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 August 30th, 2020

Latest Update(s): Afghanistan, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Japan, Lebanon, Libya, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sudan, Syria

- **Afghanistan:** On August 28, roadside bombs struck two vehicles carrying civilians in separate attacks Friday in southern Afghanistan, killing at least 14 people, wounding 3.

- **China:** On August 25, certain parts of southern, eastern, western, central China are currently experiencing severe flooding. Avoid any unnecessary travel through the affected areas.

- **Colombia:** On August 31, Colombia plans to extend its international air travel ban until the end of the current health emergency.

- **Cuba:** On August 24, tropical storm Laura affected some parts of Cuba while leaving certain areas without electricity. Follow advice from authorities while recovery work continues.

- **Ethiopia:** On August 20, clashes between security forces and protesters demanding the release of an opposition politician and a media magnate have killed at least 9 people.

- **India:** On August 28, the India Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert between Friday night and Saturday morning and through the day on Saturday for heavy rainfall.

- **Iraq:** On August 27, a Katyusha rocket was fired towards the Green Zone in Baghdad where the US Embassy is located. No injuries or significant damage were reported. Avoid the area.

- **Japan:** On August 31, tropical storm Maysak should sweep through the Ryukyu archipelago as a typhoon, bringing excessive rainfall and violent winds.

- **Lebanon:** On August 27, clashes broke out Thursday night between rival gunmen at the southern entrance of the Lebanese capital, Beirut, leaving 2 people dead and 3 wounded.

- **Mexico:** On August 28, interests along the southeastern coast of the Baja California peninsula should monitor the progress of Tropical storm Hernan. Monitor the weather network.

- **Niger:** On August 28, flooding from heavy rains in Niger has killed at least 45 people this week and forced more than 226,000 from their homes.

- **Nigeria:** On August 23, several persons were killed at Emene, Enugu, during a violent clash between security agents and members of the Indigenous People of Biafra.

- **North Korea:** On August 27, Typhoon Bavi will strengthen as it approaches the Korean Peninsula, before making landfall over the north-western coast of North Korea.
Russia: On August 22, around 1,500 people marched through Khabarovsk, marking the 7th consecutive weekend of protests after the region's governor was detained early July.

Saudi Arabia: On August 27, the Arab Coalition has intercepted a ballistic missile launched by the Iran-backed Houthi militia toward the southern city of Najran in Saudi Arabia.

South Korea: On August 26, Typhoon Bavi grazed South Korea, ripping off roofs and knocking out power to more than 1,600 households, no immediate reports of casualties.

Sudan: On August 27, floodwaters reached the highest levels on record, killing dozens of people, destroying thousands of homes, affecting some parts of the capital.

Syria: On August 28, the Islamic State launched a heavy attack against the troops of the Syrian Arab Army and National Defense Forces in the western countryside of the Deir Ezzor.

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
Afghanistan
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:
The security situation in Afghanistan is extremely dangerous. 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 (IEDs).

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. This troop drawdown, in alignment with the US-Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Joint Declaration, reduced the number of American forces from 12,000 to 8,600. With this announcement the Taliban declared new attacks on Afghan forces, dashing hopes for a prolonged ceasefire.

Several cities are under lockdown including Kabul, Herat, Farah Jalalabad, Asadabad and Zaranj. Bus service will be suspended, and non-essential businesses and public venues are closed. Vehicles with more than four passengers will be prohibited from entering and exiting the capital. Many Afghans are fleeing the outbreak in Iran to return home to Afghanistan which could potentially result in a spike in new infections. Follow all official directives. Immediately consult a doctor if experiencing symptoms such as fever and difficulty breathing.

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, should travel to CAR be required.

The government imposed an entry ban on all foreigners arriving from countries with local COVID-19 transmission as of 28 March. Nationals, diplomats and humanitarian workers will be permitted entry but required to self-quarantine for 21 days. Officials have also suspended non-essential services and banned gatherings of more than 15 people. Passengers arriving from a country with local transmission of COVID-19 must self-quarantine for 21 days upon their arrival.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 4,700 - Deaths: 61 - Recovered: 1,784 - Active: 2,855
China
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

China has gone from being the epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic to now representing a fraction of global cases.

The virus has currently infected over 25,182,313 people globally with a fatality rate of over 846,936. Though the respiratory illness had spread to most parts of China, as well as to 185 other countries around the world, including the US, China has been succeeding in containing the spread of the virus. Restrictions of internal movement have started to relax although international travel restrictions remain rigorous as new global cases continue to be recorded daily. 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 suffering severe flooding along the Yangtze, Yellow and Huai rivers, which have impacted 50 million people. Travellers are advised to exercise extreme caution in areas around these rivers and avoid travel if possible.

