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:

[link](http://www.tamus.edu/assets/files/safety/pdf/InternationalTraveltoHighRiskCountries.pdf)

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

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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
- Gaza Strip
- Libya
- 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.

New Executive Order Protecting The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States

On March 6, the President issued a revised order outlining protections related to the entry of personnel from various countries. The link to the order can be found here: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/03/06/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/03/06/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states)

However, a district court in Hawaii has issued a block of this new order and the order is pending subject to it working through the legal system. System Risk Management advised all personnel who may be effected by the new order, monitor the legal challenges closely for relevant and current information.
- **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 an Sila (which border Sudan), the southern regions of Logone Oriental, Mandoul, Moyen-Chari and Salamat, the norther 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 Kasai Central province.
- **Egypt**: North Sinai governorate.
- **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**: South of the Litani River in the Ej Jinoub and Nabatieh governorates, Palestinian refugee camps, within 15km of the shared border with Syria in the Bekaa and North governorates, and to the city of Tripoli.
- **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.

- **Tunisia:** All travel to areas south of but not including the towns of El Borma and Dhehiba in the Tataouine governorate (a militarised zone) and against all travel to the Djebel Chambi National Park in the Kasserine governorate.

- **Turkey:** Within 10km of the shared border with Syria in the Turkish provinces of Hatay, Kilis, Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Mardin and Sirnak.

- **Uganda:** Areas within 30km of Uganda’s shared borders with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Sudan, excluding major towns.

- **Ukraine:** The Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the Crimean Peninsula.
26 June 2017

News summary

**Americas**
- **ARGENTINA** - Commemorative demonstrations anticipated in the capital
- **ARGENTINA** - Planned mass protest in Buenos Aires
- **BOLIVIA** - Two separate demonstrations expected in La Paz
- **BRAZIL** - Major union-led protests expected in Brasilia
- **COLOMBIA** - (Update) Release of Dutch journalists kidnapped in Catatumbo region
- **COLOMBIA** - Passenger ferry capsizes in Penol reservoir off Guatape
- **COSTA RICA** - Teacher-led protest in San Jose amid countrywide strike
- **MEXICO** - Tropical Storm Dora to impact parts of southern Mexico
- **TURKS AND CAICOS** - US national shot and wounded during robbery
- **UNITED STATES** - Ongoing wildfire near Brian Head, Utah state
- **UNITED STATES** - Pride parades and events took place in several cities
- **VENEZUELA** - Travel disruptions reported amid protests in Caracas

**Asia and Pacific**
- **AFGHANISTAN** - Militant attack reported in Herat
- **CHINA** - Adverse weather causes flight disruptions in multiple locations
- **HONG KONG** - Security measures increased ahead of Chinese president's visit
- **MONGOLIA** - Country holds presidential election
- **NEPAL/INDIA** - (Update) Border closure ahead of second round of Nepalese local elections
- **PAKISTAN** - Multiple incidents underscore terrorism threat
- **TAIWAN** - Environmental activists protest in Taipei
- **THAILAND** - Roadside bomb blast causes casualties in Narathiwat

**Europe and Russia**
- **SERBIA** - LGBT protest amid increased security in Belgrade
- **SPAIN** - Wildfire forces evacuations in Huelva province
- **TURKEY** - Several arrests reported at banned LGBT parade in Istanbul
- **UNITED KINGDOM** - Police dismiss terrorism as motive for vehicular incident in Newcastle
UNITED KINGDOM - Rival protests take place countrywide

Middle East and North Africa
MOROCCO - Terrorist plot quashed in Essaouira
SAUDI ARABIA - Security forces conduct operations in Mecca and Jeddah
SYRIA - Vaccine-derived polio in Deir ez-Zor and Raqqah governorates

Sub-Saharan Africa
ETHIOPIA - 29th African Union Summit to be held in Addis Ababa
KENYA - Fatal militant attack in El Wak, Mandera county
MADAGASCAR - Independence Day being commemorated countrywide
MALAWI - Disruptions due to taxi strike in Blantyre
SOUTH AFRICA - Activist-led demonstrations in Durban and Bizana
SOUTH SUDAN - Kenyan national murdered in Juba

Americas
ARGENTINA (Country risk rating: High); 25 and 26 June; Commemorative demonstrations anticipated in the capital

The anniversary of the deaths of two protesters, Maximiliano Kosteki and Dario Santillan, was commemorated in various urban centres in Argentina on 25 June. A vigil was held at the Dario Santillan y Maximiliano Kosteki train station, in the capital, Buenos Aires. The two piqueteros were killed by police officers during a demonstration in Avellaneda, in Buenos Aires province, in 2002. Associated events were also held in Cordoba, San Miguel de Tucuman and Salta; these events had varied support and concluded without major incident. In the capital, a march is expected along Pueyrredon Bridge from 11:00 local time on 26 June. Although the event is expected to conclude without major incident, the possibility of low-level skirmishes between security forces and protesters cannot be discounted.

Advice: Clients in Argentina are advised to avoid all related protests, rallies and large commemorative gatherings as a standard precaution. Allowances should be made for potential disruptions.

