MEMORANDUM

TO:        System Employees Considering International Travel
SUBJECT:   System Risk Management
RE:        Current Status of International Travel

Ongoing, System Risk Management will consider all International travel extreme risk. Travel requests submitted through Concur will be reviewed and individually evaluated. The only exception to this is any mission-critical COVID-19 related assistance or health-critical exceptions and these exceptions must be approved in advance by Executive Leadership.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Henry Judah,
Director, Office of Risk Management

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Report for Week Ending April 04, 2021

Latest Updates: Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar), Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Hong Kong, Iraq, Italy, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela.

- **Afghanistan**: On March 30, at least 3 health care workers part of a polio vaccination team were shot dead by suspected insurgents in Jalalabad, Nangahar province.

- **Burma (Myanmar)**: On March 28, at least 1 civilian was killed amid clashes between security forces and anti-military protesters in the Thaketa and Dawbon areas of Yangon.

- **Burma (Myanmar)**: On March 30, at least 8 people were killed in clashes between security forces and anti-military protesters in and around Yangon's South Dagon, Thaketa and Tamwe, Kachin’s Myitkyina and Monywa and Taze, Sagaing region.

- **Burma (Myanmar)**: On April 2, at least 21 civilians were killed and 22 others injured as security forces allegedly fired gunshots in Kani, Thityarbin and Monya, Sagaing region.

- **Colombia**: On March 30, at least 1 person was killed, 2 others injured and some 100 people are being held by militants on the Tarazá-Valdivia road in El Quince, Antioquia, after the rebel forces attacked a passenger bus and set ablaze several vehicles.

- **Democratic Republic of Congo**: On March 31, at least 1 government soldier was killed and 2 others injured during clashes with Mai-Mai militants along the shore of Lake Edward in North Kivu, including near Vitshumbi. An unspecified number of rebels were also reportedly killed and wounded.

- **Ethiopia**: On March 31, at least 130 civilians were killed in attacks carried out by the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF)-Shene group, on Babu Woreda in Amhara region and West Wellega in Oromia region.

- **Haiti**: On April 1, at least 1 person was killed and several people were injured amid clashes between rival gangs, including those of Krache dite, in the Bel Air area and on Delmas 2 and 6 in Port-au-Prince.

- **Hong Kong**: On March 30, Chinese officials and lawmakers passed a law that is widely expected to restrict the ability of Hong Kongers to stand for elections and that gives the local government in the territory the ability to choose 40 seats of the now 90 available seats in Parliament. District councillors will no longer be elected; they will be appointed by the government.

- **Iraq**: On March 29, at least 1 Iraqi national was injured and a vehicle destroyed when a bomb blast struck a United States (US)-led coalition logistics convoy on Karbala-Hillah Road in Babil governorate.

- **Italy**: On April 1, ash fall from Mount Etna triggered the closure of the airspace over Sicily's Catania–Fontanarossa Airport (CTA/LICC).
▪ Lebanon: On March 28, at least 4 people were killed and 11 others injured when Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) personnel clashed with armed residents in Baalbek, Beqaa Valley, while in pursuit of a wanted fugitive from the Zaiter clan.

▪ Mali: On March 31, at least 2 soldiers belonging to the Malian Armed Forces (FAMa) were injured when their vehicle was struck earlier by an explosive device approximately 5.5 miles outside of Tièrè, Sikasso region. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

▪ Mexico: On March 20, at least 26 people were killed when clashes erupted between suspected criminals belonging to the Jalisco Nueva Generación Cartel (CJNG) and Carteles Unidos in Aguililla, Michoacán. The clashes erupted shortly after a former mayor of Aguililla and suspected collaborator of Carteles Unidos was detained in Guatemala for charges linked to organised crime.

▪ Niger: On March 31, security forces detained several soldiers for allegedly attempting to stage a coup after heavy gunfire was reported near the Presidential Palace in Niamey. The incident comes ahead of President Mohamed Bazoum's inauguration on April 2.

▪ Nigeria: On March 31, at least 8 people were killed and 4 others were injured when armed bandits launched multiple attacks on vehicles and residents in Kan Hawa Zankoro in Chikun local government area (LGA), Iburu in Kajuru LGA and Hayin Kanwa in Giwa LGA, Kaduna state.

▪ Pakistan: On March 29, at least 4 people were killed and several others injured in a shooting between two rival groups at Shah Alam Market in Lahore.

▪ Philippines: On April 1, at least 2 people were injured when an explosive device detonated on Jose Lim Sr Avenue in barangay Mother Bagua, Cotabato City, Maguindanao, between San Roque Chapel and Police Station 4. No group claimed responsibility for the blast, which took place during a religious service at the church.

▪ Somalia: On March 31, at least four people were injured after an improvised explosive device targeted traffic police officers in Yaqshid district in Mogadishu near Darussalam. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

▪ South Sudan: On March 31, at least 10 people were killed, when suspected National Salvation Front militants ambushed passenger vehicles in three separate attacks along the Juba-Yei Road near Ganji and Limbe, Central Equatoria state.

▪ Syria: On April 1, 1 person was injured after an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was detonated under a civilian vehicle on Siyasiya street, Afrin, Aleppo governorate.

▪ Venezuela: On April 1, at least 5 people were killed during clashes between security forces and ex-FARC dissidents in El Ripial, Páez municipality, Apure state. Landmine detonations and looting of homes and businesses was reported in Las Tres Esquinas and El Ripial. Additional security personnel were deployed in the area.

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.

Henry Judah, AIC CPCU CLU ChFC | Director
System Risk Management

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**COUNTRY TRAVEL ADVISORY LIST**

Any travel to the below listed Extreme Risk countries or countries with an Extreme Risk region requires an International Travel Questionnaire submission to System Risk Management for review.

### EXTREME RISK COUNTRIES

1. Afghanistan  
2. Central African Republic (CAR)  
3. China  
4. Hong Kong  
5. Iran  
6. Iraq  
7. Italy  
8. Japan  
9. Libya  
10. Mali  
11. North Korea  
12. Somalia  
13. South Korea  
14. South Sudan  
15. Sudan  
16. Syria  
17. Venezuela  
18. Yemen

### HIGH RISK COUNTRIES

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

EXTREME RISK COUNTRIES

Afghanistan
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

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

Terrorist and insurgent groups continue planning and executing attacks in Afghanistan. These attacks occur with little or no warning, and have targeted official Afghan and U.S. government convoys and facilities, local government buildings, foreign embassies, military installations, commercial entities, non-governmental organization (NGO) offices, hospitals, residential compounds, tourist locations, transportation hubs, public gatherings, markets and shopping areas, places of worship, restaurants, hotels, universities, airports, schools, gymnasiums, and other locations frequented by U.S. citizens and other foreign nationals.

The country has been beset by weak governance in many regions as a result of extensive warlordism, and lawlessness. The government has grappled with a deteriorating security environment plagued by terror attacks and a struggling economy. Insurgents and extremists continue to stage frequent gun attacks and suicide bombings, including vehicle-borne explosives and improvised explosive devices, assassinations, car jackings, rocket attacks, and assaults.

