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.

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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.

Information on Electronic Devices Carry-On Items


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 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 Kasia 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 Jnoub 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**: South of but not including the towns of El Borma and Dhehiba (Tatouine 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.

17 July 2017
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**Americas**

**Canada** (Country risk rating: Low); July 16; Wildfires reported in British Columbia

Approximately 160 wildfires continued to burn throughout British Columbia as of early July 16, including 14 that pose a threat to structures. The number of active wildfires has decreased from the more than 200 that were burning since at least July 6; however, the situation could worsen as Environment Canada forecasted 70kph (43 mph) gusts in some areas beginning July 15. The wildfires have burned over 78,000 hectares (192,742 acres) across the province, forcing tens of thousands of residents to evacuate their homes. Mandatory orders and evacuation alerts will likely remain in place through the end of July due to forecast dry conditions, which will hamper firefighting efforts. All of the fires have the potential to expand rapidly with little advance warning, and more fires could be detected at any time. Crews continue to focus on five large fires of note in the areas of southwest of Williams Lake, Ashcroft, 100 Mile House, north of Princeton and in the vicinity of Williams Lake Airport. Other affected areas include the T'etinqox First Nation and Yunesit'in First Nation, both of which are around 100km (62 miles) west of Williams Lake. An indefinite, provincewide state of emergency remains in effect. Additionally, smoke has resulted in poor air quality throughout much of central and southern British Columbia. Intermittent road closures are possible on other roadways due to fire activity and the needs of response operations. Rail operations could be slowed throughout the province.

**Advice:** Heed all evacuation orders. Seek updated information on road conditions before driving through the affected areas. 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.

**Colombia** (Country risk rating: High); July 18; Union-led protests anticipated nationwide

Members of the Central Workers Union (CUT), the Confederation of Colombian Workers (CTC), and a number of other labour organisations will participate in marches throughout Colombia on July 18 to demand that the government implement changes to pension regulations. In the capital, Bogota, organisers are calling for participants to rally at 1000 near Planetario Distrital; the group will then march to Plaza de Bolivar. Additional rallies and street marches are likely in other major cities, including Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Cali, Cartagena, and Medellin. Most demonstrations will probably occur near government facilities and in public parks. Expect business disruptions and reduced services, especially in Bogota, Medellin, and other large cities. Traffic disruptions are likely around protest sites. Protesters might set up roadblocks along major avenues or highways outside cities. While the protests will probably be peaceful, small clashes with police cannot be ruled out.

**Advice:** Allow additional time to reach destinations in major cities on July 18. Seek updated information on road conditions from trusted local contacts before departing. Do not attempt to drive through areas where protesters are blocking roadways. Confirm appointments with public entities.

**United States** (Country risk rating: Medium); July 15; (Update) Progress made containing fires in California

Firefighters continue to make progress in containing wildfires in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties in California. More than 2,500 personnel remain onsite in both counties, building containment lines around two major fires. The Alamo Fire was detected in San Luis Obispo County on July 6. As of July 15, the fire had burned approximately 11,609 hectares (28,687 acres) and was 93 percent contained. The fire has destroyed two structures and threatens an additional 133...
buildings. The Whittier Fire, which is located in the Santa Ynez Mountains near Lake Cachuma in Santa Barbara County, was detected on July 8. As of July 15, the fire had burned roughly 7,026 hectares (17,364 acres) on both sides of Highway 154; the blaze grew overnight on July 14/15 on its southwestern flank because of Sundowner winds. At least 16 homes have reportedly burnt down and Highway 154 between Highway 246 and Foothill Road was temporarily closed. Further intermittent closures are also possible on other roadways due to fire activity and the needs of response operations.

**Advice:** Seek updated information on road conditions before driving or routeing shipments through the area. Consider remaining inside well-ventilated, air-conditioned spaces to minimize exposure to smoke in areas downwind of the fire. Plan for potential ramp disruptions at Santa Maria Airport (SMX), which is being used as a refueling and reloading point for tankers involved in aerial firefighting efforts.

**UNITED STATES (Country risk rating: Medium); July 13; Jamestown Canyon Virus reported in Kennebec County, Maine**

On July 13, health authorities in Maine reported a single confirmed case of Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) in Kennebec County. According to officials, this is likely the first case of JCV reported in the state; however, testing for the disease is limited and cases are probably underreported. JCV is rare across the US. Authorities identified 11 cases nationwide in 2015 and 15 cases in 2016. JCV is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Symptoms generally include fever, influenza-like illness, and headache. In severe cases, the virus can infect the central nervous system, potentially leading to encephalitis or meningitis. No vaccine is currently available to prevent JCV infection.

**Advice:** As weather permits, wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, and socks, or use insect protection containing DEET, picaridin, or another approved repellent. Remove standing water to reduce potential breeding areas for mosquitoes. Seek medical attention if symptoms develop after being in affected areas.

