



PMPR

Point Mensuel des Pays à Risques
the SSF monthly report on high-risk countries

May 2024

Summary of alerts
Countries to monitor
Calendar



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Focal points in April



Georgia
Iraq
Colombia
Togo
Niger
Nepal



Countries to monitor in May

6 May **Chad:** presidential election

29 May **Madagascar:** legislative elections

29 May **South Africa:** general elections

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Australia **Knife attack at the Westfield Bondi Junction Shopping Centre in Sydney.** At least **6 people killed** and 12 others injured.

Taiwan At least **17 dead and 1,100 people injured in a powerful earthquake measuring 7.5** near **Hualien** 3 April. **Strong aftershocks** over the following days. **Vast material damage**, notably in **Hualien**.

Israel/Iran **Israeli missile attacks on strategic sites** near **Isfahan** (Iran) 19 April in retaliation to an **attack carried out by Iran on Israeli territory** 13 April after Israel's airstrike on its consulate premises in Damascus 1 April.

Persian Gulf At least **24 people killed in severe flooding**, notably in **Oman** and in the **United Arab Emirates**. **Major travel disruption** reported in **Dubai** and **Abu Dhabi**.

M
A
Y

World **1 May:** International Workers' Day – Demonstrations likely across cities in many countries.

Panama **5 May:** presidential election - Security reinforcements and rallies should be expected.

Chad **6 May:** first round of the presidential election - Security reinforcements and disruption should be expected, incidents should not be ruled out.

Madagascar **29 May:** legislative elections - Security reinforcements should be expected.

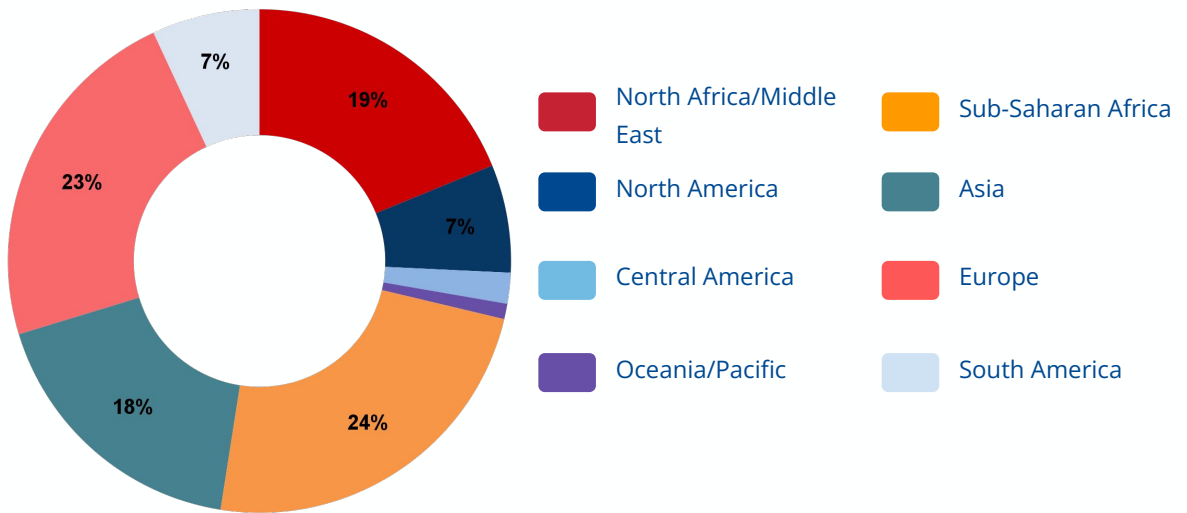
South Africa **29 May:** general elections - Security reinforcements and disruption should be expected, incidents should not be ruled out.

