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AMER

Ecuador: Track potential for civil unrest over coming weeks in response to contested Presidential election result. On 13 April, the final phase of the Presidential Election occurred between the incumbent conservative, President Daneil Noboa, and the mainstream leftist Luisa Gonzalez. Noboa won with a reported 56 percent of the vote, while Gonzalez received 44 percent. The election was seen as a referendum on Noboa's policies to combat surging crime resulting from the increased activities of gangs and drug cartels over recent years. Noboa declared a state of internal armed conflict in 2024 that authorized the military to patrol the streets and take an active role in law enforcement. However, he has been accused of threatening democratic norms while engaging in increasingly authoritarian tendencies. The National Electoral Council reported that there had been some arrests over ballot anomalies but that this was not reflective of an organized voter fraud effort. Despite this, Gonzalez announced that she would not recognize the results of the election, alleging widespread voter fraud. Prolonged debate and escalating rhetoric over the outcome of the election could galvanize supporters of both candidates to engage in demonstrations, which could lead to clashes with counter-protesters as well as law enforcement. Travelers should avoid large gatherings or protests in the coming weeks due to the risk of incidental harm.

United States: Expect disruption across urban centers on 19 April related to the 50501 Movement protest campaign. Demonstrations organized by the 50 Protests, 50 States, 1 Movement (50501 Movement) against the policies of President Donald Trump's administration are slated to take place in cities across all 50 states. The second such protest to take place in April. Recent demonstrations suggest protests will garner a large turnout, which likely will result in localized



transportation disruptions in central areas of major urban centers. Clashes with police or counter-demonstrators cannot be ruled out, nor can the potential of a vehicular ramming attack carried out by lone actors. On 5 April, an anti-Trump demonstration march in Lafayette (Indiana state) was confronted by a pro-Trump counter-protestor, leading to a scuffle and subsequent threats with an AR-15 type rifle brandished by the counter-protestor. This highlights the heightened emotions surrounding anti-Trump demonstrations and the underlying potential for violence.

Dominican Republic/Haiti: Fatal roof collapse at nightclub has elevated public distrust, foreshadowing increased potential civil unrest over the coming weeks. On 8 April, the roof of the popular Jet Set nightclub, in Santo Domingo, collapsed during a concert. As of 14 April, the confirmed death toll had reached 231, including prominent government officials, former MLB players, and other celebrities. In the aftermath, families of the victims have reported delays and mismanagement by the government in identifying the remains in a timely manner, which has led to growing public frustration. The incident, and the aftermath, has intensified already existing public distrust toward the National Police. Widespread allegations have surfaced accusing the authorities of stealing valuables from the bodies during recovery operations. Additionally, the government as a whole has been facing increasing public scrutiny for its lack of action to curb Haitian migration in the country. As the investigation into the tragedy continues, public sentiment is liable to shift from grief to anger. This presents an elevated risk of mass protests or spontaneous unrest in the coming weeks. Continued scrutiny of police behavior may also serve to worsen any protest which would occur, as there is a precedence of violent interactions between protesters and police, including tear gassing and excessive use of force towards any individual within the area of unrest.



EMEA

Greece: IED attack in Athens suggests a growing risk of extremism by far-left groups in response to perceived social injustice. On 11 April, an improvised explosive device (IED) was detonated outside of the Hellenic Train offices – the main domestic operator of railway services – in Athens by a newly emerged domestic extremist group called the Revolutionary Class Struggle. The act of terrorism follows recent outcries and mass protests over a train crash in 2023 that killed 57 people. The tragedy has fueled resentment toward the current administration and the Hellenic Train company’s perceived lack of transparency and accountability regarding deficiencies in transportation infrastructure. The absence of fatalities related to the IED detonation can be attributed to the bombers alerting news outlets and providing a 40-minute advance warning of the explosion, giving police time to evacuate the area. Revolutionary Class Struggle made a statement in which they connected the 2023 Greek railway accident to the global oppression of the proletariat class – specifically dedicating this act to the “Palestinian people and their historic resistance.” As the war with Hamas in Gaza continues to intensify and Israel takes further steps to potentially occupy the territory over the long term, the risk of radicalized individuals taking violent action domestically as a form of protest is liable to increase. Greece has a contemporary precedent of recurrent politically motivated violence. Authorities have issued recent warnings that a new generation of small groups that are emerging could foment an emerging era of political violence. Travelers should avoid any large demonstrations due to a precedent for violence at demonstrations between protesters and law enforcement, which could result in incidental harm.