**UNITED STATES (Country risk rating: Medium); July 17; Severe weather warning in Northeast and Upper Midwest**

Severe thunderstorms could develop over portions of the Northeast and Upper Midwest on July 17. Storms will likely form during daytime hours in parts of central and northern Pennsylvania, central New York, and northwestern Vermont. Isolated thunderstorms are possible in northeastern South Dakota, southeastern North Dakota, and northern Minnesota during the afternoon and evening hours. The storms could produce hail, strong straight-line winds, and flooding throughout the affected areas. Winds gusting to over 97kph (60mph) could lead to localised power outages. A few storms could produce isolated tornadoes. The severe weather will likely contribute to ground and air transport disruptions in parts of the Northeast and Upper Midwest. In the Northeast, ground transport delays are possible on area highways, including the I-80, I-81, I-86, I-87, I-88, and I-89 corridors. In the Upper Midwest, traffic and commercial trucking disruptions could occur along the I-29 and I-94 corridors. Strong winds could pose a hazard to high-profile vehicles. Flight disruptions (mainly ground stops) are also possible at airports in the affected regions, including those serving Albany (ALB), Fargo (FAR), and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AVP).

**Advice:** Confirm flights. Monitor NOAA weather radio or local media for updated emergency and weather information. Seek updated information on road conditions before driving or routeing shipments through the affected area on July 17. Plan accordingly for possible commercial trucking disruptions and associated delivery delays. Review contingency plans, and be prepared to move quickly to shelter if tornado warnings are issued. Charge battery-powered devices in case of prolonged power outages.

**Asia and Pacific**

**AUSTRALIA (Country risk rating: Low); July 18 and 19; Bus drivers to strike in Brisbane**

Unionised bus drivers are planning to stage two-hour strikes in Australia's Brisbane metropolitan area on the mornings of July 18 and 19 to protest a lack of progress in negotiations for a new enterprise agreement. Bus drivers represented by the Rail, Tram, and Bus Union intend to stage the walkout from 0430 to 0630. The early morning timing of the walkout is likely intended to minimise disruptions for commuters; the union may organise additional walkouts in the coming weeks unless an agreement is reached.

**Advice:** Plan accordingly for reduced bus service during the strikes. Arrange alternative transport.
BANGLADESH (Country risk rating: High); July 12; Chikungunya cases confirmed in Dhaka

As of July 12, health officials in Bangladesh have reported at least 2,700 cases of chikungunya in the capital, Dhaka, since May. Officials also stated that cases have occurred in Gopalganj and Narsingdi districts in Dhaka Division; however, details regarding case counts in these districts were not provided. Chikungunya activity is typically sporadic in Bangladesh, and it appears that the current outbreak in Dhaka is the largest ever recorded in the country. However, it is important to note that testing is limited and cases are likely underreported. Chikungunya activity will likely remain high in Dhaka as the monsoon season progresses. The monsoon season typically occurs from June to September in Bangladesh and creates ideal environmental conditions for mosquito breeding. Chikungunya is similar to dengue fever and is transmitted by the same *Aedes* mosquito. Symptoms generally appear within a week of exposure and include fever, joint pain, headache, muscle pain, joint swelling and rash. The disease is rarely fatal, but symptoms can be severe and disabling during the acute phase. Most patients recover within seven days, but joint pain can persist for months in some cases. No vaccine is currently available to prevent chikungunya infection.

Advice: As weather permits, wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, and socks, or use insect protection containing DEET, picaridin, or another approved repellent. Remove standing water to reduce potential breeding areas for mosquitoes. Seek medical attention if symptoms develop within three weeks of being in affected areas. Do not use aspirin or ibuprofen products if you suspect you may have chikungunya, as these could exacerbate bleeding tendencies associated with the disease.

CHINA (Country risk rating: Medium); July 16; Fatalities after stabbing attack in Shenzhen

Police responded to a stabbing incident at a supermarket on Bao'an Avenue in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, late on July 16. At least two people were killed and nine others were wounded when a knife-wielding man attacked people at the store. The wounded were transported to local hospitals for treatment. Police apprehended the suspected attacker and launched an investigation into the incident. Officials did not provide any information on the assailant's motive. Knife attacks occur periodically in China, often in public places; previous similar incidents have been linked to personal grievances or attributed to mental illness. In nearly all attacks, suspects are quickly detained by police, minimising the risk of further violence from the assailant. As such, the overall threat to the public from such attacks remains low throughout the country.

HONG KONG (Country risk rating: Low); July 14; Pro-democracy protests possible

Pro-democracy groups could stage protests in Hong Kong after the city's High Court on July 14 disqualified four pro-independence lawmakers from serving in the Legislative Council over an oath-taking controversy. The court ruled the four failed to take their lawmaker oaths correctly, and disqualified them from office from October 12, 2016, the day of the initial Legislative Council swearing-in ceremony. If protests materialise, they are mostly likely to occur outside the Legislative Council, the chief executive's office building, the Central Government Offices building in Admiralty, the High Court and the Liaison Office for the Chinese government. Pro-Beijing citizens could stage counter-protests in support of the ruling. Authorities will increase security during any rallies, especially near government and court buildings. Minor skirmishes cannot be ruled out, particularly if rival factions protest near each other or if police attempt to disperse gatherings or block access to rally sites. Localised disruptions are likely if larger demonstrations take place; however, temporary transport and commercial interruptions will probably remain limited to the immediate vicinity of the protest actions.

