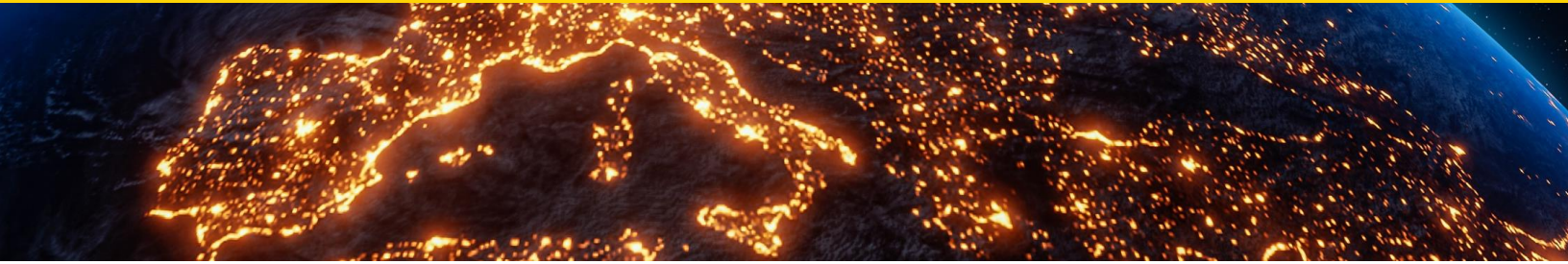




# **Global Intelligence Review**

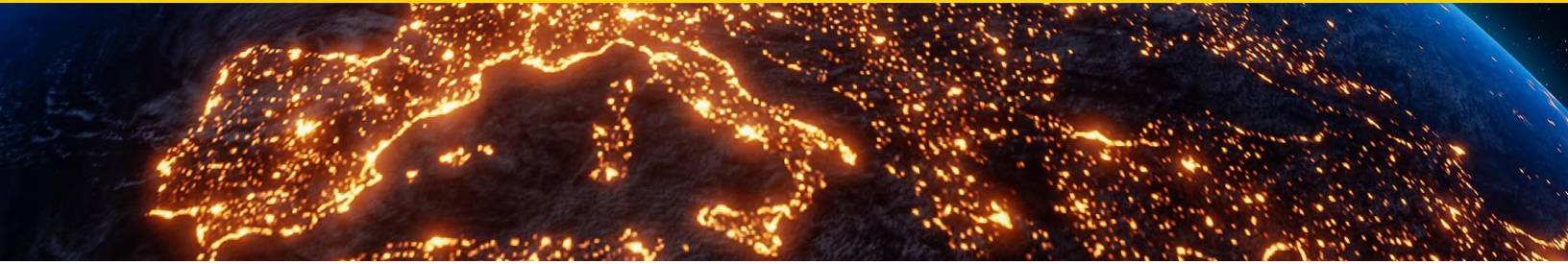
**October 21, 2024**  
Edition 10



## AMERICAS

**Bolivia:** Expect travel disruption over the coming days and avoid protests related to an ongoing indefinite roadblock campaign. Since 14 October, groups aligned with former President Evo Morales have rallied against a criminal investigation targeting him. This includes calling for fresh elections or for President Luis Arce to resign. Current roadblocks by Morales' supporters, centered in [Cochabamba](#) department, are impacting access to several cities, including the capital [La Paz](#). Protest leaders have announced intentions for further roadblocks from 21 October in other departments. Blockades have halted hundreds of fuel tankers, causing nationwide fuel shortages, while operations at bus terminals have been suspended in the cities of [Cochabamba](#), [El Alto](#), La Paz, and [Santa Cruz](#). Meanwhile, sporadic clashes have been reported between demonstrators and security forces who attempted to dismantle roadblocks. Avoid attempting to pass roadblocks erected by demonstrators, as this is likely to elicit a hostile response. If you encounter a roadblock, turn around and seek an alternative route.