The U.S. Embassy’s ability to provide customary and emergency services to U.S. citizens, is extremely restricted. This is due to the lack of infrastructure, geographic constraints, and an unpredictable security situation. As a result, evacuation options are severely limited. It is advised to avoid all travel to Afghanistan.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed 56,676 - Deaths: 2,497 - Recovered: 51,802 - Active: 2,377
Central African Republic
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

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

The presidential election occurred on December 27, 2020. Although there have been no specific incidents of violence or threats targeting U.S. citizens, civil unrest, demonstrations, and election-related violence (including renewed outbreaks of armed conflict) continue to be a threat post-elections.

Due to ongoing armed group activity and supply chain disruptions, on January 14, 2021, the U.S. Department of State ordered non-emergency U.S. government employees' departure.

On January 18, 2021, at least two United Nations (U.N.) peacekeepers were killed when their convoy was ambushed earlier by unidentified gunmen near Bangassou, Mbomou prefecture, an area that has seen numerous clashes in recent days. Further unrest is likely in the near-term. For essential travel to rural areas, avoid travel after dark and move only in convoy with a security escort.

On January 21, 2021, President Faustin-Archange Touadéra announced that a 15-day state of emergency would be in effect due to the deteriorating security situation amid ongoing fighting between United Nations (U.N.)-backed pro-government troops and anti-government rebels. The country’s airspace is closed to flights operated by foreign governments and NGOs. Rebel forces now control two-thirds of the country and have surrounded the capital Bangui. The fighting has continued to intensify ahead of a second vote on February 14, 2021, determining the final make-up for the country’s National Assembly.

Avoid all but essential travel to the Central African Republic. Have appropriate personal security measures in place if travel to CAR is required.

Country Overview:

China has gone from being the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic to now representing a fraction of global cases. Although the respiratory disease spread to most parts of China, as well as 185 other countries around the world, including the U.S., China has been extremely effective in containing the spread of the virus. Restrictions on internal movement have started to relax but international travel restrictions remain rigorous as new global cases still continue to rise. Authorities announced that all individuals who entered Beijing from abroad since December 10, 2020, will be tested for COVID-19 until further notice. Following a cluster outbreak of COVID-19 in Beijing’s Daxing district on January 17, 2021, the section has remained under lockdown and the Tiangong Yuan station in the Daxing district was closed.

Exercise increased caution in the People's Republic of China (PRC) due to arbitrary enforcement of local laws for purposes other than maintaining law and order. This arbitrary enforcement may include detention and the use of exit bans without due process of the law. Foreigners are also strongly advised to be aware of their surroundings and avoid demonstrations.

U.S. citizens traveling or residing in the PRC, including Hong Kong, may be detained without access to U.S. consular services or information about their alleged crime. U.S. citizens may be subjected to prolonged interrogations and extended detention without due process of law. Foreigners in the PRC, including but not limited to business personnel, former foreign government personnel, and journalists from Western countries, have been arbitrarily interrogated and detained by PRC officials for alleged violations of PRC national security laws. The PRC has also threatened, interrogated, detained, and expelled U.S. citizens living and working in the PRC. Security personnel may detain and/or deport U.S. citizens for sending private electronic messages critical of the PRC government.

Flight restrictions remain in place due to COVID-19. All permitted travelers are required to Quarantine for 14 days and provide a negative PCR test.

Hong Kong
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

Hong Kong poses a high risk to personal safety. Authorities from mainland China have enacted a National Security Law in the territory which effectively allows mainland authorities direct control over individuals (local and foreign) as well as businesses in Hong Kong, who are perceived to be engaging in acts of secession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign or external forces. The law came into effect at 23:00 local time on June 30. Currently, the full text of the law is unknown.

The law permits Chinese authorities to establish a security office in Hong Kong, staffed with its own personnel, which is not under the jurisdiction of Hong Kong authorities. Beijing will control the commission tasked to enforce the law in the territory, and it will give authority to the Beijing appointed Chief Executive to appoint judges in charge of hearing cases related to the law. The effect of this could cripple judicial autonomy. The law also supersedes any contradictory Hong Kong law, and Beijing has absolute authority in how the law is interpreted. Critics view the law as Beijing’s method of preventing wide-scale protest action in the territory, as seen in 2019 which stymied a law that would have permitted Chinese authorities to extradite suspects to face trial in the mainland. It is also viewed internationally as a breach of the ‘One Country, Two Systems’ approach that has underpinned the territory and was a core aspect of the handover of Hong Kong from the U.K. to China.

Hong Kong authorities have begun a Beijing driven campaign to stifle the pro-democracy movement ahead of the upcoming elections. Many candidates from the pro-democracy camp have been subject to arrest and been barred from running for office.

It is advised that travel to Hong Kong be avoided until further information regarding the scope of the national security law is known. In the event of travel, travelers are advised to avoid making statements or becoming involved in any actions that may be deemed a threat or in violation of the national security law.

Iran
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in Iran is highly dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. Travel to Iran is not advised due to the risk of arbitrary arrest and detention. Iran is also experiencing one of the highest incidences of COVID-19 in the Middle East. The risk of community transmission is high and extreme caution is advised. Iran has begun lifting its lockdown and resuming business activity.

Country Summary: U.S. citizens visiting or residing in Iran have been kidnapped, arrested, and detained on spurious charges. Iranian authorities continue to unjustly detain and imprison U.S. citizens, particularly dual national Iranian-Americans including students, journalists, business travelers, and academics—on charges including espionage and posing a threat to national security. Iranian authorities routinely delay consular access to detained U.S. citizens and consistently deny consular access to dual U.S.-Iranian citizens. The U.S. government does not have diplomatic or consular relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The U.S. government is unable to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Iran.

It is advised that all visitors to Iran avoid travel to border areas surrounding Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq.

Defer non-essential travel to regions bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan, including Sistan and Baluchistan province and areas east of Bam in Kerman province until further notice due to the risk of violent unrest and cross-border clashes. Visitors to eastern border regions are strongly advised to avoid loitering in the vicinity of military checkpoints, outposts, and personnel. For extended travel between cities consider contracting a reputable local guide. Immediately report suspicious behavior and packages to local authorities. Be aware of traveling in convoy; the Iranian military regularly disguises troop movements by transporting them in unmarked vehicles, making convoys an attractive target for militants.

Iraq
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

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

On December 31, 2019, the Embassy suspended public consular services until further notice due to damage done by Iranian-backed terrorist attacks on the Embassy compound. U.S. Consulate General in Erbil remains open and continues to provide consular assistance. In mid-October 2018, the Department of State ordered the suspension of operations at the U.S. Consulate General in Basra. That institution remains closed. Due to security concerns, U.S. Embassy personnel in Baghdad have been instructed not to use Baghdad International Airport. On February 16, a U.S.-led coalition military base in Baghdad was hit by several blasts early on Sunday from an apparent rocket attack. It is unknown if the attack caused any casualties or significant damage.