Advice: Exercise caution near government buildings and other likely protest sites. Plan for traffic disruptions in these areas and allow additional time for travel.

INDIA (Country risk rating: High); July 16; (Update) Indefinite blockade in Tripura State

The Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) has pledged to continue its indefinite road and rail blockade in Tripura State after talks with the local government over its demand for a separate tribal state failed on July 16. The indefinite blockade, since July 10, has significantly disrupted ground transport in the state and has led to severe shortages of fuel and essential commodities. IPFT activists have been specifically targeting National Highway NH 8, which is the landlocked state's main supply route through Assam State. The North East Frontier Railway (NFR) has also diverted several trains from Tripura's capital, Agartala, to West Bengal's capital, Kolkata, due to the IPFT action. Reports indicate that private airlines are engaging in price-gouging due to the ongoing rail and road blockade, with the cost of domestic tickets nearly tripling, especially on Agartala-Guwahati and Agartala-Kolkata routes. The action has so far remained largely peaceful, though violent clashes between IPFT members and security personnel are likely, especially if law enforcement use force to break up road and rail blockades. Protesters could also vandalise or set fire to vehicles defying the call to stay off the road. Various groups may launch counter-protests and/or road and rail blockades in Tripura State in the coming days if the
IPFT does not suspend its disruptive action. Violent clashes between IPFT activists and these rival groups cannot be ruled out.

**Advice:** Avoid driving or routeing shipments on highways through Tripura during the action. Businesses that rely on rail services or commercial trucking to move goods should plan for supply chain disruptions. Avoid large gatherings and any protests due to the risk of violent unrest. Use extreme caution near government buildings, residences of government leaders and political party offices. Do not attempt to bypass roadblocks, as protesters frequently attack vehicles.

**INDIA (Country risk rating: High); July 17; Medical workers' strike in Kerala State postponed**

One of the two unions representing nurses at private hospitals in southern Kerala State in India has cancelled plans to begin an indefinite strike on July 17 following the state government's invitation for talks on wage-related issues. The United Nurses Association (UNA) said its members would not stage a walkout June 17, but warned of a possible indefinite strike anytime between July 19 and 21 if negotiations fail to make significant progress. However, the Indian Nurses' Association (INA) action is set to resume. The action could affect nonemergency medical services at some private hospitals in the state, though widespread disruptions are not anticipated. While the UNA has postponed the strike, the group has vowed to continue protests to pressure the government to meet its demands, with members expected to stage an indefinite hunger strike outside of the Kerala Government Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram on July 17. UNA members will also stage marches to the Secretariat building from several hospitals in Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam during this period. Protest marches and rallies could prompt localised traffic congestion, though major disruptions or violence are not anticipated during any action. Nurses at private hospitals affiliated with the UNA and INA have been protesting in Kerala State since June to demand a basic monthly salary of INR 20,000 (USD 310). On July 11, thousands of UNA members staged a day-long strike at private hospitals across the state and marched to the Government Secretariat building in Thiruvananthapuram. Negotiations between government officials and protesting nurses to end the wage dispute have repeatedly failed.

**Advice:** Confirm all nonemergency health care appointments at private hospitals. Be prepared for delays at some private hospitals; if possible, call in advance, as conditions will likely vary at facilities. Avoid all protests as a precaution. Make allowances for travel disruptions in the vicinity of gathering sites.

**INDONESIA (Country risk rating: High); July 19; Activists to stage protest in South Jakarta**

Activists, particularly from Muslim groups, plan to stage a demonstration in front of the House of Representatives (DPR) complex in South Jakarta, Indonesia, on July 19 to protest a new regulation in lieu of law on mass organisations, Perppu No. 2/2017. The regulation allows for the prompt disbandment of any organisations that embrace and disseminate teachings that contradict the state ideology of Pancasila and engage in separatist activities, among other restrictions. Muslim activists view the new bill as a move to tackle the rise of hardline Islamic groups in the country. The protest may attract thousands of people, including members of Hizbut Tahrir Indonesia (HTI) and the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI). Authorities will likely increase security near the rally site. Expect localised traffic disruptions as police may temporarily close roads and divert traffic during the demonstration. Skirmishes between protesters and security personnel cannot be ruled out.

**Advice:** Avoid the protest site as a precaution. Allow additional time if travelling near the affected area, or consider taking alternative routes. Confirm business appointments in the area.

