COUNTRY RISK SUMMARIES

Publish Date: 01/05/20
Latest Update(s): Afghanistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Hong Kong, Mexico, Cameroon.

- **Afghanistan**: On January 4, a bomb went off near a public bathhouse in Mazar-i-Sharif during the morning rush hour. One civilian killed and at least two others wounded.
- **Iran**: On January 3, the United States killed Iranian Major-General Qassem Soleimani, head of the elite Quds Force, in an air strike at Baghdad airport.
- **Saudi Arabia**: On January 3, maintain heightened security awareness and follow sound security practices while in Saudi Arabia due to heightened regional tensions.
- **Libya**: On January 2, Turkey's parliament has approved a bill to deploy troops to Libya in support of the embattled United Nations recognized GNA.
- **Hong Kong**: On January 1, thousands of anti-govt protesters spiraled into chaotic scenes as police fired several rounds of tear gas, water cannon at crowds before halting event.
- **Mexico**: On January 5, 5.8 magnitude 6km S of Santo Domingo Zanatepec.
- **Cameroon**: On December 31, pirates attacked a Greek-owned tanker which was anchored 2 nautical miles (3.7 km) off Limboh port in Cameroon, abducting eight crew members.

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 Extreme Risk countries or countries with an Extreme Risk region requires an International Travel Questionnaire submission to System Risk Management for review.

EXTREME RISK

1) Afghanistan 8) Somalia
2) Central African Republic (CAR) 9) South Sudan
3) Iran 10) Sudan
4) Iraq 11) Syria
5) Libya 12) Venezuela
6) Mali 13) Yemen
7) North Korea

EXTREME RISK REGIONS

1) Algeria 19) Hong Kong
2) Azerbaijan 20) India
3) Burkina Faso 21) Israel
4) Burma (Myanmar) 22) Kenya
5) Burundi 23) Lebanon
6) Cameroon 24) Mauritania
7) Chad 25) Mexico
8) Colombia 26) Niger
9) Congo (Republic of) 27) Nigeria
10) Cuba 28) Pakistan
11) Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) 29) Panama
12) Ecuador 30) Philippines
13) Egypt 31) Russia
14) Eritrea 32) Saudi Arabia
15) Ethiopia 33) Tunisia
16) Georgia 34) Turkey
17) Haiti 35) Ukraine
18) Honduras
COUNTRY TRAVEL ADVISORY DETAILS BY RISK LEVEL

EXTREME RISK

Afghanistan
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in Afghanistan is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Afghanistan. Travel to all areas of Afghanistan is unsafe due to the unstable security situation involving armed conflict, terrorism, crime, and civil unrest. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of widespread military operations, terrorism and insurgent attacks, and high levels of kidnappings, hostage taking, suicide bombings, landmines, and vehicle-borne or other improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

It is advised to avoid all travel to Afghanistan.

Central African Republic
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to the CAR, if possible. Travel to all areas of the CAR is unsafe due to civil unrest and crime. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of sectarian violence by armed groups and common criminal activities, such as armed robbery, aggravated battery, and homicide.

Fighting between the rival militias in towns such as Birao, in the Vakaga province, has intensified in recent weeks. Almost 13,000 residents of Birao have been forced to escape the violence and flee from their home since 2017.

It is advised to avoid all but essential travel to central Bangui between the Airport and the Oubangui River. It is further advised not to travel to the rest of Bangui and the Central African Republic. If despite the advice, you choose to travel to CAR, have appropriate personal security measures in place.
Iran
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Iran is highly dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised that U.S. citizens not travel to Iran due to the risk of arbitrary arrest and detention. Overall, there is a heightened level of risk to personal safety and security because of the potential for widespread protests and terrorism. Terrorists are very likely to attempt to carry out more attacks in Iran.

There is a very high risk of kidnapping, arrest, and detention of U.S. citizens in Iran, particularly dual national Iranian-Americans. Iranian authorities continue to unjustly detain and imprison U.S. citizens, particularly Iranian-Americans, including students, journalists, business travelers, and academics, on charges including espionage and posing a threat to national security. On January 3, the US killed Iranian Major-General Qassem Soleimani, head of the elite Quds Force, in an air strike at Baghdad airport. Iran has vowed reprisals against western interests and allies in the region. Extreme caution is advised for all US citizens.

It is advised that all visitors to Iran not travel to the border areas with Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq.
Iraq
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Iraq is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Iraq. Travel is unsafe due to terrorism, kidnapping, and armed conflict. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of active insurgent and terrorist groups, sectarian militias, and high levels of violence, including kidnappings, suicide bombings, and vehicle-borne or other improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Avoid areas near the Turkish, Syrian and Iranian borders. There are continuous military operations against insurgent groups in the regions bordering Iraq. Conflict at the Syrian border.

Iraq is currently experiencing protracted and violent anti-government protests. Authorities have previously imposed curfews, which protestors routinely ignore leading to violent clashes between protestors and security forces.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Iraq.

