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, Nineva, 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 Kordofan 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.
25 September 2017

## News summary

### Americas
- **COSTA RICA** - Malaria cases reported in several areas
- **MEXICO** - Tropical Storm Pilar to bring heavy rainfall to parts of western Mexico
- **PUERTO RICO** - Guajataca Dam threatens to collapse

### Asia and Pacific
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- **AFGHANISTAN** - Suicide bombing reported in Kabul
- **AUSTRALIA** - Flight disruptions at Sydney Airport due to technical failure
- **EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA** - Transport disruptions expected ahead of and during Mid-Autumn Festival
- **HONG KONG** - Pro-democracy demonstration expected
- **INDIA** - Aam Aadmi Party holding nationwide protests
- **INDIA** - Shutdown strike called in Kashmir Valley
- **INDONESIA** - Public transport drivers threaten to hold a demonstration in Surabaya
- **INDONESIA** - Residents evacuated due to volcanic activity at Mount Agung, Bali
- **NEW CALEDONIA** - Pilots' strike impacting flights
- **PHILIPPINES** - Nationwide earthquake drill rescheduled
- **SOUTH KOREA** - Korean Air strike to cause disruptions

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- **FRANCE** - Ongoing protests due to proposed labour reforms
- **GERMANY** - Steelworkers' protest in Bochum
- **ITALY** - Unionised airport workers' strike anticipated nationwide
- **RUSSIA / UKRAINE** - Severe weather warning for Kerch Strait
- **SPAIN** - Catalan independence-related protests in Barcelona
- **UNITED KINGDOM** - Authorities in London decline to renew Uber operating licence

### Middle East and North Africa
- **LIBYA** - Group confirms that bodies of IS hostages found in 2015 are foreign nationals
Sub-Saharan Africa

ANGOLA - Presidential inauguration to take place in Luanda
CAMEROON - (Update) Officials issue curfew in Bamenda, Far North Region
CAMEROON - Double bomb explosions in Douala
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - Possible protests in Kinshasa
KENYA - Foreign national killed in Mtwa
MALAWI - US Embassy issues warning amid elevated tensions in Mulanje
MALI - Ground transport providers’ strike in Ansongo and Manaka
SOUTH AFRICA - Two killed in violent eviction operation in Johannesburg

Americas

COSTA RICA (Country risk rating: Medium); September 13 to 22; Malaria cases reported in several areas

As of September 13, Costa Rican health officials have identified nine locally acquired malaria cases during 2017, representing the most recent available information as of September 22. This compares to four cases during all of 2016. During 2017, authorities confirmed four cases in Matina Canton, Limon Province; three in Sarapiqui Canton, Heredia Province; and two in San Carlos Canton, Alajuela Province. Additionally, officials in Costa Rica issued an alert on September 13 due to increased risk of malaria transmission. This alert is primarily related to concerns over increased disease activity in Nicaragua. Many individuals cross the Costa Rica-Nicaragua border daily for work, and importation of malaria cases is possible. It is highly likely that Costa Rican authorities will be able to contain sporadic malaria cases to avoid significant transmission. On September 22, the US CDC issued an Alert-Level 1 travel health notice due to elevated malaria activity in Costa Rica, primarily in Matina Canton in Limon Province, Sarapiqui Canton in Heredia Province, and San Carlos Canton in Alajuela Province. This travel notice is the second of three levels, signifying elevated risk at a destination, often associated with specific risk factors. This level encourages travellers to take specific actions and emphasises the need for enhanced health precautions.

Advice: Consult your medical provider to discuss the need for anti-malarial medication before travelling to Costa Rica. Antimalarial drugs are not 100-percent effective, so precautions against mosquito bites are critical. As weather permits, wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, and socks, or use insect protection containing DEET, picaridin, or another approved repellent. Remove standing water to reduce potential breeding areas for mosquitoes. Seek immediate medical attention if you become ill with fever within three months after returning from Costa Rica.