Avoid areas near the Turkish, Syrian, and Iranian borders. There are continuous military operations against insurgent groups in the regions bordering Iraq, and armed conflict at the Syrian border. U.S. citizens should not travel through Iraq to Syria to engage in armed conflict, where they would face extreme personal risks (kidnapping, injury, or death) and legal risks (arrest, fines, and expulsion). The Kurdistan Regional Government stated that it would impose prison sentences of up to ten years on individuals who illegally cross the border. Additionally, fighting on behalf of, or supporting designated terrorist organizations, is a crime that can result in penalties, including prison time and large fines in the United States.

Iraqi authorities have reopened airports to international flights with travelers required to perform a COVID-19 test 48 hours before the flight. Restrictions remain on public gatherings and social distancing rules are still being enforced. A limited curfew will be in effect from February 18, between 20h00 to 05h00 am daily. Malls and shops are open with restrictions, but schools, universities and mosques remain closed.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Iraq.

Country Risk Summaries Cont.

Italy
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

Italy’s security situation remains relatively safe, but travelers are advised against all travel as the threat level of COVID-19 remains extremely high despite the easing of Italy’s response to COVID-19.

Pervasive and sustained community spread was initially reported in the northern parts of Italy, including regions such as Aosta Valley, Piedmont, Liguria, Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, and Trentino-Alto Adige. Currently, COVID-19 has spread to all areas of the country which resulted in a complete lockdown. Other countries have placed restrictions on travel to and from Italy as well as introduced enhanced health screening measures for travelers returning from Italy. Terrorist groups continue to plot possible attacks in Italy which can occur with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, local government facilities, hotels, clubs. Caution is advised when traveling to tourist locations and crowded public venues.

Italy has placed restrictions on foreign travel, with constraints on point of origin, test requirements and self-isolation requirements. Masks are required in enclosed public spaces. Travel from most countries in the E.U. is permitted.

Country Overview:

Japan's security situation remains relatively safe. However, COVID-19 is still a serious concern in Tokyo and many areas of Japan. Civil disturbances, as well as violent demonstrations are rare but do occur and have the potential to turn hostile, particularly demonstrations of a pro-nationalist nature. Increased caution also needs to be exercised due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in the region.

To control the spread, Japanese authorities have put measures in place, such as quarantine and screening procedures at entry points to Japan. The country has been experiencing a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases, with the prefecture of Okinawa having declared a COVID-19 state of emergency. Japan has experienced one of the lowest mortality rates despite the limitations that prevented the government from implementing strict lockdown measures. Japan has resumed the majority of its business operations and restrictions on entry remain in effect.

Visitors to Japan may have to undergo mandatory quarantine when they return to their respective countries. Reconsider travel to Fukushima and Miyagi prefectures, particularly in and around coastal areas as well as Minamisoma, Motomiya, Shinchi, Koori, Yamamoto, Zao, Ogawara and Marumori in the near-term due to major disruptions and risk of aftershocks in the aftermath of a strong earthquake.

On February 13, a strong 7.3 magnitude offshore earthquake struck about 90km (56 miles) east-northeast of Namie, Fukushima prefecture, at around 23:07 local time (14:07 GMT), triggering widespread disruptions and damage. At least 150 people were injured, while the Shinkansen bullet train and several other rail services were suspended, parts of the Joban Expressway and multiple other roads were closed, and water supply and electricity were temporarily cut in thousands of properties across Fukushima and Miyagi prefectures due to infrastructure damage caused by the earthquake.

Libya
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Libya is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Libya. Travel is unsafe due to armed conflict, terrorism, civil unrest, and crime. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of high levels of terrorist activity and crime, including kidnapping for ransom, suicide bombings, and the use of vehicle-borne or other improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Crime levels in Libya remain high, including the threat of kidnapping for ransom. Westerners and U.S. citizens have been targets of these crimes. Terrorist groups continue plotting attacks in Libya. Violent extremist activity in Libya remains high, and extremist groups have made threats against U.S. government officials and citizens. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, hotels, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, and government facilities.

Outbreaks of violence between competing armed groups can occur with little warning and have the potential to impact U.S. citizens. The capital, Tripoli, and other cities, such as Surman, Al-Jufra, Misrata, Ajdabiya, Benghazi, Sabha, and Dernah, have witnessed fighting among armed groups, as well as terrorist attacks. Hotels and airports frequented by Westerners have been the targets of these attacks. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. Militia or armed groups sometimes detain travelers for arbitrary reasons, do not grant detainees access to a lawyer or a legal process, and do not allow detainees to inform others of their status. U.S. citizens should carry proof of citizenship and valid immigration status at all times, but having these documents does not guarantee fair treatment.

On March 10, 2021, the Parliament approved the formation of a unity government to be led by Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah to replace the internationally recognized government in Tripoli and a rival government in Tobruk. The move is part of an ongoing United Nations (U.N.)-sponsored peace process. Defer non-essential travel to Libya. Travelers are advised to take advantage of commercial flights while they are operating.

Some international and national airports are closed, and flights out of operational airports are sporadic and may be canceled without warning. The U.S. government is very concerned about the targeting of commercial transportation in Libya and prohibits U.S. commercial aviation operations within Libyan airspace.

The U.S. government is unable to provide emergency or routine assistance to U.S. citizens in Libya, as the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli suspended its operations in July 2014.

Mali
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Mali is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Mali, if possible. Travel is unsafe due to political instability, crime, and terrorism. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity and violent crime such as kidnapping and armed robbery.

Violent crime, such as kidnapping and armed robbery, is common in Mali. Violent crime is a particular concern during local holidays and seasonal events in Bamako, its suburbs, and Mali’s southern regions. Roadblocks and random police checkpoints are commonplace throughout the country, especially at night. Terrorists and armed groups continue plotting kidnappings and attacks in Mali. They may attack with little or no warning, targeting nightclubs, hotels, restaurants, places of worship, Western diplomatic missions, and other locations frequented by foreigners. The U.S. government is unable to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in the northern and central regions of Mali as U.S. government employee travel to these regions is restricted due to security concerns.

On August 18, 2020, President Keïta resigned and dissolved Parliament following a military takeover. After weeks of protest that saw deadly clashes between demonstrators and government forces, some mutinous soldiers forcibly arrested Mali’s once-popular President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta at gunpoint. Following the military coup, there was an implementation of sanctions against Bamako by the 15-member ECOWAS, a nationwide curfew from 9:00 pm to 5:00 am, and the closure of Malian air and land borders until further notice. Civilian and military authorities have since agreed to a timetable that will see elections held and the transfer of power to civilian authorities.

ECOWAS lifted sanctions and travel restrictions on October 6, 2020, after a transition government, led by Colonel Bah Ndaw as interim President and Foreign Minister Moctar Ouane as Prime Minister, was installed with an 18-month mandate to hold new elections.

