



**PROSEGUR**

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## AMER

### **Mexico: New national security strategy is liable to spur an increase in violent incidents.**

On 30 April, the Senate finally approved a novel version of a National Security Strategy following repeated months of delay and editing. The strategy has been laid out to strengthen institutions that are responsible for public security and improve coordination between various levels of local and national law enforcement authorities. This strategy signals Mexico's shift toward engaging in an increasingly direct approach to confronting organized crime within the country, in contrast to the recent strategy that attempted to reduce the root causes of crime. The new strategy, coupled with the recent United States designation of certain Mexican cartels as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs), may prompt criminal groups to lash out with reactionary measures, as evidenced by a recent increase in violent incidents. These events have included coordinated highway blockades in states such as Michoacan, as well as direct fatal attacks on law enforcement personnel. As Mexico continues to confront organized crime throughout the country and crack down on drug trafficking specifically, travelers should remain aware that coordinated and violent attacks are liable to persist or escalate throughout the cartel-dominated regions. Travelers should avoid states and roads with established high levels of cartel activity and limit non-essential movements during periods of heightened violence. It is advised to liaise with local contacts and monitor the news to remain current on developments.

### **Peru: Murder of miners in La Libertad region underscores the increase in violent criminal activity connected to illegal mining operations.**

On 4 May, thirteen miners were found dead in Pataz (La Libertad region). They were sent out to confront an illegal mining operation on 26 April but were subsequently kidnapped and later killed. In response, President Dina Boluarte announced a thirty-day suspension of mining activity in the northern district of Pataz. The government has announced plans to set up military bases in the district and implement an evening curfew from 18:00 to 06:00 (local time) to increase regional security. Illegal mining has flourished within the highly profitable gold industry due to the government's lack of oversight and presence in the northern region. Highly organized





criminal enterprises, spanning from offshoots of the Venezuelan Tren de Aragua cartel to local gangs from Trujillo City, have established themselves in illegal mining operations. There have also been documented examples of hired private security guards overpowering legal miners, extorting them, taking control of their operations, and creating their own informal criminal groups. This diverse sampling of criminal groups, frequently armed with military-grade weapons and high amounts of explosives, is estimated to have taken control of over 200 mining tunnels. Poderosa, the legal mining company that employed the recently murdered 13 miners, has had to abandon several mining locations since 2022 due to illegal miners and criminal groups taking over operations at locations. Poderosa claims that nearly forty people, including contractors and artisanal miners, have been killed recently by criminal gangs. Peru is one of the world's largest exporters of gold, and currently, 44 percent of the gold exported originates from illegal and informal sectors. While the Peruvian government has suggested that the thirty-day curfew can be extended, the steady increase of illegal mining activities in the region will continue to pose risks to companies with employees in the area. It is advised to exercise heightened awareness if conducting business or traveling through areas with noted illegal mining operations.

**Honduras: Mass shooting threats in Tegucigalpa signal criminal intimidation tactics ahead of national elections.** On 6 May, the US Embassy in Tegucigalpa issued a security alert – originating from FBI intelligence – warning of potential mass shooting threats against a school, a government complex, and an unspecified shopping mall scheduled for 6 and 16 May. While no incident occurred on the first date, authorities deployed heightened security around the locations. The wide array of target selections suggests an intent to maximize public fear and disrupt daily life. Given the country's narco-political history, it is likely that organized crime and drug cartels may be leveraging public fear ahead of the November 2025 elections. However, no group has claimed responsibility for the threats. Historically, Honduran gangs have periodically disrupted the CA-11 highway toward Guatemala. However, so far, no cross-border incidents have been reported in connection with this threat. The second threat date – 16 May – will ultimately test the threat's credibility, although travelers should exercise increased caution in the interim and aftermath of that date. The



heightened risk level will be lowered if the alerts pass without incident. Stakeholders with operations and personnel in the country should reference this episode as they plan security for the remaining election cycle.