ARGENTINA (Country risk rating: High); 27 June; Planned mass protest in Buenos Aires

Workers affiliated with Corriente Clasista Combativa (CCC) and the Confederacion de Trabajadores de la Economia Popular (CTEP) are set to launch a mass protest in Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires, on 27 June. The agitation has reportedly been organised in response to various grievances, including pay disputes and unsatisfactory work conditions. Participants are scheduled to gather in the vicinity of the Obelisco from 12:00 local time, from where they intend to march towards the Ministry of Labour building. It is currently unclear how well supported the upcoming demonstration will be; however, localised disruptions to business and travel services are possible in the vicinity of all protest-affected sites. Although the event is expected to conclude without major incident, the possibility of low-level skirmishes between security forces and protesters cannot be discounted. Such unrest poses an incidental risk to all bystanders.

Advice: Persons operating in Buenos Aires on 27 June should monitor local media for updates on the demonstration, as well as related advisories from the authorities. All protest gatherings and concentrations of security forces should be
avoided as a standard precaution. Clients are further advised to make allowances for localised disruptions in the vicinity of the demonstration route on the day.

**BOLIVIA (Country risk rating: Medium); 26 June; Two separate demonstrations expected in La Paz**

Two demonstrations are expected to cause traffic disruptions in Bolivia's capital, La Paz, on 26 June. Civil servants and other public sector workers are set to stage a protest march against the proposed three percent increase in electricity tariffs, from the city cemetery on Avenida Baptista to Plaza San Francisco at 08:00 local time. At the same time, the Federation of Neighbourhood Associations (Fejuve) has called for a demonstration against Municipal Law 233; the start location is unclear, but the protest is also expected to commence at 08:00 and conclude at Plaza San Francisco. It is currently unclear how well the demonstrations will be supported. Nonetheless, the possibility of isolated skirmishes cannot be discounted, particularly between rival groups of protesters. Localised travel disruptions are expected in the vicinity of all affected sites.

**Advice:** Persons in Laz Paz are advised to avoid all large street gatherings and concentrations of security forces as a general precaution. Clients are further advised to monitor local media for updates and information on further associated protest activity.

**BRAZIL (Country risk rating: High); 27 June; Major union-led protests expected in Brasilia**

Members of the Central dos Trabalhadores e Trabalhadoras do Brasil (CTB) labour union will stage protests in Brazil's capital, Brasilia, on 27 June. The union has planned two events on the day, under the banner 'Occupy Brasilia'. Demonstrators will gather from 06:00 local time at Brasilia International Airport and from 10:00 at the Brazilian Federal Senate building. The agitation will take place amid an ongoing campaign against proposed government reforms. Thousands are expected to attend the event. The risk of violence is credible. Highlighting this, on 25 May, the president issued a decree authorising military intervention in the capital after related anti-reform protests turned violent. Disruptions should be anticipated at the aforementioned sites on the day. Road travel to and from the airport could be obstructed. In addition to the upcoming rally, further anti-government protests should be expected in major cities over the near-term.

**Advice:** Clients in Brazil in the near-term are advised to monitor local media for updates on political developments and related protests. All street protests and concentrations of security forces should be avoided as a precaution. Allowances should be made for potential travel disruptions at protest-affected sites.

**COLOMBIA (Country risk rating: High); 24 June; (Update) Release of Dutch journalists kidnapped in Catatumbo region**

Reports on 24 June confirmed the release of two Dutch journalists who were kidnapped in the Catatumbo region of Colombia's Norte de Santander department on 19 June. The victims, Derk Bolt and Eugenio Marie, were abducted by members of the National Liberation Army (ELN) in a village in the El Tarra area. They were subsequently released in the same department. The incident is indicative of the high threat of kidnapping and abduction in Colombia. The threat is particularly high outside major urban and tourist zones and in rural areas. Due to the persistent threat posed by the ELN and other non-state groups, particularly in the Catatumbo region, further such incidents are expected to persist.

**Advice:** Clients are advised against all non-essential travel to rural and remote areas of Colombia, specifically to areas outside secure urban and tourist centres (Bogota, Cartagena, Barranquilla, Santa Marta, Medellin and Santiago de Cali). Persons considering travel in rural and remote areas should do so following a full area-specific risk assessment and preferably with a trained security driver or local escort.

**COLOMBIA (Country risk rating: High); 25 and 26 June; Passenger ferry capsizes in Penol reservoir off Guatape**

At least six people were killed after a passenger ferry capsized in the Penol reservoir off Guatape, located in Colombia's north western Antioquia department, on 25 June. Unconfirmed reports indicate that the multi-storey vessel, identified as El Almirante, was overloaded and carrying at least 160 tourists when it began to sink. Although scores of people have been rescued in the wake of the incident, at least 31 people remain missing as of early 26 June. It should be noted that authorities expect the death toll to rise after salvage and rescue operations have been completed. An official investigation into the incident is ongoing.
Advice: Persons intending on undertaking boat travel in Colombia are advised to only use the services of reputable operators and to avoid any vessels that are overcrowded and/or appear to be in a severe state of disrepair. Clients are also advised to investigate safety precautions on their vessels prior to boarding. Due to various security concerns, all non-essential travel to rural and remote areas of Colombia, specifically to areas outside secure urban and tourist centres (Bogota, Cartagena, Barranquilla, Santa Marta, Medellin and Santiago de Cali), is advised against.