Anti-government unrest is expected to continue, arising out over a host of issues. These include national strikes by police and teachers’ unions, arrests of anti-corruption activists, allegations of voter fraud in the March legislative elections, inter-communal clashes in northern and central regions, and the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

North Korea
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation remains volatile on the Korean peninsula, and political tensions involving North Korea can change with little notice and with no warning. This poses an extreme risk to visitors.

Travel is unsafe due to the serious risk of arrest and long-term detention. In addition, U.S. passports are not valid for travel to, in, or through North Korea without a specific validation from the U.S. Department of State. Special validations are granted only in limited circumstances.

North Korea raised tensions in June 2020, with threats to retaliate over what it says is Seoul’s refusal to crack down on defector groups. North Korea's military also threatened to move back into zones that were demilitarized under inter-Korean peace agreements, as the communist country continued to dial up pressure on South Korea. During the tensions, North Korea blew up an inter-Korean liaison office building on June 16, 2020.

The U.S. government is unable to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in North Korea as it does not have diplomatic or consular relations with North Korea. Sweden serves as the protecting power for the United States in North Korea, providing limited emergency services. The North Korean government routinely delays or denies Swedish officials’ access to detained U.S. citizens.

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

Country Overview:

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

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

Violent crime, such as kidnapping and murder, is common throughout Somalia, including Puntland and Somaliland. Illegal roadblocks are also widespread. A number of schools acting as "cultural rehabilitation" facilities are operating throughout Somalia with unknown licensing and oversight. Reports of physical abuse and people being held against their will in these facilities are common.

Terrorists continue to plot kidnappings, bombings, and other attacks in Somalia. They may conduct attacks with little or no warning, targeting airports and seaports, government buildings, hotels, restaurants, shopping areas, and other areas where large crowds gather and Westerners frequent, as well as government, military, and Western convoys. Methods of attack can include car bombs, suicide bombers, individual attackers, and mortar fire, among others.

Civil unrest occurs throughout Somalia and can sometimes be violent. Pirates are active in the waters off the Horn of Africa, especially in Somalia’s international waters. The U.S. government has extremely limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Somalia due to the lack of permanent consular presence in Somalia.

South Korea
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in South Korea is highly dangerous due to the level of community transmission of the COVID-19 coronavirus and the imposition of local quarantine procedures. Following the Coronavirus outbreak in South Korea, the cities of Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan were declared by local authorities as "special care zones" and all travel to these cities must be avoided to avoid contracting the disease.

The South Korean government had previously reported high rates of new cases of the COVID-19 in the country and had upgraded its response level to "grave", its highest response level. The rate of spread has been reduced resulting in the government easing restrictions for local movement and economic industry resumption. Risk around a secondary wave of cases remains high after a surge in new infections were reported in the capital city of Seoul on May 10. Travelers are advised to remain cautious and follow government health advice.

If suspected to have COVID-19 in South Korea, you may face travel delays, quarantine, and expensive medical costs. The cities of Daegu and Cheongdo pose the highest risk of COVID-19 and travel to these regions is not advised.

Due to increasing threats by North Korea, South Korea has said that that it will respond with strong action if North Korea keeps raising tensions after Pyongyang blew up a liaison office in the border town of Kaesong. It comes after days of threats of military action by the North Korean leadership. The security risk from this country can change with little or no warning. Please check local and international news during your stay.

South Sudan
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in South Sudan is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to crime and armed conflict. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of armed clashes, border disputes, ethnic violence, and crime, including carjacking, shootings, ambushes, assaults, robberies, and kidnappings. Travelers to South Sudan should ensure that they have comprehensive contingency plans that do not depend on support from the Embassy.

Foreign nationals have been the victims of rape, sexual assault, armed robberies, and other violent crimes. Armed conflict is ongoing throughout the country and includes fighting between various political and ethnic groups, and weapons are readily available to the population. Journalist work is also highly dangerous and illegal without the proper documentation.

South Sudanese authorities have announced the closure of land borders, stay at home orders, travel restrictions and other emergency conditions until further notice due to COVID-19.

It is advised to avoid all travel to South Sudan.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 10,255 - Deaths: 112 - Recovered: 9,779 - Active: 364
**Sudan**

**Risk Level:** Extreme

**Country Overview:**

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

Crime, such as kidnapping, armed robbery, home invasion, and carjacking can occur. This type of crime is more frequent outside of Khartoum. Members of known terrorist groups and individuals sympathetic to these groups in Sudan could attack with little or no warning, targeting foreign and local government facilities and areas frequented by Westerners. Demonstrations can occur with no warning. The majority of recent demonstrations in Khartoum have been peaceful. However, police and other security forces may intervene to disperse demonstrators, including with the use of tear gas, when protests occur near key governmental locations and/or impair freedom of movement.

Violence continues along the border between Chad and Sudan and areas near the border with South Sudan (including the disputed Abyei area). Armed opposition groups are active in Central Darfur state. Intercommunal clashes can occur throughout the country and can result in the declaration of localized States of Emergency. The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens outside of Khartoum, as U.S. government employees must obtain special authorization from the Sudanese government to travel outside Khartoum.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Sudan.

**COVID-19 Update:** Confirmed: 30,111 - Deaths: 2,063 - Recovered: 24,214 - Active: 3,834
**Syria**

**Risk Level:** Extreme

**Country Overview:**

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

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

The U.S. Embassy in Damascus suspended its operations in February 2012. The Czech Republic serves as the protecting power for the United States in Syria. The range of consular services that the Czech Republic provides to U.S. citizens is extremely limited (to include accepting applications for U.S. passports and U.S. Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, as well as providing notarial services), and the U.S. government is unable to provide any emergency services to U.S. citizens in Syria. U.S. citizens in Syria who seek consular services should try to leave the country and contact a U.S. embassy or consulate in a neighboring country quickly and safely.

Long standing conflict with neighboring states and porous borders have contributed to a complex and unpredictable security environment. There is an ongoing risk of kidnapping and detentions of U.S. citizens and Westerners throughout the country. U.S. citizens remain a target, with many abductions having occurred since mid-2012 and as recently as early 2019. U.S. citizens are also targets of arbitrary abduction and detention by the Syrian government and while in detention do not have access to due process or medical attention. Government detention centers are known to be unsanitary facilities where cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment of detainees has been documented, as well as torture and extrajudicial killings.

Some international commercial flights to and from Damascus International Airport are now operational. It is, however, advised to avoid all travel to Syria.

Venezuela
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Venezuela is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to ongoing political instability, crime, poor health infrastructure, and the arbitrary arrest and detention of foreign nationals. Political marches and demonstrations, which occasionally become violent, are frequent in all areas, and crimes, such as homicide, armed robbery, kidnapping, drug trafficking, and carjacking, are common.

Demonstrations typically elicit a strong police and security force response that includes the use of tear gas, pepper spray, water cannons, and rubber bullets against participants and occasionally devolve into looting and vandalism. The United Nations Human Rights Council's Fact-Finding Mission reported that the regime has engaged in thousands of extrajudicial killings.