MEXICO (Country risk rating: High); September 24 to 27; Tropical Storm Pilar to bring heavy rainfall to parts of western Mexico

Tropical Storm Pilar is moving north-northwestward in the Pacific Ocean along the coast of western Mexico on September 24. The system of circulation was located west-northwest of Manzanillo, Colima State. The system is forecast to continue moving generally northward following the Mexican coast, maintaining its current strength through September 25, followed by a rapid weakening on September 26/27. Pilar will probably make landfall as a tropical depression near Culiacan, Sinaloa State, early on September 27. As of September 24, tropical storm warnings were in effect for the southwestern coast of Mexico from Manzanillo northward to El Roblito, including the Islas Marias. As Pilar skirts the coast of Mexico, it could bring heavy rainfall and strong winds to western areas of Colima, Jalisco, Michoacan, Nayarit, and southern Sinaloa states. Widespread accumulations of 7.6-17.8 cm (3-7 inches) are likely through September 25, with possible isolated maximums of 38 cm (15 inches). The rainfall could cause life-threatening flash flooding along the coast; mudslides are also possible in the higher elevations. Rough seas and dangerous rip currents are likely as the system transits the coastline. Power outages cannot be ruled out. The heavy rainfall could cause ground and air transport disruptions through at least September 26. Expect traffic and trucking delays along regional highways. Flooding could inundate low-lying routes; fast-moving water could wash away some roads and bridges. Mudslides may block some roads, particularly in mountainous areas.

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

**PUERTO RICO (Country risk rating: Medium); September 22; Guajataca Dam threatens to collapse**

Authorities reported on September 22 that Guajataca Dam, located in Isabela and Quebradillas Municipalities in northwest Puerto Rico, had failed and was threatening to collapse altogether. The authorities have warned that all areas near the Rio Guajataca that are downstream of the dam should immediately evacuate. Approximately 70,000 people live in this area. The issue is the latest to impact Puerto Rico following the recent passage of a destructive and disruptive hurricane.

**Advice:** Persons in the affected area should evacuate and seek higher ground.

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**AFGHANISTAN (Country risk rating: Extreme); September 25 to October 1; Increased security for Muharram**

The Muslim Ashura observance (10 Muharram) will begin in Afghanistan at sundown on September 30 and last through nightfall on October 1. The date holds special significance for Shi'a Muslims, many of whom will participate in processions to and from *imambargahs* (congregation halls), mosques, and shrines to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet. While Shi'a processions occur throughout the first 10 days of Muharram, they typically become larger and culminate on the ninth and tenth days. Authorities will be on heightened alert nationwide through at least October 1 following a spate of attacks on the minority Shi'a group over the past couple of years, especially by local affiliates of the Islamic State (IS) militant group. Expect heightened security near Shi'a congregation sites, shrines, and places of worship in Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, and other areas with sizeable Shi'a communities. Mass casualty attacks could prompt protests and clashes with security personnel due to the perception of police not sufficiently protecting the Shi'a community.

**Advice:** Use alternative routes to avoid Shi'a mosques and processions due to the increased threat of militant attacks. Limit exposure to sites commonly identified as potential terror targets, including prominent government buildings, diplomatic missions, police and military installations, as well as hotels, shops, and restaurants used by foreign nationals through the end of Ashura. Increased security around Shi'a interests could encourage terrorists to strike secondary targets. Avoid all demonstrations; immediately depart the area and seek shelter in a secure location if an unruly gathering forms nearby.

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**AFGHANISTAN (Country risk rating: Extreme); September 24; Suicide bombing reported in Kabul**

A suicide bomber detonated his explosives near a NATO convoy travelling along Qargha Lake Road in Police District 5 of western Kabul at around 1100 on September 24. The explosion reportedly wounded between three and five Afghan civilians, but caused no casualties among the Danish troops on board. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the bombing.

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**AUSTRALIA (Country risk rating: Low); September 25; Flight disruptions at Sydney Airport due to technical failure**

Flight disruptions are occurring at Sydney Airport (SYD) in New South Wales on September 25 following an air traffic control system failure that started at about 0520. While the software failure has been resolved, airport officials expect flight delays at the airport to occur throughout the day as they deal with a massive backlog. The three-hour outage has caused the cancellations and delays of numerous domestic and international flights at SYD. Some major airlines are expected to provide additional services to ease the disruptions.

**Advice:** Check with airlines to confirm flight status. Do not check out of hotels until onward travel is verified.

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**EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA; September 30 to October 9; Transport disruptions expected ahead of and during Mid-Autumn Festival**

 Millions of people will celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival on October 4 in multiple countries throughout East and Southeast Asia. Major transport disruptions are likely in China, Taiwan, South Korea, and Vietnam between September 30 and
October 9 as many people travel to and from their hometowns to celebrate the festival. Increased petty crime is likely during the holiday, especially at crowded transport hubs and tourist attractions. The Chinese government has designated October 1 to 8 national holidays; Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR will observe the holiday on October 5. However, as the holiday is days away from the National Day observance on October 2, many residents will travel during the holiday period. Officials in Taiwan have designated October 4 as a holiday; however, travel is expected to spike from October 1 to 7. South Korea will celebrate the festival, known as Chuseok from October 2 to 6. Vietnam will celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival on October 4. Traffic congestion is likely along all major transport routes in the aforementioned countries. Expect larger-than-normal crowds at transport hubs, including rail and airport hubs, throughout the countries.