Spain: Expect continued disruption related to protests over anti-tourism, which are likely to persist and intensify in advance of the summer season. On 5 April,



mass anti-tourism protests erupted across over 40 cities, including [Madrid](#), [Barcelona](#), and [Seville](#). More than 150,000 demonstrators in the capital Madrid rallied against skyrocketing rents and housing scarcity caused by the rapid expansion of short-term tourist rentals. Since 2024, this movement has been gaining momentum, starting in the Canary Islands and then rapidly spreading to other regions, reflecting widespread national discontent. Over the last decade, rents across Spain have doubled, and home prices have risen by 44 percent, outpacing wage growth and driving out local residents nationwide. Anti-tourism demonstrations have led to significant transportation disruptions across multiple city centers. Tourists themselves are frequently verbally harassed by protesters and, in some instances, have been victims of light physical harassment. As tensions rise ahead of the peak tourist summer season, further interruptions to local infrastructure, mobility, and tourism services are highly likely as activists escalate actions to pressure authorities into enacting housing and tourism reforms.



APAC

Thailand: Arrest of US academic highlights need to avoid public discussions of monarchy that can be construed as critical. On 8 April, Dr. Paul Chambers was arrested for violating the strict lese-majestic laws in reference to the online summary of an academic webinar – hosted by a Singapore-based institute – he gave in October 2024. The topic of the session was advertised as exploring the military and police reshuffles in Thailand. The online blurb for the event implied the monarchy had a role in restructuring the military, which authorities deem false and defamatory, thereby treating the webinar description as an insult to the monarch’s dignity. Thailand’s lese-majeste laws are among the strictest globally, with convictions leading to significant prison terms. Chambers’ body of scholarship on the Thai military’s influence in politics likely made him a target, as his work scrutinizes the army-monarchy nexus. The offending text was not Chambers’ own words but came from the institute’s website, suggesting that authorities wanted to send a message against discussing sensitive royal matters – regardless of the genuine attribution. Since 2020, there has been a notable increase in the prosecution of those arrested for violating the lese-majeste laws, predominantly involving Thai nationals, making the arrest of a foreign academic particularly notable. Travelers should heed this case as a warning and always familiarize themselves with the local laws and customs of their destinations. It is advised to avoid any commentary – verbal, written, or online – that could be construed as critical of the royal family and related institutions in Thailand to avoid potential severe legal consequences.

Central Asia: Increasing trade with European Union (EU) signals a desire to diversify away from traditional spheres of influence and deepen alternative economic relationships. On 4 April, the inaugural Central Asia-European Union



Summit was held in Samarkand (Uzbekistan) to explore the potential myriad of avenues for greater collaboration between the EU and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. President Von Der Leyen of the European Commission announced a 13.2-billion USD investment package for the Central Asian nations. This investment will be managed under the European Commission's Global Gateway initiative, which posits itself as an alternative to China's Belt & Road initiatives.

China and Russia are the historic great powers influencing the region of Central Asia in the socio-political and economic realms. However, global sanctions on the Russian market, due to the war in Ukraine and the Kremlin's own distraction with managing the conflict, have left an opening for new partners to assert influence in this critical market for natural gas, oil, manufacturing, and critical minerals. Central Asian nations have additionally begun to experience fatigue with the Chinese style of investment that can be exploitive and often over-promises while under delivering, opening up opportunities for new investors. Surging market demand for electric vehicles and the digitalization of infrastructure have increased the EU's need for critical raw minerals. Currently, China has a near monopoly on the refinement of raw mineral processing, and Russia maintains large reserves of critical mineral ores. In approaching Central Asia directly, the EU is seeking an alternative to becoming dependent on either China or Russia.

India: Anticipate and avoid nationwide demonstrations over the coming weeks related to the religious bill amendment. Since 8 April, demonstrations led by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) have taken place nationwide, including in urban centers in Karnataka, Punjab, and Telangana state. The demonstrations by the AIMPLB and the opposition Indian National Congress party are a response to the recently enacted Waqf (Amendment) Act, which regulates the property endowment



of Islamic organizations for charitable purposes. Demonstrations can be expected over the coming days due to heightened emotions related to the perception that the amendment is unfairly targeting the Muslim community. The AIMPLB has called for demonstrations until at least 7 June and should be anticipated across urban centers, including the capital, New Delhi. Comments by political and religious leaders in public and social media are liable to intensify civil unrest, which authorities may respond to by suspending internet services. Clashes with security forces and counter-protestors are likely, posing incidental risk to bystanders.