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 January 10, 2021

Latest Update(s): Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Hong Kong, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan.

- **Afghanistan**: On January 9, initial reports indicated that at least one person was injured at the Aria town area in Kabul's Police District (PD) 10 during morning hours local time, due to an explosion targeting a vehicle.

- **Burkina Faso**: On January 6, local sources reported that at least three people were killed, and several others wounded when unidentified bandits attacked the market centre in Guelwongo, Ziou department, Nahouri province, Centre-Sud region, on the Burkina-Faso-Ghana border.

- **Cameroon**: On January 8, local sources indicated that at least 12 people were killed after Boko Haram suicide attack in the vicinity of Mozogo, Mayo-Tsanaga department, Far North region, during early morning hours on 7 January.

- **Central African Republic**: On January 3, local media reported that Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) rebels occupied parts of Bangassou, Mbomou prefecture, during morning hours local time amid ongoing clashes with United Nations (UN) and government forces.

- **Chad**: On January 4, local sources indicated that at least 14 people were killed, and 17 others were injured following clashes between herders and farmers in Mourraye, Salamat, on 1-2 January. Retaliatory violence is possible in the near-term.

- **Eritrea**: On January 6, media reports indicated that heavy fighting was underway between the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and Eritrean troops near Endabaguna and Kisadgaba in the Tigray region since 5 January.

- **Hong Kong**: On January 5, local sources indicated that around 50 pro-democracy activists and former lawmakers from the opposition Democratic Party, including Occupy Central co-founder Benny Tai, and James To, Lam Cheuk-ting, Andrew Wan, Alvin Yeung and Wu Chi-wai, were arrested across Hong Kong, on charges of subversion activities in violation of the national security law.

- **Iraq**: On January 8, local media indicated that an explosion targeted a logistics convoy belonging to the United States (US)-led coalition forces in Yusufiyah, Baghdad governorate, during evening hours local time, while a similar incident was also reported nearly simultaneously in Samawah, Muthanna governorate. No casualties were immediately reported in either attack, both of which were claimed by the Shi'a Militant group Qassim al-Jabarin Brigade.
▪ **Italy**: On January 5, updated reports indicated that a ban on inter-regional travel will remain in effect until at least 15 January to contain the spread of COVID-19. Only those travelling for work and emergencies will be exempt from the measure.

▪ **Japan**: On January 8, local sources reported power outages in around 49,100 properties across Akita city, Hoppo, Noshiro, Katagami, Oga, Mitane and Ogata in Akita prefecture, and in around 1,800 properties across Nagaoka and Niigata city in Niigata prefecture, at around 07:00 local time (22:00 GMT, 7 January) due to power grid damages from a snowstorm.

▪ **Lebanon**: On January 7, government officials ordered the implementation of a nationwide lockdown from 7 January until 1 February, due to rising COVID-19 infections. During this time, a nightly 18:00-05:00 local time (16:00-03:00 GMT) curfew will be in effect as well as non-essential business closures, among other restrictions.

▪ **Mali**: On January 8, military officials indicated that at least six French soldiers were wounded when a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (SVBIED) targeted a convoy in Isey Forest, located 50km (31 miles) southeast of Hombori, Mopti region, during morning hours local time. Officials suspected the attack was carried out by al-Qaeda-linked Katiba Serma militants.

▪ **Mexico**: On January 8, Interjet employees represented by the Mexican Workers’ Confederation (CTM) union launched an indefinite strike and rallied at the company’s premises at Terminal 1 of Mexico City Airport (MEX/MMMX) from 12:48 local time (18:48 GMT) over unpaid salaries and benefits. Interjet flights are suspended until at least 31 January due to lack of funds for jet fuel payments.

▪ **Niger**: On January 8, authorities announced on 4 January that they will deploy additional security forces to Tillabéri region along the border with Mali in response to the deadly attacks on Zaroumdareye and Tchomo Bangou, Mangaizé, Ouallam department, which took place on 2 January and left at least 100 killed.

▪ **Nigeria**: On January 6, local sources indicated that one person was killed and at least 20 people were abducted when unknown men carried out an attack in the Gadabuke area of Toto local government area (LGA) in Nasarawa during afternoon hours local time on 5 January.