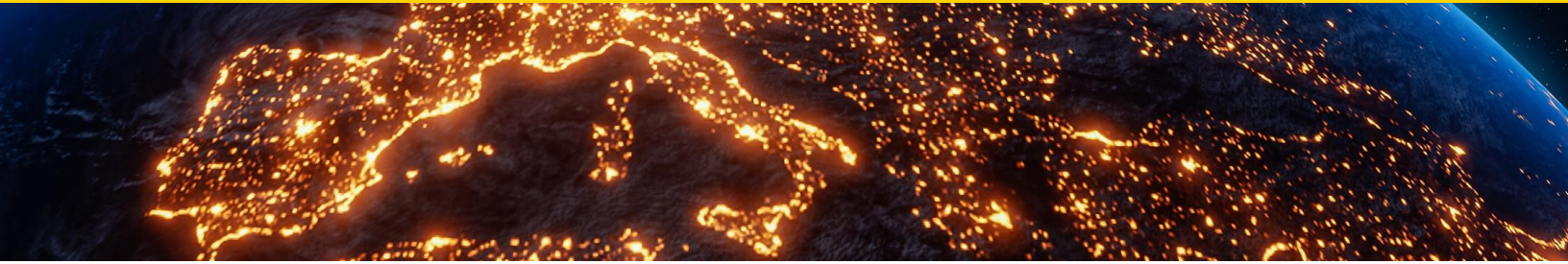
**Venezuela:** Recent arrests by the government are indicative of the persistent risk of arbitrary detention foreign nationals face. On 17 October, security forces detained five additional foreigners, three of whom are US citizens, in the latest round of arrests of foreigners on allegations of anti-government activities in the aftermath of July's disputed presidential election. The Minister of the Interior, Diosdado Cabello did not provide evidence for the supposed connections to US intelligence agencies, which was used as grounds for the arrests. This follows the previous mid-September arrest of 6 foreigners, which included three US citizens, and took place promptly after the Biden administration accused incumbent President Nicolas Maduro of obstructing a fair vote. A claim that has been widely agreed upon by the international



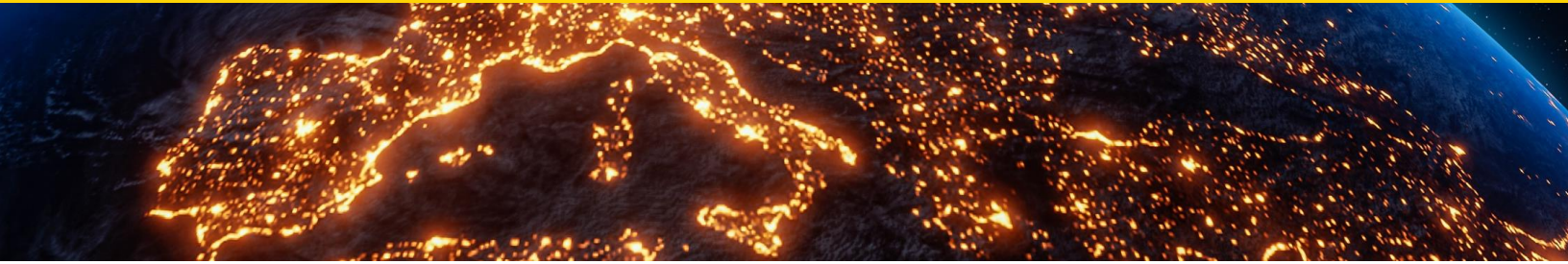
community. The Maduro administration has previously used imprisoned US citizens as a tactic to gain leverage in negotiations with the US. This pattern of arbitrary arrests, without due process or presentation of evidence, represents a persistent risk to international travelers that is unlikely to abate.

**Guadeloupe: Anticipate further sporadic power outages nationwide over the coming weeks due to an ongoing strike by utility workers.** The country has experienced sporadic power disruptions due to an ongoing strike by EDF-PEI employees since 15 September, the principal electrical supplier within the region. Employees are demanding increased wages and improved working conditions. This labor conflict has disrupted energy generation, affecting around 71,000 households across the majority of the country's townships due to load shedding to prevent a broader blackout. Despite some advancement in negotiations, the problem remains unresolved, and additional power disruptions are anticipated in the coming weeks.