**Panama: Large protests over US interference highlight growing unity between civil society groups and increased likelihood of persistent mass demonstrations.** On 6 May, thousands gathered in Panama City to protest President Jose Mulino's handling of various issues, including perceived US interference in the Panama Canal. University students led the protest in opposition to the agreement Mulino signed with the US in March, allowing US troops to deploy in areas adjacent to the Panama Canal. The students were joined by healthcare workers, laborers, and environmentalists protesting reforms to social security made in March and recent controversial attempts to reopen an infamous copper mine. Protests over these issues have been ongoing since March 2025. On 28 April, dissatisfaction with the government's response regarding these grievances sparked an indefinite national strike involving teachers and several labor unions – healthcare workers have threatened to join on 19 May. Mulino has stated he will not renegotiate the deal with the US and claimed the protests are motivated by political opposition to his tenure in power rather than genuine outrage over the issues. Many students are concerned that the presence of US troops in Panama threatens national sovereignty and neutrality. These fears are compounded by recent comments from US President Trump asserting he would take back control of the canal by force and the historical precedent of the 1989 invasion of Panama by the US. The unification of students, teachers, healthcare workers, and labor unions around these issues will most likely increase their capacity for coordination, increase their access to resources, and intensify the tenor of the demonstrations. Travelers should avoid large gatherings, stay informed of any planned protests, and expect transportation delays due to strikes. Any prolonged interruption of operations within the Panama Canal would seriously impact international shipping and negatively affect the global economy.



## EMEA

**Romania: Victory of far-right party in rerun of first round of presidential election is emblematic of societal divisions and foreshadows likely civil unrest over coming weeks.** On 4 May, George Simion of the far-right Alliance for the Union of Romanians (AUR) won the first round of the election rerun at 40.6 percent of the vote. Simion ran on an ultra-nationalist, anti-EU, and anti-NATO platform and opposed support for Ukraine in the war against Russian aggression. This election is occurring under highly unusual circumstances after the previous presidential vote, which the far-right Calin Georgescu won. The latter was controversially annulled in December 2024, in response to allegations of Russian foreign interference. There have been significant periods of civil unrest, comprised of sometimes unruly demonstrations and rallies in response to the ruling from both the far-right and the more liberal sections of the population. It is uncertain how the liberal contingent will respond, and whether they will elect to endorse a single candidate under a coalition for the second round of voting set to take place on 18 May. On 5 May, Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu resigned after the poor performance of the governing coalition's candidate – who will not be moving forward to the second round of voting. His resignation will allow whoever wins the second round of the Presidential election to form their own new governing coalition – although the current power vacuum might prove to be a vulnerability if the election outcome is disputed once again. Depending on the outcome of the second round of voting, civil unrest is likely to erupt from the losing side. Stakeholders and travelers should monitor local news for any announcements of large political rallies or protests that may escalate with instances of violence.

**Turkey: Continue to monitor for vestigial sporadic violence after Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) confirmed it would disband and disarm, potentially ending the decades-long conflict.** On 12 May, the PKK's leadership announced at its twelfth conference that it had finalized its decision to dissolve and disarm. The council stated they believed the "Kurdish issue" was at a point where remaining grievances could be resolved through engagement in democratic politics. The PKK was a prominent Kurdish militant group whose





original goal was to create an independent Kurdish state, but later transitioned to seeking more autonomy for their community from the Turkish government. They often engaged in violent acts of terrorism in pursuit of their cause, which resulted in high civil and economic costs. The call for the group's dissolution came at the urging of its original founder, Abdullah Ocalan, who remains imprisoned. The PKK leadership did not announce if the dissolution extended to its affiliates in Syria, Iran, and Iraq, how the disarmament would be carried out, or what would become of its fighters. While the dissolution of the group and promise of disarmament is a significant step toward ending the conflict, the lack of details on the anticipated process for executing this agreement raises the risk of the dissolution proceedings being drawn out, which in turn raises the risk of future stumbling blocks. There is a moderate likelihood that more extreme factions within the PKK may break off and continue the fight or that radical individuals will decide to carry out violent action themselves, despite the leadership's decision. This will become more likely if ex-fighters fail to see significant progress in the treatment and representation of Kurds in diplomatic discussions and policies enacted by the Turkish government. Stakeholders are advised to continue to monitor the situation and maintain a heightened sense of awareness while traveling throughout Turkey, especially in Kurdish or former PKK-dominated areas. Additionally, given the lowered security risks, businesses should cautiously begin exploring opportunities for increased investment and operations within Turkey.