COSTA RICA (Country risk rating: Medium); 27 June; Teacher-led protest in San Jose amid countrywide strike

Members of the Association of Teachers of Secondary Education (APSE) will conduct a protest in Costa Rica's capital, San Jose, amid a countrywide strike on 27 June. The teachers are protesting a number of labour concerns, including disagreements over pensions and wages. Participants will gather from 09:00 local time outside the Ministry of Public Education building. It is unclear if the group plans to hold a street march in addition to the rally. Travel disruptions should be anticipated in the vicinity of the ministry building. Should participants choose to hold a protest march, affected routes could include Paseo Colon, Avenida 1 and Calle 16. Although the protest is expected to conclude without major incident, the possibility of isolated skirmishes cannot be discounted. Further calls for strikes and protest action are possible if the government does not meet the teachers' demands.

Advice: Persons in San Jose are advised to avoid all large street gatherings as a general precaution. Clients are further advised to make allowances for localised travel disruptions in the vicinity of the demonstration site.

MEXICO (Country risk rating: High); 26 June; Tropical Storm Dora to impact parts of southern Mexico

Tropical Storm Dora continues to move in a north westerly direction in the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of southern Mexico, as of early 26 June. Although the system is forecast to undergo additional strengthening later on the day, Dora is not predicted to make landfall in Mexico and will track far enough off the coast to keep the worst conditions offshore. As Dora skirts the coast of southern Mexico, it could bring localised heavy rainfall to coastal areas in the Colima, Guerrero, Jalisco, Michoacan, and Oaxaca states. The rainfall might cause some localised flash flooding along the coast; landslides are also possible in the higher elevations. Rough seas and dangerous rip currents are likely as the system transits the coastline. The strongest winds should remain offshore; however, gusts in excess of 64km/h are possible, especially in coastal areas. Sporadic power outages in affected areas cannot be ruled out. The heavy rainfall could cause some minor ground and air transport disruptions throughout 26 June. Weather-related travel delays along regional highways, including Mexican Federal highways 37, 80, 95, 98, 134, and 200, are also possible. Flooding could inundate low-lying routes (fast-moving water could wash away some roads and bridges) and associated landslides may block some roads, particularly in mountainous terrain. Widespread flight disruptions are not anticipated; however, minor delays are possible at airports serving Acapulco, Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, Lazaro Cardenas, Manzanillo, and Puerto Vallarta.

Advice: Be prepared to move quickly to safety if serious flooding occurs. Stay away from rivers, streams, and steeply sloped terrain due to the high potential for flash flooding and mudslides. Do not attempt to drive on flooded roads. Seek updated information on road conditions before driving long distances or routing shipments through affected areas. Charge battery-powered devices in case of prolonged power outages. Confirm flights before departure.

TURKS AND CAICOS (Country risk rating: Low); 23 June; US national shot and wounded during robbery

A US national was shot and seriously wounded during a robbery while on holiday on the island archipelago of Turks and Caicos, on 23 June. The incident reportedly took place in the Grace Bay area of Providencias Island at approximately 01:45 local time. No arrests have yet been made in connection with the incident; local police have since increased police deployments in the Grace Bay area, as well as elsewhere in the archipelago. Although the threat of violent crime is low throughout Turks and Caicos, the recent incident stands to underscore the potential risk of such crimes occurring. The threat of crime is generally considered to be elevated during the night-time hours, particularly when travel is undertaken in poorly lit and isolated areas. Nonetheless, such incidents are rare and far less likely to affect visitors than petty crime.

Advice: Clients travelling in Turks and Caicos are advised to exercise a basic level of personal and situational awareness at all times. Clients should avoid solitary travel in poorly lit and isolated areas, particularly during evening hours. In the event of a criminal incident, contact law enforcement as soon as it is safe to do so.

UNITED STATES (Country risk rating: Medium); 17 to 26 June; Ongoing wildfire near
Brian Head, Utah state

Over 800 firefighting personnel are working to contain a wildfire near Brian Head, located in the US state of Utah, which started on 17 June. As of 26 June, the fire has burned an estimated 17,320 hectares, and is only eight percent contained. The blaze has destroyed at least 13 homes and forced the evacuation of about 700 residents in Brian Head and the nearby communities of Panguitch Lake, Horse Valley, Beaver Dam, Blue Springs, Rainbow Meadows, Second Left Hand Canyon, Castle Valley, Mammoth Creek, and Dry Lakes. Officials set up an evacuation centre at Panguitch High School. Most of the fire activity is located on the southern perimeter of the complex; however, crews are also working to slow growth on the northern and eastern edges of the fire. The National Weather Service has issued a red flag warning (conditions ideal for fires) for the area, which is in effect until 22:00 local time on 26 June at least. Low humidity and gusty winds will likely complicate fire suppression efforts for the duration of the warning. Officials have closed Highway 143 from milepost 50 (outside Panguitch) to the cemetery in Parowan; Mammoth Creek Road is also closed at the Highway 143 junction. Intermittent road closures are also possible in other areas due to fire activity and the needs of response operations.