**Advice:** Transport providers in Greater China, South Korea, and Vietnam could overbook services; confirm all rail, bus, and airline reservations if travelling during the holiday period. Airports will likely be very crowded; arrive much earlier than usual due to high volume delays at check-in counters and security checkpoints. Heavy traffic is likely on main highways; drive defensively, and consider minimising unnecessary trips on the days before and after public observances of the holidays. Anticipate possible delivery delays; consider alternative transport for time-sensitive shipments. Take extra precautions to secure money and valuables. Expect high demand for hotels and taxis in tourist areas, as well as potential price gouging.

**HONG KONG** (Country risk rating: Low); September 28 and October 1; Pro-democracy demonstration expected

Several pro-democracy and other activist groups plan to hold a demonstration in Hong Kong on October 1, China's National Day, in support of jailed activists. Organisers have not announced details of the event, but protesters could gather in Tamar Park, near the Chief Executive's Office building and Legislative Council Complex, or hold a march through central Hong Kong. Although expected participation in the event is unclear, several thousand people could join the demonstration. Protesters will wear black for the event. Rallies by pro-democracy and pro-Beijing groups are possible in the days leading up to the event. Pro-democracy activists plan to gather at the Central Government Offices building in Admiralty on September 28 to commemorate the third anniversary of the Occupy Central movement. Events hosted by pro-Beijing supporters could draw several hundred to several thousand participants. Police will likely increase security near probable protest sites as a precaution. While violence is unlikely during protests, minor skirmishes cannot be ruled out, particularly if police attempt to disperse any gatherings, block access roads to protest sites, or if the opposing groups rally in proximity. Localised traffic disruptions are possible if larger demonstrations take place. Major disruptions could occur on October 1, depending on the turnout for the protest and if protesters attempt to march in the city. Tensions have been rising in Hong Kong since the Court of Final Appeal increased the punishments for pro-democracy activists on August 17, sentencing them to between six and eight months in jail.

**Advice:** Use caution near possible protest locations, especially on October 1. Monitor local media or check with trusted sources for updates on possible protests, as organisers may not announce some events in advance. Plan for traffic disruptions if larger demonstrations take place, especially if operating near government buildings in Central.

**INDIA** (Country risk rating: High); September 22 to 30; Aam Aadmi Party holding nationwide protests

The opposition Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) began nationwide demonstrations on September 22 to protest rising fuel prices in the country. These will continue until September 30. AAP claims the price increases are the result of the federal government increasing petroleum products' excise duty over 150 percent over the past three years. The largest gatherings will take place throughout Delhi, where the AAP heads the local government. The party also intends to hold a protest outside Shastri Bhawan, which houses the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, on September 26. Smaller rallies and marches are also probable in urban centres in other states, including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu. Possible protest sites include outside central government offices and at popular public squares and parks. While most gatherings will probably remain peaceful, isolated clashes with police cannot be ruled out, particularly if security personnel attempt to disperse any gathering by force. Clashes are also possible between AAP activists and supporters of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which heads the federal government. Expect an increased security presence around protest venues, as well as localised traffic disruptions.

**Advice:** Avoid all protests due to the risk of security disturbances. Use caution around major government buildings and popular rally sites, as well as AAP offices, which could be gathering points for protesters. Allow extra time to reach destinations near gatherings, especially in Delhi.
INDIA (Country risk rating: High); September 25; Shutdown strike called in Kashmir Valley

Several trade and transport organisations have called for a shutdown strike in Kashmir Valley on September 25. Separatist leaders have extended support to the action, which is being organised to protest ongoing investigations against prominent Kashmiri residents by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) as part of its ongoing crackdown on terror funding. The strike will almost certainly cause significant business and transport disruptions in Srinagar and main towns in Kashmir Valley. Most markets and businesses will likely remain closed, while limited transport services will operate during the strike. Participants will probably stage protest rallies and marches during the strike. Expect extremely tight security in Kashmir Valley, especially in Srinagar. Officials have restricted the movement of people and vehicles in the Nowhatta, Rainawari, Khanyar, M.R. Gunj, and Safa Kadal police precincts in Srinagar to prevent protests. 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 violence erupts.

