



PROSEGUR

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AMER

United States: The Assassination of the UnitedHealth Care CEO in New York City (New York state) suggests a heightened risk toward executives of companies facing controversy. On 4 December, Brian Thompson was fatally shot outside the [New York Hilton Midtown Hotel](#), in what authorities describe as a targeted attack. The assailant, fled the scene on an e-bike, leaving bullet casings engraved with phrases like “deny” and “defend”. The brazen assassination, along with the engraved bullets, suggests a motivation that reflects intensifying public anger toward perceived systemic inequalities in the US healthcare system. It also highlights potential critical vulnerabilities in the security protocols for high-profile individuals, especially in public spaces. This attack has prompted companies to reevaluate the safety of their executives and employees, especially those working in industries facing intense public scrutiny. The assassination has fueled further negative public discourse and discontent toward other executives. Therefore, executives should remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings and confirm security protocols when traveling.

Haiti: Massacre of at least 184 people over accusations of witchcraft highlights unstable security environment. On 6 December - 7 December, the gang leader, Micanor “Mikano” Altes, ordered the murder of a Voodoo priest he had consulted, blaming him for the severe illness of his child who recently died. This targeted attack spiraled into a retaliatory massacre against residents and adherents of Voodoo in the neighborhood of [Cite Soleil](#) in the capital Port-Au-Prince. Voodoo is a widespread religious and cultural practice in Haiti that exists within the mainstream of society. This massacre is the latest in a string of violent incidents that continue to underscore the volatility and dangerous security environment in Haiti, despite government efforts and the presence of a United Nations (UN) support mission. Defer all travel to Haiti as the security situation fluctuates daily, and it is nearly impossible to predict potential gang targets.



EMEA

Romania: Monitor further civil unrest after annulment of elections over allegations of Russian interference and foiled plot. On 6 December, the Constitutional Court ruled to annul the first round of the 2024 presidential election process, which far-right candidate Calin Georgescu had won on 24 November. The Romanian Intelligence Service had declassified a report on 5 December detailing an influence operation orchestrated by Russia to bolster Georgescu's campaign. The operation was allegedly composed of manipulated social media algorithms, coordinated accounts, illegal paid promotions, and approximately 85,000 attempted cyber-attacks on election websites. While Georgescu is not explicitly pro-Russia, he espouses positions that align with Russia's interests. The entire election cycle will restart with new elections scheduled for November 2025. Peaceful pro-European Union protests and counter-protests were already occurring in Bucharest and are likely to continue due to this unprecedented situation. An escalation occurred on 9 December when police stopped 20 individuals – including the leader of a private military company driving to Bucharest with guns and knives, who were planning to disrupt anti-fascist protests. A list of politicians and journalists was also found in their possession to be targeted for intimidation. Travelers to Romania should remain vigilant in public spaces and avoid large demonstrations.

Georgia: Avoid escalating protests in the capital Tbilisi fueled by anger over the government ending European Union (EU) ascension talks. Since the disputed national elections on 26 October – which resulted in the ruling party, Georgia Dream, returning to power – civil unrest has persisted. Recent, protests have become more unruly due to the announcement that the regime was suspending the EU ascension process. Many interpret this as a sign of Russian collusion with the current Georgia Dream administration. While protests have been mostly peaceful, multiple episodes of violent confrontations with law enforcement have been recorded. Protesters have been directing fireworks, rocks, and Molotov cocktails at police and government buildings, while law enforcement has responded with tear gas, water cannons, and



mass arrests. It was recently reported that political figures in opposition parties have been arrested, and police have raided their offices. Further demonstrations are liable to be met with heavy-handed dispersal measures by security forces, posing incidental risk to bystanders.

