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No Changes This Week:

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


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

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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
- North Korea
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Syria
- Yemen

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• **Tunisia:** The Djebel Chambi National Park (Kasserine governorate) and South of but not including the towns of El Borma and Dhehiba (Tataouine 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.
16 October 2017

News summary

**Americas**
- **ECUADOR** - National Front for the Family stage countrywide demonstrations
- **UNITED STATES** - (Update) Increased fire risk in North Bay, California
- **UNITED STATES** - Thunderstorms result in flooding in Chicago
- **VENEZUELA** - Protest expected after Socialist Party claims win in regional elections

**Asia and Pacific**
- **ASIA** - Typhoon Khanun tracking in South China Sea
- **INDIA** - Expect disruptions due to campaigning event in Bhat
- **INDIA** - Further separatist agitations possible in the Kashmir Valley
- **INDIA** - Transport workers in Mumbai threaten strike action
- **INDONESIA** - Volcanic activity continues in Bali
- **PAKISTAN** - (Update) Islamabad court to indict Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif
- **PAPUA NEW GUINEA** - Tensions high over disputed election in Mendi and warning issued in Port Moresby
- **PHILIPPINES** - Jeepney strike expected nationwide
- **TAIWAN** - Disruptions in Taipei due to annual parade

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- **EUROPE** - (Update) Hurricane Ophelia tracking toward Ireland and the UK
- **EUROPE** - Denmark, France and Germany announce extension of temporary border controls
- **SPAIN** - Disruptions reported due to wildfires in the Galicia region
- **UKRAINE** - Defender of Ukraine Day held nationwide

**Middle East and North Africa**
- **EGYPT** - Several security personnel killed in a militant attack in North Sinai
- **ISRAEL / EGYPT** - Two rockets land in the Eshkol Region Council

**Sub-Saharan Africa**
- **ANGOLA** - Wreckage of missing Air Guicango plane found in Lagoa Carumbo area of Lunda Norte Province
BURKINA FASO - Protests denouncing release of former minister are possible in Ouagadougou

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - Nationwide anti-government protests anticipated

ETHIOPIA - (Update) Clashes result in several deaths in Soda, Oromia

KENYA - (Update) Countrywide opposition protests persist

SOMALIA - Car bombing causes casualties in Mogadishu

SOUTH AFRICA - Foreign nationals robbed in Johannesburg

ZIMBABWE - Unrest amid vendor evictions in Harare

**Americas**

ECUADOR (Country risk rating: Medium); October 14; National Front for the Family stage nationwide demonstrations

The National Front for the Family staged demonstrations across Ecuador on October 14 to protest portions of two proposed pieces of legislation: the Code of Health and the Law for the Eradication of Violence against Women. Marches were scheduled in more than 20 cities. The largest, most disruptive demonstrations took place in Quito, Guayaquil and Cuenca, where thousands supported the marches. Organisers are opposed to aspects of the proposed laws that relate to abortion, sexual education in schools, and self-ascribed gender identity. Although localised travel disruptions were reported, the agitations concluded without major incident. As the agitation is ongoing, additional demonstrations could be expected in the coming days.

Advice: Monitor local media for announcements of further related demonstrations and associated advisories from the authorities. Avoid all demonstrations and concentrations of security forces as a precaution.

UNITED STATES (Country risk rating: Medium); October 13; (Update) Increased fire risk in North Bay, California

More than 10,000 firefighters continued to battle dozens of wildfires burning in northern California on October 15. Around 5,700 structures, including commercial and residential buildings, have been destroyed in the northern part of the state, primarily in Sonoma County. Nearly 100,000 residents in the affected region have heeded evacuation orders. Officials said progress has been made in containing some of the fires. California Governor Jerry Brown was recently granted major disaster declaration; federal resources will supplement local and state agencies in firefighting efforts. At least 40 people have been killed, and the death toll is expected to rise in the coming days as crews conduct search and rescue operations in areas impacted by the wildfires. At least 174 people remain missing in Sonoma County, and 78 are unaccounted for in Napa County. Pacific Gas and Electric (PGE) reported that about 26,000 customers were without power in their service region as of late October 14. Officials expect full containment of fires within the complex by October 20. Temporary evacuation orders remain in parts of Napa and Solano counties. Transport disruptions continue to be reported throughout Sonoma and Napa counties. Intermittent road closures will likely continue on other area roadways due to fire activity and the needs of response operations. Reduced visibility due to smoke has led to flight delays and cancellations at regional airports.

Advice: Heed all evacuation orders. Seek updated information on road conditions before driving or routing shipments through the area. Residents outside mandatory evacuation zones should consider remaining inside well-ventilated, air-conditioned spaces to minimise exposure to smoke in areas downwind of the fires. Confirm flights.