Advice: Confirm all business appointments and transport reservations during the strike. Avoid protests due to the possibility of violence; use extreme caution around prominent mosques and popular public squares, which could be gathering points for demonstrators. If an unruly crowd forms near you, immediately depart the area. Heed all instructions from security personnel, and remain alert for possible curfews and/or movement restrictions.

INDONESIA (Country risk rating: High); September 27; Public transport drivers threaten to hold a demonstration in Surabaya

Public transport drivers plan to stage a demonstration in Surabaya on September 27 to protest the East Java provincial government not regulating the operations of app-based ride-hailing services in the city. The drivers plan to gather at Terminal Joyoboyo, before heading to Gedung Grahadi, where the main rally will take place. Reports suggest that a meeting will be held between Surabaya's Land Transport Organisation (Organda) and East Java's Department of Transportation on the day of the protest, suggesting that the action may be called off if both parties achieve a resolution. Authorities will likely increase security around the rally sites. Protesters could stage a vehicle convoy to Gedung Grahadi, which will likely result in traffic disruptions. Increase demand for alternative modes of transport is possible during the action; the availability of app-based ride-hailing services may be limited on the day if there are fears of possible attacks and harassment by striking public transport drivers.

Advice: Avoid the rally sites as a precaution. Plan for localised traffic congestion; use alternative routes to avoid the affected areas.

INDONESIA (Country risk rating: High); September 24; Residents evacuated due to volcanic activity at Mount Agung, Bali

Indonesian authorities evacuated tens of thousands of residents near Mount Agung in Bali’s Karangasem regency on September 22, due to rising volcanic activity. The National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNBP) raised the alert status of the volcano to level four, its highest level, on September 22. This level indicates that an eruption is possible in the next 24 hours, although as of 25 September no eruption has taken place. The agency also expanded the size of the exclusion zone to 9-12 km (5.6-7.5 miles) from the volcano's crater. BNBP has recorded hundreds of seismic tremors each day since raising the alert status, and authorities have said there are indications of rising magma. Ground transport disruptions, especially leading to the exclusion zone, are possible. Authorities could also block routes within the zone. A significant eruption could cause disruptions to flight operations at Ngurah Rai International Airport (DPS) in Bali and Lombok International (LOP) on nearby Lombok island, although none have taken place as yet.

Advice: Confirm plans if travelling to areas near the volcano; plan for possible disruptions to ground travel routes. Heed the instructions of local authorities.

NEW CALEDONIA (Country risk rating: Low); September 25; Pilots' strike impacting flights

Pilots employed by Air Calin (SB), New Caledonia's main international airline, launched an indefinite strike on September 21, causing flight cancellations and delays. Several flights have been rescheduled, including those serving Sydney (SYD), Auckland (AKL), Port Vila (VLI), Nadi (NAN), and Wallis (WLS). As of September 25, the strike is ongoing, with pilots and management engaged in negotiations; it is unclear when the strike will end. Further flight disruptions are likely as long as the strike action persists.
**Advice:** Confirm Air Calin flights before checking out of hotels or departing for the airport. If possible, consider using other carriers for time-sensitive travel.

**PHILIPPINES (Country risk rating: Medium); September 27; Nationwide earthquake drill rescheduled**

The Philippines National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) has rescheduled a planned nationwide earthquake drill to 1400 on September 27. An official earthquake drill is scheduled at the Strike Gymnasium in Bacoor City, Cavite Province. Simultaneous drills will take place at government offices and schools across the country. The exercise will also involve the nongovernment, private, and media sectors; most facilities will likely halt nonessential operations during the exercise. Road closures and other localised disruptions are possible. The nationwide drill is part of preparations to test the capabilities of response agencies during a high-intensity earthquake in the country. Authorities are most concerned with the West Valley Fault, a strike-slip fault that runs through Makati, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Pasig, Quezon, and Taguig, in Metro Manila. The fault, which is believed to shift every 400 to 600 years, last triggered a strong earthquake 359 years ago, in 1658.

**Advice:** Plan accordingly for temporary commercial and transport disruptions in Metro Manila and other cities where disaster drills are occurring. Mass transit may be shut down and authorities may block roads. Confirm afternoon appointments on September 27.

