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Anticipate further violent actions carried out by Pro-Palestine and Pro-Israel actors at associated events and buildings in response to the ongoing Israeli military operations in Gaza.

On 21 May, two Israeli Embassy aides exiting an event at the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington D.C. were shot and killed by a gunman at close range. The perpetrator walked into the museum where he was captured after reportedly shouting, "free, free Palestine" and "I did it for Gaza." On 19 May, a dual US-German citizen was apprehended after approaching the US Embassy branch in Tel-Aviv with the intent to firebomb the building with several Molotov cocktails. He had been posting anti-Western content on social media with increasingly violent intent toward the US, President Donald Trump, and Israel. These brazen acts are emblematic of the increasing frequency in which activists from across the ideological spectrum are susceptible to being radicalized and motivated to commit violence. Additionally, this clearly illustrates how criticism of Israel can be transformed into dangerous antisemitism capable of driving violent action. Pro-Israeli activists are also vulnerable to violent radicalization. On 14 May, the organization "Christians for Israel" celebrated Israeli independence in Katwijk, Netherlands, at a church that several dozen pro-Palestine protesters picketed. Reportedly, pro-Israeli counter-demonstrators arrived at the scene and began to assault members of the group physically. Simultaneously, in Amsterdam's Oosterpark, vandals spray-painted several public statues with various anti-Israel slogans. This incident follows closely after another similar violent event in the US on 24 April that occurred at Chabad Lubavitch World Headquarters in Crown Heights, Brooklyn (New York state), during the visit of far-right Israeli National Security Minister Ben Gvir. A large group of pro-Israel supporters and a smaller group of pro-Palestinian protesters had gathered at the site when a female bystander was arbitrarily targeted by a crowd of ultra-Orthodox Jewish pro-Israeli men who physically and verbally assaulted her.

All of these recent occurrences demonstrate how persistently high tensions and extremist rhetoric – across the spectrum – regarding the Middle East conflict has produced an environment in which violence between opposing protest groups and ideological camps has become increasingly common. This violence can target active demonstrators, persons of



Israeli or Palestinian backgrounds, and affiliated government officials or buildings. However, it can also impact bystanders who may be arbitrarily targeted due to bad timing. As long as the war continues in Gaza, extremist rhetoric circulates in the media, and various plans for the future of Gaza are publicly debated, tensions are unlikely to abate. As a result, protests are liable to continue, clashes between opposing protesters or with law enforcement are likely to occur, and the risk of a radicalized individual taking violent action will remain elevated. Any dramatic escalation in the conflict could incite major protests, intensify clashes between demonstrators, or radicalize further violent lone actors. Travelers should remain abreast of planned demonstrations linked to the Middle East conflict in major urban centers across the globe and avoid non-essential proximity to active demonstrations. Travelers should also exercise heightened awareness if attending controversial events related to the Middle East conflict or visiting buildings associated with Israel or Palestine.



AMER

Mexico: Recent murders of low-level political targets underscore efforts by cartels to enact intimidation campaigns against government entities. On 21 May, two aides of the Mexico City mayor were shot and killed. The two aides are the most recent victims in a series of murders targeting low-level politicians throughout Mexico, as part of a shift in cartel political influence strategy. The recent murder is especially distinct from previous assassinations, which targeted local politicians in states with saturated cartel presence, as opposed to the capital. This attack may be indicative of escalating tactics. On 13 May, a local leader of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) was assassinated in the state of Jalisco. On 11 May, a mayoral candidate was assassinated in the state of Veracruz at her campaign event – three attendees were also killed in the shooting. On 9 May, Cecilia Ruvalcaba, a Jalisco Councilwoman, was shot and killed by three individuals. On 28 and 29 April, a senior member of the Teocaltiche city government in Jalisco and a mayoral candidate for a town within Veracruz were both killed one day apart. There has been an observed shift in the cartels' political intimidation tactics. The focus is now on accumulating influence within local governance structures, facilitating the insulation of daily operations. This circumvents the high financial costs and risk of repressive backlash, which often accompany national influence campaigns or violence against nationally prominent figures.