UNITED STATES (Country risk rating: Medium); October 14 and 15; Thunderstorms result in flooding in Chicago

Severe thunderstorms brought heavy rain and resultant flooding to parts of northern Missouri, southern Iowa, northern Illinois, and south eastern Wisconsin, in the US, on October 14. The worst flooding was reported in Chicago, Illinois, where ferry traffic was suspended on October 14 amid flash flooding along the Chicago River. Flooding was also reported in the Lake Forest and Mannheim Road areas, as well as elsewhere in Chicago.
Advice: Seek updated information on weather and road conditions before driving or routing shipments through areas where severe weather has been reported.

VENEZUELA (Country risk rating: High); October 15; Protest expected after Socialist Party claims win in regional elections

Regional elections were held in Venezuela on October 15. Twenty-three state governors and members of state legislatures were selected during the vote. The ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) won a majority 17 gubernatorial seats. Although support for the opposition Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD) was expected to be severely limited, the group has demanded a complete audit of the result and has called for protests on October 16. Locations of possible protests have not been announced. The MUD has accused the National Electoral Council (CNE) of attempting to confuse the electorate and dilute opposition votes by keeping the names of opposition candidates who were no longer running on the ballot. More than 140,000 police officers have been deployed to maintain order before, during and after the polls. Demonstrations, alcohol sales and carrying firearms have been banned in Caracas from October 13 to 16. Security personnel will probably use force to disperse any unsanctioned demonstrations. The National Guard and police regularly use water cannons, teargas and rubber bullets to break up rallies. Months of violent, anti-government protests took place after Venezuela's Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) attempted to strip the opposition-led National Assembly of lawmaking powers in late March. The fervour fuelling the protests largely diminished in August, after the National Constituent Assembly (ANC) declared itself Venezuela's only legislative body, rendering the National Assembly powerless. Anti-government protests left about 125 people dead, but some opposition figures have come under criticism for organising demonstrations for perceived personal gain rather than the betterment of the country.

Advice: Avoid all demonstrations and polling stations due to potential clashes. Leave the area immediately, and seek shelter in a secure location away from government buildings if a protest materialises nearby.

Asia and Pacific

ASIA; October 16 and 17; Typhoon Khanun tracking in South China Sea

Typhoon Khanun is tracking west south west in the South China Sea. The storm is currently impacting China's southern Leizhou Peninsula, Guangdong Province, and Hainan province. Khanun is expected to weaken into a tropical depression as it moves along the Gulf of Tonkin on October 16. Meteorologists predict the system will make a second landfall in Vietnam's Quang Binh Province on October 17. Flooding is likely in southern Guangdong and northern Hainan, and may occur in south eastern areas of Guangxi. Flooding and storm-related disruptions to transport, power, and telecommunications are also possible in northern and central Vietnam in the coming days. Strong wind gusts could down trees and damage property and electricity infrastructure, potentially causing power outages in areas close to the storm's path. Flight delays and cancellations are possible. Ferry services between Hong Kong, Macau, and southern Guangdong were disrupted on October 15. Additional disruptions are possible through October 16.

Advice: Enact contingency plans as the storm approaches. Confirm flights or train reservations before checking out of hotels or driving to the airport. Stockpile bottled water, fuel vehicles, obtain emergency cash, and charge battery-powered devices in case prolonged electricity outages occur.

INDIA (Country risk rating: High); October 16; Expect disruptions due to campaigning event in Bhat

Disruptions are expected on October 16 as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to address a gathering of nearly 700,000 workers belonging to his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Bhat, Ahmedabad District. The event is part of BJP’s campaign for the upcoming Legislative Assembly election in Gujarat State, which is due to take place before December 18. The BJP has been in power in Gujarat State since 1995. Extremely tight security is expected in Bhat, located 24 km (14 miles) west of Ahmedabad and about 49 km (29 miles) from the state capital of Gandhinagar, on October 16. Increased security is also likely at and near Ahmedabad’s Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (AHD), when Modi and other national BJP leaders arrive and depart, and along their travel routes to the rally venue. Localised traffic delays are likely near these sites; authorities may temporarily close roads or divert traffic in the vicinity. Increased congestion is also possible on intercity routes, as BJP workers travel to and from the venue. Violence is unlikely during the event, although minor security incidents cannot be ruled out entirely.
Advice: Avoid the rally venue as a precaution. Allow considerable extra travel time along intercity routes, and near sites on Modi's itinerary due to increased congestion, and possible road closures or traffic detours. Carry proper identification at all times, and remain non-confrontational if questioned.

