



# Global Intelligence Review

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## AMER

**Brazil:** There is a Heightened risk of civil unrest and operational disruptions over the coming weeks as supporters of ex-President Jair Bolsonaro intensify demands for amnesty amid contentious judicial proceedings. On 16 March, approximately 18,000 supporters of Bolsonaro demonstrated at Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, calling for legislative amnesty for Bolsonaro supporters jailed over the 8 January 2023 riots at the presidential palace in Brasilia. The protest coincides with the impending Supreme Court decision on Bolsonaro's indictment for plotting an alleged coup – to retain power after the 2022 election. The recent demonstration underscores sustained polarization in Brazilian society, which has emboldened extremist factions and Bolsonaro's efforts to portray his legal proceedings as politically motivated persecution. It is highly likely that protests will intensify if Bolsonaro is formally indicted, causing traffic disruptions and increasing the risk of property damage or violent clashes – particularly in major urban centers. While popular support for Bolsonaro has decreased in fervor, radical elements persist. Stakeholders should monitor the heightened risk for unruly civil unrest and enhance contingency plans for businesses and travelers over the coming weeks.

**Bolivia:** Avoid demonstrations over the coming days in major urban centers linked to fuel crises and economic instability. On 14 March, authorities declared a state of emergency in [Santa Cruz Department](#), where fuel shortages have crippled emergency services, road maintenance, waste disposal, and public transport. Protests erupted across key locations, including [La Guardia](#) dual carriageway and Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos' (YPFB) offices, the Bolivian state-owned oil and natural gas company. Roadblocks by protestors closed down Highway 10 near [Concepcion](#) and [Yapacani](#) before agreements led to their removal on 14 March.





Farmers warn of worsening food security risks as fuel shortages threaten grain harvesting, and transport operators have warned of indefinite strikes if the crisis continues. The government, struggling with foreign currency shortages, is exploring cryptocurrency-based fuel imports, signaling economic distress but also potential financial volatility. Further, the crisis underscores Bolivia's overreliance on resource exports, declining gas production reducing revenues and limiting its ability to sustain subsidies. Several sectors have signaled intentions to initiate a strike, including roadblocks from 19 March if the crises remain unresolved. Travelers are advised to reconfirm the status of routes prior to departure and to avoid passing through roadblocks.

**United States: President Donald Trump's global trade policies create instability in the domestic and global economy, foreshadowing persistent uncertainty.**

President Trump's renewed protectionist trade policies in 2025, characterized by significant tariff increases and retaliatory measures from key trade partners, have intensified global market volatility and economic uncertainty. President Trump's unpredictable approach, marked by abrupt pauses, threats, and reinstatements of tariffs, has disrupted supply chains and eroded investor confidence, as evidenced by the US stock market's sharp decline on March 10 – its worst day since 2021 – following his indecisive stance on tariffs. The economic repercussions are already visible, with Stanley Morgan cutting its US GDP growth projection from 1.9 % to 1.5 %, straining businesses and consumers alike. The potential retaliatory measures from major economies, including Mexico, Canada, China, and the EU, could further destabilize trade, increasing prices and harming sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing. Moreover, Trump's economic nationalism is accelerating global efforts to reduce reliance on the US, with allies and competitors alike pursuing alternative trade agreements, particularly in key industries such as semiconductors, artificial



intelligence, and green energy. The interconnected nature of the global economy means that abrupt shifts in US trade policy will reverberate worldwide, potentially reshaping long-term international trade relations and economic alliances.

**Mexico: Exercise enhanced caution amid a spike in violence between security officers and Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación (CNJG) on the Jalisco-Michoacan border.** On 16 March, violent confrontations erupted between armed cartel members and security forces in San Antonio de Rivas during the evening hours that spread outward to the surrounding area. Various vehicles on Highway 81, Guadalajara-Mexico highway, and other local main roadways were set ablaze as roadblocks set up by cartel gunmen attempted to impede the advancement of security forces. Cartel violence was reported in [La Piedad](#), [Yurecuaro](#), [Tanhuato](#), [Churintzio](#), [Ixtlán de los Hervores](#), [Ecuandureo](#), Zamora, and Jacona y Tangamandapio municipalities. An increase in CJNG-related activity targeting the security forces has been observed since the arrest on 28 February of Abraham Oseguera, also known as 'Don Rodo', a senior CJNG leader. CJNG has been engaged in a prolonged national campaign aimed at countering the influence and control of their main rival, the Sinaloa Cartel, over key drug trafficking routes. If a cartel-controlled roadblock is encountered, it is advised to cooperate fully and not resist any demands. Although foreign nationals are unlikely to be intentionally targeted – a heightened risk of incidental harm and delays persists if traveling through the region due to further potential clashes and increased security presence.