Some domestic flights will resume in Hubei province following the lifting of some COVID-19 travel restrictions; flights were suspended in Enshi, Handan, Yichang, Jingzhou, Xiangyang, Shiyan and Shennongjia airports in January.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 85,031 - Deaths: 4,634 - Recovered: 80,153 - Active: 244
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 authority of 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 30th. 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 to hear cases related to the law, crippling 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 on 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 UK 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.

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, with well over 370,000 confirmed cases. Risk of community transmission is high and extreme caution is advised. Iran has begun lifting its lockdown and resuming business activity.

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 US 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 US citizens.

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

Iraq
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in Iraq is extremely dangerous. It is advised to avoid travel to Iraq. Travel is unsafe due to terrorism, kidnapping, and armed conflict. There is 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 had begun to lift restrictions but have had to reimpose strict lockdown and curfew measures due to rising numbers of cases. On July 15, the Government of Iraq extended the suspension on scheduled flights to and from Iraq through July 22. This may be extended.

It is advised to avoid all travel to Iraq.

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 has 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 3rd, Italy lifted their travel restrictions on movement and has resumed limited flights from EU countries as well as relaxed the quarantine requirement for travelers from the EU.

With an economy that is heavily dependent on tourism, Italy hopes to compensate for the economic impact that has resulted from a nationwide lockdown that has been in effect since March 9. Locals are allowed movement throughout the country but international travelers who are not arriving from EU countries, might face checks and quarantine measures depending on where they are arriving from; they will also not be allowed to enter Italy until at least June 15th.

Japan
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

Japan’s security situation remains relatively safe. Its’ democracy is a stable one and civil disturbances, as well as violent demonstrations, are rare. However, occasional demonstrations 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 begun experiencing a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases, with the prefecture of Okinawa declaring a COVID-19 emergency, with restrictions being placed on movement and activity.

Japan has experienced one of the lowest mortality rates despite the limitations that prevented the government from implementing strict lockdown measures.

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 the Mitiga International Airport, the only functioning commercial airport in the capital.

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. This has led to a push for peace talks. According to the United Nations, more than 1,000 people, including combatants and civilians, have been killed in the fighting.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 12,958 - Deaths: 231 - Recovered: 1,333 - Active: 11,394
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 29 March, at least nine people were killed when a landmine blast struck a bus between N’Gorkou and Sararépé, Tombouctou region, en route to 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 18 August 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 events of the military coup on 18 August 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. Sporadic gunfire in Bamako was reported this morning.

There have been ongoing demonstrations in neighborhoods throughout Bamako since July 10, 2020. Recent demonstrations have turned violent, resulting in the burning of tires, clashes with the police, the blocking of bridges, the deployment of tear gas, and the use of live ammunition. It is advised to avoid all travel to Bamako; the Mopti region; parts of the Segou region; areas north of the latitude of Diema; and within 100km of the border with Burkina Faso. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the rest of Mali.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 2,757 - Deaths: 126 - Recovered: 2,121 - Active: 510
Country Risk Summaries Cont.

**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.

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 between Kim Jong-Un and US President Donald Trump in Vietnam 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 announced that all domestic flights will be suspended from 29 March to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. The suspension of international flights to and from Somalia will also continue until further notice, but the government has announced that domestic flights will resume operation from June 8. It is advised to avoid all travel to Somalia, including Somaliland except for the cities of Hargeisa and Berbera to which it is advised to limit all but essential travel.

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.

Country Risk Summaries Cont.

South Sudan
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

The security situation in South Sudan is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to crime and armed conflict. There is an extreme risk to personal safety and security because of armed clashes, border disputes, ethnic violence, and crime, including carjacking, shootings, ambushes, assaults, robberies, and kidnappings.

Foreign nationals have been the victims of rape, sexual assault, armed robberies, and other violent crimes. Armed conflict is ongoing throughout the country and includes fighting between various political and ethnic groups, and weapons are readily available to the population.

It is advised to avoid all travel to South Sudan.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 2,519 - Deaths: 47 - Recovered: 1,290 - Active: 1,182
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. It is advised to avoid all travel to Sudan.