Libya
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Libya is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Libya. Travel is unsafe due to armed conflict, terrorism, civil unrest, and crime. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of high levels of terrorist activity and crime, including kidnapping for ransom, suicide bombings, and the use of vehicle-borne or other improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Since April 4, 2019, armed clashes have taken place in areas to the south and west of the capital, Tripoli, between forces aligned with the UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) and troops under the Khalifa Haftar-led Libyan National Army (LNA). Four months later the conflict has only continued. According to the United Nations, more than 1,000 people, including combatants and civilians, have been killed in the fighting.
Mali
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Mali is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Mali, if possible. Travel is unsafe due to political instability, crime, and terrorism. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity and violent crime such as kidnapping and armed robbery. Attacks in the Mopti region have killed more than 160 people. More recently, a United Nations convoy was targeted by an improvised explosive device attack in the Mopti region, reportedly killing one peacekeeper and injuring four others.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Bamako; the Mopti region; parts of the Segou region; areas north of the latitude of Diema; and within 100km of the border with Burkina Faso. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of Mali.

North Korea
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation remains volatile on the Korean peninsula, and political tensions involving North Korea can change with little notice and with no warning. This poses an extreme risk to visitors. Travel is unsafe due to the serious risk of arrest and long-term detention. In addition, U.S. passports are not valid for travel to, in, or through North Korea without a specific validation from the U.S. Department of State.

It is advised to avoid all travel to North Korea.
Somalia
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in Somalia is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to crime, terrorism, and piracy. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity and violent crime, such as kidnapping and murder, which is common throughout the country.

Al-Shabaab has lost control of a large portion of their southern and central Somalia territory due to the success of the Africa Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)–led Operation Indian Ocean offensive. Coupled with the cross-border fighting that happens periodically means that Somalia has multiple violent risks that can endanger both travelers and residents alike. There is a current outbreak of polio in Somalia which has the potential to impact travelers. Medical facilities across Somalia have limited capacity and are often nonexistent in rural areas.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Somalia, including Somaliland except for the cities of Hargeisa and Berbera to which it is advised to limit all but essential travel.

South Sudan
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in South Sudan is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to crime and armed conflict. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of armed clashes, border disputes, ethnic violence, and crime, including carjacking, shootings, ambushes, assaults, robberies, and kidnappings. Foreign nationals have been the victims of rape, sexual assault, armed robberies, and other violent crimes. Armed conflict is ongoing throughout the country and includes fighting between various political and ethnic groups, and weapons are readily available to the population.

It is advised to avoid all travel to South Sudan.
Sudan
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Sudan is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to civil unrest, crime, terrorism, kidnapping, and armed conflict. The situation in Khartoum and across the country is volatile because of ongoing violent civil unrest. Armed conflict and criminal activity are particularly present in contested regions, although kidnappings, armed robberies, and carjacking occur everywhere. Protests and civil unrest since December 19, 2018, have led to a national state of emergency. On April 11, 2019, President Omar al-Bashir was removed from office by the Sudanese military. As a result, the U.S. Department of State ordered the departure of non-emergency U.S. government employees. Sudanese authorities have clashed with protesters, using tear gas and live ammunition.

Sudan is experiencing an outbreak of Cholera. To date there have been 215 cases with 8 recorded deaths. On October 16th, medical authorities reported widespread prevalence of Chikungunya and Dengue fever in Kassala.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Sudan.
Syria
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Syria is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Syria. Travel to Syria is unsafe due to armed conflict, terrorism, and civil unrest. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because no part of Syria is considered safe from violence. Widespread military operations, involving the use of chemical warfare, shelling, and aerial bombardment, have significantly raised the risk of death or serious injury.

The Syrian regime has used deadly force to quell anti-government protests and is engaged in a full-scale civil war with armed groups. The government is no longer in control of vast swathes of the country, particularly in northern, southern and eastern Syria and the Damascus suburbs. Some armed groups have utilized car bombs, improvised explosive device/indirect-fire attacks, sniper fire, and carried out kidnappings throughout the country.

On October 9, Turkish military forces mobilized against predominantly Kurdish forces along the Turkish / Syrian border. An exact casualty count is currently unavailable, though sources indicate Turkey is targeting the northern cities of Rasal-Ayn and Tal Abyad, striking approximately 181 targets on their first day alone. On October 17th, Turkey agreed to a temporary ceasefire of 120 hours to allow Kurdish-led troops to withdraw. More than 235,000 people fled the area of northwest Syria between December 12 and 25, mostly from the beleaguered city of Maaret al-Numan.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Syria.
Country Overview:

The security situation in Venezuela is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to ongoing political instability, crime, poor health infrastructure, and the arbitrary arrest and detention of foreign nationals. Political marches and demonstrations, which occasionally become violent, are frequent in all areas, and crime, such as homicide, armed robbery, kidnapping, drug trafficking, and carjacking, is common. In addition, a number of Venezuela’s land and sea borders are subject to closure. U.S. citizens residing or traveling in Venezuela are advised to depart the country.

Since March 11, 2019 the US Department of State has suspended all operations the U.S. Embassy in Caracas and has withdrawn all diplomatic personnel from Venezuela. The US has additionally suspended all nonstop flights between Venezuela and the U.S. until further notice. Around 150,000 troops, plus tanks, missile launchers and aircraft are deployed on Colombian border amid renewed tensions between Bogota and Caracas.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Venezuela.