**Canada: Diplomatic tensions will remain heightened with India following the expulsion of Indian diplomats in connection to an assassination plot targeting the Sikh community.** On 14 October, authorities expelled six Indian diplomats, including the high commissioner, due to mounting evidence that they were involved in hiring a vast criminal network targeting Canadian Sikhs, linking them to the murder of Sikh separatist leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in June 2023. India has denied the accusations and expelled six Canadian diplomats in response. The Sikh separatist movement seeks to create an independent Sikh homeland called Khalistan in India's Punjab region due to systemic religious persecution and human rights abuses. The Indian government has violently cracked down on the activities of the Sikh separatist movement, including peaceful protests, labeling the entire movement a terrorist



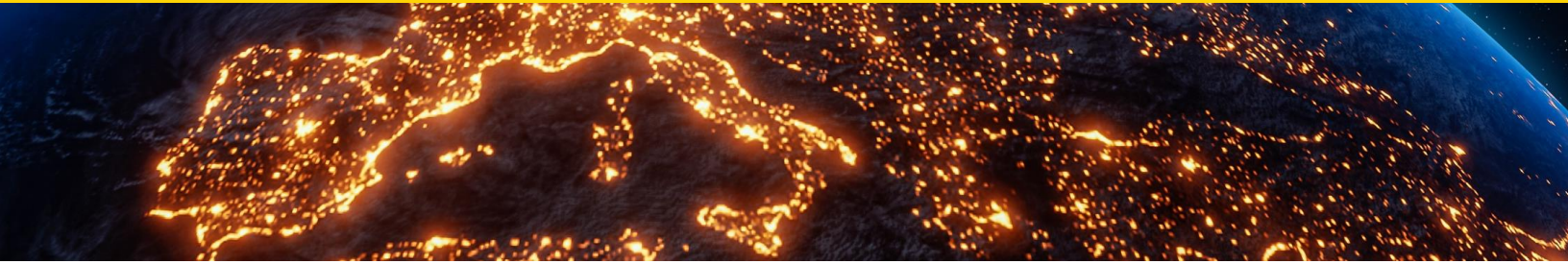
organization. Canada hosts the largest Sikh diaspora outside of India, and the Indian government has increasingly perceived public displays of support for the Sikh separatist movement by the Sikh diaspora community in the US and Canada as a security threat. A request that the diplomatic immunity of the six persons of interest be stripped was denied. As the investigation moves forward, a further strain on diplomatic relations can be expected, which may have an impact on economic ties or other forms of international cooperation.



## EMEA

**Russia:** The reported deployment of North Korean soldiers to aid in the war highlights the degradation of military forces and efforts to mitigate further mobilization. On 16 October, reports began to emerge of an indeterminate number of North Korean soldiers who had been sent to the Far East region of Russia to fight in the war against Ukraine. The National Intelligence Service of South Korea recently claimed that 1,500 North Korean soldiers had been transferred to aid in Russia's war effort. Estimates of total possible troop deployment from various Western government figures range from 3,000-12,000. As of 19 October, the General Secretary of NATO, Mark Rutte, said there was no definitive information to confirm if North Korean soldiers had been sent to Russia to fight in Ukraine or what if any, amount was expected to follow. If confirmed, these reports would be an extension of the June 2024 military pact between Russia and North Korea where both countries would support each other in the event of "aggression."

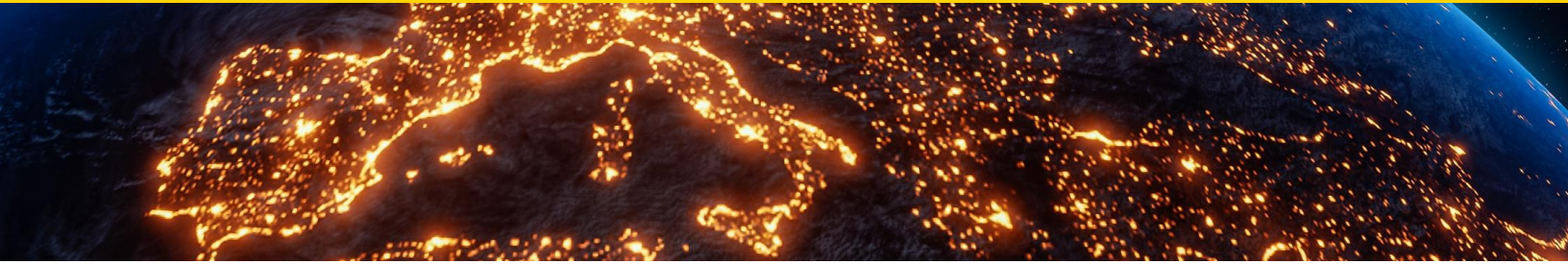
The reported deployment of North Korean soldiers to Ukraine follows a consistent pattern of foreign fighters being recruited by the Russian government. This includes recruitments from Afghanistan, Congo, Syria, Somalia, Egypt, India, Serbia, Cuba, Malaysia, and particularly Nepal. President Putin has broadly sought to avoid a second mobilization from within Russia after the 2022 general mobilization was met with extreme unpopularity and prompted an exodus of hundreds of thousands of Russians to neighboring countries. The severe degradation of Russian forces in the war with Ukraine has forced Russia to find new venues of recruitment to avoid domestic backlash. An estimated 315,000 – 400,000 Russian soldiers have been