In addition, some of Venezuela's land and sea borders are subject to closure. U.S. citizens residing or traveling in Venezuela are advised to depart the country. Consular access to detained U.S. citizens is severely restricted and the U.S. government is highly unlikely to be granted access. Security forces have arbitrarily detained U.S. citizens for long periods. Venezuelan authorities may not notify the U.S. government of the detention of a U.S. citizen.

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

Cases of the coronavirus in Venezuela have been reported and the government of Venezuela imposed strict confinement measures. After months of a COVID-19 lockdown, which halted one of the world's biggest migration movements in recent years, October 9 saw thousands of Venezuelans begin to flee their nation's economic and humanitarian crisis.

There are shortages of food, electricity, water, medicine, and medical supplies throughout much of Venezuela and it is advised to avoid all non-essential travel.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 164,337 - Deaths: 1,647 - Recovered: 150,374 - Active: 12,316
Yemen
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

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

The U.S. Embassy in Sana’a suspended its operations in February 2015, and the U.S. government is unable to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens. Cholera is also present throughout Yemen, and the provision of adequate medical supplies is either extremely limited or unavailable.

There is a very high risk of kidnapping, and detention of U.S. citizens in Yemen, particularly dual national Yemeni-Americans. Rebel groups in Sana’a have detained U.S. citizens, including dual Yemeni-American citizens. U.S. citizens, including dual nationals, have faced difficulty – including lengthy delays – when attempting to depart Yemen.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Yemen.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 4,697 - Deaths: 932 - Recovered: 1,715 - Active: 2,050
Algeria
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

The Algerian government has started to ease the measures it has taken to limit the spread of COVID-19 by allowing more businesses to reopen and allowing public transportation in cities to resume. The lifting of restrictions will be gradual and dependent on the evolution of COVID-19 cases in Algeria. Non-cargo international air and maritime travel remain closed. Masks are required in public spaces.

Azerbaijan
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

Azerbaijan and Armenia have seen the worst fighting in decades over the Nagorno-Karabakh disputed territory with reports of over 1,000 civilian casualties. On November 9, 2020, a peace deal was signed by Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, after six weeks of fighting between Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenians. Effective from November 10, the peace deal aims to resolve the dispute, but is being seen as a win for Azerbaijan. The region is internationally recognized as Azerbaijani but has been governed by ethnic Armenians since 1994. Approximately 100,000 people have been displaced in Nagorno-Karabakh since the conflict re-erupted on September 27, 2020.

Casualties continue to occur in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Intermittent gunfire and occasional use of artillery systems, including land mines and mortars, result in deaths and injuries each year. Avoid roads near the ‘line of contact’ and roads near the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The U.S. government is unable to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Nagorno-Karabakh as U.S. government employees are restricted from traveling there.

Travelers are advised to avoid all travel to Nagorno-Karabakh and its surrounding regions. Due to COVID-19, permitted travelers are required to quarantine for 14 days and undergo a COVID-19 PCR test.

Burkina Faso
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

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

Kidnapping and hostage taking is a threat throughout the country. On May 10, 2019, a hostage rescue operation freed four international hostages that had been kidnapped in Burkina Faso and in neighboring Benin.

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

Burkina Faso held general elections on November 22, 2020. Political unrest, demonstrations, and violence may occur following the election. There were a number of large political rallies scheduled in Ouagadougou and around the country in the days before the election and it is possible that they may continue to ensue. It is encouraged to exercise caution in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, and election events.

Country Risk Summaries Cont.

**Burma (Myanmar)**
Risk Level: **Moderate Risk**

**Country Overview:**

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to Rakhine State due to civil unrest and armed conflict. Travel to townships in Chin State, Kayin State, Kachin State and Shan State is not advised due to civil unrest and armed conflict. Travelers should avoid areas bordering China, Laos, Thailand, Bangladesh, and India.

On February 1, 2021, former State Counsellor of Myanmar Aung San Suu Kyi was detained by the Myanmar military along with other senior figures from the ruling party over unsubstantiated claims of election fraud. The military has declared a state of emergency for one year and put Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in charge of the country. Since the coup, pro and anti-military rallies have been held in Yangon and Mandalay daily and often escalate into violence, with security forces regularly firing live ammunition at protestors. Hundreds of protestors having been killed, including children, resulting in widespread international condemnation. Travelers are advised to avoid all protests.

Beginning January 1, 2021, some incoming international flights will resume. Entry into Myanmar is dependent upon proof of a negative COVID-19 test no older than 72 hours. The government requires a 7-day quarantine in a government facility and then a further 7-day self-isolation at home. Masks are required in all public places.

**COVID-19 Update:** Confirmed: 142,479 - Deaths: 3,206 - Recovered: 131,810 - Active: 7,463
Burundi
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

Medical services in Burundi fall well below U.S. standards, and there are no adequate trauma services in the country. Emergency medical and fire services are limited or non-existent in some areas of the country. The CDC has also issued a Level 1 Travel Notice on Malaria in Burundi. There are ongoing political tensions in Burundi, causing sporadic violence throughout the country. Police and military checkpoints are common and can restrict freedom of movement. Police have conducted weapon searches in the homes of private citizens.

Government officials announced that international flights remain suspended, but land borders have been opened for essential travel. Permitted travelers are required to present proof of a negative test no older than 72 hours. Masks are required in public spaces.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens throughout Burundi. Due to travel restrictions on U.S. Embassy personnel, the U.S. government is unable to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in the following areas: the provinces of Bubanza and Cibitoke, Kibira National Park (including the park’s southernmost part in Muramvya province), and Ruvubu and Buriri Forest.

Cameroon
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

The Southern Cameroons Defence Forces (SOCADEF) announced a two-week ceasefire effective from March 29 amid the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. The Ambazonia Defence Forces (ADF) militia was not immediately expected to also join the ceasefire in the Anglophone Southwest and Northwest regions. Limit outdoor exposure and exercise caution in the Anglophone Southwest and Northwest regions. Tensions remain high and further unrest is likely.

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

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in North, Far North, Northwest, Southwest, and Parts of Adamawa and East Regions of Cameroon due to current official travel restrictions.

Chad
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

The U.S. Government has extremely limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Chad as U.S. Government employees must obtain special authorization to travel outside of the capital, including the Lake Chad Basin.

Country Overview:

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

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

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens as U.S. government personnel cannot travel to these areas because of security restrictions and limited domestic travel options.

Congo (Republic of)
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

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

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

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens outside Brazzaville.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 9,681 - Deaths: 135 - Recovered: 8,208 - Active: 1,338
Cuba
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

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

Travelers to Cuba may experience border closures, airport closures, travel prohibitions, stay at home orders, business closures, and other emergency conditions within Cuba due to COVID-19. It is advised to avoid Hotel Nacional and Hotel Capri in Havana. If you experience any unusual acute auditory or sensory phenomena, immediately move to another area.