Advice: Clients operating in Brian Head should heed all evacuation orders, seek updated information on road conditions before driving through the affected area, and allow additional driving time if operating in the area due to ongoing firefighting operations and possible detours. Individuals not under evacuation warnings should consider remaining inside well-ventilated, air-conditioned spaces to reduce exposure to smoke.

UNITED STATES (Country risk rating: Medium); 24 and 25 June; Pride parades and events took place in several cities

Annual pride parades and related events took place in several cities across the US on 24 and 25 June. Similar events in recent weeks have been used as a platform to highlight issues affecting the LGBT community in the country and to demand equality. Major parades took place in Houston on 24 June, and in Chicago, New York City and San Francisco on 25 June. Parades were well attended and accompanied by an increased police presence and concluded without major incident.

VENEZUELA (Country risk rating: High); 23 June; Travel disruptions reported amid protests in Caracas

Protesters erected road blockades in parts of Venezuela's capital, Caracas, on 23 June. Road blockades were reported along road networks in the centre of the capital as well as on roads in other areas, including in Baruta, San Bernardino and El Paraiso. Road obstructions were also reported along the Prados del Este and Francisco Fajardo highways. Additionally, reports indicate that at least five metro rail stations in the capital, including Parque Carabobo, Chacao, Altamira, Los Cortijos and Bello Monte, suspended services on the day. The protests were called for by the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD) opposition group to protest the recent killing of David Vallenilla during an anti-government protest on 22 June. In recent months numerous deaths have been reported as a result of clashes between protesters and security personnel in Caracas and elsewhere in the country. These deaths have led to a number of anti-government protests, including the 22 June demonstration, which was called to demand justice for the death of a young male killed in another recent demonstration in the capital. These protests coincide with an uptick in daily agitations, which have been organised against the election of a national constituent assembly, set to take place on 30 July. Protests in Venezuela continue to be marred by incidents of violent unrest, including clashes between participants and police, as well as incidents of looting, vandalism and associated crimes. Due to the political and socio-economic crises in the country, further associated protest activity is expected to persist for the medium-term at least.

Advice: Clients are advised against all non-essential travel to Venezuela due to ongoing political instability and related insecurity. Persons should consider travel with a trusted local contact or trained security driver. All street protests and concentrations of security forces should be avoided.

Back to top

Asia and Pacific

AFGHANISTAN (Country risk rating: Extreme); 25 June; Militant attack reported in Herat

At least ten police officers have been killed and a further four wounded in a militant attack on a police checkpoint near the Salma Dam, in Afghanistan's western Herat province, on 25 June. At least four militants were also killed during the
attack. This incident underscores the extreme threat from terrorism in Afghanistan. This is especially true in that the attack targeted the Salma Dam, which is heavily guarded due to its regional significance and the fact that it has been targeted in previous attacks. Given the extreme levels of insecurity in the country, further attacks are anticipated.

**Advice:** Due to a number of security concerns, all travel to Afghanistan is advised against. Maximum travel, personal and residential security protocols should be implemented at all times. All movement should be conducted during daylight hours only and in the presence of a security escort.

**CHINA (Country risk rating: Medium); 25 and 26 June; Adverse weather causes flight disruptions in multiple locations**

Fog and heavy showers and thunderstorms have caused significant flight delays and numerous cancellations at airports serving Shanghai, Hangzhou, Ningbo and Nanjing, in China, since 25 June. As of late 25 June, many flights, including those operating on international routes, had been delayed by more than two hours. The National Meteorological Center issued an orange thunderstorm warning for Shanghai and surrounding areas in the Yangtze Delta. Rainfall is expected to continue in the region on 26 June; however, the warning area has been shifted southward to Jiangxi, Fujian, and Guangdong provinces. Additionally, at least 34 people were killed and almost 100 more remain missing following a landslide in Xinmo village, in the Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture of the south western Sichuan province, on 25 June.

**Advice:** Clients are advised to confirm flights with their travel or service provider. Persons should arrive at the airport well in advance of recommended times for departing flights, as long lines are possible at check-in counters and security screening areas on 26 June.

**HONG KONG (Country risk rating: Low); 25 to 28 June; Security measures increased ahead of Chinese president's visit**

Security forces in Hong Kong increased police deployments and placed several auxiliary units on full alert on 25 June ahead of a visit by Chinese president, Xi Jinping, scheduled from 29 June to 1 July. At least one Auxiliary Police unit will be deployed in Hong Kong daily until 28 June, when police deployments will be significantly increased, along with the implementation of other security measures, for Jinping's visit. Although no specific threats have been made against Jinping's visit to Hong Kong, the visit presents an opportunity for extremist groups to attack a high-value target. In light of this moderate threat, robust security measures, such as road closures, security checkpoints and other movement-restrictive measures, will be employed across Hong Kong for the duration of the Chinese president's visit. As noted above, more moderate security measures have been implemented up until the eve of Jinping's visit. Accordingly, increased patrols and possible checkpoints should be anticipated in Hong Kong over the coming days.

**Advice:** Clients in Hong Kong are advised to adhere to the directives of local authorities, ensure that identification documentation is kept on their person at all times and make allowances for possible travel delays resulting from the enhanced security measures.