**JAPAN (Country risk rating: Low); July 13; Chinese nationals killed in Kanagawa prefecture**

Japanese police confirmed on July 14 that two missing Chinese nationals had been found dead in a forest in Hadano, Kanagawa Prefecture. Authorities discovered the bodies of the victims inside suitcases in a wooded area around 2240 on July 13. The Chinese nationals, who were sisters, had been living in the nearby city of Yokohama and were last seen on July 6. Although Japan has a very low violent crime rate, isolated incidents do periodically occur and can affect foreign nationals. Authorities have not released any information on the motives behind these killings, but are examining CCTV footage that showed a man entering the victims' apartment on July 6. Reports suggest that the victims had lived in the country for several years and worked in a local restaurant. The killing may have been motivated by a personal dispute. The incident does not indicate an escalation in violent crime targeting foreign nationals.

**PAKISTAN (Country risk rating: High); July 16 and 17; Opposition rallies planned for Punjab Province**
The opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is set to continue with protest action in Pakistan's southern Punjab Province until July 17. On July 16, protests were reported in Multan, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan; all concluded without major incident. Further associated protest activity is expected in Vehari and Rajanpur on July 17. Details on exact rally sites within the cities have not yet been announced. The events will likely draw several hundred to several thousand participants. Authorities will likely increase security for all protests, and may temporarily close roads and/or divert traffic near rally venues; expect localised transport disruptions. Violent unrest is unlikely, though clashes between police and demonstrators cannot be ruled out, especially if police try to forcibly disperse any gathering. Confrontations could also occur between PPP members and supporters of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, which heads both the federal and Punjab provincial governments. The PPP is organising the protests to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, following the recent release of a report by the Panamagate Joint Investigation Team (JIT) investigating the premier and his family in relation to offshore accounts exposed in the 2016 Panama Papers leak. The PPP is slated to initiate the second phase of its protest programme after the July 17 demonstrations. The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) parties have also pledged to launch anti-Sharif demonstrations in the coming days, but have yet to announce specific details of their campaigns.

Advice: Monitor local media for updates on the rally sites. Avoid all demonstrations due to the potential for security disturbances; limit exposure to government buildings, political party offices and other popular rally sites. Plan for street closures and traffic disruptions near any protest sites; allow additional time for driving.

PAKISTAN (Country risk rating: High); July 17; Suicide bombing in Peshawar

A suicide bomber riding a motorcycle detonated his explosives near a Frontier Corps convoy in the upscale Hayatabad area of southwest Peshawar, Pakistan, the morning of July 17. Authorities said that the convoy came under attack near the Bagh-e-Naran Chowk area while it was travelling from its camp in Hayatabad to the headquarters in Qila Bala Hisar. The attack killed three security personnel, including a major. Ten other people, including passersby, were also wounded in the incident. Authorities have cordoned off the blast site. The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militant group reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack. The TTP also claimed credit for a similar suicide attack targeting judicial employees in the Hayatabad area of Peshawar in February that killed two people and wounded 18 more.

Advice: Avoid the blast site and surrounding areas of Hayatabad until authorities have fully secured the area. Allow additional time for travel if operating in the Bagh-e-Naran Chowk area in the coming days; confirm nearby appointments, as businesses may close in the aftermath of the attack.

PHILIPPINES (Country risk rating: Medium); July 17; Jeepney groups stage countrywide protests

Transport group PISTON and the No to Jeepney Phase Out Coalition launched nationwide protests on July 17 in opposition to the government's plan to modernise jeepneys and phase out older jeepney vehicles. In Metro Manila, drivers gathered at the Quezon City Memorial Circle and staged a protest caravan to Mendiola Bridge, which is approximately 700 metres (0.43 miles) north of Malacanang Palace, to hold a noise barrage. Jeepney operators in Zambales, Bataan, and Pampanga, among other places, have conducted similar rallies, although details of the actions were not immediately available. In the past, protests in other cities have usually taken place near the local offices of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC). Though transport groups in Metro Manila said that the action is not a strike, jeepney transport will likely be limited for the remainder of July 17. Other mass transport will remain available, but conditions will likely be more crowded. Long queues and delays are possible during peak travel hours. Jeepney caravans will also intensify traffic disruptions on streets around the rally sites, increasing ground transport disruptions.

Advice: Avoid all protests as a precaution. Outside of Metro Manila, monitor local media or check with trusted contacts for updates on specific rally sites and caravan routes. Allow additional time for travel, especially near the protest sites. Arrange alternative transport. Confirm all taxi reservations.

SOUTH EAST ASIA; July 17 and 18; Tropical Storm Talas affecting several areas

Tropical Storm Talas made landfall south of Vinh in Nghe An Province, Vietnam, early on July 17. The storm is forecast to weaken significantly as it continues tracking west-northwestward into Laos. Talas will likely dissipate by early July 18, when its remnants could affect northeastern Thailand, particularly Chiang Rai. Meanwhile, a blue alert for heavy rain is expected to remain in place in China's south eastern province of Hainan Island and surrounding areas, on 17 and 18 July. The system is expected to bring torrential rainfall and strong winds to Vietnam's north central provinces, particularly Nghe An, Thanh Hoa, and Ha Tinh, for the remainder of July 17. Flooding and/or landslides could force road closures; rail service
disruptions are possible in affected areas. Flight disruptions are likely at Vinh International Airport (VII) through July 17. Talas is likely to bring heavy rainfall and windy conditions to several provinces in Laos, especially Huaphanh, Xiengthuang, Louangphabang, Bolikhamsai, Vientiane, and Sainyabuli, through early July 18. Similar conditions are likely in northeastern Thailand, particularly in some areas of Chiang Rai, Phayao, and Nan provinces. Ground transport disruptions will probably occur, as flooding and landslides could block roads and rail tracks. Flight delays and cancellations are possible at regional airports, including those servicing Phonsavan (XKH), Vientiane (VTE), and Chiang Rai (CEI).

