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AMERICAS

North America: Anticipate further disruptions over the coming weeks in line with NOAA projections of additional severe weather systems in the Atlantic.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) mid-season report forecasts the potential for 3-8 more Atlantic hurricanes before the season officially ends on 30 November. The recent passing of both Hurricane John on 25 September - which caused moderate damage across southern Mexico - and Hurricane Helene on 26 September - which battered the Big Bend area of Florida and caused devastation in North Carolina - were in line with the above-average Atlantic hurricane season that forecasters predicted for 2024. The reason behind this forecast was the convergence of nearly record-high ocean temperatures and the shift from El Nino to La Nina conditions in the Pacific. Future Atlantic hurricane seasons are predicted to be just as intense, if not more so, than those we experience now due to the long-term effects of climate change. Additionally, FEMA warned that inland areas unaccustomed to weathering hurricanes need to be especially wary. Heavy rainfall can cause flash flooding, landslides, and power outages, resulting in the closure of airports, and the shutdown of public transportation. Businesses operating in Mexico, the Caribbean, and the southeastern United States should anticipate more hurricanes of high strength to make landfall in these areas over the next two months and put in place appropriate measures.

United States: Exercise caution over the coming days in Florida state during the passage of Hurricane Milton. The storm system is projected to make landfall near Tampa on 8 October as a Category 5 Hurricane, suggesting catastrophic damage is liable to take place in the storm's path. Storm Surge and Hurricane



Watches are in effect for portions of the west coast of the Florida Peninsula. Heavy rainfall from Hurricane Milton is expected to begin in portions of Florida state from 8-9 October, bringing considerable risk of flash flooding. Anticipate power and communications outages, transportation, and regional flight disruptions over the coming days. Follow all official directives, including evacuation orders.

Ecuador: Follow all official directives amid a state of emergency (SoE) in place through 2 December in response to rising crime. On 3 October, President Daniel Noboa announced a new 60-day SoE in the [El Oro](#), [Guayas](#), [Los Rios](#), [Manabi](#), [Orellana](#), [Santa Elena](#) provinces, and the [Quito](#) metropolitan area. In addition, a curfew from 22:00-05:00 (local time) will be in place for several cantons in the Azuay, Guayas, Los Rios, and Orellana provinces. Residents under a curfew are required to remain at home during the duration, with some exceptions for essential activities. A heightened security presence should be anticipated in the affected cantons, which will likely include search and seizure operations to counter criminal organizations involved in the transit of narcotics and may result in retaliatory attacks by targeted syndicates.

Haiti: Massacre by criminal group in Pont-Sonde underlines worsening security environment despite United Nations (UN) Multinational Security Support (MSS) efforts. On 3 October, the Gran Grif gang perpetuated an attack against the civilian inhabitants of the small town located in the central Artibonite department. The attack left at least 70 people dead, 45 houses burned down, and 34 vehicles damaged. Reports suggest the town was targeted over allegations that inhabitants were attempting to join the self-defense group, the Jean Denis Coalition, to protect themselves from gang violence. The Artibonite department is an essential



agricultural area that also houses key roads and highways that are attractive sources of revenue for gangs. While widespread rumors circulated about an imminent attack for weeks the authorities failed to act to take preventative measures.

Haiti has been embroiled in intense gang violence since the 2021 assassination of then-President of Haiti, Jovenel Moïse. The government and national security services remain largely crippled while a variety of powerful gangs compete over resources and territory. The UN MSS that deployed in June 2024 to stabilize the country only has 400 of the proposed 2,500 officers and is not adequately equipped to operate beyond Port-Au-Prince. In light of no concrete plan to bolster the UN's MSS mission, a continued deterioration of the security environment can be expected. It is advised to avoid all non-essential travel to Haiti at this time amid the ongoing turmoil.



EMEA

Europe: Electoral gains of the Freedom Party (FPO) in Austria reflect the growing popularity of far-right political groups connected to anti-migrant sentiment and may lead to the erosion of European Union (EU) unity over the coming years. On 29 September, Austria's far-right FPO - founded by a former Nazi SS officer in the 1950's - won 29% of the vote. While the FPO does not have a majority in the Austrian lower house of parliament, this weakens the dominance of both the ruling coalition of the Austrian People's Party and Social Democrats. This electoral win follows similar successes by far-right extremist parties in Germany (AfD), France (RN), and the Netherlands (PVV)s and is demonstrative of the fact that the far-right movement in Europe continues to gain momentum. These parties have become more palatable to voters by appealing to a pervading frustration with bureaucratic dysfunction, perceived insecurity over changing demographics, and economic strain due to mass waves of migration. The FPO's most potent issue positions, reflective of policy trends across many European far-right parties, include anti-refugee and migrant sentiments, a willingness to re-engage with Russia, and a suspicion toward the authority of the European Union. Far-right parties seek to erode European integration, in favor of greater national sovereignty, and advance the perception that security is better achieved through isolation by rejecting the effectiveness of collective security apparatuses such as the EU and NATO.