**SOUTH KOREA (Country risk rating: Low); October 1 to 7; Korean Air strike to cause disruptions**

Unionised Korean Air (KE) pilots plan to stage a week-long strike from October 1 to 7 to press the company to pay higher salaries. The strike, which will occur during the Chuseok holiday, is unlikely to severely impact Korean Air operations, as the union has said that only about 14 percent of pilots will participate in the walkout. Per Korean law, the pilot union must ensure 80 percent of international flight operations and 50 percent of domestic flight operations during any strike. Since October 2015, the pilots' union and the company have engaged in negotiations to resolve the wage dispute, but have made little progress. Nearly 150 pilots previously staged a week-long strike in December 2016 but agreed to end the action after negotiations resumed. Another week-long strike planned in late March was cancelled at the last moment due to low participation. Company officials have offered the pilots a 1.9-percent retroactive wage hike for 2015 and 2.3-percent increase for 2016; however, the union is demanding a 29-percent increase.

**Advice:** Confirm all flights. Consider alternative arrangements for time-sensitive travel. Rebook flights on alternative airlines as soon as possible, as such flights may quickly overbook.

**Europe and Russia**

**FRANCE (Country risk rating: Medium); September 23 to October 10; Ongoing protests due to proposed labour reforms**

The left-wing opposition La France Insoumise party staged a large political rally in downtown Paris during the afternoon of September 23. The gathering was called for by Jean-Luc Melanchon, to protest the government's proposed draft reforms to the French Labour Code. Tens of thousands of people were reported to be in attendance. The march began at the Place de la Bastille, with the rally held at the Place de la Republique. Members of the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) and Workers' Force (FO) have threatened to initiate a nationwide strike on 25 September over the same issue. Additional upcoming strikes and protests linked to labour reforms include:

- September 28: Trade union and retirement association members plan to rally in Paris at Chaussee d'Antin- La Fayette metro station around 1430 and then march towards Miromesnil Street.
- October 3: The French Democratic Confederation of Labour (CFDT) union is planning a protest in Paris from 1030 to 1700 at the Paris Event Centre on Porte de la Villette.
- October 10: Public and private sector unions, including the CFDT, CGC, CFTC, CGT, FA, FO, FSU, UNSA, and Solidaires plan to stage a national strike.
Advice: As a standard precaution, avoid all protests and marches in France. Allow extra time for travel in the vicinity of protest locations; consider alternative routes. If violence erupts near you, exit the area immediately. Heed the instructions of local security personnel.

GERMANY (Country risk rating: Low); September 22; Steelworkers' protest in Bochum

Steelworkers marched through Bochum in western Germany on September 22 to protest the merger of Tata Steel and Thyssen-Krupp. The merger is expected to result in thousands of job cuts. The protest ended without incident. Further rallies over the issue remain possible.

Advice: Monitor local developments closely and avoid rally sites. Anticipate and prepare for localised travel disruptions, should protests occur.

ITALY (Country risk rating: Low); October 2; Unionised airport workers' strike anticipated nationwide

Unionised airport workers throughout Italy are planning a series of strikes on October 2. Pilots and airline staff associated with the USB union plan to hold a 24-hour nationwide strike, while baggage handlers affiliated with various unions intend to strike from 1000 to 1800 at Malpensa (MXP) and Milan Linate (LIN) airports. Ground crew personnel at Pisa Airport (PSA) have announced plans to strike from 1200 to 1600. Unless averted, the actions will likely cause disruptions to passenger and cargo flights operating in Italy around October 2. Flight delays and cancellations are highly likely on Alitalia-operated flights. However, the strikes are unlikely to be crippling, as Italian law requires that transport workers maintain a minimum level of service during labour actions. Additional cancellations and delays are possible after the strikes end as airlines reposition aircraft and clear passenger and freight backlogs. Delays in luggage processing and delivery are probable at LIN, MXP, and PSA.

Advice: Confirm flights departing for airports nationwide on October 2 as flight schedules will likely change throughout the day. Do not check out of hotels before confirming onward transportation. Allow additional time for check-in and baggage retrieval. Plan for cargo flight disruptions.

RUSSIA / UKRAINE; September 25 to 28; Severe weather warning for Kerch Strait

Authorities have issued a severe weather warning for the Kerch Strait from September 25 to 28. Winds as high as 90 kph (56 mph) are forecast for the area. Ferry services could be suspended on the Temryuk-Kerch, Gelendzhik-Kerch, and Novorossiysk-Feodosia lines until the storm exits the area. Additional transport and commercial disruptions are possible throughout the region. Strong winds could prompt authorities to restrict the movement of high-profile vehicles, especially on bridges.