Country Overview:

The security situation in Yemen is extremely dangerous. Travel unsafe due to armed conflict, terrorism, civil unrest, and health. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of ongoing military conflict, heightened terrorist activity, kidnappings for ransom, and unlawful detentions by rebel groups. Employees of western organizations may be targeted for attack or kidnapping. Military conflict has caused significant destruction of infrastructure, housing, medical facilities, schools, and power and water utilities. This limits the availability of electricity, clean water, and medical care. The situation in Yemen has the potential to deteriorate further, as relations continue to worsen between Yemen’s allies and their opponents.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Yemen.
Algeria
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:
The security situation in some parts of Algeria is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Algeria due to terrorism. There is an overall moderate level of risk to personal safety and security because terrorists are likely to carry out attacks, including kidnappings, and civil disturbances sometimes occur throughout the country. Since February 2019, mass protests have taken place across Algeria in demand of immediate political reform. On June 2, 2019, Algeria’s Constitutional Council announced the cancelation of presidential elections previously scheduled for July 4. Travelers to the country should avoid political gatherings and demonstrations and follow local advice.

Avoid travel to rural areas within 50 km (31 miles) of the border with Tunisia and within 250 km (155 miles) of the borders with Libya, Niger, Mali, and Mauritania due to terrorist and criminal activities, including kidnapping.

Azerbaijan
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:
The security situation in some parts of Azerbaijan is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Azerbaijan due to the risk of terrorism and armed conflict. There is a moderate threat to personal safety and security because terrorist groups continue to plot attacks. Casualties continue to occur in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with Armenia.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Nagorno-Karabakh and the military-occupied area surrounding it; within 5km of the Line of Contact; and within 5km of the border with Armenia. Casualties continue to occur in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Intermittent gunfire and occasional use of artillery systems, including land mines and mortars, result in deaths and injuries each year. Avoid roads near the 'line of contact' and roads near the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.
Burkina Faso
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in Burkina Faso is highly dangerous, with some parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Burkina Faso due to terrorism and crime. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity and common violent crime. On December 31, 2018, Burkina Faso declared a state of emergency in several parts of the country, including the whole of the Est and Sahel regions, the western provinces of Kossi and Sourou, the central-eastern province of Koulpélogo, the western province of Kénédougou, and the northern province of Lorum. Since then, dozens of people have died in ethnic clashes in areas under threat from Islamist militant attacks. There have been regular attacks on police, military personnel, and civilians, particularly close to the borders with Mali, Niger, and Cote d’Ivoire as well as in the Eastern Region. Further attacks are likely.

It is advised not to travel to the following parts of Burkina Faso: all areas of the country north of the town of Boulsa; within 80km of the western border with Mali; Sahel and Est Regions; and Koulpélogo Province in Centre-Est Region. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of Burkina Faso, including the capital Ouagadougou. All travel to Karpala, Balkiu and Rayongo (also known as Dayongo) neighborhoods of Ouagadougou’s Arrondissement 11 are restricted due to the potential for security operations.
Burma (Myanmar)
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Burma (Myanmar) is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advisable to exercise increased caution in Burma due to civil unrest and armed conflict. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of fighting between the Burmese military and various ethnic armed groups and militia forces.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the townships of Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minhla, Maung- U, Ponnagyun, and Rathedaung townships in Rakhine State due to civil unrest and armed conflict. The Paletwa township in Chin State, Hpakan, Momaung, Sumprabum, Tanai, and Waingmaw townships in Kachin State are also not to be travelled to due to civil unrest and armed conflict. Hpakung township in Kayin State due to civil unrest. Hseni, Hsipaw, Konkany, Kutkai, Kyaukme, Laukkaing, Matman, Mongmao, Muse, Namhan, Namtu, Panghsang, and Pangwaun townships in Shan State northern and central Shan State; Kachin State; and areas bordering China, Laos, Thailand, Bangladesh, and India.

Burundi
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in Burundi is highly dangerous, with certain areas of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Burundi. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of ongoing political tensions, sporadic violence, clashes by armed groups, and serious crimes, such as armed robbery.

It is advised to avoid all travel to: Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces; areas of Bujumbura Rural province west of the Rusizi river towards the Democratic Republic of the Congo border, with the exception of the Rusizi Delta Nature Reserve; Ruwabu National Park; the road north of Bujumbura airport towards Cibitoke; and the main road running west from Kayanza through the Kibira National Park. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of Burundi (excluding airside transit through Bujumbura International Airport).
**Cameroon**  
**Risk Level:** Moderate Risk

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in certain parts of Cameroon is extremely dangerous. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Cameroon due to crime, civil unrest, and terrorism. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity in areas of northern and eastern Cameroon, as well as violent crime, such as kidnapping, armed robbery, assault, and carjacking, which is common. Armed separatists have announced extended general strikes in North West and South West regions in 2019. There have also been multiple clashes between security forces and armed groups over the past year in many places in North West and South West regions, including in the towns of Bafut, Tubah, Ndu, Widikum, and in Lebialem division. Travelers should be vigilant, keep a low profile, and monitor local media.