The U.S. has declared Cuba a state sponsor of terrorism and has imposed sanctions over human rights violations. All travelers wishing to enter Cuba are required to quarantine for 14 days due to COVID-19. Upon arrival, travelers will have to undergo a PCR test as well as a temperature screening.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is highly dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to the DRC due to civil unrest and crime. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of the activities of rebels and other armed groups, potential civil unrest, and outbreaks of violence, including killing, rape, kidnapping, and pillaging. Avoid overland travel in rural areas in eastern Congo. Contract a private security escort with local experience for business-critical travel.

The Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) declared an outbreak of Ebola virus disease in North Kivu (Nord-Kivu) province, originating in Béni territory. On July 17, 2019, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). WHO officials reported that the Ebola death toll had reached more than 2,000. To control the spread of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) authorities have established health checkpoints throughout the Nord-Kivu, Ituri, and Sud-Kivu Provinces, including in the cities of Goma, Beni, and Butembo and in Virunga National Park. New checkpoints may be created with little notice. Medical workers combating the spread of Ebola have come under attack in the DRC. Perpetrators are sometimes members of terrorist groups, but the motives for these attacks are often unknown. The country is also experiencing an outbreak of measles. There have been over 180,000 suspected cases with nearly 3,600 deaths, mostly children under five.

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

The U.S. government has extremely limited ability to provide emergency consular services to U.S. citizens outside of Kinshasa due to poor infrastructure and security conditions.

Country Overview:

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

Reports indicate a recent increase in violent crime in Guayaquil, including multiple targeted assassinations and attempted assassinations against port employees. There has been a recent increase in violent crime in southern region of Guayaquil as well. Any official personnel traveling to the port should take additional security.

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

Transnational crime groups operating in Esmeraldas's province have engaged in violent crime and killed local citizens in addition to carrying out bombings targeting Ecuadorian military and law enforcement. The U.S. government is limited in its ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in the Colombian border area, as U.S. government personnel cannot travel to the provinces of Esmeraldas, Carchi, and Sucumbios without permission from the Embassy's security office. However, U.S. government personnel are permitted to travel to the northern bank of the Napo River in Sucumbios, an area approximately four miles wide, and the portion of Esmeraldas province that is south of Esmeraldas city.

Egypt
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

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

Egyptian authorities have halted international air travel and closed schools, universities, churches, mosques, and archaeological sites. Follow all official directives. Immediately consult a doctor if experiencing symptoms such as fever and difficulty breathing.

Local law prohibits protesting or demonstrating without a permit. Being near anti-government protests can draw scrutiny from Egyptian police and security forces. U.S. citizens have been detained for participating in protests and for posting content on social media perceived as critical of Egypt or its allies.

The U.S. Embassy may have a limited ability to provide consular services to dual U.S.-Egyptian citizens. Egyptian law considers dual citizens to be Egyptian citizens.

Eritrea
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

On Saturday November 14, three rockets were fired at Asmara and seemed to have been aimed at the capital’s airport. The leader of Ethiopia’s northern Tigray region confirmed, on the following Sunday, that his forces fired the missiles. There has been a long-standing feud between Eritrea and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF), and there is a possibility that Eritrea could be drawn into the conflict between Tigray and Ethiopia, creating widespread concern for war escalation and further retaliation.

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

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Eritrea, as U.S. government employees must obtain special authorization to travel outside of Asmara. Eritrean law enforcement officials routinely block access to foreign nationals in detention. The U.S. Embassy therefore may not receive notification or be allowed access to you if you are detained or arrested.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 3,334 - Deaths: 10 - Recovered: 3,058 - Active: 266
Ethiopia
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has ordered the military to strike back against the northern Tigray state after accusing the state of attacking a government defense post, on November 7, 2020. The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) has posed a serious threat to Abiy and the Ethiopian government who fear that an uprising could possibly result in a civil war. The conflict has killed hundreds and has seen at least 14,500 Ethiopian refugees flee from northern Tigray to shelter in Sudan.

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

The Government of Ethiopia has restricted or shut down internet, cellular data, and phone services during and after civil unrest. These restrictions impede the U.S. Embassy’s ability to communicate with, and provide consular services to, U.S. citizens in Ethiopia. The U.S. Embassy has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens outside of Addis Ababa.

Georgia
Risk Level: Low Risk

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and limit all but essential travel to areas near the Administrative Boundary Lines with Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Entering these Russian occupied territories will likely result in arrest, imprisonment, and/or a fine.

Local authorities indicated that all public transport was suspended and moving around cities and towns for non-emergency reasons, were banned in the region of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti due to COVID-19. Checkpoints will be set up at borders between municipalities to control vehicular traffic and military, police and health personnel will reinforce directives; vehicles with more than three people - one driver and two passengers - will be stopped.

The U.S. government is unable to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens traveling in South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Haiti
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in Haiti is unstable and extremely dangerous. It is advised to reconsider travel to Haiti due to civil unrest and crime. There is a high risk to personal safety and security due to the widespread violent and unpredictable demonstrations in Port-au-Prince and elsewhere in the country.

Haiti has been gripped by a series of violent protests and riots since early July 2018 that has left dozens of people dead. What began as social unrest in response to a proposed government hike in fuel prices has since morphed into an anti-corruption protest campaign, with deadly violence reigniting in November 2018 and again in February and September-December 2019 with sporadic killings reported at protests throughout 2020.

Protests have erupted even during COVID-19 restrictions, and further protests are likely as tensions remain high, and protesters continue to demand the resignation of leading politicians and press for new elections. Haiti plunged deeper into a constitutional crisis on February 7, 2021, after at least 23 opposition figures, including the Inspector General of the National Police of Haiti and Supreme Court Justice Yvickel Dabrézil, were arrested on charges of organizing a coup against President Moïse. Protest clashes erupted in Port-au-Prince on February 8 amid a general strike as opposition figures appointed Supreme Court Judge Joseph Mécène Jean-Louis as an interim president, claiming that Moïse’s term ended on February 7.

It is advised to reconsider all travel to Haiti and particularly avoid the Bel Air, Carrefour, Cité Soleil, and Martissant neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince. Do not attempt to drive through roadblocks, and if you encounter a roadblock, turn around and get to a safe area. Travelers are sometimes followed and violently attacked and robbed shortly after leaving the Port-au-Prince international airport. The U.S. Embassy requires its personnel to use official transportation to and from the airport. Robbers and carjackers have attacked private vehicles stuck in heavy traffic congestion and often target lone drivers, particularly women driving alone. The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in some areas of Haiti.

Honduras
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

Preventative measures and restrictions are in place, including a nationwide curfew from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Local authorities have set specific time slots during which you can leave your home, once within a 10-day period. These are set according to your national I.D. card number. You must wear face-covering in public. If you violate the restrictions, you could be fined for endangering public health. Follow the instructions of local authorities, including those related to physical distancing. Avoid crowded areas.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Gracias a Dios.

Country Risk Summaries Cont.