**MONGOLIA (Country risk rating: Medium); 26 June; Country holds presidential election**

Mongolia is observing its presidential election on 26 June. Approximately 1,700 polling stations have been erected throughout the country. Many businesses have closed as the day has also been declared a national holiday by the government in an attempt to increase voter turnout. Official campaigning for the election began on 6 June and ended on 25 June. The campaign period has been largely peaceful, and no politically motivated violence has been reported thus far. However, protests are possible in the aftermath of the election, especially if there are any allegations of poll irregularities. Indeed, allegations of vote rigging in the 2008 parliamentary elections by the losing Democratic Party (DP) prompted large-scale rioting in the capital, Ulaanbaatar. The violence left several people dead and resulted in the imposition of a four-day state of emergency. However, subsequent parliamentary and presidential elections have passed without incident. Should none of the three candidates, Miyegombo Enkhbold from the Mongolian People's Party (MPP), Sainkhuu Ganbaatar from the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) or Battulga Khaltmaa from the DP win an outright majority, a run-off second round will take place, which is expected around 10 July.

**Advice:** Clients in Mongolia in the coming days are advised to monitor local media for updates on election results and to avoid all protests as a standard precaution. Allowances should be made for possible travel and business disruptions on 26 June.
NEPAL/INDIA; 26 to 28 June; (Update) Border closure ahead of second round of Nepalese local elections

The Nepal-India border posts will be closed for 48 hours from 26 June, ahead of the second phase of Nepal's local elections, which is scheduled for 28 June. The Pashupatinagar, Chhabbise, Manebhanjyang, Tumling and Sandakpur checkpoints will be closed. Elevated security measures have been implemented at the border posts. Disruptions due to election events should also be expected. The second phase of the local elections, which have been postponed twice, will take place across provinces 1, 5, and 7. The elections for provinces 3, 4 and 6 have already been conducted. The government has decided to defer the local polls in Province 2, the disputed Madhesi-stronghold, to 18 September. Parties representing the Madhesi community, including the recently formed opposition coalition, Rastriya Janata Party (RJP-N), have conducted protests in recent weeks to oppose the local elections. The RJP-N and other parties are demanding that Nepal's provincial boundaries be redrawn through an amendment to the constitution prior to the local elections. However, the government has stated that those amendments will take place after the vote. Further protests should be expected in the coming days, and disruptions are likely on 28 June. Agitations are expected to focus on the southern Terai region, where political coalitions representing the Madhesi community receive the bulk of their support, as well as in the capital, Kathmandu.

Advice: Persons intending to travel via the affected land border crossing in the coming days should contact the local authorities prior to departure to confirm the status of the crossing. Persons should anticipate that journeys utilising the aforementioned border crossings may need to be rescheduled. All protests, concentrations of security forces and election-related facilities and events should be avoided as a standard precaution. Clients are advised to maintain heightened caution in the country's southern Terai region.

PAKISTAN (Country risk rating: High); 24 June; Multiple incidents underscore terrorism threat

Multiple bombings took place in Pakistan on 24 June, leading to almost 90 fatalities. In Parachinar, the largest urban centre in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), over 65 people were killed in twin blasts at the Turi bazaar. The bombs were claimed by Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a Sunni extremist group. In Quetta, the administrative capital of Balochistan province, at least 14 people were killed in a suicide car bomb attack on security forces. That attack was claimed by the Jamaat-ul-Ahrar extremist group. In addition, in Karachi, the administrative capital of Sindh province, armed assailants opened fire on police at a roadside restaurant, killing four police officers. The latest attacks are indicative of the extreme threat of terrorism in Pakistan. It should be noted that there are several groups with the operational capacity to carry out such attacks. Accordingly, further militant activity, as well as targeted security operations in response to the attacks, are likely to continue in the short- to medium-term at least. Additionally, an increased security force presence should be anticipated in the vicinity of affected areas. Additional checkpoints and security patrols are likely; these could result in road travel disruptions.

Advice: Due to a number of security concerns, including the threat of terrorism, clients are advised against all travel to FATA and Balochistan province, and against all non-essential travel to Sindh province. Persons in or planning to travel to the country are advised to implement robust personal, travel and residential security measures at all times.

TAIWAN (Country risk rating: Low); 25 June; Environmental activists protest in Taipei

Environmental activists held a large demonstration in Taiwan's capital, Taipei, on 25 June. At least 5,000 people attended the event, which took place in front of the Legislative Yuan building. Although travel disruptions were reported, the protest concluded without major incident. Participants are calling on the government to revoke the license of a mining company that operates a mine in the island's Taroko National Park. As the government is unlikely to revoke the license, additional protests are possible in the coming days.

Advice: Clients in Taipei are advised to avoid all protests as a precaution.

THAILAND (Country risk rating: Medium); 23 June; Roadside bomb blast causes casualties in Narathiwat

At least 14 people, including 12 soldiers and two civilians, were wounded in a roadside bomb blast in the Sungai Kolok district, in Thailand's Narathiwat province, late on 23 June. The soldiers' vehicle was targeted while they were travelling to Ban Srayor and Ban Arakarn in the district. The civilians were wounded while they travelling behind the truck on a
motorcycle. The incident is likely related to the ongoing violent separatist campaign in Thailand's southern provinces, including Narathiwat. Militants primarily target personnel and infrastructure linked to the Thai security forces; however, as the aforementioned incident demonstrates, civilians are occasionally affected by associated violence. Due to the ongoing general insecurity in the southern provinces, further such incidents are expected to take place.