Advice: Seek updated information on transport conditions from trusted contacts. Confirm ferry reservations and freight shipments. Do not attempt to navigate roadways blocked by debris.

SPAIN (Country risk rating: Low); September 22 to 24; Catalan independence-related protests in Barcelona

Activists opposed to Catalan independence held a demonstration outside the National Assembly of Catalonia building in Barcelona on September 22. The event was well attended. Counter-protests by pro-independence activists were also reported on the day and on September 24 in Barcelona and other Catalan towns; however, all related events concluded without major incident amid elevated security. The central government has declared an independence referendum planned for October 1 to be illegal, and arrested several officials involved in preparations for the vote. The Catalan National Assembly has called for demonstrations until the detainees are released. Up to 2,500 pro-independence supporters held a related protest on September 22 outside a courthouse in Hospitalet de Llobregat, north eastern Catalonia, where six of the detainees were appearing. Further demonstrations relating to the independence issue should be expected up to and following the planned vote.

Advice: Avoid all demonstrations as a routine security precaution. Seek updated information on traffic conditions from trusted local sources and contacts related to possible further protests. If unrest breaks out, leave the area immediately and seek shelter in a secure, nongovernmental location.
UNITED KINGDOM (Country risk rating: Low); September 22; Authorities in London decline to renew Uber operating licence

Transport regulator Transport for London (TFL) announced on September 22 that it would not be renewing the operating licence for the app-based ride-hailing company Uber; Uber services are now due to end in the capital on September 30. The company has 21 days to appeal the decision, and management has confirmed that it will do so. Uber employs 40,000 drivers in London, who service approximately 3.5 million passengers. If the appeal is rejected, increased demand for alternative public transport is likely for the medium term, particularly London Underground (Tube) and bus services, as well as non-app-based taxis. Drivers could stage demonstrations against the decision. While no such events have been announced, protesting drivers have previously staged go-slow demonstrations and have used their vehicles to block roads in central London, particularly key chokepoints near City Hall, such as London Bridge and Tower Bridge. Similar actions would lead to significant congestion and traffic delays, particularly if they occur during morning or evening rush hours.


Middle East and North Africa

LIBYA (Country risk rating: Extreme); September 20; Group confirms that bodies of IS hostages found in 2015 are foreign nationals

The Derna Mujahideen Shoura Council announced on September 20 that the five bodies it found in 2015 are those of foreign hostages taken by the Islamic State (IS) in March 2015. IS originally took nine employees of an Austrian oil services company hostage from Ghani Oilfield; two Bangladeshis and a Ghanaian were later freed. The fate of the ninth hostage remains unclear. The Council said it found the bodies in June 2015 after taking control of the area; it remains unclear why they took so long to identify the bodies. The kidnapping risk across Libya remains elevated; foreign nationals, local officials and parties to local disputes are often kidnapped by the many militias operating countrywide. The possibility of ransom, in particular, makes the kidnapping of foreign nationals likely, particularly if they appear to be wealthy.

Sub-Saharan Africa

ANGOLA (Country risk rating: Medium); September 26; Presidential inauguration to take place in Luanda

The inauguration of President-elect Joao Lourenco is scheduled to take place in Luanda on September 26. While officials have not publicised where the event will occur, it will probably take place at either the Coqueiros Municipal Stadium or the November 11 Stadium. Dozens of foreign dignitaries, including heads of state, and thousands of supporters will probably attend the ceremony. Expect heightened security in the city. Transport disruptions are likely as authorities will implement additional security measures near the event site, such as closing nearby roads and setting up checkpoints. Some opposition groups reportedly plan to boycott the ceremony. While no groups have announced plans for protests, sporadic anti-government demonstrations could materialise. Security personnel will likely use force to disperse protests, possibly leading to clashes between police and protesters. The ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) secured 61 percent of the vote during the legislative polls, while the main opposition National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) received 26 percent. UNITA lawfully challenged the results, but the Constitutional Court rejected its appeal on September 13, citing insufficient evidence. Following the court decision, UNITA said on September 16 that its elected members will take their seats in Parliament, although the party had previously threatened to boycott the chamber, citing irregularities that took place during the vote.

Advice: Avoid event sites and other areas with a heavy security presence. Allow additional travel time in Luanda on September 26. If crowds form nearby, leave the area immediately and seek shelter in a secure, nongovernmental location.

