



Global Intelligence Review

November 25, 2024
Edition 18



AMER

United States: Expect residual disruption over the coming days across Northern California following severe weather. Last week, northern areas of the state experienced record rainfall as a result of an atmospheric river and bomb cyclone. The storm dropped a record 20 inches of rain, causing landslides and severe flooding throughout the region, as rivers and creeks began to overflow, submerging roadways throughout the North and the Bay Area. The flooding impacted several towns and parts of San Francisco and left tens of thousands without power, although service has since been restored. At least two people died as a result of the flash flooding in Sonoma County. Some roadways remain closed due to landslides, including portions of Highway 70 and Highway 99. Plan journeys accounting for partial or full roadway closures.

Mexico: Heightened violence and disruptions are likely over the coming days in Zacatecas state following the arrest of CJNG members by security forces. On 21 November, security forces arrested 21 members of the Cartel Jalisco New Generation (CJNG) in [Ojuelos](#) (Jalisco state). Shortly after, cartel members blocked a highway between Ojuelos and [Pinos](#) (Zacatecas state), setting fire to several vehicles. Officials have responded by deploying military assets and the National Guard in the area. Further security operations are liable to lead to public shootouts and road blockades by CJNG. Exercise caution if traveling through Zacatecas state over the coming days and monitor local media to stay abreast of developments.

Nicaragua: Constitutional reforms will further cement authoritarian rule under the Ortega regime, damage the economy, and deter foreign direct investment. On 22 November, the parliament controlled by the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) party, approved constitutional reforms that will grant



President Daniel Ortega, police, and military forces new powers. The approved reforms will increase presidential control over the media, extend the presidential term to six years (from five), and make his wife Rosario Murillo, the current vice president, the official 'co-president' of the country. The constitutional reform also gives the co-presidents complete control over the legislative, judicial, and electoral powers and grants them the ability to nominate vice presidents without electoral approval. Other changes include the establishment of a 'volunteer police' force that will legitimize the paramilitary forces the regime had been using to repress citizens and declaring FSLN party symbols official national emblems.

The Ortega regime has also passed a bill forcing national banks to ignore foreign sanctions against the co-presidents and high-ranking state officials, which have been imposed by the United States (US), Canada, and the European Union (EU) for human rights violations. This bill has far-reaching implications for the national economy, as banks tend to be forbidden from doing business with individuals sanctioned by the US and EU and could potentially result in the collapse of the country's banking system.



EMEA

Poland: Anticipate transportation disruption in Warsaw from 25 November due to planned environmental demonstrations. The Last Generation (OP) environmental activist group plans to set up road blockades on the [Wislostrada highway](#) to demand stronger action from the government on climate change. Participants announced their intentions to have the roadblocks last several weeks, but they are likely to be dispersed by police, potentially leading to scuffles. Monitor local media to stay abreast of ongoing roadblock protests and plan journeys accordingly.

Spain: Transportation disruptions likely during nationwide unionized strike action on 28-29 November. Public and private sector drivers associated with the CGT union will strike from 00:01 (local time) on 28 November until 23:59 (local time) on 29 November to demand a lower retirement age and improved working conditions. The CGT is also planning further strike actions on 5, 9, and 23 December. The strike action is liable to impact logistics and likely to cause disruption to public bus services in urban centers. Consider alternate modes of transportation and plan journeys accordingly.

Malawi: Avoid further protests over the coming days in Lilongwe linked to nationwide fuel shortages. On 25 November, anti-government protestors rallied against nationwide fuel shortages near the [Community Ground](#) in the capital Lilongwe. The demonstration was reportedly led by activists aligned with the Centre for Democracy and Economic Development Initiatives (CDEDI). Police dispersed protestors with tear gas, who were later attacked by counter-protestors aligned with



the government, and who were armed with sticks and knives. The government imposed fuel rationing at the start of this month in response to a disruption of imports over several weeks, which lead to an increased cost of transportation, and a subsequent increased cost of essential goods. Further demonstrations are liable to take place due to the deteriorating economic situation, which are likely to be dispersed by pro-government forces, posing incidental risks to bystanders.



APAC

Pakistan: Exercise caution and avoid planned demonstrations through 26 November by the opposition PTI party in Islamabad. The opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has called on supporters to rally at [D-Chowk](#) to demand the release of imprisoned party founder and former prime minister Imran Khan. Demonstrators also oppose a controversial constitutional amendment. Officials have responded by preemptively placing freight containers on key roadways in and around the city to block the arrival of tens of thousands of participants traveling from across the country to attend the rally. In turn, this has caused significant transportation disruption in Islamabad and to the Islamabad International Airport.

Officials have deployed more than 27,000 security personnel to block the entry of participants into the city, specifically to prevent the rally from taking place at D-Chowk. There have been reports of multiple clashes between police and protestors near Islamabad. On 24 November, security forces deployed tear gas at Attock Bridge and Chach Interchange (Punjab province) to prevent PTI supporters from rallying. Thousands are heading to Islamabad in convoys and announced intentions to remove government roadblocks, making clashes with security forces highly likely. Significant disruption in and around the city should be anticipated in light of the imposition of stringent security measures. Demonstrations are likely to turn unruly or be dispersed by security forces with tear gas and rubber bullets, posing incidental risk to bystanders.

India: Avoid further demonstrations in the coming days over a controversial mosque survey in [Sambhal](#) (Uttar Pradesh state). On 24 November, at least five people were killed and 20 injured during clashes between protestors and police. The unruly protest was sparked after participants rallied in response to an official



archaeological survey of the 16th-century mosque, [Shahi Jama Masjid](#), to determine if it had been built on top of a former Hindu temple. Police were reportedly pelted with stones, responding with tear gas and plastic bullets to disperse the unruly gathering. Internet access has been locally suspended until further notice. Additionally, non-locals are indefinitely prohibited from entering Sambhal without the permission of the authorities. The survey is part of a broader movement in recent years by Hindu nationalists, bringing petitions to the judiciary across several states to investigate whether mosques had been built upon razed Hindu temples. Further protests are highly likely prior to a related court hearing slated to take place on 29 November.

Pakistan: Defer non-essential travel to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province amid growing sectarian violence. On 21 November, at least 42 people from the Shia sect were killed and 20 injured during an ambush on a vehicle convoy in Kurram district (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province). This prompted an attack on the Sunni community in the villages of Bagan and Bacha Kot (Kurram district), where homes, stores, and government buildings were attacked. At least 33 people were killed and 25 injured during clashes in Sunni-Shia sectarian clashes on 23 November, where the participating Alizai and Bagan tribes exchanged intense gunfire. Officials responded by initiating a curfew, suspending telecom services, and later negotiating a seven-day ceasefire on 24 November. The violence stems from a decades-long land dispute in Kurram district.