Summary of Alerts

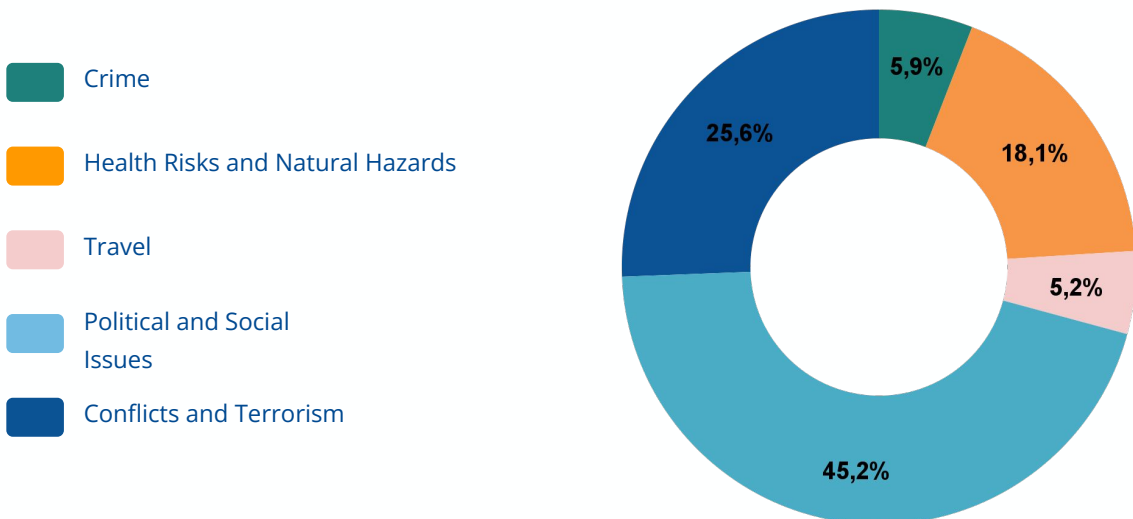
April 2024

The SSF alert service is available by subscription 24/7, providing you with the latest information, in both French and English, on any events that might have an impact on your interests and the safety or security of your employees across **203 countries and territories**. In **April 2024**, SSF issued a total of **889 safety-security alerts**, concerning all kinds of risks in **140 countries**.

Geographic Distribution

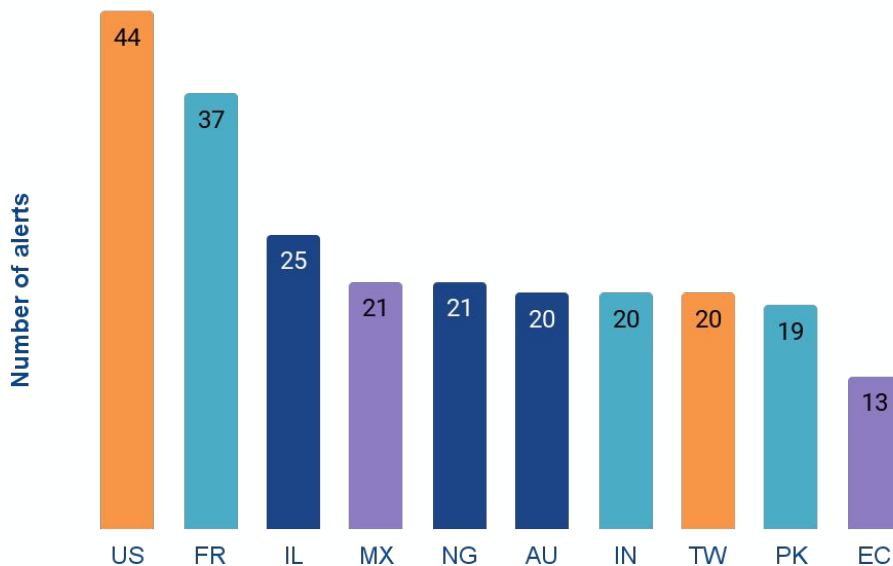
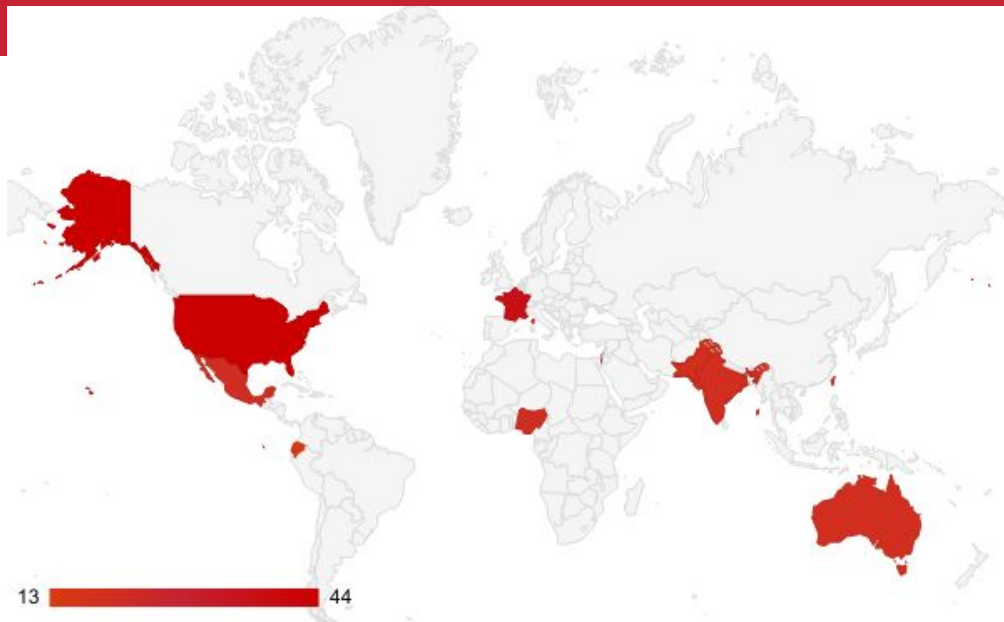