Syria
Risk Level: Extreme

Country Overview:

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

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

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

It is advised to avoid all travel to Syria.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 2,628 - Deaths: 106 - Recovered: 599 - Active: 1,923
Country Overview:

The security situation in Venezuela is extremely dangerous. Travel is unsafe due to ongoing political instability, crime, poor health infrastructure, and the arbitrary arrest and detention of foreign nationals. Political marches and demonstrations, which occasionally become violent, are frequent in all areas, and crime, such as homicide, armed robbery, kidnapping, drug trafficking, and carjacking, is common. In addition, 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 US Department of State suspended all operations at the U.S. Embassy in Caracas and has withdrawn all diplomatic personnel from Venezuela. The US has additionally suspended all nonstop flights between Venezuela and the U.S. until further notice. Around 150,000 troops, plus tanks, missile launchers and aircraft are deployed on Colombian border amid renewed tensions between Bogota and Caracas.

There are reported cases of the coronavirus in Venezuela. As a result of this, the government of Venezuela has imposed confinement. To avoid contracting the disease: apply good hygiene practices, maintain social distancing, avoid unnecessary gatherings and unnecessary 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. It is advised to avoid all travel to Yemen.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 1,946 - Deaths: 563 - Recovered: 1,113 - Active: 270
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 terrorist and criminal activities, including kidnapping.

The Algerian government has started to ease the measures it had undertaken to limit the spread of COVID-19 by allowing more businesses to reopen and allowing public transportation in cities to resume, but the lifting of restrictions will be gradual and dependent on the evolution of COVID-19 cases in Algeria.

Authorities announced that an overnight curfew from 20:00 to 05:00, local time, will be in place in most of the provinces. Curfews are constantly being reviewed and revised and the curfew may be more restrictive in certain provinces or in certain areas of the provinces for short periods of time as the health situation develops.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 43,781 - Deaths: 1,491 - Recovered: 30,717 - Active: 11,573
Country Overview:

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

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

The Azerbaijan government has announced an extension to the lockdown measures implemented until May 31. During this time, the government will begin the implementation of measures to lift some restrictions on commercial activity. The government has begun the process of easing restrictions but will impose restrictions in a limited capacity to control the spread of the virus.

Comply with all directives issued by authorities. Immediately consult a doctor if experiencing symptoms such as fever/difficulty breathing.

Burkina Faso
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

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

On May 29, at least 15 people were killed, several others wounded following an attack on a convoy transporting traders in a town in northern Burkina Faso. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. For purposes of business-critical travel in the affected region, vary routines and travel in convoy with an armed security escort.

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, Balkui and Rayongo (also known as Dayongo) neighborhoods of Ouagadougou’s Arrondissement 11 are restricted due to the potential for security operations.

Burma (Myanmar)
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

The security situation in some parts of Burma (Myanmar) is highly dangerous, with specific areas of the country being extremely unsafe. It is 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.

Officials also suspended all visas for foreign nationals, except for diplomats and air and sea crews. On May 15, the Burmese government has extended many COVID-19-related restrictions up until May 31. These restrictions also include a ban on international commercial flights.

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 to and from Bujumbura International Airport, Burundi's only international airport, will be suspended for a further seven days from 23:59 local time (21:59 GMT) amid the COVID-19 outbreak. Confirm the viability of entry to Burundi. Immediately consult a doctor if experiencing fever/difficulty breathing.

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 29 March amidst the ongoing coronavirus (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: 19,142 - Deaths: 411 - Recovered: 17,651 - Active: 1,080
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: 1,008 - Deaths: 77 - Recovered: 878 - Active: 53
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.

On June 3, the government announced the easing of restrictions across most of the country, though the movement of people is still extremely limited and varies with different provinces.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 599,914 - Deaths: 19,064 - Recovered: 440,574 - Active: 140,276
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 Muyondzi 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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 3,979 - Deaths: 78 - Recovered: 1,742 - Active: 2,159
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 to Cuba also may be at risk. While there is no recent history of terrorism in Cuba, attacks cannot be ruled out.

If you are traveling to Cuba, it is advised to avoid Hotel Nacional and Hotel Capri in Havana. If you experience any unusual acute auditory or sensory phenomena, immediately move to another area.

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

Country Overview:

The security situation in some areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is highly dangerous, with specific parts of the country being extremely unsafe. It is advised to reconsider travel to the DRC due to civil unrest and crime. There is a high level of risk to personal safety and security because of the activities of rebel and other armed groups, potential civil unrest, and outbreaks of violence, including killing, rape, kidnapping, and pillaging. 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: 10,007 - Deaths: 258 - Recovered: 9,068 - Active: 681
Country Overview:

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

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

Crime, including violent crime, is a concern throughout Ecuador. Limited police and judicial resources contribute to Ecuador's overall high crime rate. Pickpocketing, purse snatching, robbery, and theft of travel documents are the crimes most commonly committed against U.S. citizens. It is advised to avoid all travel within 20km of the border with Colombia, except for the official border crossing town of Tulcan in Carchi province. It is further 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. There is a curfew in place from 20:00 hrs to 06:00 hrs and the current lockdown is expected to continue until the government reviews measures in mid-June.