INDIA (Country risk rating: High); October 14; Further separatist agitations possible in the Kashmir Valley

Additional separatist demonstrations are possible in the Kashmir Valley following a security operation on the morning of October 14. Police killed two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants in the Litter area of Pulwama District, sparking anti-government protests and attacks on troops. Security personnel opened fire on the demonstration, killing at least one protesters and wounding at least 15 others. Protests could continue in Pulwama in the coming days, and may spread to other parts of the Kashmir Valley. Possible demonstration sites include outside mosques and at prominent public squares; demonstrators could also march to nearby government and police buildings, leading to localised traffic and ground transport disruptions. Localised commercial disruptions are also possible near protests; businesses will probably close at the first sign of unrest. Expect extremely tight security across the Kashmir Valley, especially in Srinagar and Pulwama. Authorities could introduce movement restrictions in areas where violent unrest occurs. However, protesters regularly defy such police orders, resulting in clashes between the two groups. Authorities may impose curfews and shut down cellular and internet services if further violence erupts.

Advice: Strictly avoid all demonstrations throughout the Kashmir Valley. Immediately depart the area if a demonstration materialises nearby. Limit exposure to areas where protests may occur, such as government buildings, security installations, and religious sites. Heed all instructions from security personnel, and remain alert for possible curfews and movement restrictions.

INDIA (Country risk rating: High); October 21; Transport workers in Mumbai threaten strike action

Unionised Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) workers plan to launch an indefinite strike from October 21 unless their demands are met. BEST runs the city bus service and distributes electricity; the labour action is being threatened by the union representing the organisation's transport workers over festival bonus payments for the Diwali (Deepavali) holiday. BEST's transport wing has been suffering losses over the past five years, and workers have staged frequent strikes over delayed salary and bonus payments. Unless averted, the strike will significantly affect commuters in the Mumbai metropolitan area. An estimated 4 million passengers travel on BEST busses daily; crowded conditions are likely on alternative transport if the strike goes ahead. Striking workers may hold demonstrations, particularly outside BEST offices or bus depots. Localised traffic disruptions are possible near larger rallies. Minor skirmishes cannot be ruled out, particularly if police use force to disperse any gatherings or if protesters try to block access to BEST offices.

Advice: Confirm all transport reservations in the Mumbai area starting October 21. If possible, book reservations on alternative transport in advance, as seats will probably fill quickly, especially during peak travel hours. Allow additional time for travel, as streets may be more congested. Avoid all protests; monitor local media or check with trusted local contacts for updates, as rally sites are unlikely to be announced in advance.

INDONESIA (Country risk rating: High); October 14 to 26; Volcanic activity continues in Bali

Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNBP) has extended the highest alert status for Mount Agung in Bali's Karangasem Regency until October 26 due to ongoing seismic activity. BNPB officials said 360 volcanic earthquakes occurred in the area during a six-hour period on October 14. Authorities are on standby to divert flights headed to Ngurah Rai International Airport (DPS) in Bali since September 27, when officials recorded unprecedented levels of seismic activity. If an eruption occurs, flights could be diverted to ten other airports in the country, including nearby Lombok International Airport (LOP). Depending on the eruption scale and wind direction, flights at LOP could also be affected. Officials have prepared buses at DPS for possible tourist evacuations. The UK, Australia, US and Singapore are among several countries that have issued advisories, warning travellers that an eruption at Mount Agung could disrupt flights and travel plans in the region. Crews have set up roadblocks leading to the exclusion zone to prevent the public from entering the area. Ground transport disruptions are likely near the exclusion zone. Officials raised the volcano's alert status to its highest warning level on September 22, and expanded the exclusion zone, asking the public to stay 12 km (7.5 miles) from Mount Agung's peak. More than 150,000 people have evacuated the area; officials have urged those living outside the 28 villages in the exclusion zone to return home.
Advice: Confirm all transport arrangements if operating in the area. Do not check out of accommodations until you have confirmed onward travel. Plan for possible disruptions if a major eruption occurs. Heed the instructions of local authorities.

PAKISTAN (Country risk rating: High); October 19; (Update) Islamabad court to indict Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) court in Islamabad is scheduled to indict ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in three corruption cases on October 19. A hearing on October 13 was postponed to October 19 after Sharif's supporters attempted to enter the court forcibly; ensuing skirmishes between police and protesters injured at least four people. Expect heightened security at and around the Federal Judicial Complex (FJC) in Sector G-11, where the NAB court is located. Security personnel will almost certainly deploy in large numbers to secure the route of the former premier, who will likely travel to the court building from Punjab House in Islamabad's Sector F-5/2. Minor clashes between members of Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party and security forces are possible, particularly if his supporters once again try to breach security cordons around the court. The NAB filed three corruption cases against Sharif in early September at the direction of the Supreme Court. On July 28, a five judge-panel of the Supreme Court disqualified Sharif from office over undeclared assets and ordered NAB, the country's chief anti-corruption watchdog, to file criminal charges against him, several of his family members, and Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar by September 8. It further directed the NAB court to complete a corruption trial and pronounce its verdict within six months. A guilty verdict could see Sharif imprisoned for at least seven years. Protests by PML-N workers remain possible surrounding the trial.

