines, and move in guarded convoys if operating in these areas is necessary. Minimise exposure to potential terror targets, including places of worship, security installations, markets, and other crowded locations.

SENEGAL (Country risk rating: Medium); November 19; Opposition protests possible in urban centres
Supporters of prominent opposition politician Khalifa Sall could stage protests in Dakar through November 19. Activists could gather in front of the National Assembly's building and other locations such as the Place de la Nation (formerly Place de l'Obelisque) to demand immunity for Sall. Hundreds of people could participate in the protests if they occur; security officers could disperse the crowds if officials do not authorise the demonstrations, potentially leading to clashes. Expect localised transport disruptions near the protest sites. A National Assembly committee must issue a decision by November 19 whether to grant parliamentary immunity to Sall, the former mayor of Dakar. Authorities have held Sall since March and accuse him of embezzling public money during his term as Dakar's mayor. His supporters claim the charges are politically motivated and an attempt by the government to prevent him from running in the presidential elections in 2019. The former mayor's supporters have argued that the Constitution guarantees him immunity and that he must be freed immediately to take his seat in Parliament after winning polls during the July legislative elections. Opponents of the mayor have stated that he does not qualify for immunity since he was convicted before being elected.

Advice: Avoid any protests due to the possibility of violence. Use alternative travel routes to circumvent the protest sites. If violence occurs nearby, leave the area immediately and seek shelter in a secure location.

ZIMBABWE (Country risk rating: High); November 19; Political developments and nationwide protests

Renewed protests are likely across Zimbabwe after beleaguered President Robert Mugabe addressed the nation without resigning in the evening of November 19. Thousands of protestors called for his resignation on November 18 and 19 in Highfield, Harare, and other cities, including Bulawayo and Gweru. Officials in Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF party voted to remove him and his wife, First Lady Grace Mugabe, from the party on November 19. They also said that if he does not resign by 1200 on November 20, they will initiate impeachment proceedings against him. Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa has assumed the party leadership. Protests may take place at Mugabe's residence in northern Harare, the State House, or at central squares. Deployments of soldiers and armoured vehicles will likely continue in urban centres, in rural areas near international borders, at critical infrastructure, and at resource extraction sites until the leadership dispute is resolved. Authorities may restrict telecommunications networks. Clashes are likely wherever rallies materialise. The political uncertainty occurring in the wake of the military's intervention could exacerbate socio-economic concerns, including cash and fuel shortages. Tensions over access to limited resources could prompt clashes between consumers; anti-government protests could occur if shortages intensify. Transports services, including access to land borders and flight services remain available, while under heavy security surveillance and may be subject to disruptions. Diplomatic missions may close or provide reduced consular services due to the absence of local staff.

Advice: Monitor local developments and media for updates. Maintain contact with diplomatic missions and organisational security resources for updated advice. Avoid associated protest activity and concentrations of police and soldiers. Exercise extreme caution, remain vigilant, and minimise travel. If ground movements are required, confirm route and destination security and travel conditions before departure with trusted local contacts.