Advice: Due to the threat of terrorism and insurgent-related violence, clients are advised against all non-essential travel to Narathiwat province, as well as to the southern provinces of Yala and Pattani. Heightened caution is advised in Songkhla province. Persons in the aforementioned areas should exercise heightened security awareness and implement robust security measures at all times.

Europe and Russia

SERBIA (Country risk rating: Medium); 24 June; LGBT protest amid increased security in Belgrade

LGBT activists staged a peaceful protest march in Serbia's capital, Belgrade, on 24 June. A heavy police presence protected the participants as they proceeded from Pioneer Park to Republic Square. Minor counter-demonstrations were reported; however, no clashes were reported. The protest came amid a moderate spike in reported assaults against LGBT persons in the country. Road closures and associated disruptions in the vicinity of the parade route were reported on the day.

Advice: Clients are advised to avoid all protests as a general precaution.

SPAIN (Country risk rating: Low); 26 June; Wildfire forces evacuations in Huelva province

An ongoing wildfire in the Moguer municipality of Spain's southern Huelva province has resulted in significant disruptions and has prompted the evacuation of thousands of people. Affected areas include Moguer, Mazagon and Mata lascana; around 2,000 people have been affected by the evacuation orders. In addition, several roads have been subject to intermittent closure in the affected area, including the A-494 and the A-483. Firefighters are continuing efforts to contain the blaze. It should be noted that wildfires are highly unpredictable, susceptible to rapid changes in intensity and direction, and may further impact residential areas. Associated disruptions to travel, including road closures, are possible if the fire continues to spread unabated. As such, further evacuations and disruptions to amenities, including electricity supply, cannot be discounted.

Advice: Clients in the affected area are advised to monitor local media closely for updates and advisories. Travellers should confirm the status of all road routes prior to travel. Clients travelling near fire-affected areas should keep windows closed and ensure that the air-conditioning system is adjusted to prevent smoke from entering the vehicle.

TURKEY (Country risk rating: High); 25 June; Several arrests reported at banned LGBT parade in Istanbul

A small number of LGBT activists, as well as several nationalist counter-demonstrators, were arrested by police in Istanbul, Turkey, after they attempted to stage rallies in contravention of a banning order, on 25 June. Around ten arrests were made, while some reports indicate that police used tear gas to disperse another group of protesters later in the day. The LGBT parade was banned due to security concerns arising from several threats made by nationalist and conservative groups to attack or otherwise disrupt the protest. As a result a heavy police presence was reported in the Taksim Square area, which is where the parade was scheduled to take place.

Advice: Clients in Turkey are advised to avoid all large street gatherings and concentrations of security forces as a standard precaution.

UNITED KINGDOM (Country risk rating: Medium); 25 June; Police dismiss terrorism as motive for vehicular incident in Newcastle

Police have confirmed that an incident in which a car crashed into pedestrians along Westgate Road in Newcastle, in the UK, on 25 June, was not terrorist-related. The crash occurred in front of Westgate Community College and injured at
least seven people. The victims were among a crowd of 300 to 400 people who were celebrating the Eid al-Fitr holiday, which marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The woman driver has been detained by police. Investigations into what prompted the crash are ongoing.

UNITED KINGDOM (Country risk rating: Medium); 24 June; Rival protests take place countrywide

A heavy police presence was reported at far-right protests in London, Birmingham and Liverpool, in the UK, on 24 June. Counter-demonstrations were reported in London and Birmingham amid a heavy police presence. Isolated skirmishes and localised traffic disruptions were reported in each of the demonstration areas, while police temporarily closed London Bridge to traffic. Although each of the demonstrations only reported a moderate turnout, previous rival far-right and activist demonstrations have descended into clashes between rival demonstrators, as well as between police and participants, hence the large police deployments.

Advice: Clients are advised to avoid all street gatherings as a general precaution.

Middle East and North Africa

MOROCCO (Country risk rating: Medium); 22 June; Terrorist plot quashed in Essaouira

Morocco’s Ministry of the Interior issued a statement on 22 June indicating that an Islamic State (IS)-linked cell comprising four people had been identified and dismantled by the security forces. They were arrested, and weapons and electronic devices were confiscated during a security operation in Essaouira. The government claims that the group was planning attacks against tourist sights and ‘sensitive installations’ in the coastal town, which is a popular holiday destination for foreign nationals. The local authorities regularly announce the disruption of planned terrorist attacks in the country. Morocco has not been affected by a successful act of terrorism in several years; however, the threat of attacks in the future remains high. The threat stems from self-radicalised individuals and persons linked to terrorist organisations, like IS and al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Areas popular with foreign nationals, state facilities and personnel, and foreign diplomatic and business interests, are likely future targets.

Advice: Clients operating in Morocco should ensure that they maintain an elevated level of personal security awareness, particularly in areas considered potential terrorist targets.