Advice: Avoid the court complex and nearby areas as a precaution. Prepare for increased security, unannounced road closures, and traffic detours along Sharif's route to the court building. Allow significant additional time to reach destinations in the affected areas, or consider taking alternative routes. Confirm business appointments in Sector G-11.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (Country risk rating: High); October 16; Tensions high over disputed election in Mendi and warning issued in Port Moresby

Tensions remain high in Southern Highlands Province, particularly in the capital, Mendi, although there have been no reports of major incidents of violence in recent days. The provincial capital remains in lockdown following large-scale election-related violence in early October. Banks, government offices and many businesses in Mendi remain closed. Flight operations at Mendi Airport also remain suspended after protesters invaded the runway and damaged facilities. The federal government has sent nearly 500 additional security forces to Mendi to prevent further violence. However, additional violent unrest, including arson attacks, vandalism, and clashes with security forces, cannot be ruled out. Protesters could stage roadblocks. Southern Highlands Province witnessed widespread violence surrounding general elections, which took place from June 24 to July 8. Rioting erupted in Mendi on October 3, apparently in protest of the much-delayed announcement of election results for the Southern Highlands. The Electoral Commission on September 28 declared incumbent William Powi of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) party the winner of the Southern Highlands regional seat. People angered by the election results targeted government facilities and companies owned by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill. In an unrelated incident, the US Embassy in Port Moresby issued a security message on October 13, following the robbery and express kidnapping of a US embassy official, who was held at gunpoint while stopped at a police checkpoint the evening of October 6.

Advice: If operating in the area, strictly avoid all public gatherings due to the potential for violence. Do not attempt to navigate any roadblocks, as protesters could attack vehicles; instead, seek alternative routes. Consider using Moro Airport as an alternative if flying to and from Southern Highlands Province. Heed the instructions from security forces.

PHILIPPINES (Country risk rating: Medium); October 16 and 17; Jeepney strike expected nationwide

Authorities plan to suspend non-essential government services, including schools and courts, across the Philippines on October 16 due to expected disruptions from a nationwide jeepney strike. Transport groups in Cagayan Valley, Pampanga, Laguna, Camarines Norte, and parts of Mindanao, among others, intend to strike and protest on October 16 and 17. Participation in the walkout may reach into the thousands in larger cities, including Metro Manila and Cebu City. Jeepney drivers plan to stage protests nationwide, especially in major cities. Activists could hold demonstrations near government buildings in Metro Manila, including around the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) offices. Jeepney operators could travel in convoy before their rallies, causing traffic disruptions on streets near protest sites. Authorities will likely increase security near demonstrations. Overcrowding and delays are likely on alternative forms of mass transportation during the strike. Private businesses may decide to suspend operations in response to widespread transport disruptions. The government plans to provide free rides.
to stranded commuters. Activists represented by the No to Jeepney Phase Out Coalition, including PISTON, as well as labour movement Kilusang Maya Uno, are planning the nationwide walkout to demand the government abandon its plans to modernise jeepneys and phase out older jeepney vehicles. Group members argue that the jeepney modernisation plan will threaten the livelihood of jeepney drivers and operators.

**Advice:** Arrange alternative transport during the strike. Confirm all taxi reservations. Allow additional time for travel on October 16 and 17. Avoid all demonstrations as a precaution. Seek updated information from trusted local sources on specific rally sites. Confirm business appointments.

**TAIWAN (Country risk rating: Low); October 28; Disruptions in Taipei due to annual parade**

Taipei Pride, a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) group, plans to stage its annual parade in central Taipei on the afternoon of October 28. Participants will gather at Ketagalan Boulevard around 1330. The parade is slated to begin at 1430, and LGBT activists will march along north, south and west routes, before coming together at Jingfu Gate. Authorities will close several roads in the district to facilitate the parade, and significant traffic disruptions are likely in Zhongzheng District through the evening of October 28. The event has drawn as many as 80,000 participants in recent years, and severe overcrowding is likely on public transport in central Taipei. Opponents of same-sex marriage could stage counter-demonstrations nearby during the parade, following a Constitutional Court ruling in May stipulating that the legislature must alter laws to allow same-sex unions. Minor skirmishes between counter-protesters and parade goers and police cannot be ruled out.

**Advice:** Use caution around the parade route. Allow additional time for travel in Zhongzheng District on October 28. Avoid counter-demonstrations as a precaution. Prepare for unannounced detours, as police may close roads with little warning.