**Panama/US: BlackRock to gain control over key Canal ports, reducing Chinese influence over global trade.** On 4 March, Hong Kong-based CK Hutchison Holdings announced the sale of a controlling 80% stake in its global port operations to a consortium led by the US firm BlackRock. The deal covers 43 ports in 23 countries,



including the strategically significant Balboa and Cristobal ports on either end of the Panama Canal. The transaction still must be approved by the Panamanian government. This sale follows increased US scrutiny of Chinese control over global trade infrastructure, with US President Donald Trump citing specific concerns regarding Chinese leverage in the Panama Canal. CK Hutchison insists the sale is commercially motivated, yet its timing suggests a strategic recalibration amid geopolitical pressure from the US. This transfer of control marks a victory for the US in the ongoing battle over global shipping routes in Latin America and Asia. US control over the Panama Canal's ports enhances trade efficiency for US companies by reducing costs, ensuring the security of critical supply chains, and generating significant revenue through toll collection and tax benefits. Furthermore, this will strengthen US geopolitical leverage in Latin America.

**Panama:** Expect disruptions over the coming days as protests against social security reforms continue to pose risk of violent clashes. On 18 March, demonstrators associated with labor unions plan to strike and march towards the National Assembly in Panama City from 16:00 (local time). The strike and protest action has been called in response to the passage of reforms for social security. Transportation disruptions due to potential roadblocks on the Pan-American Highway associated with the protest should be anticipated. Security forces are liable to disperse protestors with heavy handed crowd dispersal measures, posing incidental risk to bystanders.

**Colombia:** Anticipate and avoid planned nationwide demonstrations in urban centers by labor unions slated to take place on 18 March. Supporters of President Gustavo Petro's labor reform will rally against the announcement that a Senate majority intends to block the reform. Participants will gather at 09:00 (local time) at





[Parque Nacional](#) before marching towards [Plaza de Bolivar](#) in the capital Bogota. Similar demonstrations are expected to be held across other major urban centers, near flashpoints including major public squares and key government buildings. Avoid such demonstrations out of precaution.



## EMEA

**Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): Possible mineral deal with the US signals increasing desperation of Congolese government for support to counter M23 insurgency.** On 10 March, reports emerged that the US was in exploratory discussions with the DRC about a deal to allot access to critical minerals for US companies in the currently contested, and mineral rich, eastern regions. Purportedly, discussions are ongoing between DRC and US representatives. No major American company has operated within the DRC since 2016, and since then, China has dominated the domestic mineral supply chains. The current rough deal would give US firms greater security over supply chains required for advanced technology in exchange for US military support in training and arming Congolese troops. Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi's grip on power has become more tenuous as political opponents emphasize his failure to effectively combat the M23 insurgency. The deal represents a continuation of US President Trump's efforts to secure reliable access to critical resources and safeguard supply chains. The persistent momentum of the M23 insurgency demonstrates the Congolese forces' inability to defend or reclaim territory effectively without foreign assistance. As the situation continues to deteriorate, regional powers such as South Africa have moved to withdraw their troops from the conflict zone, underlining the desperation of the DRC for US logistical and training support to fill the gap. The DRC is set to begin direct negotiations with M23 in Angola on 18 March, which was previously ruled out as a non-starter. Stakeholders should monitor this situation as it develops to ascertain potential business opportunities as well as changes in the current trajectory of the conflict.