It is advised to avoid travel to: Far North Region; within 40km of the border with Nigeria, except Garoua in North Region; within 40km of the border with Chad; within 40km of the border with the Central African Republic (CAR); the Bakassi Peninsula; North West Region; and South West Region (including the towns of Buea, Muyuka, and Tiko in Fako Division), except Limbe in Fako Division. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to: Limbe in Fako Division of South West Region and the rest of North and Adamawa Regions, including Garoua in North Region.
**Chad**
Risk Level: **High Risk**

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in Chad is highly dangerous, with some parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Chad due to crime, terrorism, and the existence of minefields. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of widespread violent crimes, such as armed robbery and mugging, as well as terrorist attacks and minefields along the borders with Libya and Sudan. A state of emergency is in effect for the eastern regions of Sila and Ouaddai as well as the Lake Chad region.

It is advised not to travel at all to the following areas in Chad: areas within 30km of all borders, except for the capital N'Djamena (where it is advised to limit all but essential travel); within 30km of Lake Chad and the parts of Kanem and Lac regions to the west of the towns of Mao and Bol; the regions of Ennedi, and Tibesti; and the region of Borkou, except within 30km of the town of Faya Largeau (where it is advised to limit all but essential travel). It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the remaining parts of the country, including the capital, N'Djamena, and the town of Faya Largeau.
Colombia
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Colombia is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Colombia due to crime and terrorism. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because the National Liberation Army (ELN) continues to plot possible attacks, and violent and organized criminal activities, such as homicide, assault, armed robbery, extortion, and kidnapping, are common. On April 26, 2019, Colombia’s Trasandino oil pipeline was bombed in western Narino province, marking the seventh attack against it this year. Travelers should be vigilant and pay close attention to warnings issued by the Colombian authorities.

It is advised to avoid all travel to areas within 20km of Venezuela and Ecuador, except the Pan American Highway crossing at Ipiales. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to: the departments of Antioquia (except Medellin); Arauca; Caquetá; Cauca (except Popayan); Chocó (except its capital Quibdó and the whale-watching towns of Nuqui, Bania, Solano, and Capurganá); Guainía; Guaviare; Meta (except Villavicencio and the tourist site of Caño Cristales); Nariño (except Pasto and the border crossing of Ipiales); Norte de Santander; Putumayo; Valle de Cauca (except Cali); and Vichada.
Congo (Republic of)
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:
The security situation in specific parts of the Republic of the Congo is extremely dangerous. It is advised to exercise increased caution while in the country due to crime and civil unrest. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because violent crime, such as armed robbery and assault, is common. In addition, political demonstrations and armed clashes can be unpredictable.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the southern and western districts of the Pool region, including the Boko, Kindamba, Kinkala, Mayama, and Mindouli districts; the Mouyondzi district of Bouenza region; and within 50km of the border with the Central African Republic in Likouala region. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to Brazzaville region, except for the city of Brazzaville, and the Ngabe district of Pool region.

Cuba
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:
The security situation in Cuba is relatively stable and characterized by a strong military and police presence. Although crime levels range from low to moderate, it is advised that travelers to the country be vigilant. American citizens should exercise increased caution in Cuba due to health attacks targeting numerous U.S. Embassy employees at diplomatic residences and at Hotel Nacional and Hotel Capri in Havana. The personal safety and security of other travelers to Cuba also may be at risk. While there is no recent history of terrorism in Cuba, attacks cannot be ruled out.

If you are traveling to Cuba, it is advised to avoid Hotel Nacional and Hotel Capri in Havana. If you experience any acute auditory or sensory phenomena, immediately move to another area.
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is highly dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to the DRC due to civil unrest and crime. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of the activities of rebel and other armed groups, potential civil unrest, and outbreaks of violence, including killing, rape, kidnapping, and pillaging.

The Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) declared an outbreak of Ebola virus disease in North Kivu (Nord-Kivu) province, originating in Béni territory. New cases continue to be reported across North Kivu and Ituri provinces. On July 17, 2019, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). WHO officials have reported that the Ebola death toll has risen to more than 1,890. To control the spread of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) authorities continue to establish health check points throughout the Nord-Kivu, Ituri, and Sud-Kivu Provinces, including in the cities of Goma, Beni, and Butembo and in Virunga National Park. New checkpoints may be created with little notice. Medical workers combating the spread of Ebola have come under attack in the DRC. Perpetrators are sometimes members of terrorist groups, but the motives for these attacks are often unknown. The country is also experiencing an outbreak of measles. There have been over 180,000 suspected cases with nearly 3,600 deaths, mostly children under five.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the provinces of: Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai Oriental, Sud-Kivu, Nord-Kivu, Ituri, Maniema, Tanganyika, Bas-Uélé, and Haut-Uélé as there have been sporadic but severe outbreaks of violence targeting civilians, including killing, rape, kidnapping, and pillaging. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of the country.
Ecuador
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Ecuador is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. Travelers are advised to exercise increased caution due to crime and terrorism. There is a heightened level of risk to personal safety and security in the northern border area with Colombia because it has a higher rate of crime, including kidnapping for ransom, than the rest of the country. Serious, sometimes violent, demonstrations and road blockades occurred throughout Ecuador in October 2019, disrupting inter-city, inter-provincial, and international travel. Demonstrations and blockades could occur again in any location with little to no warning.