**Europe and Russia**

**EUROPE; October 16; (Update) Hurricane Ophelia tracking toward Ireland and the UK**

Hurricane Ophelia weakened to a Category 1 storm in the Atlantic Ocean on October 15. The system is moving along a north north easterly track and is forecast to make landfall in County Cork, Ireland, around the early afternoon on October 16. Models indicate Ophelia will then transit over Northern Ireland, UK, and weaken to near-tropical storm strength before moving over Scotland, UK, on October 17. The Irish Meteorological Service has issued a Red wind warning for Galway, Mayo, Clare, Cork and Kerry counties from 0900 on October 16 to 0300 on October 17. These conditions have the potential to cause damage and disruptions, flooding and high seas. An Orange wind warning has been issued for the rest of the country for the same time period. The UK Met office has maintained Yellow wind warnings from 1200 on October 16 to 1800 on October 17 for south western England, northern England, Northern Ireland, western and southern Scotland, and western Wales. Heavy rainfall and high winds are forecast in the affected areas. Overland transport disruptions and disruptions to flight services remain possible along areas in the system’s trajectory. Strong winds could prompt authorities to close bridges in exposed areas; operating high-profile vehicles could be especially hazardous during the storm. The storm could also prompt authorities to restrict ferry and port operations, especially in Belfast, Glasgow, Holyhead, Limerick and Liverpool. Maritime operations in the Irish Sea could be postponed or cancelled as the storm approaches.

**Advice:** Anticipate overland transport disruptions due to blocked or flooded roads. Do not attempt to drive through flooded areas. Consider deferring travel until the weather has eased. Check that overland routes are clear before setting out, and allow extra time for travel. Confirm flights before leaving for the airport. Plan for residual disruptions and power outages even after the storm’s passage.

**EUROPE; October 12; Denmark, France and Germany announce extension of temporary border controls**

Denmark, France, and Germany announced on October 12 that they would extend current border controls until April 2018 due to the continuing migrant crisis and the ongoing heightened security threat to Western Europe. Emergency border controls were introduced within the Schengen zone in response to the continuing migration crisis in the region, to ensure the security of EU countries with external borders. Existing emergency security measures consist primarily of verification of identification and travel documents, and could prompt intermittent cross-border transport disruptions. Vehicle inspections are also common; trucks and larger vehicles are often subject to increased scrutiny, possibly leading to longer delays for commercial traffic. Passengers on international flights, ferries and train services may be asked to present proper
Identification before boarding. International freight rail routes are largely unaffected by increased security measures, though disruptions cannot be ruled out. The EU was aiming to abolish the enhanced border controls by the end of 2017, although five member countries, including Austria, France and Germany, are proposing that the measures should be maintained for up to four years. Some level of border controls will likely persist until the EU has fully implemented a region-wide migrant relocation plan and boosted security on its external frontiers, especially in Greece and Italy.

**Advice:** Consult local sources for updated information on the exact locations and timing of security checkpoints; consider alternative routes to avoid serious traffic bottlenecks and transport delays. Ensure that all identification and travel documents are in order, and be prepared to produce them for immigration officers if crossing international borders. Confirm bus, ferry, and rail schedules, as border controls may lead to unforeseen delays at international crossings. Plan accordingly for possible supply chain disruptions.

**Spain (Country risk rating: Low); October 14 to 16; Disruptions reported due to wildfires in the Galicia region**

Hundreds of firefighters continue to battle a series of wildfires in the Galicia region on October 16. Crews have made significant progress in containing several of the blazes. Officials said around 17 fires remained active as of October 16, after dozens erupted on October 14. Authorities evacuated hundreds of residents from Vigo as a precaution, where crews are working to extinguish fires that have spread within the city’s limits. At least two people have been killed thus far, their bodies were found in a van on a road in the Nigran area of Pontevedra province. Firefighting conditions are expected to improve, with widespread rainfall forecast for the region on October 16. Transport and commercial disruptions are likely in Vigo for at least the next 24 hours. Temporary road closures and delays have been reported on area roadways, including the A-52, VG-20, N-550 and AG-57 routes. Flight delays and cancellations are possible at Vigo Airport. Electricity and other utility outages are possible until the situation stabilises.

**Advice:** Seek updated information on road conditions before driving or routeing shipments through the area. Closely monitor local media for updates on road closures and evacuations. Heed the advice of local officials. Residents should consider remaining inside well-ventilated, air-conditioned spaces to minimise exposure to smoke in areas downwind of the fires. Confirm flights.

**Ukraine (Country risk rating: High); October 13 to 16; Defender of Ukraine Day held nationwide**

Defender of Ukraine Day events were observed in Ukraine on October 14, with other unofficial events likely on October 16. Approximately 13,000 National Guard soldiers and police officers were deployed to monitor celebrations throughout the country, including official events in Kiev, Kramatorsk and Zaporizhiya. Pre-holiday performances, rallies and street marches took place across the country. In the past few years, several thousand people have participated in the marches. The celebrations have occurred without any major incidents of violence. Expect a visible security presence, as well as severe traffic delays and detours, through October 16. In the event of any unrest, security forces could respond with water cannon, tear gas, and rubber bullets. While foreign nationals are unlikely to be targeted, bystanders could suffer collateral injury near any violence. The day marks the founding of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), a Ukrainian nationalist paramilitary organisation that was active during the Second World War and the early Cold War years. It was established as a national holiday in 2014 after Russia’s seizure of Crimea and subsequent interference in eastern Ukraine.