The majority of recent killings have taken place within the states of Jalisco and Veracruz, which both possess a significant cartel presence. Additionally, the surge in political violence is likely connected to the upcoming controversial judicial elections, set to be held across Mexico for the first time on 1 June 2025 – cartels may be attempting to ensure the elected judges are their preferred candidates. The 2024 election cycle recorded the highest number of violent incidents against politicians and candidates, underscoring the diffusement of political violence throughout the local level. While most of the recent murders are still being investigated, the killing of the Jalisco councilwoman has already been tied to the Sinaloa Cartel. The cartels are operating under increased scrutiny following the US foreign terrorist organization designation and President Claudia Sheinbaum's pivot back to harsher enforcement tactics. Political violence on the local level is likely to persist as the cartels attempt to maintain their power and daily operational integrity. It is advised that travelers



avoid political gatherings, demonstrations, or voting sites due to the risk of incidental harm to bystanders.

United States: **Attack on fertility clinic in Palm Springs (Florida state) suggests an elevated risk to clinics offering reproductive procedures.** On 17 May, a car bomb exploded outside the American Reproductive Center (ARC), a fertility and in vitro fertilization (IVF) lab. The explosion did extensive damage to the clinic and blew out the windows of several surrounding buildings, killing one and injuring four others. The FBI labeled the explosion a terrorist attack but stressed that it appeared to be an isolated incident. Officials identified the perpetrator, Guy Edward Bartkus, as the individual who died in the attack. Bartkus espoused extremist anti-natalist views in extensive writings and recordings online that detailed his opposition to anybody having children as unethical. He seemingly filmed the explosion with an iPhone on a tripod found at the scene facing the blast site, demonstrating his intent to publicize the attack online and likely inspire others from his online community. The anti-IVF and anti-abortion movements are recognized as mainstream avenues for the radicalization of individuals to carry out violent acts related to reproductive rights. The fringe-extremist sect of anti-natalism appears to be an emerging threat vector that is liable to commit further violent acts, especially as the rhetorical atmosphere over reproductive rights in the US remains agitated. Reproductive health clinics, especially those that offer IVF or abortion treatments, should monitor the heightened risk of violence targeting their facilities and staff in the aftermath of this attack and consider hiring additional security personnel to reinforce safety procedures. Visitors and patients utilizing services at fertility clinics should also exercise increased caution and report any suspicious behavior to law enforcement.

Bolivia: **Withdrawal of incumbent from presidential race and declaration of ineligibility for ex-president alters normative political framework in advance of election.** On 13 May, current President Luis Arce announced that he was withdrawing from the already fraught election cycle and would not seek a second term. Arce cited a desire to unite the popular vote and prevent a centrist or right-wing candidate from winning the presidential election in



August 2025. A struggle for control over the leftist block – encompassed by the Movement Toward Socialism Party (MAS) – has unfolded dramatically over the past months, as former President Evo Morales broke away from his former protégé Arce and announced his technically unconstitutional candidacy for the presidency. This split has manifested itself in heightened civil unrest, an accelerating economic crisis incurring crippling fuel shortages, and outbursts of violence between various groups of supporters, in addition to confrontations with law enforcement. On 17 May, Morales's supporters marched in the capital, La Paz – reportedly throwing firecrackers and rocks as police attempted to disperse them – to protest a ruling by the Constitutional Court officially blocking Morales' candidacy. On 26 May, demonstrators peacefully rallied in La Paz, resulting in only minor traffic congestion.

Despite being declared ineligible to run, it is likely Morales will continue his unofficial campaign and leverage his stronghold of support within Indigenous communities to act on his behalf. Morales has implied that any attempt to detain him would lead to an armed uprising. It remains to be seen if current Senate President Andronico Rodríguez will challenge Morales for the votes of the MAS voting bloc or whether Morales may attempt to run with another party. That decision will shape the ensuing political risk landscape in the lead-up to and aftermath of the election. In the interim, Arce's step back can be characterized as a significant departure from previous norms, which will lower tensions in the short term while also inserting a degree of uncertainty. The legal decision declaring Morales ineligible for electoral candidacy will likely continue to fuel protests. However, those actions' longevity and intensity depend on further developments. Stakeholders and travelers should continue to follow local news for information on planned protests, strikes, and essential supply shortages. Monitor political developments for their potential to generate disruptive civil unrest and negatively affect supply chains.