▪ **Pakistan**: On January 7, National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA) officials announced that unidentified militants were planning an attack on an unspecified government target in Karachi, Sindh province, in the near-term. Further details were not immediately available.

▪ **Philippines**: On January 9, heavy rain triggered floods and landslides in parts of Sorsogon and Catanduanes provinces in Bicol region on 8 January. Landslides blocked roads in areas including barangay Osiao in Bacon district, Sorsogon City, while floods and landslides affected barangays Talisay and Bagumbayan in Bato, as well as in Panganiban and Viga.

▪ **Saudi Arabia**: On January 4, Initial reports indicated that Saudi Arabia and Qatar reached an agreement to reopen their shared air, land, and sea borders from evening hours local time, after more than three-years of closure amid a political dispute. No further details were immediately confirmed.
Sudan: On January 7, updated reports indicated that at least 17 people were killed, and 20 others injured as members of the al-Hamida tribe and South Sudanese nationals clashed near Almqans City in White Nile state over a water source on 3-4 January.

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


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

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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.

On February 29, the United States and the Taliban signed a landmark peace agreement after nearly 20 years of war. On March 2, the United States started to withdraw American troops from Afghanistan soil. In alignment with the US-Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Joint Declaration, this troop drawdown reduced the number of American forces from 12,000 to 8,600. With this announcement, the Taliban declared new attacks on Afghan forces, foiling hopes for a prolonged ceasefire.

On November 21, the Islamic State (I.S., formerly ISIS) claimed responsibility for an attack on Afghanistan's capital that left eight dead and several dozen injured after a total of 23 rockets hit targets across Kabul. This attack occurred nearly three weeks after I.S. killed 22 people after gunmen stormed Kabul University. The attack came just hours before U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was set to meet with Afghan and Taliban negotiators in Qatar, in the hopes of restarting stalled peace talks. The rocket barrage is just the latest in a series of deadly strikes carried out by the Islamic State in the country.

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.

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.

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

Avoid all but essential travel to central Bangui between the Airport and the Oubangui River. It is advised not to travel to the rest of Bangui and the Central African Republic. Have appropriate personal security measures in place if travel to CAR is required.

The country has moved into phase two of their COVID-19 response. This leaves the country under a partial lockdown which permits the opening of places of worship and restaurants. The wearing of face masks is mandatory, large gatherings (more than 15) and physical contact are not permitted.

Country Overview:

China has gone from being the epicentre 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. On January 29, 2020, the Department of State allowed for the voluntary departure of non-emergency personnel and family members of U.S. government employees from China.

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.

China is also suffering severe flooding along the Yangtze, Yellow and Huai rivers. This has impacted the lives of millions of people and 219 people have died as a result. The flooding has also caused an estimated $29 billion in damage. Travellers are advised to exercise extreme caution in the surrounding areas and avoid travel there, if possible.

Flight restrictions remain in place due to COVID-19. All permitted travellers 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 has begun experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases and travellers can expect to see the implementation of measures to curb the spread of the virus. Hong Kong authorities have already postponed the upcoming elections until next year in response to virus fears, which many critics view as an excuse to clamp down on democratic freedoms in the city.

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, travellers 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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 9,212 - Deaths: 157 - Recovered: 8,313 - Active: 742
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. Risk of community transmission is high and extreme caution is advised. Iran has begun lifting its lockdown and resuming business activity.

On November 27, 2020, one of Iran's top leading nuclear scientists was assassinated in Absard City provoking further crisis in Iran. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has said the country would retaliate and pointed to Israel for orchestrating the attack even though Iran has provided no proof that Israel was involved.

Overall, there is an increased level of risk to personal safety and security because of the potential for widespread protests and terrorism. Moreover, there is a high probability that terrorists will attempt to carry out attacks in Iran.

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

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

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 1,280,438 - Deaths: 56,100 - Recovered: 1,067,466 - Active: 156,872
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, as a result of damage done by Iranian-backed terrorist attacks on the Embassy compound. U.S. Consulate General in Erbil remains open and continues to provide consular services. In mid-October 2018, the Department of State ordered the suspension of operations at the U.S. Consulate General in Basrah. 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.