CAMEROON (Country risk rating: High); September 22 to October 3; (Update) Officials issue curfew in Bamenda, Far North Region

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Officials are implementing a series of security measures in the Northwest region through October 3, due to a planned visit to Bamenda by the Stand Up for Cameroon human rights activist group, which could trigger protests and low-level bomb attacks. Anglophone activists, who allege security personnel have committed human rights violations, could organise protests after Stand Up for Cameroon's visit ends. An unknown number of Anglophone activists remain detained and will face a military tribunal on September 28; the beginning of their trial could trigger protests. Administrators banned all travel between sub-regional divisions of the Northwest region from September 22. Police also banned all public events and will enforce a daily 2200 to 0500 curfew in the Mezam division, which includes Bamenda, through October 3. Security personnel may consider the Stand Up for Cameroon events as public gatherings in violation of the restrictions. The US Embassy has prohibited official travel to Bamenda through October 3 due to the threat of possible demonstrations and unrest. A government crackdown on dissent following Anglophone protests that began in October 2016 has galvanised anti-government sentiment and spurred calls for independence for the English-speaking Northwest and Southwest regions.

Advice: Avoid all demonstrations. If a protest materialises nearby, leave the area immediately, and seek shelter in the nearest secure building. Strictly abide by the curfew and heed the advice of authorities. Ensure sufficient time to complete any travel within the affected area before the curfew comes into effect. Seek updated information on security and road conditions from trusted local contacts before conducting ground movements. Verify authorities have not instituted any bans on non-residents operating in the area during curfew hours. Carry identification at all times, and be polite and nonconfrontational if stopped at a security checkpoint. Use a satellite telephone for emergency communication if travelling in the Northwest and Southwest regions.

CAMEROON (Country risk rating: High); September 22; Double bomb explosions in Douala

Two minor bomb explosions were reported near the Cameroonian Society of Oil Depots (Societe Camerounaise des Depots Petroliers, SCDP) in the Mboopi area of Douala on September 22. Authorities are treating the incident as a bombing, likely criminally motivated. There were no reports of casualties.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (Country risk rating: High); September 21; Possible protests in Kinshasa

Prominent civil society organisation Fight for Change (LUCHA) has called for more protests outside of the foreign ministry in the business and administrative district of Gombe, Kinshasa, on September 21. Though the group provided no specifics on the dates for its action, demonstrations are possible in the coming days. The group said it plans to denounce a recent government decree that would invalidate semi-biometric passports by October 16. Authorities said that after this date, anyone holding that type of passport will not be allowed to exit or enter the country. The proposed change has angered citizens affected by the measure, who believe the move is merely a tactic to raise additional money through passport renewals; they insist that the government allow holders of these passports to keep them until they expire. The political opposition has also denounced the government's move, and has filed a motion with the Constitutional Court instructing the body to annul the measure. Though the foreign ministry was the scene of a previous protest, demonstrators could also gather in other parts of Kinshasa, including Limete, Lingwala, Ma Campagne, Ndjili, and Ngaliema. Authorities will likely be prepared to disperse any unauthorised demonstrations. About 30 people, including members of the press, were arrested during a protest by activists in front of the foreign ministry on September 20; they were released shortly afterward. It remains unclear if the government will renounce the measure, but some citizen groups could continue to apply pressure on authorities to address their concerns.

Advice: Avoid the foreign ministry and surrounding areas, especially if crowds begin to form. Use alternative routes to circumvent any protest sites, as even peaceful demonstrations can quickly turn violent.

KENYA (Country risk rating: High); September 16; Foreign national killed in Mtwapa

Police continue to investigate the killing of a Swiss national living in Mtwapa, Kilifi county, whose body was dumped in a nearby creek. The victim suffered serious wounds to the head and face, suggesting they were attacked with a weapon. Officers suspect the incident occurred around September 16, but authorities have not identified the perpetrators. Mtwapa is 15 km (9 miles) north of Mombasa. Officials have not revealed any possible motivations for the Swiss expatriate's killing; however, the incident is consistent with a trend of recent criminally motivated attacks targeting foreign nationals near Mombasa. Police arrested a domestic worker suspected of killing their employers, two elderly Swiss nationals, in Mombasa's Kiembeni neighbourhood on August 20; investigators suspect robbery motivated the attack. A gang armed with crude weapons killed an Italian national and severely wounded the victim's Italian spouse during a home invasion in Kikambala early on the morning of July 24. Police suspect the assailants were attempting to burgle the property.
Advice: The threat of crime is high throughout Kenya, and armed assailants will quickly resort to violence if victims resist. The foreign nationals were likely targeted due to their perceived wealth. Attacks on tourists in the Mombasa area are reportedly increasing. Police installed security cameras near Fort Jesus in Mombasa's Old Town area following a spate of robberies targeting tourists in 2017.