killed, injured, or are missing in action since the start of the invasion on 24 February 2022.

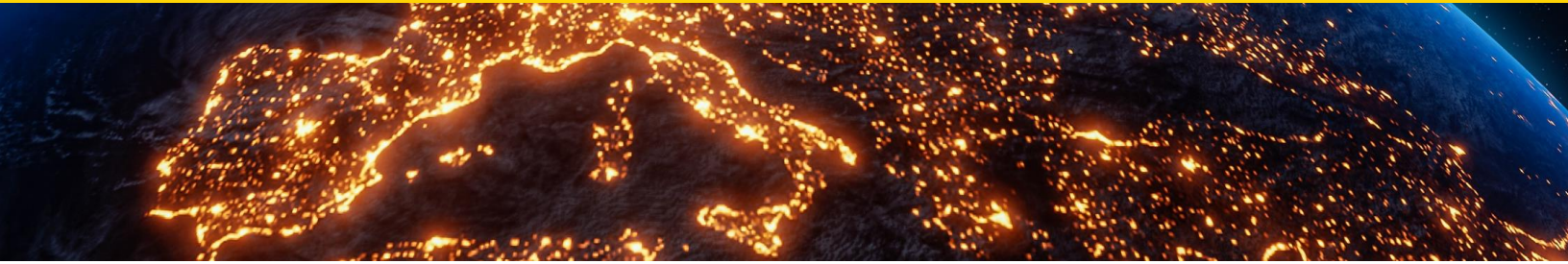
**European Union: Expect longer wait times at border crossings after multiple countries implemented temporary border checks citing irregular migration and terror threats.** On 17 October, France announced it would implement temporary border checks starting on 1 November along all land, sea, and air routes with all its neighboring countries, citing various security risks connected to migration. On 16 September, Germany instituted similar border control measures along their land crossings with neighboring countries, citing porous European Union (EU) external borders and an existing strain due to the influx of Ukrainian refugees. Norway also put in place restrictions on border crossings until October 22, with the possibility of an extension due to a heightened threat atmosphere. Currently, 8 out of 27 EU states have implemented some form of border controls (Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Slovenia, and Sweden). This pattern reflects a reaction to recent highly publicized crimes committed by migrants within EU countries and simmering domestic discontentment with migration levels. These border checks have the potential to cause delays for daily cross-border commuters as well as travelers. Anticipate the implementation of similar border security measures by other EU countries, or the extension of existing measures over the coming weeks, and plan journeys accordingly.

**Spain: Expect further protests over the coming days in urban centers linked to right-wing groups, which have been fueled by alleged government corruption**



**and high cost of living.** On 20 October, tens of thousands of protesters rallied in Madrid to protest against the current Socialist Party administration. The main organizers were the mainstream conservative Popular Party (PP) and the far-right Vox Party. The speakers at the rally listed multiple grievances, including recent corruption probes into the Socialist Party. Additional grievances include a 2023 deal made with Junts (Catalan separatists party) to grant them amnesty for the illegal 2017 referendum on independence, and the high cost of living that has been exacerbated by high levels of tourism. The protest remained peaceful with no reported incidents involving the security forces and followed similar protests on 13 October in Barcelona and Madrid, which were sponsored by left-wing parties, reflecting dissatisfaction with the current government across the political spectrum. Developments related to the corruption probe of the Socialist Party will fuel large right-wing protests in urban centers. Protests from both sides of the political spectrum will likely continue over the coming weeks, especially if poor conditions related to the cost of living persist.