India
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of India is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in India due to crime and terrorism. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist and insurgent activity, civil unrest and the potential for armed conflict, and violent crime, such as sexual assault. Following a terrorist attack in the Kashmir region on February 14, 2019, resulted in heightened tensions between India and Pakistan. On August 5, 2019, India’s government announced constitutional changes that will affect Jammu and Kashmir's internal political status. An increased security presence is now in place.

India continued to experience sporadic demonstrations from farmers who are protesting three new controversial agriculture reforms introduced by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led central government. Travelers are advised to avoid these protest locations and monitor local news sources for up to date information.

Exercise caution for travel across the country, particularly in New Delhi, Chandigarh and Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka states, in the near-term due to ongoing protests over controversial new agricultural laws. Further disruptive demonstrations are likely due to the government’s continued refusal to yield to protesters’ demands.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Jammu and Kashmir (except the Ladakh region) and the India-Pakistan border (except Atari crossing). It is also advised to limit all but essential travel to the North-eastern states (Assam, except Guwahati, Nagaland, and Manipur), Chhattisgarh, and neighboring states’ border areas.

Israel
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

Travelers to Israel should remain vigilant following the latest cross-border hostilities between Israel and Palestinians in Gaza, amid reports of a renewed Egyptian-brokered ceasefire in May of 2019. Overall violence involved militants in Gaza firing more than 600 rockets into southern Israel, with hundreds of Israeli airstrikes launched in response. Furthermore, there have been mass protests on the Gaza side of the Gaza/Israel perimeter fence since March 30, 2018. Additional Palestinian rocket launches from Gaza targeting Israel are likely to occur, as well as retaliatory Israeli airstrikes on Gaza. Missiles have also been fired towards the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights on several occasions, and Israel responded with attacks in Syria and Lebanon. It is advised to limit all but essential travel to the West Bank and within 5km of Gaza, and to avoid all travel to Gaza and the following areas of the Golan Heights: East of Route 98, Shebaa Farms, Ghajjar, and within 500m of the border with Lebanon east of Metula, including the northern edge of town.

On August 14, 2020, Israel and the United Arab Emirates announced an agreement that would see the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries. This makes the UAE only the third Arab nation to formally recognize Israel.

Jerusalem has seen days of protest against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu due to the corruption allegations against him. ‘The Pink Front’ protesters have been drawing thousands of people to participate in anti-Netanyahu demonstrations demanding that he quit. The protests have been relatively peaceful, but travelers should expect increased security in the vicinity of protests.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 834,070 - Deaths: 6,236 - Recovered: 821,748 - Active: 6,086
Kenya
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some areas of Kenya is highly dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to exercise increased caution in Kenya due to terrorism, health issues and crime. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist attacks and violent crimes, such as armed carjacking, mugging, home invasion, and kidnapping. From January 15, 2019, the Islamic militant group Al-Shabaab attacked the DusitD2 complex in Nairobi, killing more than 20 people and injuring dozens more. U.S. State Department has warned that credible information indicates that westerners may be targeted by extremists in Nairobi, coastal areas of Kenya, and the towns of Naivasha and Nanyuki.

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

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

Lebanon
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

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

Since October 17, 2019, Lebanon witnesses frequent demonstrations by protesters seeking changes in government. While some protests have been peaceful, most have involved violence. U.S. citizens should avoid demonstrations and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings or protests. During the current period of civil unrest, protesters have blocked major roads, including the primary road to the U.S. Embassy and the primary road between downtown Beirut and Rafiq Hariri International Airport. Violent clashes have been continuous in Tripoli and Beirut and throughout Lebanon.

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

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

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

The Lebanese government cannot guarantee the protection of U.S. citizens against sudden outbreaks of violence. Family, neighborhood, or sectarian disputes can escalate quickly and can lead to gunfire.
or other violence with no warning. Armed clashes have occurred along the Lebanese borders, in Beirut, and in refugee settlements. The Lebanese Armed Forces have been brought in to quell the violence in these situations.

**Mauritania**

Risk Level: High Risk

**Country Overview:**

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

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

The government of Mauritania designates certain areas off-limits to foreigners and most Mauritanians. These “No Movement Zones” are extremely dangerous due to their proximity to Mali, where armed groups engaged in an active insurgency carry out cross-border attacks into Mauritania. Negative PCR test results are required upon entry.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Mauritania as U.S. government employees must obtain special authorization to travel outside Nouakchott.

Mexico
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to Colima state, Guerrero state, Michoacán state, Sinaloa state, and Tamaulipas state. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to Chihuahua state, Coahuila state, Durango state, Estado de México state, Jalisco state, Morelos state, Nayarit state, Nuevo León state, San Luis Potosí state, Sonora state, and Zacatecas state. Violent crime – such as homicide, kidnapping, carjacking, and robbery is widespread. Armed criminal groups have been known to target and rob commercial vessels, oil platforms, and offshore supply vessels in the Bay of Campeche.

Mexico is experiencing high levels of COVID-19 infections and has registered amongst the highest in the world for deaths, as a result of the virus. Stay-at-home orders have been lifted in some areas and some transportation and business operations have resumed. Travelers are advised against travel to Mexico.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 2,249,195 - Deaths: 204,011 - Recovered: 1,785,643 - Active: 259,541
**Niger**  
**Risk Level:** High Risk

**Country Overview:**

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

On April 2, 2021, Niger swore in a new president, heralding the first democratic transfer of power. President Mohamed Bazoum took office from Mahmadou Issoufou, who honored the constitution and stepped down after two terms allowing for the first peaceful transfer of power since the country attained independence in 1960.

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

Limited international flights have resumed. Entry is dependent upon proof of a negative COVID-19 test. Land borders remain closed. The country remains under lockdown, but schools and business activity have resumed under strict hygiene measures. Face masks are required on public transport and in public spaces.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in remote and rural areas as U.S. government employees must obtain special authorization to travel outside of the capital.

**COVID-19 Update:** Confirmed: 5,028 - Deaths: 188 - Recovered: 4,669 - Active: 171
Nigeria
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in Nigeria is highly dangerous, and specific parts of the country are extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Nigeria due to crime, terrorism, and piracy. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of the threat posed by extremist organizations, kidnappings, and violent crimes, such as armed robbery, assault, carjacking, and rape. Since October 13, 2020, multiple demonstrations have occurred nationwide to include areas within Lagos and Abuja's districts, protesting Nigeria's Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). Although most demonstrations are peaceful, some have become violent and have shut down major thoroughfares and bridges. Travelers should exercise caution, monitor local media, and avoid crowds or demonstrations. Nigeria has also been experiencing weeks of renewed protests and civil unrest against police brutality, since the shooting of a young Nigerian by a SARS police officer, on October 3. These protests have seen extreme violence and retaliation by police forces which have resulted in the killing of 51 civilians and 18 security forces.