Iraqi authorities have reopened airports to international flights with travellers required to perform a COVID-19 test 48 hours before the flight. Restrictions remain on public gathering and social distancing rules are still being enforced. A limited curfew remains in effect between 10:00 pm to 5:00 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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 602,331 - Deaths: 12,881 - Recovered: 554,990 - Active: 34,460
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, 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. As of June 3, Italy lifted their travel restrictions on movement and has resumed limited flights from E.U. countries as well as relaxed the quarantine requirement for travelers from the E.U. On October 9, Italy confirmed 4,458 new cases within a period of 24 hours: the highest daily number since April 11. As a result, the province of Latina has been placed under a two-week local lockdown, effective from October 8, to curb the spread of COVID-19.

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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 2,257,866 - Deaths: 78,394 - Recovered: 1,606,630 - Active: 572,842
Country Risk Summaries Cont.

Japan
Risk Level: Extreme

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 their 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.

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).

The continued fighting and steady involvement of foreign forces in Tripoli have heightened the risk of civil aviation in Libyan airspace, to a critical level. This has led to periodic closures of Mitiga International Airport, the only functioning commercial airport in the capital. Flights out of operational airports are sporadic and may be cancelled without warning.

Since April 4, 2019, armed clashes have taken place in areas to the south and west of the capital, Tripoli, between forces aligned with the UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) and troops under the Khalifa Haftar-led Libyan National Army (LNA). On June 5, the GNA captured the city of Tarhuna, the last major stronghold of the LNA. Peace talks have stalled, but there is strong international pressure to resume them.

Mali
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Mali is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Mali, if possible. Travel is unsafe due to political instability, crime, and terrorism. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist activity and violent crime such as kidnapping and armed robbery. Attacks in the Mopti region has killed more than 160 people. On March 29, at least nine people were killed when a landmine blast struck a bus between N’Gorkou and Saraféré, Tombouctou region, headed for Mopti. No group claimed immediate responsibility for the blast. During the first few months of 2020, Mali’s Bamako and Segou City has had multiple demonstrations and alerts for the release of possible terror attacks.

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. So far, it seems the National Committee for the Salvation of the People, as the military junta calls itself, has no desire to run the country. Instead, the committee, which is made up of a mix of colonels and generals, says it will provide transitional leadership until new elections can be held, though it is unclear when they might take place. Neighboring countries are concerned that increasing conflict could threaten regional stability. The 15-member ECOWAS has taken further actions, including closing the border to Mali, ending financial flows to the country, and even ejecting Bamako from any decisions the body makes.

Following the military coup which took place on August 18, 2020, there was an implementation of a nationwide curfew from 9:00 pm to 5:00 am and the closure of Malian air and land borders until further notice. The Modibo Keïta International Airport in Bamako is closed, and commercial flights have been suspended. Civilian and military authorities have since agreed to a timetable that will see elections held and the transfer of power to civilian authorities.

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 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 demilitarised 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.

Inter-Korean relations have been strained since the breakdown of a second summit in Vietnam between Kim Jong-Un and incumbent U.S. President Donald Trump, in early 2019.

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

Country Overview:

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

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

Authorities resumed commercials flights on August 3. Entry into Somalia requires proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 72 hours prior. Travelers should be prepared for screening at airports. There are restrictions on public gatherings and a night-time curfew is enforced.

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 are 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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 68,664 - Deaths: 1,125 - Recovered: 50,409 - Active: 17,130
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.

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.

Sudan is experiencing an outbreak of Cholera, with 346 cases to date. The risk of Chikungunya and Dengue fever in Kassala remains high. On September 4, 2020, the Sudanese authorities declared a three-month state of emergency due to devastating flooding in several parts of the country. Extensive damage to infrastructure has left thousands of people homeless and casualties have been reported. Certain roads might be impassable. If you are in Sudan, avoid the affected areas, keep informed of regional weather forecasts and follow the instructions of local authorities.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Sudan.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 23,316 - Deaths: 1,468 - Recovered: 13,524 - Active: 8,324
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 anti-government protests and is engaged in a full-scale civil war with armed groups. The government is no longer in control of vast swathes of the country, particularly in northern, southern, and eastern Syria and the Damascus suburbs. Some armed groups have utilized car bombs, improvised explosive device/indirect-fire attacks, sniper fire, and carried out kidnappings throughout the country.