Serious, and sometimes violent, demonstrations and road blockades occurred throughout Ecuador in October 2019, disrupting inter-city, inter-provincial, and international travel. Demonstrations and blockades could occur again in any location with little to no warning. On October 14, the president scrapped the reforms that were driving the unrest in the country, putting an end to the fuel price increases and leading to a quieting down of the violent protests that have rocked the country.

Crime, including violent crime, is a concern throughout Ecuador. Limited police and judicial resources contribute to Ecuador's overall high crime rate. Pickpocketing, purse snatching, robbery, and theft of travel documents are the crimes most commonly committed against U.S. citizens. It is advised to avoid all travel within 20km of the border with Colombia, except for the official border crossing town of Tulcan in Carchi province. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to Sucumbios and Esmeraldas provinces.
Egypt
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Egypt is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country being extremely unsafe. Travelers to Egypt should exercise increased caution due to terrorism. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security due to a number of extremist organizations operating in Egypt. On August 4, 2019, at least 20 people were killed by a car bomb in central Cairo’s Manial district.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the Governorate of North Sinai due to the significant increase in criminal activity and continued terrorist attacks on police and security forces.

It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to: the Governorate of South Sinai, with the exception of the area within the Sharm el Sheikh perimeter barrier, which includes the airport and the areas of Sharm el Maya, Hadaba, Naama Bay, Sharks Bay and Nabq (although travel by air to or from Sharm el Sheikh is not recommended); and the area west of the Nile Valley and Nile Delta regions, excluding the coastal areas between the Nile Delta and Marsa Matruh.
Country Risk Summaries Cont.

**Eritrea**

**Risk Level:** Moderate Risk

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in some parts of Eritrea is extremely dangerous. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Eritrea due to travel restrictions, limited consular assistance, and political volatility. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of ongoing instability, tensions with Ethiopia, and the presence of landmines. There are landmines in many remote areas in Eritrea, particularly in Nakfa, AdiKeih, Arezza, the 40 km-wide region between the Setit and Mereb Rivers, and in areas north and west of Keren, areas near Massawa, Ghinda, Agordat, Barentu, Dekemhare, and south of Tessenae.

It is advised to avoid all travel to within 25km of Eritrea’s land borders, with the exceptions of the towns of Senafe and Tessenei, and the border crossings at Debay Sima – Burre, Serha – Zalambessa, and Kesadika (Adi Kuala) – Rama, plus the main paved roads leading to those crossings. (As of May 31, 2019, all border crossings between Eritrea and Ethiopia are closed.) All foreign nationals, including diplomats, must apply in advance for a travel permit to leave Asmara.
Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Ethiopia is highly dangerous, with certain areas of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Ethiopia due to the potential for civil unrest, crime, and terrorism. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because the country has been experiencing sporadic and spontaneous unrest, and the Somali Regional State, as well as other border areas, presents a significant threat of terrorism. In addition, there has been ethnic violence in various parts of Addis Ababa. According to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, there were attacks targeted against government officials in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar on June 22, 2019, as part of an attempted coup. Travelers in Ethiopia should exercise particular caution around Addis Ababa, keep a low profile, and follow the advice of local authorities.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Ethiopia’s Somali region, as well as the border areas with Sudan, Eritrea, Kenya, and South Sudan, including the Gambela region. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the Danakil Desert in Afar region, and the Guji and Borena zones of the Oromia region. In the wake of recent outbreaks of violence and property destruction, it is advised to avoid travel to the Amhara region. Avoid travel to the East Hararge region and the Guji zone of Oromia State as well as the Benishangul Gumuz and the western part of Oromia State due to armed conflict and civil unrest.
Georgia
Risk Level: Low Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some areas of Georgia is highly dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. Though it is advised to exercise normal safety precautions in Georgia, avoid travel to the Russian-occupied regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia due to civil unrest, crime, and landmines. There is a heightened risk to personal safety and security in these parts of Georgia because of Russian troops and border guards occupy both regions. A number of attacks, criminal incidents, and kidnappings have occurred.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and limit all but essential travel to areas near the Administrative Boundary Lines with Abkhazia and South Ossetia.
Haiti
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in Haiti is unstable and extremely dangerous. It is advised to reconsider travel to Haiti due to civil unrest and crime. There is a high risk to personal safety and security due to the widespread of violent and unpredictable demonstrations in Port-au-Prince and elsewhere in the country. Most protests involve tire burning and road blockages on major highways. Clashes, sometimes involving the use of firearms, resulted in casualties. Avoid demonstrations and any large gatherings of people. Do not attempt to drive through roadblocks and if you encounter a roadblock, turn around and get to a safe area. The most recent mass protests in Port-au-Prince and other parts of Haiti began on February 7, 2019. On February 14, 2019, the U.S. State Department ordered the departure of all non-emergency U.S. personnel and their family members, and strongly advised that U.S. citizens residing or traveling in the country consider departing as soon as they safely can do so.

On September 24, 2019, Port-au-Prince’s Toussaint Louverture International Airport was on lock down at until the following morning 06:00 due to fire. Some building and infrastructure was damaged according to officials.