United States: Expect delays to persist at Newark Liberty Airport (EWR) over the coming months. Since 28 April, EWR has experienced a cascading combination of equipment failures, staffing shortages, and ongoing runway construction, which has produced extreme delays and cancellations. Interim ground stops are expected to persist over the coming



months, in compliance with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) mandate to reduce the number of hourly departures and arrivals at the airport. The flight reduction is expected to be in place until most of the runway construction is completed. However, the FAA has stated that it retains the authority to implement further reductions or increase the caps, at its discretion, if capacity changes. Since April, EWR has seen the average number of daily travelers decrease by twenty percent compared to the previous year, while both John F. Kennedy Airport and LaGuardia Airport have seen an increase in their daily numbers. Travelers flying into or out of EWR are advised to continue monitoring flight statuses closely and, when possible, seek alternative flight routes through other airports.

Colombia: Expect disruption during nationwide protests slated to take place on 28-29 May. Labor unions will hold a 48-hour strike action in opposition to the Senate's rejection of a proposed labor reform referendum. Large-scale demonstrations are likely in major urban centers, including the capital Bogota, and Medellín (Antioquia department). In turn, this will create transportation and potential operational disruptions. The strike is indicative of rising tensions between President Gustavo Petro's administration, which has supported grassroots protests to provide support to his reformative agenda, against the opposition-controlled Congress. Avoid all demonstrations as a precaution and plan journeys accounting for transportation disruptions.



EMEA

France: Failed attempted armed kidnapping of CEO's family members is indicative of growing kidnapping-ransom schemes targeting cryptocurrency industry. On 13 May, the daughter and grandson of the French founder of the cryptocurrency exchange platform Paymium were nearly kidnapped in broad daylight on a street in central Paris. Four masked and armed attackers jumped out of a van and tried to force the woman and her child into the vehicle. The woman's partner, who attempted to intervene, was beaten by the attackers – all three members of the family suffered light injuries as a result of the ordeal. Authorities have expressed confidence that the aim of the attack was to hold the woman and her child hostage for ransom, as the close relations of a high-net-worth individual. The cryptocurrency industry has been an increasingly frequent target of criminals looking to engage in extortion. Cryptocurrency is a relatively new business sector, and therefore, companies have often not yet built out comprehensive executive protection programs – a critical vulnerability that bad actors have recognized and are eager to exploit. Notably, the preferred payment method now for ransoms is often cryptocurrency, which is popular with criminals due to the difficulty of tracking the origin point and subsequent distribution. This trend makes executives in the crypto industry logical targets due to their enhanced understanding of crypto and likely extensive holdings of the currency.

In May 2025, attackers kidnapped the father of a crypto-millionaire in Paris in order to extract a ransom. Police arrested seven people after a raid to free the man. In January 2025, the abduction of a crypto entrepreneur and his partner in central France, for the purpose of extracting a ransom, resulted in the kidnappers cutting off his finger. After their release, police eventually detained nine suspects allegedly involved in the affair. Together, these events demonstrate an escalating pattern of criminals targeting executives and their families in the cryptocurrency industry for kidnapping and extortion. This surge has coincided with a general rise in organized crime within France and the recent wave of violence targeting prisons. Corporate leaders and companies should review their executive protection programs for gaps and be aware of the associated increased risk.



Syria: Promise of US sanction relief foreshadows further stabilization by creating opportunities for increased foreign investment. On 13 May, US President Donald Trump announced his intentions to lift all sanctions following an in-person meeting with the new Syrian President, Ahmed al-Sharaa, during a trip to Saudi Arabia. Sanctions were first imposed in 2011, in response to the start of the Syrian Civil War, and later intensified due to subsequent accusations of human rights violations committed by the Assad regime. The sanctions include the Ceasar Act, which blocked foreign investment and penalized any foreign companies that did business with the Syrian government. Sharaa has been attempting to get sanctions lifted since the shock rebel offensive that overthrew the Assad regime in December 2024. For the nation to rebuild, it requires significant foreign investment, as the majority of its civilian and economic infrastructure was destroyed during the civil war, presenting opportunities for foreign companies. Major investment areas include the energy sector, with several oil and natural gas wells, construction, and services such as telecommunications and banking.