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 crime, such as homicide, armed robbery, kidnapping, drug trafficking, and carjacking, are common. In addition, some Venezuela's land and sea borders are subject to closure. U.S. citizens residing or traveling in Venezuela are advised to depart the country.

Since March 11, 2019, the 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 aircrafts, 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 nonessential travel.

**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 are either extremely limited or unavailable.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Yemen.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 2,104 - Deaths: 610 - Recovered: 1,407 - Active: 87
Country Risk Summaries Cont.

HIGH RISK COUNTRIES

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 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 remains closed. Masks are required in public spaces.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 101,913 - Deaths: 2,803 - Recovered: 69,011 - Active: 30,009
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 recognised 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.

Travellers 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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 224,050 - Deaths: 2,890 - Recovered: 207,088 - Active: 14,072
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 Koupélogo, the western province of Kénédougou, and the northern province of Lorum. Since then, dozens of people have died in ethnic clashes in areas under threat from Islamist militant attacks. There have been regular attacks on police, military personnel, and civilians, particularly close to the borders with Mali, Niger, and Cote d'Ivoire as well as in the Eastern Region. Further attacks are likely.

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

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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 7,866 - Deaths: 89 - Recovered: 5,710 - Active: 2,067
Burma (Myanmar)
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to 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.

Beginning January 1, 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.

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).

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

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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 26,848 - Deaths: 448 - Recovered: 24,892 - Active: 1,508
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.

**COVID-19 Update:**
- Confirmed: 2,510
- Deaths: 107
- Recovered: 1,962
- Active: 441
Colombia
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to areas within 20km of 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.

Congo (Republic of)
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

**Cuba**  
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

**Country Overview:**

The security situation in Cuba is relatively stable and characterized by a strong military and police presence. Although crime levels range from low to moderate, it is advised that travelers to the country be vigilant. American citizens should exercise increased caution 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.

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 rebel and other armed groups, potential civil unrest, and outbreaks of violence, including killing, rape, kidnapping, and pillaging. On May 26, suspected Islamist militants killed 40 people with machetes and looted food and valuables, a day after killing 17 in the village of Makutano. 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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 19,159 - Deaths: 611 - Recovered: 14,743 - Active: 3,805
Ecuador
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

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.

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.

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.

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 have 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.

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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 238,086 - Deaths: 2,750 - Recovered: 224,718 - Active: 10,618
Haiti
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

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

Most protests involve tire burning and road blockages on major highways. Clashes, sometimes involving the use of firearms, result in casualties. Avoid demonstrations and any large gathering of people. Do not attempt to drive through roadblocks and if you do encounter a roadblock, turn around and get to a safe area. The most recent mass protests in Port-au-Prince and other parts of Haiti began on February 7, 2019. On February 14, 2019, the U.S. State Department ordered the departure of all non-emergency U.S. personnel and their family members, and strongly advised that U.S. citizens residing or traveling in the country consider departing as soon as possible.

Several attacks have been carried out in Port-au-Prince since mid-August 2020. These violent incidents have resulted in deaths and injuries. As a result, the Haitian national police may increase its presence in an attempt to respond to the climate of insecurity in the capital. 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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 10,272 - Deaths: 238 - Recovered: 8,768 - Active: 1,266
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 a 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.

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 the internal political status of Jammu and Kashmir. An increased security presence is now in place. The Indian government further advised tourists and Amarnath Yatra pilgrims to leave Kashmir immediately due to security threats, though this was scheduled to be lifted as of October 10.

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

India is experiencing one of the highest infection rates for COVID-19. Travel to India not advised.

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 Gazan side of the Gaza/Israeli 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, Israel and the United Arab Emirates announced an agreement that would see the normalisation 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 corruption and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The protests have to date been mostly peaceful, but travellers should expect increased security in the vicinity of demonstrations.