SAUDI ARABIA (Country risk rating: High); 23 June; Security forces conduct operations in Mecca and Jeddah

Security forces in Saudi Arabia conducted three security operations, in the al-Usaylah and Ajyad al-Masafi neighbourhoods of Mecca, and in an unspecified part of Jeddah, early on 23 June. The security forces were reportedly seeking to arrest two brothers suspected of planning a terrorist attack in Mecca. Local media reported that the suspect in Mecca was killed after he detonated a bomb, presumably during the confrontation with security forces. No injuries to Saudi forces or civilians were reported. There is a high risk of terrorism in Saudi Arabia. The kingdom has been affected by several high-profile and low-level attacks over the past year, many of which have been linked to the Islamic State (IS). The Sunni extremist grouping is deeply opposed to the Saudi state. It has also issued several threats against the Shiite Muslim minority in the country’s east and has regularly targeted this grouping in the past. The authorities have also disrupted a number of suspected IS cells and planned attacks through security operations, which are infrequent in Mecca. Elevated levels of security in Saudi Arabia’s major urban areas generally limit the potential for a successful attack. Despite this, further attempted and actual attacks by militants linked or sympathetic to IS or opposed to the government are possible. Foreign and state interests are the most likely targets.

Advice: Clients in Saudi Arabia should exercise a heightened level of personal security awareness and should maintain a low public profile. Security measures should be regularly reviewed in conjunction with a security provider. All suspicious packages, persons and/or vehicles should be reported to the authorities immediately. Longer-term travellers should ensure that crisis management plans are periodically reviewed and updated.

SYRIA (Country risk rating: Extreme); 11 to 17 June; Vaccine-derived polio in Deir ez-Zor and Raqqah governorates
Health officials continue to identify cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) in eastern Syria, where 15 new cases were reported during the week of 11 to 17 June, bringing the total to 17 cases since March. Of these 17 cases, 16 were identified in the Deir ez-Zor governorate's Mayadin district; the remaining case was identified in the Raqqa governorate’s Raqqah district. The most recent case began displaying symptoms of paralysis on 23 May.

The risk of healthy individuals contracting cVDPV from contaminated food or water is negligible; however, individuals with compromised immune systems or those suffering from long-term illness may be more susceptible. Health officials reported the initial two cases of cVDPV on 8 June in the Deir ez-Zor governorate. cVDPV cases are a rare result of widespread vaccination using oral polio vaccine (OPV), which contains a live but weakened strain of poliovirus. Many areas of Syria have chronically low vaccination rates. Under such conditions, individuals vaccinated using oral polio vaccines can sometimes transmit cVDPV to other vulnerable individuals. Polio can spread through contact with infectious faecal material, sometimes found in contaminated food and water. Poliovirus infections are generally mild, but one in 200 cases leads to irreversible paralysis. Among those victims, 5-10 percent die when their respiratory muscles become affected. The risk of paralysis increases with age. There is no specific treatment for polio, but vaccination can prevent infection.

Advice: Visit a doctor to receive a precautionary polio booster before traveling to areas recently affected by poliovirus activity, as even mildly symptomatic or asymptomatic people are infectious. Practice basic food and water precautions; drink only boiled, bottled, or purified water, and ensure that food is properly prepared and served hot.

Sub-Saharan Africa

ETHIOPIA (Country risk rating: High); 27 June to 4 July; 29th African Union Summit to be held in Addis Ababa

Security measures have been heightened in Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa, ahead of the 29th African Union (AU) Summit to be held in the city from 27 June to 4 July. Various foreign dignitaries and heads of state are expected to attend the event, which will be held at the AU Conference Center and Office Complex (AUCC) in the city's Lideta district. Although the Ethiopian government has not indicated that the summit is under threat of an imminent terrorist incursion, such events are potentially attractive targets for transnational terrorist organisations. There have been persistent concerns that the Somalia-based Islamist extremist group, al-Shabaab, may coordinate an attack in Ethiopia. Addis Ababa, in particular, has been identified as a potential target, due to the city's status as the capital and the fact that it hosts the AU headquarters. Consequently, robust security measures, such as road closures, security checkpoints and other movement-restrictive measures will be employed across the city. Such measures will be particularly stringent in and around the AUCC, Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, and hotels hosting foreign delegations attending the summit.

Advice: Persons in Addis Ababa during the aforementioned period should monitor local media for updates on the event, particularly where security-related disruptions are concerned. Clients operating in the vicinity of the AUCC are advised to keep certified copies of all identification documentation on their person at all times. Heightened caution should be exercised throughout Addis Ababa due to the ongoing threat posed by crime and civil unrest.

KENYA (Country risk rating: High); 23 June; Fatal militant attack in El Wak, Mandera county

At least five people were killed following an attack by unidentified gunmen in El Wak, located in Kenya’s north eastern Mandera county, on 23 June. The assailants are said to have indiscriminately fired their weapons from a vehicle at a local Equity Bank, before fleeing the scene at approximately 09:00 local time. Although the motivation and identity of the gunmen remain under investigation, authorities have indicated that the perpetrators may have been affiliated with the al-Shabaab Islamist extremist group, given the nature of the attack. It should be noted that towns near the shared border with Somalia, such as El Wak, are frequently affected by criminal and terrorist-related violence. As insecurity in the region is unlikely to improve in the near- to medium-term, the possibility of additional attacks cannot be discounted.