**Advice:** Allow additional time to reach destinations. Be polite and non-confrontational if stopped by security personnel. Leave the area immediately and seek shelter in a secure, non-governmental building if clashes occur nearby.

**Middle East and North Africa**

**Egypt (Country risk rating: High); October 15; Several security personnel killed in a militant attack in North Sinai**

Militants launched an attack on security checkpoints near the town of Sheikh Zuweid on October 15. Officials said six soldiers were killed and 37 others were wounded; 24 militants died in the violence. The assailants used improvised bombs, rocket-propelled grenades, and firearms during the assault. Egyptian military forces deployed helicopters to combat the militants. The Islamic State(IS) affiliate, Wilayat Sinai, claimed responsibility for the attack. Wilayat Sinai frequently targets security personnel in Sinai, particularly in and around the coastal areas of northern Sinai near the border with the Gaza Strip.
Strip and Israel. Wilayat Sinai appears to be increasing its frequency of high-profile attacks. Suspected Wilayat Sinai attackers killed six soldiers in El Arish on October 12. On September 11, at least 18 policemen were killed during a militant attack on a security convoy in the Bidr El Abd area near El Arish. On July 7, the militant group also claimed responsibility for the largest attack on security forces in Sinai since 2014, killing 23 soldiers and wounding more than 30 others in a suicide car bombing at a checkpoint in Rafah.

Advice: Exercise increased vigilance if operating in the area. Seek updated information on security and road conditions before travelling in the region. Maintain contact with your diplomatic mission.

ISRAEL / EGYPT; October 15; Two rockets land in the Eshkol Region Council

At least two rockets, reportedly launched from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, struck Israel's Eshkol Regional Council around 2230 on October 15. Israel Defence Forces (IDF) were deployed to the area to investigate the incident. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The Islamic State (IS) affiliate Wilayat al-Sinai (formerly known as Ansar Beit al-Maqdis), based in the northern Sinai Peninsula, occasionally fires projectiles into Israel and could be responsible for the recent launches. Most rockets fired from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, and the neighbouring Gaza Strip, are launched from improvised platforms, which can often lead to inaccurate targeting. The Israeli Iron Dome missile defence system is capable of intercepting longer-range ordnance; however, it is less effective against short-range mortars and rockets.

Advice: If operating near the Eshkol Regional Council, remain in a secure location until the situation stabilises. Heed the advice of authorities.

Sub-Saharan Africa

ANGOLA (Country risk rating: Medium); October 13; Wreckage of missing Air Guicango plane found in Lagoa Carumbo area of Lunda Norte Province

Four passengers and three crew members died when an Air Guicango Embraer EMB-120ER crashed in north eastern Lunda Norte Province on the evening of October 12. The charter flight took off from Camaquenzo Airport in Dundo (DUE) at 1658; air traffic controllers lost contact with the plane about 15 minutes later after the pilots reported an engine failure and fire. The charter flight was en route from Dundo to Luanda (LAD). The wreckage was eventually located near Lagoa Carumbo in the Cuila municipality on October 13, although poor weather impeded recovery efforts, which were slated to resume early on October 14. The crash site is about 105 km (65 miles) west south west of Dundo and 750 km (466 miles) east of Luanda. The victims include Portuguese and South African citizens. Local airlines are poorly regulated, and aviation safety is an ongoing concern in Angola. The EU has blacklisted all Angolan airlines except flag carrier TAAG. The turboprop plane involved in the crash was 29 years old and was the only passenger aircraft in the Air Guicango fleet, meaning that services will be disrupted in the near-term, if the company remains in business.

Advice: Clients are advised to either contact their travel provide or confirm scheduled flights, particularly if they are using the services of Air Guicango Embraer in Angola.

BURKINA FASO (Country risk rating: High); October 10 to 25; Protests denouncing release of former minister are possible in Ouagadougou

Balai Citoyen activists could stage protests in Ouagadougou in response to the release of former Foreign Affairs Minister Djibril Bassole on October 10. Citing medical reasons, a military tribunal freed Bassole - who served under the regime of deposed President Blaise Compaore - on bail ahead of an October 25 trial date. The former minister is accused of involvement in a failed military coup in 2015. Some members of Balai Citoyen insist that Bassole should be returned to prison. The group's supporters could apply more pressure on authorities by staging protests, which could be dispersed by force by security personnel. Previous demonstrations have taken place at Place de la Nation. Expect heightened security during the October 25 trial; activists could also gather outside the Ouagadougou courthouse, which could cause disruptions around the facility. Pro-Bassole rallies have recently occurred in Banfora, Kaya, Nouna and Reo. Most of the defendants accused of involvement in the 2015 coup attempt, including Bassole and several military officers, are still awaiting trial. Dozens of protesters gathered outside the court during Bassole's release hearing on October 10 before police dispersed them. In the past, activists have denounced what they allege to be secret tribunals handling the cases of those accused of taking part in the coup attempt. Bassole is now under house arrest, and he is being treated as a flight risk. Bassole's
supporters have argued that he should be allowed to travel abroad to seek medical treatment, but Balai Citoyen activists believe that he would probably not return to Burkina Faso to stand trial.

