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AMER

Mexico: Exercise heightened vigilance amid an uptick in cartel violence in Tabasco state in recent weeks. In January 2025, at least 90 organized crime-related homicides took place, with an additional 30 homicides reported since the beginning of February. The violence, centered in [Villahermosa](#), has expanded to other urban areas, including [Cardenas](#), [Comalcalco](#), [Huimanguillo](#), and [Nacajuca](#). The primary actors driving the conflict are the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) and “La Barredora” cartel, whose internal fragmentation has intensified territorial disputes. The arrest of Barredora leader Carlos Tomas Diaz Rodriguez on 19 January, also known as “El Licenciado Tomasin,” has exacerbated instability. In response, the government has deployed 300 additional military personnel to the region since January. However, criminal organizations continue to resist security operations, and cartel violence, often taking place in public spaces has persisted. Travelers to Tabasco state should avoid non-essential road travel, particularly along Federal highways 180, 187, and 195. Prosegur recommends utilizing secure transportation and real-time intelligence to mitigate risks amid the deteriorating security environment.

Brazil: Anticipate disruption over the coming days amid heavy rainfall. Further heavy rainfall is forecast to continue across Amapa, Alagoas, Amazonas, Ceara, Maranhao, Mato Grosso, Para, Paraiba, Pernambuco, Piaui, Rio Grande do Norte and Tocantins states. The projected heavy rainfall is liable to aggravate current flood conditions in some areas following recent severe weather, which has killed at least seven people in Recife (Pernambuco state). Damage to roadways and infrastructure has been reported. Disruption to land travel should be expected and flight delays and cancelations are likely over the coming days.



Ecuador: Polls close in a presidential election with no victor, forcing a runoff election set for April and extending uncertainty. On 9 February, the leftist Luisa Gonzalez and incumbent conservative President Daniel Noboa received 44.17% and 44.43% of the vote, respectively, with 88% of the votes counted – outdoing the other 14 candidates. This election was considered by many a referendum on Noboa’s hardline tactics combatting the increased gang violence over the past 16-months of his presidency since the 2023 snap presidential elections. Over 100,000 security personnel had been deployed to voting areas across the country, with no major violence being reported. However, the election runoff in April between the two candidates is likely to heighten tensions in the interim. Travelers should avoid political rallies or protests and exercise caution when traveling throughout Ecuador due to the persistent increased levels of gang violence.

Chile: Expect disruptions in southern provinces over the coming days due to State of Emergency and evacuation orders in La Araucania region in light of ongoing wildfires. On 8 February, President Gabriel Boric declared a State of Emergency for the La Araucania region due to several active wildfires that have spread rapidly. Officials have implemented multiple evacuation orders amid 22 active wildfires nationwide, with 13 in the La Araucania region. The rapid spread of the wildfire is linked to high temperatures of 40°C (104°F) and strong winds. Due to the ongoing heatwave, the Biobio, La Araucania, and Valparaiso regions remain at heightened risk of wildfires over the coming days. Travelers are advised to follow official directives, avoid the Araucania region, and expect transportation disruption.



EMEA

Spain: Dismantling of Islamic State (IS) network highlights persistent threat from Jihadist militant groups. On 3 February, Spanish and Moroccan security forces conducted a coordinated operation to dismantle a IS cell operating in [Toledo](#), [Pontevedra](#), and [Madrid](#). The operation was carried out by Spain's National Police with intelligence support from Morocco's General Directorate of Territorial Surveillance (DGST) and led to the arrest of seven individuals. The suspects, of Moroccan origin, were reportedly engaged in extremist recruitment and radicalization efforts, posing a significant security threat. Authorities believe the group had been actively disseminating jihadist propaganda as a part of the larger IS terrorist network. The counter-terrorism operation underscores Spain's ongoing efforts to combat domestic radicalization, amid broader European concerns over extremism and transnational security threats. The dismantling of this cell signals the strategic importance of intelligence-sharing mechanisms in mitigating terrorism risks within the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): Situation in the Eastern region remains fluid amid M23's control of Goma and heightened tensions with Rwanda. As of 10 February, no long-term peace agreement to the conflict, which has killed at least 3,000 people in recent weeks, appears within grasp for the involved parties. The Peace Summit that took place from 7-8 February did not yield concrete results. The largest contributing obstacles are the Congolese government's refusal to negotiate directly with M23 to produce a resolution and the Rwandan government's continued denial of funding or directing of M23's actions. M23 had declared a unilateral



humanitarian ceasefire to the fighting on 5 February but quickly broke it during the capture of several villages in North and South Kivu provinces. M23 and the Congolese government have historically utilized short-term ceasefires to reset and reconstitute their forces. Governing bodies by M23 have reportedly been set up to administer the captured territory – further entrenching their presence in the region. Reports indicate that, despite statements to the contrary by M23, they are positioning themselves to initiate an assault on Bukavu – the capital of South Kivu province. Travelers are advised to halt all non-essential travel to the DRC.

