



# Global Intelligence Review

**December 30, 2024**  
Edition 23



## **AMER**

**Latin America: Avoid exposure to mosquitos and take preventative measures amid the uptick of dengue fever in regions of Central, North, and South America.** In 2024, reported cases nearly tripled to over 12.6 million, including approximately 21,000 severe cases and more than 7,700 deaths across Latin America. This marks the most significant surge since the 1980s. Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, and Mexico were particularly affected, accounting for 90% of cases and 88% of deaths. Children faced heightened risks; in Guatemala, they represented 70% of dengue-related deaths, while those under 15 comprised over a third of severe cases in Mexico, Costa Rica, and Paraguay. This surge can be attributed to climate change events that favor mosquito proliferation, accumulated water, and poor waste management, which enhance breeding conditions for mosquitos. Prioritize proper waste disposal and water containment to mitigate breeding grounds for dengue-carrying mosquitos.

**Haiti: The attack on the country's largest hospital highlights the need to avoid all travel due to the unstable security environment.** On 24 December, three people were killed and multiple injured by gunfire during the reopening ceremony of Port-au-Prince's main public hospital, the [State University Hospital of Haiti](#). The attack, attributed to the Viv Ansanm gang, targeted journalists and police, who comprised the brunt of the casualties. This incident underscores the escalating violence in Haiti, where gangs have seized control over 80% of the capital, targeting public facilities and exacerbating the nation's ongoing crisis. Exercise caution by avoiding high-risk areas and enhancing security measures due to the escalating gang violence.



**Trinidad and Tobago: Follow all official directives over the coming weeks following the declaration of a state of emergency in response to an increase in gang-related violence.** Officials instated the nationwide state of emergency (SoE) on 30 December following a steady increase in the use of semi-automatic rifles by gangs. The violence has mainly centered in the capital, Port of Spain, where five people were killed by gunfire in the [Laventille](#) area on 29-30 December. Gang-related violence is also prevalent in other urban areas on the western coastline of Trinidad Island. However, gang violence remains a persistent issue nationwide. Although foreign nationals are rarely the target of gang-related violence, there remains an underlying risk of bystanders being caught up in gang warfare or shootouts with police in public spaces.



## EMEA

**Eurasia: Preliminary reports linked to the downing of an Azerbaijani airliner highlight the aviation risks of transiting through Russia.** On 25 December, an Azerbaijan Airlines flight from Baku (Azerbaijan) crashed near Aktau (Kazakhstan) after failing to land at its destination of Grozny (Chechnya), killing 38 people. Preliminary reports suggest the aircraft had been struck by shrapnel from a Pantsir-S air defense system. Prior to this, it was assessed that the flight was struck with electronic warfare, jamming the communications and causing the plane's GPS to malfunction, which is likely why the plane reportedly failed to land three times in Grozny. Initial photos of the plane that have been analyzed show signs of shrapnel that may have disabled the plane's hydraulics, causing pilots to lose control. Sources in Azerbaijan's government claimed that the flight crash landed near Aktau after being denied emergency landing at any Russian airports. Russian officials indicated the incident came amid defensive measures against Ukrainian drones on the same day, likely leading to the unintentional targeting of the commercial aircraft.

The incident reflects the aviation risks surrounding transiting through Russia, including the 2014 downing of a Malaysia Airlines flight by a surface-to-air missile over eastern Ukraine, which killed all 298 people on board. As well as a long history of aviation accidents with domestic carriers and questionable safety standards. Following the crash, Azerbaijan Airlines and several other carriers temporarily suspended flights to Russian cities as a precautionary measure. This event underscores the complex dynamics in conflict zones, where military engagements can inadvertently jeopardize civilian aviation. Therefore, amid the ongoing conflict with Ukraine, all aviation transit through Russia should be avoided when possible.



**Mozambique: Continue to defer non-essential travel and monitor developments as election violence intensifies in response to a controversial judicial ruling.** On 23 December, the Constitutional Council upheld the recent disputed presidential election in favor of Daniel Chapo and his longtime ruling party – Frelimo. Protesters have regularly clashed with law enforcement during protests since October after independent observers reported widespread electoral irregularities, leading to dozens of fatalities, and hundreds of injuries in ongoing clashes. The uptick in election violence on 23-24 December consisted of looting, vandalism, the erection of roadblocks, and a significant prison break. At least 125 people were reportedly killed in the recent violent unrest. Opposition leader, Venancio Mondlane, has since called for the violence to end but for protests to continue, indicating protests are likely to continue over the coming days. Security forces can be expected to continue using heavy handed dispersal measures against protestors, including living ammunition, posing incidental risk to bystanders.