Advice: Avoid demonstrations and areas along Avenue de la Nation and Avenue de l'Indépendance in Ouagadougou on October 25. Leave the area immediately and seek shelter in a secure location such as a hotel or a non-governmental building if violence erupts.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (Country risk rating: High); October 12; Nationwide anti-government protests anticipated

Opposition groups could stage anti-government protests nationwide in the coming days, after several opposition parties called for resistance and mass mobilisation on October 12. The calls were in response to the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI)'s October 10 announcement that the much-awaited presidential and legislative elections could not take place before early 2019. The CENI said that the commission needs at least 504 days to prepare for the elections once the voter registration process is completed. Opposition leaders will likely intensify calls for supporters to take to the streets in the coming days to urge the government of President Joseph Kabila to respect the December 31 2016 accord between the opposition and the ruling coalition that called for elections to take place by the end of 2017. Demonstrations could erupt in Kinshasa as well as other major cities nationwide, including Beni, Bukavu, Butembo, Goma, Kananga, Kisangani, Lubumbashi, Mbandaka, and Mbujy-Mayi. Traffic, commercial and telecommunication disruptions are likely near any protests that materialise. Security personnel will probably increase their presence at sensitive locations and in areas supportive of the opposition. There is an elevated risk of violent unrest at all associated protests. Tensions will likely remain high across the country until a solution is found to resolve the ongoing political impasse over the election. There are no indications that either side is ready to accommodate the other or find a compromised solution. Further divisions will increase the likelihood of violence.

Advice: Avoid all protests, marches, large crowds, and areas with a heavy security presence due to the potential for clashes. If violence occurs, leave the area immediately, and seek shelter in a non-governmental building. Carry identification at all times, and be polite and non-confrontational if stopped by security personnel. Register and maintain contact with your diplomatic mission.

ETHIOPIA (Country risk rating: High); October 12; (Update) Clashes result in several deaths in Soda, Oromia

At least four protesters were killed and 18 others were wounded on October 12 during clashes between demonstrators and security forces in the town of Soda, in Ethiopia’s restive Oromia region. The clashes started when town residents blocked eight government trucks, which they suspected were transporting weapons, from passing through Soda. Government troops escorting the trucks responded by opening fire on the crowd with live ammunition. Protests also took place in other Oromia towns on October 12; in Waliso, 15,000 demonstrated with no reports of violence. Moreover, business disruptions continue in Shashamane and Boke following the October 11 anti-government protests, during which six activists were killed and over 30 wounded. Anti-government protests are likely to continue in the coming days throughout Oromia. Expect business and transportation disruptions, including road closures, and potential violent clashes with security forces. Whereas opposition forces had avoided open protests in recent months, preferring safer modes of action including strikes and 'stay at home' days, several Oromia towns have witnessed demonstrations over the past few days, including Ambo, Borana, Dembi Dolo, Gedeo, Gimbi, Guder, Hararge, Jimma, Naqamte, Robe, Shashamane and Waliso. Although such actions might not lead to a return of the widespread unrest observed in 2015-2016, anti-government sentiments remain high in Ethiopia's Oromia region. Independent human rights organisations estimate that over 600 protesters were killed in 2015-2016 when large-scale protests were met with a violent security crackdown.

Advice: Avoid all protests due to the potential for violence, even if they appear to be peaceful. Postponing driving or routing shipments through Oromia is advisable if protests are scheduled. Seek updated information on security and road conditions if driving is unavoidable, and allow additional time to reach destinations due to potential roadblocks. Register and maintain contact with your diplomatic mission.

KENYA (Country risk rating: High); October 13 to 26; (Update) Countrywide opposition protests persist

On October 13, supporters of opposition National Super Alliance (NASA) leader Raila Odinga rallied in several Kenya cities, defying an indefinite government ban on protests. The ban, which was introduced the previous day, specifically covers central Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu. Odinga supporters blocked main roads in Kisumu - an opposition stronghold
in western Kenya - causing commercial and transport disruptions. At least 20 people were injured when security personnel forcibly dispersed demonstrators. Two people were shot and killed in Odinga's hometown of Bondo, 48 km west of Kisumu, despite the fact that protests have not been banned there. Police fired teargas to break up demonstrations in two locations in central Nairobi, and opposition protests also took place in Mombasa. More opposition rallies and violence can be expected despite the ban. NASA has announced plans to hold daily demonstrations from October 16. Protests will probably take place near Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) facilities and in NASA strongholds such as the Kawangware, Kibera and Matare areas of Nairobi, Nyamasaria and Obunga in Kisumu, Bondo and Siaya counties in south western Kenya, and coastal areas around Mombasa.