Serbia: Monitor escalating protests in the capital Belgrade against perceived government corruption and negligence following a deadly building collapse. On 1 November, the ceiling of a recently renovated roof for a railway station in Novi Sad caved in, resulting in 15 fatalities. This incident has fueled persistent protests faulting the government and calling for President Vucic's resignation. Law enforcement has responded to protests with overwhelming force and mass arrests. Meanwhile, it was announced on 11 December that all documents related to the investigation into the ceiling collapse would be released to the public, and arrested protesters would be pardoned. Vucic simultaneously declared his intention to stay in office, accusing Western powers of engineering the protests to oust him from power. Travelers should avoid demonstrations and proximity to government infrastructure, which are likely flashpoints for protests.

Syria: Monitor further developments in the aftermath of the rebel coalition's defeat of the Assad Regime in 11 days. On 27 November, rebel forces led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) commenced an operation in the northwest region, citing the desire to downgrade the regime's ability to conduct airstrikes on opposition-held territory. This supposed limited operation transformed into a major offensive with unprecedented momentum that retook the major cities of Aleppo and the capital, Damascus, eventually forcing former President Bashar-al-Assad to flee – he has reportedly reappeared in exile within Russia. This marks an end to the thirteen-year civil war that began in 2011. The timing of this operation reflects the rebel coalition's assessment of new vulnerabilities due to the weakened capacity and commitment of the Assad regime's backers – Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah – due to the fallout from



other high-intensity conflicts. Speculation over the political future of Syria has begun as diverse sets of groups begin to jockey for control or autonomy. Additionally, Israel has conducted an extensive aerial bombing campaign against abandoned Syrian military assets to prevent them from being taken by militant groups, who may present a future adversarial threat. The potential for further internal conflict is unpredictable, as the situation remains extremely fluid. Therefore, all avoid non-essential travel to the country amid ongoing uncertainty and instability.

Mayotte (France): **Defer all non-essential travel over the coming days following the passage of Category 4 Cyclone Chido.** On 14 December, the cyclone made landfall, causing widespread damage nationwide. At least 14 people have been killed and 250 injured, although officials claim that hundreds of people have been killed. Entire neighborhoods and public infrastructure, including hospitals and airports, have been severely damaged or destroyed. Operations at Dzaoudzi-Pamandzi International Airport have been suspended until further notice, while communications and roadways are reportedly severely affected. French authorities have sent rescue workers, soldiers, medical personnel, and supplies to the islands. However, restoring the island's power grid will likely take at least several days.

Romania and Bulgaria: **The entry and exit process with European Union (EU) member states will be eased over the coming months following anticipated accession to the Schengen Area.** From 1 January 2025, both countries will join the Schengen Zone, expediting land, air, and ground travel within the EU. However, temporary border checks between Romania, Bulgaria, and Hungary will be in place for at least six months due to security concerns. Thereafter, entry and departure wait times will be eased for EU nationals, as will the visa requirements for foreign nationals. Monitor local media for potential extensions to the temporary border checks.



Greece: Avoid anarchist-led protests slated to take place in the capital Athens and Thessaloniki (Central Macedonia region) on 17-18 December. Participants aligned with several anarchist groups plan to gather in solidarity with individuals arrested during marches commemorating people killed by police. The demonstrations on 18 December are being held to coincide with the court's decision linked to the arrests. Past precedent suggests the demonstrations will be well attended and are likely to turn unruly, leading to clashes with security forces, posing incidental risk to bystanders.

Mali: Arrest warrant issued for Canadian Barrick Gold CEO by the military-led government underscores the growing high-risk environment for foreign investors. On 2 December, an arrest warrant was issued for Barrick Gold CEO Mark Bristow. The CEO is accused of money laundering and violating financial regulations. The military junta's move against Barrick Gold is emblematic of the increasing trend of resource nationalism, wherein governments in resource-rich countries seek to exert greater control over their natural resources. By targeting a major global mining company, the military-led government seeks to assert its authority over foreign operators and seize additional revenue from the gold mining sector, which is critical to the country's economy. The arbitrary detainment of four senior Barrick Gold employees in September, coupled with the arrest warrant for the company's CEO, underscores the government's aggressive stance toward foreign businesses and its agenda of resource nationalism. These recent arrests further erode investor confidence in the country's stability and governance, creating an uncertain climate for foreign investors.