However, risks to investment remain, specifically regarding insecurity and financial instability. There have been several outbreaks of ethnoreligious violence between the new state security forces, vestigial militias, and nascent insurgencies in the border regions. The government has yet to consolidate its control over the various armed groups or create a permanent constitution or governing body, thereby raising the risk of armed conflict, particularly in urban areas. Israel has expressed anxiety about extremist remnants within the new Syrian government and the possibility of a resurgence in activity from Islamist groups within the country. They have conducted over 700 air strikes on civilian and military infrastructure in recent months, declaring the bordering southern part of the country a demilitarized zone and occupying it. Financial instability and the persistently high inflation rate remain of concern. Business operations should be conducted with appropriate care, while executives and investors traveling to the country should proceed with extreme caution. It is advised to employ experienced protective agents and secure transportation services if traveling in Syria.



Germany: Consecutive stabbing attacks highlight persistent threat of violence from lone actors in city centers.

On 23 May, a knife attack at the Central Bus Station in Hamburg left 17 pedestrians injured and four in critical condition. The assailant, a female German national, was arrested at the scene, with police investigating the incident as the result of untreated mental illness. On 18 May, in Bielefeld, a male Syrian national who had been granted temporary asylum in 2023, injured five individuals with a knife outside a bar. Security forces suspect the attack was religiously motivated and are investigating a possible Islamist background. These attacks underscore the ongoing trend of lone wolf attacks within Germany, which have additionally become more common overall throughout Europe. Imitative attacks continue to occur from perpetrators struggling with mental illness and assailants motivated by extremist ideology, likely due to extensive media coverage, the ease of acquiring knives, and a failure to address chronic societal issues. Public safety protocols and law enforcement infrastructure have not fundamentally changed in 25 years. They are ill-equipped to mitigate against mass casualty events effectively, as programs are centered around state and local initiatives, lacking essential coordination at the federal level. Additionally, integration with mental health social programs and immigration services is disparate. Travelers should maintain a heightened awareness within large crowds and crowded areas in urban centers and employ a protective detail when appropriate.



APAC

Philippines: Expect continued demonstrations related to Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment proceedings following recent midterm elections, which expose persistent polarization. On 12 May, politicians who openly support the Duterte family – a controversial political dynasty – won six of the twelve available Senate seats. This has increased the likelihood of Vice President Duterte's acquittal ahead of her impeachment trial on 30 July regarding allegations of corruption, extrajudicial killings, and political assassinations. For Duterte to be acquitted, 9 of 24 senators must vote for her acquittal. There have been numerous mass protests both for and against Sara Duterte since the announcement of her charges in January 2025. Political demonstrations in the Philippines are frequent and can at times become violent. It is likely that, regardless of the impeachment outcome, mass protests will ensue, raising the risks for businesses and travelers in the vicinity of civil unrest. Stakeholders should continue to monitor the announcement and the occurrence of large protests and contract trusted local security providers to ensure safety.

Nepal: Avoid nationwide pro-monarchy demonstrations from 29 May due to elevated risk of unrest. Pro-monarchy groups, including the opposition Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), have signaled intentions to launch indefinite protests to advocate for a return to monarchism and Hindu nationalism, which has recently increased in popularity amid ongoing economic and political instability. Although the demonstrations are intended to be peaceful, related demonstrations on 28 March saw two people killed and 120 injured during clashes with security forces. Precedent suggests security forces will disperse unruly protests with tear gas, water cannons, and rubber bullets. Demonstrations are likely to take place in the vicinity of government buildings in the capital, Kathmandu. Expect related disruption and follow all official directives if in the vicinity of a demonstration.