Throughout 2020, the number of kidnappings in Nigeria, particularly in the northern and Middle Belt states, has steadily increased compared to previous years. From December 20, 2020, to February 17, 2021, at least 37 people were killed, and 266 others were abducted across the country. Reconsider overland travel across the country until further notice due to an ongoing spike in kidnapping-for-ransom and bandit attacks.

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

Despite the government's aggressive efforts since the virus first appeared, the number of cases in the country has continued to rise. Strict measures, including localized lockdowns targeting hotspots, curfews, and non-essential business closures, have failed to curb the viral spread and periodically triggered violent protests.

Country Overview:

The security situation in Pakistan is highly dangerous, and a significant part of the country is extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Pakistan due to terrorism. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because terrorist attacks remain frequent and political demonstrations often become violent. Travelers should continue to exercise caution, monitor news reports, and follow the advice of local authorities. On May 11, 2019, armed militants attacked the Pearl Continental Hotel in Gwadar in southern Balochistan, killing five people, including a soldier, and adding to the current tension in Pakistan-administered Kashmir areas in Punjab province.

Pakistan is experiencing a Dengue Fever outbreak, with over 47,000 recorded cases and 75 deaths. Dengue Fever, coupled with the outbreak of COVID-19, resulted in the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority extending the suspension of international flights. The Government of Pakistan started permitting commercial outbound passenger flights from all international airports, except Gwadar and Turbat, from May 30. Inbound passenger flights from the United Kingdom are temporarily suspended due to the new COVID-19 strain.

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

Terrorist groups continue plotting attacks in Pakistan. A local history of terrorism and ongoing ideological aspirations of violence by extremist elements have led to indiscriminate attacks on civilians as well as local military and police targets. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting transportation hubs, markets, shopping malls, military installations, airports, universities, tourist locations, schools, hospitals, places of worship, and government facilities. Terrorists have targeted U.S. diplomats and diplomatic facilities in the past.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Pakistan due to the security environment.

Panama
Risk Level: Low Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

Panama authorities have relaxed the movement restrictions implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19 but have enacted a daily curfew from 7:00 pm to 5:00 am, including all day Sunday. If arriving with a positive COVID-19 result, travelers will be required to quarantine for seven days and undertake another PCR test.

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in this region as U.S. government personnel must obtain prior approval before traveling there and face additional restrictions before such travel is approved.

Philippines
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to western and central Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago (including the southern Sulu Sea) because of terrorist activity and clashes between the military and insurgent groups. Limit all but essential travel to the remainder of Mindanao (excluding Camiguin, Dinagat, and Siargao Islands) and to the south of Cebu province, up to and including the municipalities of Dalaguete and Badian, due to the threat of terrorism.

Terrorist and armed groups continue plotting possible kidnappings, bombings, and other attacks in the Philippines. Terrorist and armed groups may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, markets/shopping malls, and local government facilities. The Philippine government has declared a “State of National Emergency on Account of Lawless Violence in Mindanao.”

Authorities have permitted foreign nationals with long-term visas to enter the Philippines subject to proof of a negative COVID-19 test. Quarantine measures remain in place for the Manila Metro, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal. Face masks are mandatory on public transport and in public spaces.

Russia
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

On January 23, 2021, clashes erupted nationwide between security forces and pro-Navalny protesters that have resulted in over 4,000 people arrested so far. Protests are expected to continue in major cities, with authorities restricting movement and declaring the protests illegal. It is advised to avoid all protests and concentrations of security forces.

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

Do not travel to Crimea as the international community, including the United States and Ukraine, does not recognize Russia's purported annexation of Crimea. There are continuing abuses against foreigners and the local population by the occupation authorities in Crimea, particularly against those who challenge their influence on the peninsula.

Russia enforces special restrictions on dual U.S.-Russian nationals and may refuse to acknowledge dual U.S.-Russia nationals' U.S. citizenship, including denying U.S. consular assistance to detained dual nationals, and preventing their departure from Russia. Due to the Russian government-imposed reduction on U.S. diplomatic personnel in Russia, the U.S. government may have delayed the ability to provide services to U.S. citizens, especially in the Saint Petersburg area.

Russia has begun easing the restrictions put in place to combat the spread of COVID-19. Russia has restricted entry to most foreign nationals with the exception of medical specialists and members of diplomatic missions.

Saudi Arabia
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

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

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

Regional actor’s hostile to Saudi Arabia have conducted destructive and sometimes lethal attacks against a variety of targets including critical infrastructure, military facilities, airports, and energy facilities throughout the country, as well as vessels in Red Sea shipping lanes. Riyadh, Yanbu, areas in proximity to Jeddah, the civilian airport in Abha, military installations in the south, and specific oil and gas facilities are examples of recent targets. The Islamic Republic of Iran has supplied Yemen-based Houthis and other regional proxy groups with weapons, including drones, missiles, and rockets. Houthi militants continue to plan and conduct attacks against locations in Saudi Arabia. Violence associated with Iran-supported groups represents a significant threat. U.S. citizens living and working near military bases and critical civilian infrastructure, particularly in the Eastern Province and areas near the border with Yemen, are at heightened risk of missile and drone attack.

International flights remain suspended until early 2021 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Domestic flights and internal travel also remain suspended. Officials also told employees in all non-essential sectors to continue to work from home. Comply with all directives issued by authorities. Immediately consult a doctor if experiencing symptoms such as fever/difficulty breathing.

Tunisia
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

Tunisian security forces clashed with demonstrators in several cities for four consecutive nights from January 18, 2021. The towns affected include Ettadhamen and other areas of Tunis, as well as Sfax, Gafsa, Le Kef, Bizerte, Kasserine, Sousse, and Monastir. The protests were sparked by economic hardship in the country that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Around 1,000 people have been detained since the protests began.

Further demonstrations and clashes are likely to occur in urban hubs in the near-term, including Tunis. Avoid all protest gatherings due to the risk of incidental violence. Comply with all directives, including curfew orders, seek shelter at the first signs of unrest and monitor local media for situational updates.

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

The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in some areas of Tunisia.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 258,335 - Deaths: 8,931 - Recovered: 218,775 - Active: 30,629
Turkey
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

Authorities have reopened the land, sea, and air borders of the country. Any travelers displaying symptoms are required to submit to a PCR test and quarantine if the test is positive. Face masks are mandatory in public spaces.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 258,335 - Deaths: 8,931 - Recovered: 218,775 - Active: 30,629
Ukraine
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

Crime targeting foreigners and property is common. Demonstrations, which have turned violent at times, regularly occur throughout Ukraine, including in Kyiv. Politically targeted assassinations and bombings have also occurred. There are reports of violent attacks on minority groups and police by radical groups.

The U.S. government prohibits its employees from traveling to Crimea and is unable to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Crimea.

In response to the recent sharp increase of COVID-19 cases in Ukraine, U.S. Embassy Kyiv has suspended routine American Citizen services until further notice. However, the government of Ukraine has announced the gradual easing of certain COVID-19 quarantine measures under an “adaptive quarantine” plan, according to which services and institutions will reopen in stages.