**Yemen: US and Houthis reach exclusive ceasefire after conclusion of extensive bombing campaign, foreshadowing increased security for US-affiliated ships in the Red Sea.** On 6 May, President Trump and the Houthis announced they had reached an agreement to halt hostilities in exchange for an end to their attacks on US shipping that resumed in March 2025 in response to the resumption of the conflict in Gaza. However, Houthi leadership specified that the deal did not include ending hostilities with Israel and that they would continue to attack Israeli land targets as well as Israeli and Israeli-associated shipping within the Red Sea. On 4 May, the Houthis demonstrated their capability to successfully reach Israel when a missile strike hit Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, resulting in several airlines suspending service and damage to the structure of the airport. Israeli Prime Minister



Benjamin Netanyahu responded to the US ceasefire by stating Israel would only act to protect their interests. The Houthis are likely emboldened by their recent success in striking Ben Gurion Airport, with their leadership claiming that no Israeli airports were safe for international travel. This implies that the group will continue to target major civilian infrastructure in Israel as the conflict in Gaza progresses without the substantive fear of US retaliation. Travelers within the Middle East should continue to monitor the situation, follow official directives, and prepare for sporadic increases in missile and drone strikes within the airspace surrounding Israel.



## APAC

**India/Pakistan: Continue to monitor after implementation of immediate and complete ceasefire marks a return to security norms.** On 10 May, a ceasefire was announced, reportedly brokered by the US, despite the previous insistence by the Trump administration that they would not get involved in the dispute. The decision to intervene and assist with the de-escalation of these nuclear powers was likely effective due to the economic leverage the US holds over both Pakistan and India. The US holds substantial influence regarding the extension of IMF loans to Pakistan and is currently in negotiations with the Indian government regarding tariff relief. A drawn-out, high-intensity conflict between India and Pakistan would undoubtedly negatively impact business operations and foreign investment within the region. This would be undesirable for the US as they lead the initiative to decouple the West from China. Despite small flare-ups along the border and mutual accusations of violations, as of 12 May, the ceasefire appears to be holding. The countries had engaged in increasingly intense and expansive reciprocal tit-for-tat drone attacks and missile launches over four days following an Islamist terror attack in Indian-controlled Kashmir, which killed twenty-six civilians. India has long accused Pakistan of providing material support for terror groups, a charge Pakistan denies. Notably, the ceasefire does little to address the underlying issues driving social unrest in the Jammu-Kashmir region. Further complicating matters, on 10 May, India's government stated any future act of terrorism would be considered an act of war on the behalf of Pakistan. This substantially lowers India's escalation threshold and introduces greater instability.

At present, diaspora communities abroad have accepted the resolution, as both sides claim a type of victory. There is precedent for episodic inter-communal violence within countries in the West with significant South Asian diasporas in response to developments abroad. Stakeholders should continue to monitor tensions in India and Pakistan for incidents that might spark a strong response from within the diaspora. Pakistan has announced the reopening of its airspace for all flights. India has elected to close 32 airports across the northwest through 15 May. As such, flyers throughout India should continue to anticipate disruptions despite the implementation of the ceasefire. Although travel has resumed within





the provinces bordering Kashmir and within the region itself, it is still advised to liaise with a local contact, and engage professional security services if operating in areas with high tensions or damage from the aerial bombardments. Stakeholders should continue to monitor local news as the ceasefire conditions are tested over the coming days and weeks.

**Japan: Knife stabbing in Tokyo is emblematic of broader persistent trend of random attacks throughout region.** On 7 May, at the Todai-mae metro station, a 43-year-old man slashed the head of another commuter with an 8-inch blade while attempting to board a train. Three other passengers subsequently subdued the assailant. The police announced that they had discovered no acquaintance between the attacker and the victim, leading them to characterize the incident as a random attack, likely aimed at eliciting a harsh response from onlookers and police. Many perpetrators of similar random attacks in Japan have cited the motivation as attempting to be penalized with the death penalty. Over the last five years, such incidents have had a major upswing in frequency throughout East Asia, with at least four significant attacks noted in Japan. Various methods have been utilized – although knives are common. Japanese implementation of capital punishment is quite narrow and is usually reserved for the most serious crimes, such as multiple homicides. The surge in these attacks throughout the region has been attributed to a rise in social isolation and a lack of societal support mechanisms. Japan's private and conservative culture has also contributed to the stigmatization of mental health, which has led many to engage in these types of attacks out of desperation and suicidal ideation. The Japanese government has yet to take appropriate steps to address the root causes of this dynamic, suggesting that further random attacks can be expected.