It is advised to reconsider all travel to Haiti and particularly avoid the Bel Air, Carrefour, Cité Soleil, and Martissant neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince.
Honduras
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in Honduras is highly dangerous, with a specific part of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Honduras due to crime. There is a heightened risk to personal safety and security because violent crime, such as homicide and armed robbery, is common. Protests have regularly occurred across Honduras since June 2019. Travelers should avoid all demonstrations and follow the advice of local authorities. In addition, there has been a sharp increase in cases of dengue fever in Honduras, particularly in the departments of Cortés, Yoro, Olancho, and Santa Bárbara. As a result, the Honduran government has declared a state of emergency. Travelers are advised to monitor local media for updates.

Gracias a Dios is an isolated area with high levels of criminal activity and drug trafficking. Infrastructure is weak, government services are limited, and police and military presence is scarce. It is advised to avoid all travel to Gracias a Dios Department, and to limit all but essential travel to the rest of the country.
Hong Kong
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

Hong Kong poses high risk to personal safety. While protest action and police activity have not targeted travelers, travelers should reconsider all travel to Hong Kong. The protests and confrontations have spilled over into neighborhoods other than those where the police have permitted marches or rallies. These demonstrations, which can take place with little or no notice, are likely to continue and they are expected to turn violent. Police have used tear gas, live ammunition, rubber bullets and pepper spray, including in popular tourist, residential and enclosed areas.

In the event of travel, it is advised that travellers avoid public gatherings and government buildings, which are frequent targets of protesters. Do not join public demonstrations and actively avoid any location that may become a protest area. Seek a safe location to wait out protests if avoiding them is not possible. Clashes between police and activists are common, with police utilizing tear gas, rubber bullets and pepper spray to disperse crowds. Comply with all instructions given by local police officers. Make use of local media for information regarding police and protest action and plan activities accordingly. Strike action by public transportation workers, as part of wider protests, is a possibility which can result in various transport services being suspended. Protest action is focused around the legislative buildings in the Admiralty district as well as Victoria Park, the police headquarters in Wan Chai district and Causeway Bay.
India
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of India is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in India due to crime and terrorism. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist and insurgent activity, civil unrest and the potential for armed conflict, and violent crime, such as sexual assault. In addition, following a terrorist attack in the Kashmir region on February 14, 2019, there are heightened tensions between India and Pakistan. On August 5, 2019, India’s government announced constitutional changes that will affect the internal political status of Jammu and Kashmir. An increased security presence is now in place. The Indian government further advised tourists and Amarnath Yatra pilgrims to leave Kashmir immediately due to security threats, though this was scheduled to be lifted as of October 10.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the state of Jammu and Kashmir (except Ladakh region) and the India-Pakistan border (except Atari crossing). It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to the Northeastern states (Assam, except Guwahati, Nagaland, and Manipur), Chhattisgarh, and the border areas of neighboring states.
Israel
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza is fluid, and certain areas are extremely unsafe. Travelers to Israel and/or the Palestinian Territories are advised to exercise increased caution due to terrorism, civil unrest, and armed conflict. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of clashes between Palestinians and Israeli authorities and settlers, as well as the significant threat(s) of terrorism and regional tensions.

Travelers to Israel should remain vigilant following the latest cross-border hostilities between Israel and Palestinians in Gaza, amid reports of a renewed Egyptian-brokered ceasefire in May, 2019. Overall violence involved militants in Gaza firing more than 600 rockets into southern Israel, with hundreds of Israeli airstrikes launched in response. Furthermore, there have been mass protests on the Gazan side of the Gaza/Israel perimeter fence since March 30, 2018. Additional Palestinian rocket launches from Gaza targeting Israel are likely, as well as retaliatory Israeli airstrikes on Gaza. Missiles have also been fired towards the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights on several occasions, and Israel has responded with attacks in Syria and Lebanon. On September 11, 2019, the Israeli military targeted 15 sites in Gaza Strip on September 11 after two rockets were fired at southern Israel the night before. Travelers should follow the instructions of local authorities and keep up to date with local media.

It is advised to limit all but essential travel to the West Bank and within 5km of Gaza, and to avoid all travel Gaza and the following areas of the Golan Heights: East of Route 98, Shebaa Farms, Ghajjar, and within 500m of the border with Lebanon east of Metula, including the northern edge of town.
Kenya
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some areas of Kenya is highly dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Kenya due to terrorism and crime. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist attacks and violent crime, such as armed carjacking, mugging, home invasion, and kidnapping. From January 15, 2019, the Islamic militant group Al-Shabaab attacked the DusitD2 complex in Nairobi, killing more than 20 people and injuring dozens of others. U.S. State Department has warned that credible information indicates that westerners may be targeted by extremists in Nairobi, coastal areas of Kenya, and the towns of Naivasha and Nanyuki. On October 1, 2019, Kenyan police killed 3 suspected militants in Majengo Mapya, believed to be planning attacks ahead of the country’s national day celebrations.

Cholera cases have also been detected in the counties of Narok, Kajiado, Garissa, and Machakos. Travelers are advised to monitor the latest updates from the World Health Organization.