Advice: Confirm flights before checking out of hotels or driving to the airport. Stay away from rivers, streams, and other watercourses due to potential flooding. Seek updated information on road conditions before driving in or routing shipments through mountainous areas. Anticipate temporary supply chain problems due to possible commercial trucking and port disruptions. Charge battery-powered devices and stockpile bottled water and nonperishable food in case of prolonged electricity outages.

SOUTH KOREA (Country risk rating: Low); July 15 to 23; LGBT festival-related events in Seoul

Thousands of members of the LGBT community participated in the annual gay pride parade in South Korea's capital, Seoul, on July 15. Participants gathered at Seoul Plaza and marched through downtown areas of the city. The parade was part of the 18th Korea Queer Culture Festival, which will take place in Seoul until July 23. The 10-day festival will also feature a night club party in the Itaewon district and musical performances at Seoul Plaza, among other events. Members of conservative Christian groups held a counter-protest near Seoul Plaza on July 15; the events concluded peacefully. Additional demonstrations by these groups are possible until July 23. However, these protests will likely be much smaller in scale, possibly drawing several dozens to a few hundred participants. Police will likely also maintain a strict vigil around Seoul Plaza and other affected areas until July 23 to avert possible clashes between LGBT festival participants and Christian groups. Localised traffic disruptions are probable in parts of central Seoul, especially near Seoul Plaza, through the end of the festival. Although homosexuality is not illegal in South Korea, conservative elements of South Korean society, particularly the influential Christian Council of Korea, strongly oppose LGBT activism. Public acceptance of the LGBT community is growing, however, and recent surveys suggest a sizeable shift in public opinion about the matter in recent years, especially among young people.

Advice: Allow additional travel time to reach destinations in central Seoul during events until July 23. Avoid all street protests.

Europe and Russia

ITALY (Country risk rating: Low); July 17; Wildfires reported in the southern parts of the country

Emergency services have been battling large wildfires in southern Italy since July 13. Areas that remain on high alert as of July 17 include those in the Tuscany and Lazio regions, with associated forest fires also being reported in Sicily. Authorities have implemented intermittent road closures in the vicinity of affected areas as a precaution and to facilitate firefighting efforts. No disruptions to flight operations have been reported as yet, though smoke could cause delays with little to no warning. Firefighters across Italy have tackled more than 1,000 brush or scrub fires in recent days; at least two people have been reported killed. Wildfires are a risk in Italian woodlands throughout the summer months. These blazes are highly dangerous, unpredictable, and should be avoided.

Advice: Check the status of routes before travelling in affected areas, and allow extra time for travel to mitigate possible delays. Sensitive individuals, especially those suffering from heart disease, respiratory illness, or other conditions that could be exacerbated by smoke inhalation, should consider remaining indoors in air conditioning if in or near smoke-heavy areas. Exercise caution in woodland areas and report any fires to the authorities.

LITHUANIA (Country risk rating: Low); July 14 to August 17; Vilnius International Airport to be closed for maintenance
Vilnius International Airport (VNO) is slated to remain closed from July 14 to August 17 to allow for a major runway renovation. The majority of flights have been diverted to Kaunas Airport (KUN), situated about 80km (50 miles) northwest of Vilnius. Several airlines have suspended flights for the duration of the closure.

**Advice:** Contact your airline or travel agent to confirm flight status if slated to travel to/from VNO during the closure.

**TURKEY** (Country risk rating: **High**); July 16; Shooting incident reported in Istanbul

Police initiated an investigation following a shooting incident at a restaurant in the Kizilay Meydani area of Istanbul's Beyoglu District on the afternoon of July 16. An armed assailant entered a cafe and shot two people around 1700 before fleeing the scene. The two victims survived the incident and were transported to a local hospital for treatment of their injuries. Police launched a manhunt in the area to apprehend the attacker. Local reports indicate that the incident was probably criminal in nature and not terrorism-related.

**Middle East and North Africa**

**EGYPT** (Country risk rating: **High**); July 14; Five police officers killed by militants near Cairo

Unidentified assailants attacked a checkpoint in Al-Badrasheen in Giza Governorate early on July 14, killing five policemen before fleeing the area. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the shooting. Lesser-known militant groups such as the Hasam Movement and Liwaa al Thawra frequently target security forces in shootings and low-level bombings throughout the Greater Cairo and Nile Delta areas. Militants continue to stage attacks against security personnel in Egypt in retaliation for the 2013 ouster of former Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated President Mohammed Morsi. The Hasam Movement has recently been involved in several attacks targeting security forces in Giza Province. On July 8, Hasam Movement militants were involved in a gunfight with police in 6th of October City that left two militants dead.