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 crime, such as armed carjacking, mugging, home invasion, and kidnapping. From January 15, 2019, the Islamic militant group Al-Shabaab attacked the DusitD2 complex in Nairobi, killing more than 20 people and injuring dozens 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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 98,184 - Deaths: 1,704 - Recovered: 80,808 - Active: 15,672
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.

On August 4, the capital of Lebanon was hit by a massive explosion when 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored in Beirut's port exploded. The explosion was felt on the island of Cyprus which is 140 miles away. The port is severely damaged with a deep crater left at the epicentre of the blast, while buildings close to the point of origin of the explosion are severely damaged. At least 200 people have died, and thousands injured. Over 30,000 homes were damaged in an area that spans 3.5 miles from the explosion.

Protests followed as rage over the country's leadership grew following the massive explosion. Demonstrators defied dozens of teargas canisters fired at them and hurled stones and firecrackers at riot police, some of whom were carried away to ambulances. The prime minister Hassan Diab has since resigned and will remain as a caretaker until a replacement is selected. Currently there are no plans to hold an election.

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

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

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 Qoubaïyat highway, including the towns of Halba and Qoubaïyat; 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, Hasbaiya, and Khiam, and the area between these towns up to 5km from the Syrian border; within 500m of the Ain el Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp in Saida (Sidon); and south of the Litani River except the main Naqoura-Tyre-Saida (Sidon)-Beirut highway and all areas to the west of it.

Mauritania
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

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.

Mexico
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to Colima state, Guerrero state, Michoacán state, Sinaloa state, and Tamaulipas state. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to Chihuahua state, Coahuila state, Durango state, Estado de Mexico state, Jalisco state, Morelos state, Nayarit state, Nuevo Leon state, 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. Travellers are advised against travel to Mexico.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 1,524,036 - Deaths: 133,204 - Recovered: 1,143,254 - Active: 247,578
Niger
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

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

It is advised not to travel at all to the following parts of Niger: all areas of the country north of the city of Abalak, including the Aïr 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 has resumed under strict hygiene measures. Face masks are required on public transport and in public spaces.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 3,819 - Deaths: 126 - Recovered: 2,323 - Active: 1,370
Nigeria
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in Nigeria is highly dangerous, and specific parts of the country are extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to Nigeria due to crime, terrorism, and piracy. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of the threat posed by extremist organizations, kidnappings, and violent crime, such as armed robbery, assault, carjacking, and rape. Since October 13, 2020, multiple demonstrations have occurred nationwide, to include areas within the districts of Lagos and Abuja, 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.

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

The Nigerian government has moved to phase two of the easing of restrictions which is expected to be implemented and run for the next four weeks. Phase two permits the opening of places of worship and hotels. Schools and all other social gathering locations are to remain closed.

Follow all official directives. Immediately consult a doctor if experiencing symptoms such as fever and/or difficulty breathing.

Pakistan
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

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

Pakistan is experiencing a Dengue Fever outbreak, with over 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.

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 suspended all international flights and on September 23, extended the suspension for an additional 19 days. 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 7 days and undertake another PCR test.

Philippines
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

On January 12, 2020, the Taal volcano, about 37 miles (60 kilometers) south of the capital Manila on the island of Luzon, began erupting, sending ash up to 9 miles (14 kilometers) into the air and prompting large-scale evacuations.

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

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

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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 485,797 - Deaths: 9,398 - Recovered: 449,615 - Active: 26,784
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 adds to the risk of safety.

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 has begun easing the restrictions put in place to combat the spread of COVID-19. The country is experiencing one of the highest rates of infections in the world and new daily cases remain high. Russia has also restricted entry to most foreign nationals with the exception of medical specialists and members of diplomatic missions.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 3,379,103 - Deaths: 61,381 - Recovered: 2,754,809 - Active: 562,913
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.

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.

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

Turkey
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Turkey is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country considered 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 travellers displaying symptoms are required to submit to a PCR test and quarantine if the test is positive. Face masks are mandatory in public spaces.

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.

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.