It is advised to limit all but essential travel to the Turkana County due to crime and coastal areas from Lamu county to Mombasa and its outskirts, and to the A2 highway from Isiolo to Moyale. It is also advised to avoid all travel to border regions with Somalia, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.
Lebanon
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in Lebanon is highly dangerous, with some parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Lebanon due to crime, terrorism, and armed conflict. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity, armed clashes, kidnapping, and outbreaks of violence near Lebanon’s borders with Syria and Israel.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Palestinian refugee camps; the Hermel Area, including the towns of Arsal, Ras Baalbek, Qaa, Laboué, and Nahlé; and within 5km of the border with Syria and Israel due to potential for armed conflict.

It is advised to limit all but essential travel to the southern suburbs of Beirut—defined as: south of the sports stadium and the Adnan Al Hakim road, which heads west from the stadium to the Beirut-Saida (Sidon) road down to the airport. This includes the neighborhoods of Bir assan, Ghobeiry, Chuya, Haret Hraik, Burj Al Brajne, Mraije, Er Rouais, and Laylake, but excludes the main airport highway, the Beirut-Saida (Sidon) road and west of there to the coast, and the area between the airport highway and the coast south of Abbas El Mousawi Road, including the Golf Club of Lebanon.

It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to: all other areas of Akkar district between 5km from the Syrian border and the Aabdeh, Halba, and Qoubaiyat highway, including the towns of Halba and Qoubaiyat; the city of Tripoli; the town of Brital, and the area around it up to 5km from the Syrian border, and south of Nahlé town, but excluding Baalbek town; the towns of Rachaiya, Hasbaja, and Khiam, and the area between these towns up to 5km from the Syrian border; within 500m of the Ain el Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp in Saida (Sidon); and south of the Litani River except the main Naqoura-Tyre-Saida (Sidon)-Beirut highway and all areas to the west of it.
**Mauritania**  
**Risk Level:** High Risk

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in Mauritania is highly dangerous, and specific parts of the country are extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Mauritania due to crime and terrorism. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of activities by terrorist groups and violent crimes, such as mugging, armed robbery, kidnapping, rape, and assault.

It is advised to avoid travel to the province of Tiris Zemmour (except the town of Zouérat); the province of Adrar (east of Atar); the provinces of Tagant, Hodh El Chargui, Hodh El Gharbi, Assaba and Guidimaka; and within 25km of the Western Sahara border (except the Noukchott - Nouadhibou corridor).

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**Mexico**  
**Risk Level:** Moderate Risk

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in some parts of Mexico is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country being extremely unsafe. Travelers to Mexico should exercise increased caution due to crime. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security in certain areas because of widespread violent crime, such as homicide, kidnapping, carjacking, and robbery.

It is advised to avoid all travel to: Colima state, Guerrero state, Michoacán state, Sinaloa state, and Tamaulipas state. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to Chihuahua state, Coahuila state, Durango state, Estado de Mexico state, Jalisco state, Morelos state, Nayarit state, Nuevo Leon state, San Luis Potosi state, Sonora state, and Zacatecas state.
Niger
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in Niger is highly dangerous, with large parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Niger due to crime and terrorism. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist attacks, kidnapping threats, and violent crime, such as armed robbery. The threat of terrorist attacks remains high with attacks targeting government facilities, local and foreign.

It is advised not to travel at all to the following parts of Niger: all areas of the country north of the city of Abalak, including the Air Massif region; the province of Agadez (including the road linking Assamakato Agadez and the city of Agadez); areas of Tahoua province north of the city of Tahoua, including the city itself; the area of Tillabéri province north of Niamey, including the road from Niamey to Gao and the road from Niamey to Menaka; areas within 40km of the border with Nigeria in Diffa, Zinder, and Maradi provinces; and the Parc du W, plus the contiguous Dosso and Tamou hunting zones. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of Niger, including the capital city Niamey.
Nigeria
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in Nigeria is highly dangerous, and specific parts of the country are extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Nigeria due to crime, terrorism, and piracy. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of the threat posed by extremist organizations, kidnappings, and violent crime, such as armed robbery, assault, carjacking, and rape. Political protests in Abuja and other Nigerian cities have become frequent and are of particular concern. Travelers should exercise caution, monitor local media, and avoid crowds or demonstrations.

Terrorist groups based in the Northeast target churches, schools, mosques, government installations, educational institutions, and entertainment venues. Approximately two million Nigerians have been displaced as a result of the violence in Northeast Nigeria.

It is advised to avoid travel to: Borno State; Yobe State; Adamawa State; Gombe State; riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Cross River States; and within 20km of the border with Niger in Zamfara State. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to Bauchi State; Zamfara State; Kano State; Kaduna State; Jigawa State; Katsina State; Kogi State; within 20km of the border with Niger in Sokoto and Kebbi States; non-riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa and Rivers States; and Abia State.
Pakistan
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:
The security situation in Pakistan is highly dangerous, and a significant part of the country is extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Pakistan due to terrorism. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because terrorist attacks remain frequent and political demonstrations often become violent. Travelers should continue to exercise caution, monitor news reports, and follow the advice of local authorities.

In May 11, 2019, armed militants attacked the Pearl Continental Hotel in Gwadar in southern Balochistan, killing five people including a soldier. Adding to the current tension in Pakistan-administered Kashmir areas in Punjab province.