**Kenya: Murder of Scottish businessman in Nairobi suggests a heightened risk of foreign nationals being targeted for financial exploitation.** On 22 February,



the body of Campbell Scott was discovered in the Makongo Forest days after his disappearance in Nairobi where he was set to attend a business conference. The victim, a senior manager at FICO, was likely targeted by individuals who sought to exploit him for financial gain, eventually leading to his abduction and brutal killing. On 2 March, two suspects, who had used Scott's bank cards after his death, were arrested although the bank cards and phone have not yet been recovered. On 4 March, detectives disclosed that at least 12,000 GBP was withdrawn from Scott's bank account. Both organized crime and petty criminals in Kenya often target wealthy foreigners, viewing them as ideal victims for extortion and kidnapping. This case underscores the need to exercise increased situational awareness and security measures for foreign nationals in Nairobi to mitigate similar risks.

**Romania: Expect sporadic transportation delays and heightened security over the coming weeks following riots and protests in Bucharest as far-right presidential candidate is banned permanently.** On 9 March, hundreds of supporters gathered outside of the Central Election Bureau (CEB) after it announced its decision to disqualify the far-right candidate, Calin Georgescu, from retaining his eligibility for future electoral candidacy. Demonstrators set fires and threw objects at police who responded with tear gas. Georgescu won the first round of presidential elections in December 2024, but the results came under scrutiny due to accusations of Russian election tampering and were annulled by the Constitutional Court. Georgescu is now urging his supporters to vote for another far-right candidate. On 16 March, thousands of demonstrators gathered in Bucharest for a pro-EU rally – foreshadowing continued protests from both sides and heightened tensions in the lead up to the rescheduled elections currently set to take place in early May. This period will be characterized by potential street level clashes as well as the elevated possibility of a targeted attack carried out by a domestic violence extremist. Travelers





are advised to avoid government buildings in Bucharest, particularly the BEC and Constitutional Court, and to expect a heightened security presence throughout the city.

**Italy: Expect transportation disruption on 19 March during a nationwide rail strike.** The rail strike will take place nationwide from 09:00-17:00 (local time) in response to workers' demands for better working conditions, among other issues. Trenitalia, Trenord and Trenitalia Tper train services will be impacted by the industrial action. Reconfirm travel itineraries, allow additional time for journeys and anticipate an increased demand for alternative modes of transport.



## APAC

**Pakistan: Armed train hijacking underscores mounting insurgency threat to transport, infrastructure and foreign investment.** On 11 March, militants from the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) – a separatist terror group – hijacked the Jaffar Express train in Balochistan province, taking over 400 passengers’ hostage. The militant group issued a 48-hour ultimatum, demanding the release of BLA prisoners in exchange for the hostages. On 13 March, Pakistani special forces stormed the train and neutralized all 33 attackers and freed 346 passengers – several dozen hostages had already been killed. The BLA often engages in targeted bombings against Chinese foreign workers, infrastructure, and Pakistani security forces, which they perceive as complicit in the political and economic disenfranchisement of the Baloch ethnic group. The large-scale operation demonstrates the weakened position of Pakistani counter-intelligence capabilities and the traction the BLA insurgents have gained. According to officials, the boost in the BLA’s operational capacity is due to an alliance with the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which operates out of Afghani territory. Travelers are advised to defer all non-essential travel to Balochistan province due to its unstable security environment and a high probability that BLA attacks will persist over the coming weeks.

**Philippines: Demonstrations are likely to persist over the coming days following ICC arrest of former president Duterte and subsequent mobilization of opposing groups.** On 11 March, former President Rodrigo Duterte was arrested in response to an International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant for crimes against humanity and transferred to the Hague (Netherlands). In turn, this has reignited domestic political tensions, prompting nationwide protests by his supporters and counter actions from political opposition and human rights advocates.



Demonstrations in Manila, Davao, and other major cities have remained largely peaceful, but remain emotionally charged. Duterte supporters question the integrity of the charges and perceive the ICC as violating the country's sovereignty. Duterte's loyalists are organizing additional rallies, raising the risk of escalating violence with counter-demonstrators or law enforcement. Although the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces remain unified and under civilian control, both institutions are on heightened alert in anticipation of potential clashes. Further demonstrations are highly likely in Metro Manila and Davao City. Travelers are advised to remain abreast of planned demonstrations and anticipate related disruptions.