**Advice:** Clients are advised to exercise caution or consider limiting travel near state personnel and facilities in the country, including in Greater Cairo. Travellers should also exercise heightened awareness in public and should report suspicious persons and packages to the authorities.

**EGYPT** (Country risk rating: **High**); July 14; Foreign nationals killed in an attack in Hurghada

On July 14, the Egyptian Interior Ministry reported that a man stabbed and killed two German tourists and wounded four other foreign travellers at a beach resort in Hurghada. The knifeman is said to have killed the two German nationals and wounded two others at the Zahabia Hotel. The attacker then reportedly swam to the nearby Sunny Days El Palacio resort from a public beach and attacked two other people before being apprehended by the police. Police are trying to determine the motive. Hurghada is on the Red Sea coast, 400km (250 miles) southeast of the capital, Cairo. Attacks on tourists along the Red Sea coast are relatively rare. However, Hurghada was the scene of a similar incident in January 2016, when suspected Islamic State (IS) militants attacked the Bella Vista Hotel, wounding three foreign tourists. Police opened fire on the two assailants during the attack, killing one and seriously wounding the other. The men, armed with knives and pellet guns, reportedly sneaked into the Bella Vista from an adjacent hotel, accessing the facility from the beach.

**Advice:** Persons operating in Egypt are advised to exercise heightened vigilance and caution at all times.

**IRAQ** (Country risk rating: **High**); July 15; Car bombing reported in Baghdad

A car bomb exploded near the Rafidian Bank building in the Mashtal area of eastern Baghdad, Iraq's capital, at approximately 2130 on July 15. At least one person was killed and several others were wounded in the explosion. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

**ISRAEL** (Country risk rating: **High**); July 14; (Update) Fatalities after a shooting incident at Temple Mount in Jerusalem

Early on July 14, three Palestinian assailants carrying guns and knives attacked a group of police officers at one of the gates of the Temple Mount compound in the Old City of Jerusalem, leaving two Israeli police officers dead and a third wounded. Police pursued the assailants, killing all three. Israeli officials sealed off the Temple Mount compound and cancelled Friday prayers at the site on July 14. The compound was reopened from July 16; however, the attack prompted the Israeli authorities to install checkpoints and metal detectors at the compound gates. The additional security measures
have been denounced by Muslim groups. In addition, police briefly detained Sheikh Muhammad Hussein, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and a major religious figure, for questioning. While violence carried out by Palestinians against Israelis is common in Jerusalem, coordinated attacks and assaults involving automatic weapons are comparatively rare. This is the second shooting attack to occur in the Old City within a month. On June 16, three Palestinian assailants conducted a coordinated attack in Jerusalem. Two of the perpetrators, who were armed with knives and automatic weapons, attacked security personnel near Zedekiah's Cave, while a third stabbed a police officer near Damascus Gate. At least five people were wounded during the attacks. The assailants were shot and killed at the scene. Attackers typically target Israeli military personnel and Israeli civilians, but foreign nationals are also at risk of being accidentally wounded during these incidents.

**Advice:** Clients travelling in Jerusalem should exercise a heightened level of personal security awareness, and report any suspicious person(s) to local authorities immediately. Avoid any protests that may materialise over the elevated security measures at Temple Mount.

**LIBYA (Country risk rating: Extreme); July 15; Commercial flights resume at Benina Airport in Benghazi**

Benina International Airport (BEN) in Benghazi, Libya, reopened for commercial flight operations on July 15. The small airport will service the capital, Tripoli, as well as several international destinations with flights operated by Libyan-owned companies Libyan Airlines (LN) and Afriqiyah Airways (8U). Some official, charter, and cargo flights have already been flying out of Benina Airport for months. Authorities could suspend operations at BEN with little warning if violence in the area escalates. Expect tight security around the airport facility. Clashes and road closures near the airport remain possible. Khalifa Haftar's self-styled Libya National Army (LNA), an anti-Islamist force, declared the city free of Islamist militants and rebel forces on July 5, paving the way for the airport's opening. However, some fighting is still ongoing and the city's port has yet to reopen.

**Advice:** If operating in the area, confirm all ground routes and airport operations before travelling to Benina Airport.

**SAUDI ARABIA (Country risk rating: High); July 14; Militants killed in Saihat, Eastern province**

On July 14, security forces shot and killed three suspected militants in the Al-Kuwait neighbourhood of Saihat in the late evening. No casualties among security forces or civilians were reported. The shooting was likely part of a security raid and follows a recent increase in attacks on security forces in the neighbouring city of Qatif. On July 13, assailants shot and killed a security officer and wounded another in the Al-Nassiriah area. Similar incidents occurred on July 4, 6, 8, and 9; perpetrators typically target security forces with shootings but have also used improvised explosive devices. Violence has sharply increased since early May, when security forces launched a major operation in search of wanted individuals; Awamiyah has been the epicentre of much of the violence. Saudi Arabia is predominantly Sunni, but a significant Shi'a population resides in Eastern Province. Shi'a communities in and around Al-Qatif have become increasingly restive due to frustration over perceived marginalisation by the state.