Advice: Due to heightened threats of terrorism and kidnapping, clients are advised against all travel to areas within 50km of the Somali border in Mandera county (including El Wak). All non-essential travel to the rest of Mandera is also advised against, due to militant activity and associated insecurity. Clients currently operating in the county should avoid areas recently affected by violence and exercise robust security measures at all times, including travelling with a security escort and residing in secure compounds.

MADAGASCAR (Country risk rating: High); 26 June; Independence Day being
**Madagascar (countrywide)**

Madagascar is commemorating its Independence Day on 26 June. The day is being observed as a public holiday countrywide and is generally marked by parades, concerts and other celebratory events. Elevated security has already been set in place ahead of the anniversary, and an increased police presence is being observed at strategic sites, particularly in the capital, Antananarivo. Celebratory events throughout the day are expected to be well attended and to result in road travel disruptions in major urban areas countrywide. Business disruptions should also be anticipated. Demonstrations have reportedly been banned along main roads in urban centres. Clashes between police and participants are possible should protests take place, which pose an incidental risk to bystanders. Although there is a low threat of terrorism across the country, low-level bomb attacks have been reported at Independence Day celebrations in the past. In 2016, a grenade was detonated at the Mahamasina Municipal Stadium in Antananarivo during celebratory events, killing two people. The possibility of such attacks taking place on the day cannot be discounted.

**Advice:** Clients in Madagascar on 26 June should exercise heightened security awareness, particularly in the vicinity of any parades or formal celebrations. In addition, allowances should be made for localised travel disruptions. Clients are further advised against all non-essential travel to rural and remote areas in the southern Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana, Atsimo-Atsinanana, and Thorombe regions due to heightened threats of banditry and criminality.

**MALAWI (Country risk rating: Medium); 23 June; Disruptions due to taxi strike in Blantyre**

Localised travel disruptions were reported in Blantyre, the administrative capital of Malawi's Southern Region, due to a taxi strike and related demonstration on 23 June. The actions, which saw protesters blockade roads with burning tyres and other debris in parts of the city, were organised in response to new road policies by the Road Traffic Directorate. Unconfirmed reports indicate that minibus taxis that refused to abide by the strike were forced off the road by participants; a local police checkpoint is also said to have been subject to a related arson attack on the day. Malawi is prone to spontaneous instances of civil unrest, linked to various political and economic concerns; such gatherings often degenerate into violent confrontations between protesters and security forces. As the grievances behind the aforementioned unrest remain unresolved, further related agitations remains possible in the near-term.

**Advice:** Persons operating in Blantyre should monitor local media for further strike announcements and associated advisories from the authorities. All strike-related activities, demonstrations and concentrations of security forces should be avoided as a standard precaution.

**SOUTH AFRICA (Country risk rating: High); 26 June; Activist-led demonstrations in Durban and Bizana**

A demonstration by the Abahlali baseMjondolo (Shack Dwellers) activist group is reportedly underway in Durban, located in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province, on 26 June. The protest march to Durban City Hall, which was launched at 09:00 local time, has been organised to denounce land evictions and related grievances in the city. An additional protest march by the group is also said to be ongoing in Bizana (Eastern Cape province). The Bizana event, which is scheduled to conclude at the Redoubt Sport Ground at 12:00, was reportedly called in response to a number of socio-economic grievances in the area, including unemployment and violence against women and children. Although these agitations are expected to conclude without major incident, the possibility of low-level skirmishes between protesters and security forces cannot be discounted. It should be noted that the Abahlali baseMjondolo movement has tens of thousands of members throughout South Africa and regularly holds rallies and/or activist events to draw attention to the plight of the poor in major urban areas; as such, further related demonstrations are possible in the near- to medium-term.

**Advice:** Persons currently operating in Durban or Bizana should monitor local media for updates on the demonstrations and related advisories from the authorities. All protest gatherings and concentrations of security forces should be avoided as a standard precaution. Clients are further advised to make allowances for localised travel and business disruptions in the vicinity of all protest-affected sites.

**SOUTH SUDAN (Country risk rating: Extreme); 23 June; Kenyan national murdered in Juba**

According to reports released on 24 June, a Kenyan national was murdered in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, on 23 June. The incident took place at the Christ Ministry in Munuki, in the north of the city, where the victim was working as a bishop. Local police have stated that a number of arrests have been made in connection with the murder; however, it is
unclear whether the bishop was killed during the commission of a robbery. The incident highlights the extreme-risk operating environment in South Sudan, as well as the high risk of petty and violent crime. Crime rates have been increasing in the country, largely due to the high unemployment rate and rampant inflation. Persistent conflict has also resulted in the ready availability of light arms, thus contributing to increasing levels of violent crime. As the economic and security situations in the country are unlikely to improve over the near- to medium-term, further similar incidents are likely in Juba, as well as elsewhere in the country.

**Advice:** Clients are advised against all travel to South Sudan due to ongoing conflict and political instability. Persons operating in the country should ensure that crisis management plans are regularly reviewed and updated, in conjunction with a security provider. Clients in the country are further advised to reside in secure compounds or hotels. The security and political environment should be closely monitored. Cross-country travel should only be conducted following a full route-specific risk assessment.

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