**Cameroon: New restrictions commenting on the president's health place individuals at risk of arbitrary detention.** On 9 October, officials issued a directive banning public discussion or media coverage of President Paul Biya's health, who is 91 and has been in power since 1982. The president has not been seen in public since 8 September, and the administration has continued to state he is on stay in Geneva (Switzerland). This follows a pattern of press suppression by the government, which has threatened, imprisoned, and allegedly killed journalists over the years for reporting on politically sensitive topics. This ban will impact the ability of citizens or foreigners to discuss the topic publicly or on social media. Travelers should avoid discussing the president's health or politics publicly and avoid any related protests as a precaution.



**Georgia: Expect further pro-European Union (EU) protests in Tbilisi in advance of elections on 26 October.** On 20 October, thousands of Georgians rallied in the capital Tbilisi at [Freedom Square](#) for a protest called 'Georgia Chooses the European Union' to produce momentum for opposition parties that support Georgia's EU ascension, as the country heads into elections slated for 26 October. The ruling Georgia Dream Party has taken steps to distance itself from the EU and toward Russia in the past year, especially with the passage of the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence, nearly identical in substance to Russia's own Foreign Agents Law. This has resulted in the freezing of Georgia's EU candidate status and subsequent mass protests in the country. Previous pro-EU protests in Georgia over the years have a precedent of being suppressed with force by the government, resulting in injuries and arrests.

In response to the pro-EU protest on 20 October, the Georgian Dream administration issued a statement that the event was coordinated by "external forces" but made no move to suppress the protest. Recent polls suggest that opposition parties may garner enough votes to form a coalition government to replace the Georgian Dream Party. However, there are concerns about election integrity. Additional protests in the coming days before, during, and after the election on 26 October are highly likely within the current tense domestic atmosphere. Avoid such protests due to the risk of suppression by security forces, which poses an incidental risk to bystanders.

**Mozambique: Monitor election result announcement in Mozambique, which could lead to further civil unrest and incidents of violence.** On 9 October, Mozambique held general elections for the president and parliament that opposition parties and election observers have claimed as fraudulent. The ruling Frelimo Party,





which has been in power since 1975, has been leading in the preliminary results released so far. A full count of the vote is expected to be released on 24 October. Popular independent candidate, Venancio Mondlane, has called for a national strike of all workers from 21 October. The police fired tear gas and live ammunition to disperse a protest by Mondlane's supporters on 16 October in [Nampula](#) province. On 19 October, two senior officials affiliated with Mondlane's Podemos Party were found murdered in their car from gunshot wounds, which was reportedly politically motivated. This prompted a protest in the capital [Maputo](#), which security forces dispersed with tear gas and live ammunition. Precedent suggests if the Frelimo Party is declared the official victor in the presidential race, strikes, walkouts, and additional politically motivated protests are likely to be met with force from the government. Further civil unrest is likely to manifest over the coming days in Maputo and other urban centers. Avoid such protests due to the heightened incidental risk to bystanders.



## APAC

**Pakistan:** Monitor and avoid further unruly protests over the coming days in **Punjab** province linked to the alleged rape of a student. On 14 October, protests erupted at Punjab Groups College campus in [Lahore](#) after reports spread online that a campus security guard allegedly raped a female student. The college administration, police, government officials, and the alleged victim's parents deny the incident occurred despite the guard in question being taken into custody. Anti-riot police chased student protesters away from the campus with a baton charge after they failed to disperse. Further protests ensued in Punjab province, spreading to several cities. On 16 October, a security guard was killed in clashes between protesters and police in [Gujrat](#). In [Rawalpindi](#), students outside of the [Barani University campus](#) blocked roads and ransacked a college building on 17 October. Security forces responded with baton charges and firing tear gas. This was followed by government-banned rallies, the shutdown of all educational institutions in the province, and additional arrests of students accused of spreading inflammatory propaganda online. Although the protests have since stopped, they could reignite depending on further developments or a perceived lack of government action against the accused.