**Advice:** All suspicious people, objects and activities should immediately be reported to the relevant authorities. Abide by the directives of security forces at all times.

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**Sub-Saharan Africa**

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (Country risk rating: Extreme); July 11 and 12; Fatality reported in an attack at a hospital in Zemio**

Non-governmental organisation (NGO) Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres/MSF) suspended operations in Zemio, in southeastern Central African Republic (CAR), on July 12 in response to an attack inside a hospital in which the NGO operated. Gunmen opened fire inside the medical facility on July 11, killing a baby. It is unclear what prompted the shooting. Zemio is approximately 1,000km (620 miles) east of the capital, Bangui. Additional NGOs may also withdraw from Zemio due to concerns about the security environment. In recent months, large-scale violence has spread to eastern CAR. From June 28 to 30, armed clashes between Fulani Herders and an unidentified militia group killed at least 22 people in Zemio. Mass-casualty incidents have also occurred in other towns, including a May 13 attack on Bangassou, which left more than 160 dead, and a June 20 attack on Bria, which left more than 100 people dead.
Advice: Persons operating in CAR should ensure that robust travel, residential and personal security measures are in place; crisis management plans should also be regularly reviewed and updated in conjunction with a security provider.

COTE D'IVOIRE (Country risk rating: High); July 14 and 15; Shootings reported in Abidjan and Korhogo

Two shooting incidents involving suspected former rebel soldiers occurred overnight on July 14/15 at military bases in Korhogo and Abidjan. Officials said government security forces shot and killed three alleged rebels during an attempted attack on a military installation in Korhogo. Gunfire also reportedly occurred near the N'Dotive base in northern Abidjan; however, there have been no reports of related deaths or injuries. Authorities said calm has been restored in the affected areas of Abidjan and Korhogo; additional security personnel have been deployed to patrol the cities. Renegade former rebels could stage protests in the coming days amid the increased tensions. Clashes with security forces cannot be ruled out; officers may fire tear gas and live ammunition to disperse protesters if unrest occurs. Commercial and traffic disruptions are probable near any protest activity; former rebels could block entrances to urban areas.

Advice: Where possible, avoid military bases and all demonstrations. If violence breaks out, seek shelter in a secure non-government building. Register and maintain contact with your diplomatic mission.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (Country risk rating: High); July 14; Fatal attack at Kinshasa's central market

A group of unidentified assailants armed with machetes, knives, and firearms attacked the central market in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s capital, Kinshasa, on July 14. The attack left at least two people, the market's manager and one of her bodyguards, dead. The incident took place at about 1400, causing panic and prompting a number of businesses at the facility to close. While police and military troops have restored order and secured the scene, heightened security is likely in the vicinity of the market in the coming days. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities believe the perpetrators were regular bandits operating in the DRC capital.

Advice: If operating in Kinshasa, heed the instructions of local authorities and exercise extreme caution due to the risk posed by criminal activity and other security incidents.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (Country risk rating: High); July 14; Missing US national rescued in Mambasa

Authorities confirmed that security forces found a missing US journalist alive and unharmed during search and rescue operations near Mambasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s eastern Ituri Province, on July 16. The journalist went missing after suspected Mai-Mai Simba militia members attacked her and a group of associates, including two British journalists and at least 11 locals, at a security post near the Okapi Wildlife Reserve on July 14. Officials said the US national had not been kidnapped, but instead had hid following the incident. The two British nationals and at least six of the locals made their way safely to another security base immediately following the attack. Authorities said five of the missing local park rangers had been found dead on July 16. Militia groups, including Mai-Mai Simba, continue to pose significant security threats in Ituri Province. The militiamen attack areas in search of food and other goods. Frequently, the fighters target areas lacking a government security presence. Security remains tenuous in parts of eastern DRC, particularly the North and South Kivu provinces, and areas of the former Orientale Province, including Ituri.

MAURITANIA (Country risk rating: High); July 13; Military exclusion zone declared in the north east of the country