Europe: Attacks on Israeli embassies underscore heightened risk in the vicinity of Israeli institutions fueled by anti-Israeli sentiment over the Israel-Gaza conflict. On 2 October, three suspects were arrested in connection with two explosions from hand grenades that targeted an Israeli Embassy located



in a suburb outside of Copenhagen (Denmark). This was preceded by an attack on the Israeli Embassy in Stockholm (Sweden) on 1 October, which was struck by gunfire. Neither incident resulted in casualties. These attacks follow a series of incidents targeting Israeli diplomatic missions in Europe, including a gunman who opened fire on the Israeli Consulate in Munich in September 2024 and an assailant with a crossbow at the Israeli Embassy in Belgrade in June 2024. The recent escalation of Israel's ground invasion into Lebanon to combat Hezbollah is likely to inflame anti-Israeli sentiment in Europe and cause a further increase in antisemitic activity. According to the European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency report from July 2024, antisemitic-motivated hate crimes and harassment have significantly risen across Europe since October 2023. Exercise heightened vigilance in proximity to Israeli diplomatic missions or synagogues.

Zambia: Expect disruption over the short term amid ongoing power outages related to a nationwide drought. The country has been gripped by nationwide blackouts in recent weeks, related to a downturn in hydro-power generation caused by lower water levels related to an ongoing drought. Approximately 84% of Zambia's electricity is sourced from water reservoirs, making it difficult for the country to find alternative energy to make up for the shortfall in the hydroelectric supply. The ongoing power outages have created operational disruptions for government offices and businesses, with many buildings only having power for up to three hours a day and often going without power for more than two days. Anticipate operational disruption to persist over the coming weeks in light of expected continued drought conditions, driven by the El Nino weather phenomenon.



Kenya: Monitor political tensions and potential subsequent civil unrest related to the motion to impeach Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua.

Parliamentarians initiated proceedings to impeach the deputy president on 1 October on charges of alleged corruption and inciting ethnic tension. A public forum on the deputy president's impeachment in the capital Nairobi turned violent when supporters clashed with detractors. Clashes between security forces and supporters of the deputy president were also reported elsewhere in the country, suggesting further civil unrest is liable to take place during the impeachment proceedings. The impending impeachment of Deputy President Rigathi can be expected to fuel political instability in the country.

Togo: The attack on a military patrol near the border with Burkina Faso highlights the risk of the ongoing Sahel insurgency spilling over the border into neighboring countries. On 1-2 October, an unidentified militant group carried out a cross-border raid targeting a military patrol near Fanworgou ([Savanes](#) region), killing at least 19 soldiers and civilians. Although no group has claimed responsibility for the attack, it remains highly likely that the al-Qaida-affiliated Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM) was responsible. The insurgent militant group regularly carries out attacks in the region, most recently on 20 July 2024 near Kpenkankandi, which is located approximately 4 kilometers distance from the recent attack. The increase in cross-border attacks correlates with rising insecurity in Burkina Faso following the military-led coup d'état in 2022. These attacks highlight the escalating security concerns in West Africa as jihadist insurgencies from the Sahel make inroads into southern regions such as northern Togo.



APAC

Nepal: Expect nationwide residual disruptions over the coming weeks

following severe flooding. Since 27 September, heavy rainfall caused flooding and subsequent landslides in 20 districts of Bagmati, Koshi and Madhesh provinces. This included the capital Kathmandu (Bagmati province), where highways leading to and from the city were inundated, blocked off by landslides, or damaged. There are also reports of ongoing power and communications outages. As of 7 October, at least 244 people have been killed, 179 injured and 19 remain missing amid ongoing search efforts. Three bridges have been critically damaged on the Nepal-China Araniko highway in Bagmati province. Anticipate disruptions to persist over the coming weeks amid recovery efforts and search and rescue operations.