Sweden: Mass shooting underscores security challenges in preventing attacks by isolated violent individuals. On 4 February, the deadliest shooting in Sweden’s history occurred at Campus Risbergiska – an adult education center in Orebro with a large immigrant student base. Although information about the motivations of the shooter is not yet confirmed by the police, the assailant has been identified as a native to Sweden. The perpetrator opened fire using a rifle he legally owned with a hunting license, killing 12 people including himself. Authorities have not definitively announced a clear motive or ideological reason behind the attack, nor has there been any indication that the assailant was connected to any organized group. Suspicions that this attack may have been related to violent radicalization from pervasive anti-immigrant rhetoric stem from the fact that the target was a well-known hub for immigrants within the community. Sweden has one of the highest rates of gun ownership in Europe and strict gun control laws, but this attack underscores the increasing difficulties security forces face in anticipating attacks by persons radicalized in isolation with ready legal access to weapons.



Belgium: Series of shootings in the capital Brussels highlights increasing gun violence related to drug smuggling and criminal gangs. On 5-7 February, four shootings took place outside metro stations in Brussels and in the neighborhoods of Anderlecht and Saint-Josse-ten-Noode municipalities in the Brussels-Capital Region. In total, three people have been injured and one killed with Kalashnikov-type rifles and handguns. None of the perpetrators have been detained. Authorities believe that these incidents are related to an ongoing turf war between drug-trafficking gangs. The failure of security forces to prevent such a spate of shootings suggests a heightened incidental risk to bystanders in Brussels.

Greece: Monitor developments and follow official directives amid a state of emergency and concerns over a future major earthquake in the South Aegean region. Since 31 January, Santorini (South Aegean region) and its environs have experienced over 400 earthquakes. The strongest seismic activity registered at a 5.2 magnitude. Authorities advised thousands of residents and tourists to evacuate amid temporary disruptions to ferry and air travel. Officials declared a State of Emergency for Santorini Island until 3 March over concerns that the small quakes foreshadow a potential major earthquake. A major earthquake of 6.0 or more would damage infrastructure, lead to fatalities, and cause widespread disruption.



APAC

Philippines: Demonstrations in support of and against Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment are likely over the coming months due to upcoming impeachment trial. On 5 February, the House of Representatives impeached Vice President Duterte on a bevy of criminal charges. These accusations spanned a variety of corruptive practices and included allegedly orchestrating an assassination attempt against the current sitting President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Sara Duterte's ambitions for the presidency are well known and the impeachment trial could sever her eligibility, raising the political stakes – fueling accusations that the allegations are a politically motivated persecution. The impeachment trial set for June has increased social tensions, which are expected to fuel competing demonstrations over the coming months. The controversial Duterte family is a politically entrenched dynasty with fervent supporters and detractors, which could lead to unruly protests and clashes between opposing political camps. Demonstrations are highly likely in the Metro Manila area and Davao City. Travelers are advised to remain abreast of protests and avoid related gatherings.

Bangladesh: Clashes between Hindu Awami League (AL) and student protesters are likely to persist over the coming days amid continued instability and worsening political unrest. On 6 February, in response to an audio broadcast from ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina – now based in India - thousands of student protesters in the capital Dhaka set fire to the historic residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the country's founding democratic leader and father to Hasina. In Hasina's address from exile, she urged her supporters – many members of AL – to oppose the interim government, which has been accused of persecuting the minority Hindu community. Student protesters continue to target properties linked to AL



members and buildings they claim are symbols of authoritarian rule while engaging in clashes with AL counter-demonstrators. On 8 February, the interim government instituted 'Operation Devil Hunt' to crack down on AL members/Hasina sympathizers, arresting 1,300 people. The AL had previously called for nationwide demonstrations on 10 February, nationwide roadblocks on 16 February, and a nationwide strike on 18 February – actions which are likely to gain traction given the recent unrest. Although the violence has since eased, clashes occurred in at least 20 districts nationwide, and the risk of further violent civil unrest remains high. Travelers are advised to avoid large gatherings, non-essential proximity to government buildings or AL-associated inflection points, and exercise extreme caution over the coming days.