MALAWI (Country risk rating: Medium); September 22; US Embassy issues warning amid elevated tensions in Mulanje

Violent unrest and further targeted attacks are possible in Malawi's south eastern Mulanje district in the coming days and weeks, which has prompted the US Embassy in Lilongwe to ban official personnel from travelling to the area. Local villagers have allegedly formed vigilante night patrols, a possible sign of impending attacks against individuals they accuse of being 'vampires'. Foreign visitors may be at risk of being targeted. Local mobs could launch attacks before security forces have time to intervene, despite the recent deployment of 80 additional police officers to the area. Since September 15, there have been several cases of residents attacking individuals in the Mount Mulanje area, accusing them of being vampires. At least three of these attacks have targeted visitors to the area, some of whom may have been foreign nationals. It is not clear if the attacks have resulted in injuries. In addition to those who have been assaulted, other individuals have allegedly received threats. Police efforts to counter the rumours and bring calm to the area have so far been unsuccessful.

Advice: Defer unnecessary travel to Mulanje district. If you cannot defer travel, strictly avoid movement after nightfall. If violence erupts near you, leave the area immediately, and seek shelter in a secure location. Carry proper identification at all times. Maintain contact with your diplomatic mission.

MALI (Country risk rating: High); September 22 to October 5; Ground transport providers' strike in Ansongo and Manaka

Unionised transportation service providers, including truck drivers, launched a strike in Ansongo and Manaka, which is scheduled to last through at least October 5. The work stoppage will likely cause freight delivery delays in the towns, and could disrupt the shipment of goods between neighbouring Niger and Gao town, and other locations in Mali. The industrial action could also lead to fuel supply shortages in the region. The strike is being held to protest pervasive and extreme insecurity on transportation routes in the area, including the RN17 Highway. Transport workers staged a similar strike for the same reasons in August 2016; security conditions have not improved since that action. Commercial, military, and public convoys are regularly targeted by armed groups, but reporting on such incidents is unreliable and intermittent. Islamist militants, ethnic militia, rebels, and purportedly pro-government armed groups all engage in banditry in northern Mali. Gunmen raided a humanitarian NGO compound in Ansongo on September 1, stealing vehicles and IT equipment. The French military deployed additional troops and aircraft to the Ansongo-Menaka area as part of its Barkhane counter-insurgency operation in late August, indicating it to be a location where the threat of attack is most severe. However, the French special forces mission has failed to prevent the continued resurgence of Islamist militants in Mali since the initially successful 2013 military intervention.

Advice: If operating in these areas, travel in an escorted convoy in a vehicle prepared for the journey; carry additional fuel and water, a satellite phone, and sand ladders. Confirm generator and vehicle fleet fuel supplies, and stock up when possible. Review freight transport schedules.

SOUTH AFRICA (Country risk rating: High); September 22; Two killed in violent eviction operation in Johannesburg

Authorities are investigating the deaths of two people reportedly killed during unrest near Lenasia South, in South Africa's city of Johannesburg, following clashes between private security contractors and residents of unpermitted informal settlements in the area on September 22. Residents claimed that the Red Ants contractors, known by their distinctive red overalls, beat a person to death during an eviction operation; locals also said that police killed another person when they fired rubber bullets to disperse the crowds. In the event of any further related protests, police are likely to forcibly disperse crowds; security personnel could use tear gas, rubber bullets, and stun grenades. Officers may fire live ammunition in the event of widespread unrest and violence. Expect additional traffic disruptions near any demonstrations, and increased congestion on alternative routes. The clashes follow earlier service delivery protests in the surrounding Orange Farm, Ennerdale, Grasmere, and Lenasia South areas on September 14. Demonstrators blocked the R553 and N1 highways during the unrest, and pelted vehicles passing through the area with stones.
Advice: Avoid all protests. Seek updated information on traffic and security conditions from trusted local contacts before conducting ground movements near Lenasia. If unrest occurs or demonstrations materialise, leave the area immediately and seek shelter in a secure location. Keep vehicle windows closed and doors locked at all times.