**Germany: The Magdeburg vehicle ramming incident at Christmas Market highlights the evolving global threat patterns of Domestic Violent Extremists (DVEs).** In the aftermath of the attack on 22 December that left 6 dead and over 200 injured, authorities are working to piece together the motivation of the assailant. His documented anti-government, far-right extremism, and anti-Islamic viewpoints were expressed frequently through his active online presence, which had grown increasingly dark, and he possesses no apparent ties to a violent organization. Reporting has also insinuated he may have suffered from untreated mental illness and isolation. DVEs are increasingly likely to reflect a combination of these characteristics. The growing threat profile has become distant from agents of organized groups carrying out mass casualty acts. The current security trend predominately pertains to isolated individuals radicalized online, acting without



official affiliation, and being motivated by existentialist politics, Islamophobia, and/or anti-establishment viewpoints.

**Kenya: Monitor for and avoid further demonstrations linked to alleged extrajudicial arrests by the government.** On 30 December, youth-led protest marches and sit-ins took place in the capital [Nairobi](#), denouncing the abduction of government critics, allegedly at the hands of security forces. Police fired tear gas to disperse marching demonstrators and arrested at least 11 protestors, including Senator Okiya Omtatah. Protests also occurred in [Embu](#), [Mombasa County](#), and [Kitengela](#) during the early morning hours. Several human rights groups reported a rise in abductions, with 82 cases since June 2024, alleging the security force's involvement. Kenyan authorities have denied claims linking them to these abductions, even though President William Ruto declared that the abductions would stop. Monitor local media to stay abreast of active demonstrations and avoid them as a precaution, given the potential risk to bystanders.

**Turkiye: Expect disruption in Istanbul during pro-Palestinian protests slated to take place on 1 January 2024.** Thousands are expected to attend the demonstration at Galata Bridge in Istanbul from 08:30 (local time) in support of the Palestinian cause. Participants will begin to gather from 06:30 (local time), marching from Suleymaniye, Sultanahmet, and Fatih neighborhoods to the site of the demonstration. Anticipate transportation disruptions in the vicinity of the protest and plan journeys accordingly.



## APAC

**South Korea: Expect flight delays and cancellations at Muan International Airport over the coming days following a deadly plane crash.** On 29 December, a Jeju Air Flight from Bangkok (Thailand) crashed into the perimeter wall at the [Muan International Airport](#) when its landing gear failed to deploy. Out of the 181 passengers, 2 have survived, and 179 have been confirmed dead. Videos show the plane's right engine emitting a burst of fire during its descent, which suggests a bird strike may have caused the pilot to make a mayday call 1 minute after being warned of birds in the area. Officials have suspended and diverted all flights from the airport, which will remain closed until 1 January 2025. Residual flight delays should be anticipated following the reopening of the airport.

**Afghanistan / Pakistan: Monitor escalating tensions amid growing cross-border clashes.** On 24 December, Pakistan launched airstrikes in Afghanistan's [Paktika province](#), targeting alleged hideouts of the Tehrik-e-Taliban (TTP). Afghan officials reported 46 fatalities, including civilians. In retaliation, Afghan Taliban forces attacked several Pakistani military posts along the border/Durand Line in the [Upper Kurram](#) district (Pakistan) on 28 December. The Durand Line, a colonial-era boundary drawn by the British Indian Empire and the then Emirate of Afghanistan, remains a flashpoint in bilateral relations. Afghanistan has historically refused to recognize the line as a legitimate border, viewing it as an unjust division of Pashtun tribes who live on both sides. The recent clashes follow Pakistan's accusations that Afghanistan is harboring the TTP, which has intensified attacks on Pakistani soil in recent months. These developments underscore how historical territorial disputes like the Durand Line continue to shape contemporary geopolitics, fueling mistrust and violence that jeopardize regional peace and stability.