Pakistan is experiencing a Dengue Fever outbreak, with over 20,000 recorded cases and 34 deaths.

It is advised to avoid all travel to: Balochistan; the Federally Administered Tribal Areas; Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (excluding Chitral district); and border areas with Afghanistan and India (excluding Lahore, Wagah, Kasur, Narowal and Sialkot). It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of Pakistan.

Panama
Risk Level: Low Risk

Country Overview:
The security situation in Panama is relatively safe, but a specific region within the country has an extreme risk due to the presence of criminal elements and the operation of drug and human trafficking networks. Moreover, emergency response and consular assistance are limited in some areas. Overall, though, travelers should exercise normal precautions in Panama.

It is advised to avoid all travel to parts of the Darién Region, Mosquito Gulf and particularly all areas south of Yaviza.
Philippines
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of the Philippines is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution throughout the country due to crime, terrorism, and civil unrest. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of occasional kidnappings and bombings, as well as widespread and common criminal activity, such as con games, pick pocketing, internet scams, and credit/ATM card fraud. Travelers should keep up to date with local information and avoid any demonstrations.

The Philippines has seen a resurgence in the Polio virus nationwide. Travelers should consult their doctor prior to travel. There has also been an outbreak of Dengue fever which has now exceeded the epidemic threshold.

In December 2019, the Philippines experienced a 6.8 magnitude earthquake and several smaller earthquakes. Three people have been killed in the southern parts of the Philippines.

It is advised to avoid all travel to western and central Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago (including the southern Sulu Sea) because of terrorist activity and clashes between the military and insurgent groups.

It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to the remainder of Mindanao (excluding Camiguin, Dinagat, and Siargao Islands) and to the south of Cebu province, up to and including the municipalities of Dalaguete and Badian, due to the threat of terrorism.
Russia
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Russia is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Russia due to terrorism, harassment, and the arbitrary enforcement of local laws. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security throughout the rest of the country due to terrorist groups continuing to plot attacks, the existence of civil unrest and occupying authorities in some areas, and the mistreatment and extortion of foreign nationals by law enforcement and other officials.

It is advised to avoid all travel to: parts of the North Caucasus region (including the Mount Elbrus area), such as Chechnya, Dagestan, Ingushetia, North Ossetia, and the southeast part of Stavropol bordering Chechnya, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Karachay-Cherkessia; and within 10km of the border with the Ukrainian Donetsk and Lugansk Oblasts. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to within 10km of the border with the Ukrainian Kharkiv Oblast.

Crimea
Do not travel to Crimea as the international community, including the United States and Ukraine, does not recognize Russia’s purported annexation of Crimea. There are continuing abuses against foreigners and the local population by the occupation authorities in Crimea, particularly against those who are seen as challenging their authority on the peninsula.
Country Risk Summaries Cont.

Saudi Arabia
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Saudi Arabia is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Saudi Arabia due to terrorism and armed conflict. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in the country, and rebel groups operating in Yemen have launched missiles, drones, and IEDs into Saudi Arabia, specifically targeting populated areas.

It is advised to avoid all travel to within 50 miles of the Saudi-Yemen border; this includes the cities of Jizan and Najran, and Qatif in the Eastern province and its suburbs, including Awamiyah. Abha International Airport also falls in this avoid advisory.

Tunisia
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Tunisia is highly dangerous, with specific areas being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Tunisia due to terrorism. Terrorist groups active in the country pose a significant threat to travelers in the region. On June 27, 2019, two suicide attacks targeting security personnel in central Tunis killed at least one police officer and wounded several people. A state of emergency has been in effect in Tunisia since 2015. Tunisia’s parliamentary elections are scheduled to take place on October 6. Caution is advised in the lead up the election day.

It is advised to avoid all travel to the Mount Chaambi National Park area, including the town of Kasserine, areas along the Libyan border including the town of Ben Guerdane and the immediate surrounding area; and the militarized zone south of the towns of El Borma and Dhehiba. It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to areas south of, and including, the towns of Nefta, Douz, Medenine, and Zaris; and the Governorates of Le Kef, Jendouba, and Sidi Bou Zid.
Turkey
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:
The security situation in some parts of Turkey is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country considered as extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Turkey due to terrorism and arbitrary detentions. There is a high-level risk to personal safety and security because terrorist groups continue to plot possible attacks in Turkey, and government security officials have detained individuals on scant or secret grounds that appear to be mostly politically motivated.

It is advised to avoid all travel to within 10km of the border with Syria and to the city of Diyarbakir. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the provinces of: Batman, Bingol, Bitlis, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Hakkari, Hatay, Kilis, Mardin, Sanliurfa, Siirt, Sırnak, Tunceli, and Van.

Ukraine
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:
The security situation in eastern Ukraine is highly dangerous, with some areas considered to be extremely unsafe. Overall, it is advised to exercise increased caution throughout Ukraine due to crime and civil unrest. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security in specific parts of eastern Ukraine because of armed conflict with occupying authorities in non-government-controlled areas.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Donetsk oblast, Luhans oblast, and Crimea due to arbitrary detentions and other abuses by Russian occupation authorities.