Advice: Avoid all protests, marches, rallies, party and electoral commission offices, and other areas with a heavy security presence; violence could occur with little or no warning. Leave the area immediately, and seek shelter in a secure, non-governmental building if violence erupts nearby. Stockpile water and non-perishable food and be prepared to shelter in place for several days if serious unrest flares after the October 26 presidential rerun. Allow additional time for travel. Seek updated information on security and road conditions if driving long distances is necessary, especially in south western Kenya. Register and maintain contact with your diplomatic mission.

SOMALIA (Country risk rating: Extreme); October 14; Car bombing causes casualties in Mogadishu

At least 276 people have been confirmed killed and a further 300 wounded in two bombings in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, on October 14. Fatality numbers are likely to increase as authorities account for persons trapped under debris, sent to hospitals, or buried immediately by family members. The initial, and larger, blast took place near the KM5 Junction on Makkah Almukarramah Avenue, killing over 100 people and wounding many others; the bombing damaged nearby buildings, including the Safari Hotel and the Qatari Embassy. A second blast shortly afterwards killed two people in the city's Wadajir District. While no group immediately claimed responsibility for the blasts, the al-Shabaab militant group was likely involved in the attacks. The group regularly conducts car bombings against security personnel, government buildings, upscale hotels and restaurants in Mogadishu.

Advice: If operating in Mogadishu, exercise maximum caution, maintain a low profile, and limit exposure to potential terror targets, such as government buildings, security installations, markets, transport centres, major intersections, and other crowded sites.

SOUTH AFRICA (Country risk rating: High); October 12; Foreign nationals robbed in Johannesburg

Criminals robbed seven Iraqi diplomats at gunpoint near the Corlett Drive off-ramp in northern Johannesburg, late on October 12. The assailants ambushed the victims' minibus en route between OR Tambo International Airport (JNB) and their hotel when it was stopped at a traffic light. The attackers wounded one person and stole valuables, including cash and jewellery. The threat of crime in Johannesburg is high, and attacks targeting travellers in transit between JNB and their accommodation occur at least monthly. Business travellers, both foreign and local, are the most frequent targets. Criminals typically target African and Asian nationals from countries with limited credit card availability, on the assumption that they will be carrying cash. However, armed robbers - at least one in police uniform - targeted 36 Dutch tourists on a bus travelling from JNB to a Sandton hotel on September 24. Incidents typically occur within 10 km (6 miles) of the airport, during the early morning and late evening. Criminals may also orchestrate traffic collisions to force vehicles off the road and conduct robberies. Criminals will quickly resort to violence if victims resist or do not comply immediately. Assaults shot two Congolese nationals when they resisted a robbery outside their hotel in the Morningside area of Sandton in June. Police said that the assailants followed the victims from JNB to their lodgings, and robbed the two individuals after they exited their vehicle. Assailants also shot and killed an airport shuttle service driver during an attempted robbery of six Indian business travellers in May.

Advice: Seek updated information on secure transportation services from trusted local contacts. If targeted, do not resist; assailants are highly likely to immediately resort to violence. Immediately seek police assistance if you suspect your vehicle is being followed. Avoid leaving valuable items in vehicles, or displaying them in transit. Keep vehicle windows closed, and doors locked at all times. Contact diplomatic representation if you fall victim to crime.

ZIMBABWE (Country risk rating: High); October 12; Unrest amid vendor evictions in Harare

Violent unrest was reported in central Harare during the implementation of forced evictions of vendors who are part of Operation Restore Order in the city. Police used water cannon to disperse unlicensed traders and minibus taxi drivers in
the central business district (CBD) and other strategic locations, including at the headquarters of the Movement for Democratic Change-Tsvangirai (MDC-T) on October 12. Despite the unrest and removals, vendors returned on October 13. An increased security presence is said to have remained in the city. Tensions remain high and additional unrest is possible. Security forces regularly use rubber bullets, teargas and water cannon to disperse protesters, although the use of live ammunition cannot be ruled out. Traffic and commercial disruptions are likely near any protest activity.

**Advice:** Avoid all protests and concentrations of security personnel. If a rowdy crowd forms, leave the area immediately and seek shelter in a secure location. Heed all instructions from security personnel. Seek updated information on road conditions from trusted local contacts before conducting ground movements in the CBD. Carry proper identification, and be polite and non-confrontational if questioned by law enforcement.

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