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

**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 Tessenæ.

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.

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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 49,654 - Deaths: 770 - Recovered 18,116 - Active: 30,768
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 of 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.

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: 1,469 - Deaths: 19 - Recovered: 1,221 - Active: 229
Country Risk Summaries Cont.

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.

On September 24, 2019, Port-au-Prince's Toussaint Louverture International Airport was on lock down until 06:00 AM the following morning due to fire. Some of the building's infrastructure was damaged according to officials. To this day, Haiti has been plagued with demonstrations that turn violent. Roadblocks form quickly and create large traffic congestion within Port-au-Prince.

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: 8,174 - Deaths: 201 - Recovered: 5,743 - Active: 2,230
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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 59,645 - Deaths: 1,842 - Recovered: 10,156 - Active: 47,647
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 Northeastern 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.

Country Risk Summaries Cont.

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/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 14th 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 and crime. There is an overall moderate risk to personal safety and security because of terrorist attacks and violent crime, such as armed carjacking, mugging, home invasion, and kidnapping. From January 15, 2019, the Islamic militant group Al-Shabaab attacked the DusitD2 complex in Nairobi, killing more than 20 people and injuring dozens of others. U.S. State Department has warned that credible information indicates that westerners may be targeted by extremists in Nairobi, coastal areas of Kenya, and the towns of Naivasha and Nanyuki. On October 1, 2019, Kenyan police killed 3 suspected militants in Majengo Mapya, believed to be planning attacks ahead of the country’s national day celebrations.

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

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

Lebanon
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

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

On August 4, the capital of Lebanon was rocked 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.

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, 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 Zouerat); 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 Noukhott - Nouadhibou corridor).

Mexico
Risk Level: Moderate Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

Mexico is experiencing high levels of COVID-19 infections and has registered the third most deaths in the world. Travellers are advised against travel to Mexico.

**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.

President Mahamadou Issoufou extended the lockdown for 2 weeks on April 27 but has allowed for limited easing of restrictions within neighbourhoods.

**COVID-19 Update:** Confirmed: 1,175 - Deaths: 69 - Recovered: 1,085 - Active: 21
Nigeria
Risk Level: High Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

Pakistan is experiencing a Dengue Fever outbreak, with over 20,000 recorded cases and 34 deaths. Dengue Fever, coupled with the outbreak of COVID-19, has resulted in the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority extending the suspension of international flights until May 31. The Government of Pakistan will permit commercial outbound passenger flights from all international airports except Gwadar and Turbat effective May 30. Inbound passenger flights remain suspended.

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 recommended limiting all but essential travel to the rest of Pakistan.

Panama
Risk Level: Low Risk

Country Overview:

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

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

Copa Airlines announced that 80 percent of their flight operations will be cancelled from 1 to 30 April, due to international travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 outbreak. On May 15, the Government of Panama extended the suspension of international commercial passenger flights for an additional 30 days until June 22. The previous exceptions for cargo, humanitarian, medical supplies, medical evacuation, and vaccines remain in place. Anticipate major disruptions to affected flight schedules in the near-term. Consult airline representatives for rebooking/refund options.

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, 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.

Many areas have seen easing of restrictions, but the capital Manila and parts of Luzon island have had their lockdown extended to mid-May. Essential services including banks, supermarkets, pharmacies, petrol stations and food delivery services remain open.

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 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 are challenging their influence on the peninsula.

Russia has begun easing the restrictions put in place to combat the spread of COVID-19. This comes as the country is experiencing the third-highest rate of infections in the world, with over 9000 new cases announced on the same day as restrictions are being eased.

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.

Government officials announced that international flights will remain suspended from 29 March until further notice 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.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 3,572 - Deaths: 76 - Recovered: 1,536 - Active: 1,960
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 to within 10km of the border with Syria and to the city of Diyarbakir. It is further advised to limit all but essential travel to the provinces of Batman, Bingol, Bitlis, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Hakkari, Hatay, Kilis, Mardin, Sanliurfa, Siirt, Sirkak, Tunceli, and Van.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced on May 4 that the country would begin implementing a normalisation plan to gradually ease restrictions beginning May 11. The government has been enforcing a weekend curfew across major cities even as businesses reopen and travel restrictions between cities have been lifted.

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 re-open in stages.

COVID-19 Update: Confirmed: 119,074 - Deaths: 2,527 - Recovered: 56,734 - Active: 59,813