Nigeria: Ongoing nationwide power outages highlight the persistent risk of operational disruptions for multi-national companies operating domestically. On 11 December, Nigeria's national power grid experienced its 12th collapse of the year. The incident marked its 165th grid failure in 11 years, underscoring the



persistent challenges within Nigeria's power infrastructure. The contributing factors to these frequent outages include aging infrastructure, insufficient investment, unexpected demand fluctuations, and vandalism. The World Bank estimates that Nigeria's unstable power supply results in annual economic losses of approximately USD 29 billion. In response, the Nigerian government has initiated measures such as allowing states to generate and transmit their own power and collaborating with the World Bank to establish mini solar grids to enhance rural electricity access. The persistent grid failures raise significant concerns for foreign investors and businesses operating within Nigeria, as unreliable energy infrastructure poses risks to operations, increases costs, and undermines confidence in the country's economic stability. Business travelers should anticipate challenges from power outages and plan accordingly by choosing accommodations with reliable backup power solutions and keeping communications devices charged.

Comoros: Recent sentencing highlights vulnerability to the LGBTQ community due to the country's ban on same-sex sexual activity. On 12 December, a judge found two women guilty of engaging in homosexual activity. The two were then released due to their sentences being shorter than the time served. The couple were arrested on 8 June after a male accuser informed a preacher that the couple planned to seek his blessing for marriage, triggering an investigation. While Comoros banned same-sex sexual activity in 1981, LGBTQ rights groups note that it is rarely enforced, with the trial involving two women being a first. The allegations seemed to have surfaced after a same-sex civil marriage occurred on the island of Mayotte, a French overseas territory that Comoros claims sovereignty over. The marriage caused significant controversy and backlash in Comoros, especially since one of the brides was from its capital Moroni. This could have instigated the investigation and arrest, allowing Comoros to publicly reaffirm its anti-LGBTQ stance. The incident follows a crackdown on the LGBTQ community by several African nations both socially and legally, with nations like Uganda, Ghana, and Kenya creating new anti-LGBTQ laws in



the last year. LGBTQ travelers should maintain caution in African nations and make sure to check local laws on LGBTQ practices and remain sensitive to social norms.



APAC

South Korea: Monitor developments and avoid further protests in the capital Seoul following the presidential impeachment. On 14 December, the National Assembly voted in favor of President Yoon Suk Yeol's impeachment. This came after president declared emergency martial law on 3 December, triggering large-scale protests by opposition and civil society groups across urban centers. Prime Minister Han Duck-soo will take over as acting president. However, ongoing investigations into his role in the martial law decision may also lead to his impeachment. Protests are likely to continue until a definitive decision is reached regarding President Yoon's future. The Constitutional Court still must decide within 180 days whether to uphold the impeachment of Yoon or reject the impeachment and restore him to office. Further demonstrations will likely be centered in central areas near the [National Assembly](#), the [presidential office](#), and [Gwanghwamun Square](#) in Seoul. Large-scale nationwide protests may be forcibly dispersed by police, posing incidental risk to bystanders.

Bangladesh: Exercise precaution in light of a severe dengue outbreak. The 2024 dengue outbreak has led to approximately 78,000 hospitalizations and more than 400 deaths. This has overwhelmed the healthcare system, especially in urban areas, where hospitals are struggling to keep up with the rise in patients. The surge in cases has been fueled by climate change, which has extended the monsoon season during which dengue fever routinely becomes prevalent. As temperatures rise, the risk period for the spread of tropical diseases will extend. Travelers are advised to exercise standard precautions for preventing mosquito bites – through which the disease is spread – and to have contingency healthcare plans in place.