The Mauritanian Ministry of Defence declared on July 13 that it had established an indefinite military exclusion zone in the country's northeast. The exclusion zone extends from Ain Ben Tili in the northwest and Dahr Tichit in the southwest to Mauritania's eastern borders with Algeria, Mali, and Western Sahara. The government warns that anyone entering the exclusion zone risks being fired upon without warning, as troops will not be able to distinguish between hostile and peaceful targets. Military personnel may use heavy weaponry, including airstrikes, to engage targets sighted within the declared exclusion zone. Moreover, the Mauritanian military is known to employ landmines along its international borders, which may not be marked. The exclusion zone partially overlaps an existing security zone, where military permission is required for any travel. The security zone covers the Tagant Region east of Tidjikja, the Adrar Region east of Ouadane, and the Zemmour Region, except Fderick and Zouerat. Similar exclusion zones have been declared in the country's northeastern regions on several occasions over recent years to target criminal organisations engaged in trafficking, unlicensed gold miners, and Islamist militants that are active in Mauritania's remote northern and eastern desert areas. Military aircraft
engaged a four-vehicle convoy armed with mounted heavy weapons near Zouerat on July 12; the government identified the passengers as illegal gold prospectors. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) is known to use the border area as a refuge in support of its offensive operations in Mali, where it is waging a high-intensity insurgency. Infrequent reports of militant attacks on security forces in Mauritania have led to accusations that the government has intentionally avoided confronting AQIM, or may be paying off the Islamist group. However, Mauritania's participation in the recently launched pan-Sahelian G-5 counter-terrorism mission - along with Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Niger - suggests that the government may begin actively countering militants.

MAURITIUS (Country risk rating: Low); July 7; Foreign national killed in Albion

Police in Mauritius announced on July 14 that they had taken three suspects into custody in the murder case of a British national who had been residing on the island. Investigators had discovered the victim's body at her home in the town of Albion at 0100 on July 7; although she had been living in Mauritius since 2004, the victim had only recently settled in the Albion area. The British woman's murder appears to have been part of a home invasion and robbery, as the killers fled with jewellery and the victim's car. All three suspects in custody are Mauritian nationals, one of whom is 18 years old, with the other two being 25. Crime normally poses a medium threat in Mauritius. Criminal activity is most prevalent in urban and tourist locations, particularly in downtown Port Louis. However, coastal areas such as Albion are not immune to crime.

RWANDA (Country risk rating: Medium); July 14 to August 4; Election campaigns underway countrywide

Political rallies are likely to occur with increasing frequency across Rwanda, especially in the capital, Kigali, during the political campaign for the August 4 presidential polls. Election campaigns began on July 14 and are slated to continue through August 3. Expect heightened security and localised transport disruptions near event sites. Most public events will likely be organised by the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front (FPR), given the lack of support for the opposition. Skirmishes between supporters of rival political groups are therefore unlikely. However, transportation disruptions near campaign events are possible. The August 4 elections are widely expected to be won by incumbent President Paul Kagame. Rwanda's election commission announced the final list of presidential candidates on July 7 and permitted two candidates to run in addition to Kagame: Frank Habineza of the opposition Democratic Green Party (DGPR) and independent Philippe Mpayimana. The DGPR is the only significant opposition party allowed to take part in the electoral process in Rwanda. However, the party is not in a position to threaten the FPR's dominance over Rwandan politics. Mpayimana is little known in Rwanda, having lived abroad from 1994 to February 2017, and poses little challenge to Kagame.

Advice: Use alternative routes to circumvent election campaign events. Plan for localised traffic disruptions.

SENEGAL (Country risk rating: Medium); July 15; Fatal stampede takes place in Dakar

Emergency crews responded to a fatal stampede incident that occurred during a sporting event at the Demba Diop Stadium in the Sicap-Liberte area of Senegal's capital, Dakar, late on July 15. Clashes reportedly broke out between rival fans, and police deployed tear gas to quell the unrest. Crowds then rushed towards the exits, causing one of the stadium's walls to collapse; at least eight people were killed and an unspecified number of others were injured in the stampede.

Advice: Avoid the Demba Diop stadium area. Allow additional time for travel if operating near the Sicap-Liberte area.

SOUTH SUDAN (Country risk rating: Extreme); July 13; Aid workers evacuated in Pibor

On July 14, the NGO Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontiers, MSF) reported the evacuation of its employees to South Sudan's capital, Juba, from Pibor, in the former Jonglei State, following an armed robbery in the organisation's compound around 0130 on July 13. MSF said that between six and ten gunmen assaulted two of its staff and stole office equipment including computers and telephones. Other humanitarian sources also reported gunfire during the incident; UN peacekeepers provided 13 MSF staff overnight shelter at their base in the town after securing the aid workers' evacuation from the compound. Although there is a very high risk of violent armed robbery nationwide, including in Juba, MSF's decision to suspend its activities in Pibor indicates that such threats have increased in the town. The assault of the two staff members was likely a trigger for the evacuation. The humanitarian group stated that robberies and lootings occur on a regular basis in Pibor. Gunmen looted MSF's compound in Pibor in February 2016, along with the facilities of a private sector international development contractor working for the US government. The identity of the assailants is unclear, though pro-government security forces and ethnic Murle militia groups have been accused of criminal violence against non-governmental organizations in the area. Local and international aid workers have been targeted for abduction, extortion,
armed robbery, sexual assault, and violent attack by armed groups and criminals since the outbreak of civil war in 2013, including in Juba. At least 79 humanitarian workers have been killed in the fighting.

Advice: Ensure that robust travel, residential and personal security measures are in place when travelling in South Sudan. Avoid areas recently affected by violence as a standard precaution.