Type of Risk



10 countries to monitor

The following **10 countries** account for **240 safety-security alerts** representing **29%** of all of the alerts sent over the last month. Countries engaged in long-term warfare or with extremely high levels of insecurity in general (Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Sudan, Yemen, Somalia and Ukraine) have been deliberately excluded from the list.



Number of alerts issued during the month and main risk factor according to country



Australia

Increased threat of terrorism following a knife attack at a church in Wakeley, in the Sydney suburbs 15 April, in which at least 4 people were injured. **Clashes** between the police and people gathered in protest against the attack the same day. **7 individuals arrested** in major **counter-terrorism operations** in **Sydney** 24 April - **Knife attack at Westfield Bondi Junction Shopping Centre in Sydney** 13 April. At least **6 people killed** and 12 others injured. Attacker neutralised by police - At least one person killed in **bad weather** in the state of **New South Wales** 5 April. **Air traffic disruption at Sydney-Kingsford Smith International Airport** the same day - **National outbreak of whooping cough**, especially in the states of **New South Wales** and **Queensland**.

United States

Ongoing pro-Palestinian demonstrations nationwide. Clashes reported on several campuses in the US, specifically in **New York** and **Boston** 28 April. Access to **Chicago-O'Hare** and **Seattle-Tacoma international airports** disrupted by **roadblocks** 15 April - **Severe bad weather** seen throughout the month, notably in **states in the Midwest** (at least **5 people killed** in **tornadoes** in the state of **Oklahoma** 26 and 27 April). Vast damage reported. **Air traffic disruption** at the **Tampa** and **Orlando international airports (Florida)** reported 11 April - **Persistent city shootings**, notably in **Chicago** 13 April, **Los Angeles** 14 April and **New York** 20 April - **Earthquake measuring 4.8 near New York** 5 April.

Ecuador

State of war declared in the whole country due to gang-related violence (9 April). **French authorities warn of an upsurge in violence** (13 April). At least 3 people killed in shootings in Manta (Manabi Province, 2 April) and 7 dead in Nobol (Guayas Province 27 April). **Assassination of 2 mayors** (Azua Province 17 April; El Oro Province 19 April) and a **prison governor** (Manabi Province 21 April) - **Breaking of diplomatic relations with Mexico** after Ecuadorian law enforcement entered the Mexican Embassy (Quito 5 April) in order to arrest former Vice President Jorge Glas - **Military helicopter crash**, leaving at least 8 dead (Pastaza Province 25 April) - At least **3 people missing in an avalanche** (Cayambe volcano 6 April) - **Increased load-shedding nationwide** (since 16 April), resulting in the suspension of 2 working days (18/19).

France

Security reinforcements in **Bordeaux** following a **knife attack** in which 2 people died, including the perpetrator 10 April. **Attack with a bladed weapon** outside a school in **Souffelweyersheim** (2 injured). **Gunfire reported in a neighbourhood of Nîmes** affected by violence related to drug-trafficking 16 April (5 injured) - **Curfew declared for juveniles under 13 years of age in Béziers** from 23 April in an effort to fight delinquency. A similar measure had already been introduced in Guadeloupe - **Social rallies continued throughout the month**, especially among teachers (2 and 22 April), as well as the *Gilets Jaunes* (6 and 13 April). **Air traffic controllers on strike 25 April**, causing serious air traffic disruption with more than 2,000 flights cancelled in Europe.

India

Legislative elections launched 19 April and set to continue **until 1 June**. More than 968 million voters will go to the polls. **Several political rallies staged in different states**, which are **expected to continue** throughout the election period - **Renewed clashes between Maoist rebels and the security forces in Chhattisgarh State**, in which 13 people died 2 April and 18 died 16 April, **ongoing security operations expected against the Maoist rebels** - **Ongoing demonstrations by farmers**, including rallies and blockades at the borders between Punjab and Haryana.

Israel/Palestine

Continued shelling in the Gaza Strip despite the **IDF having withdrawn from Khan Yunis** 7 April in preparation for the offensive on Rafah - Israeli territory targeted by **Iranian drones and missiles** 13 April. Ongoing **daily clashes** between Hezbollah and the IDF in the border area between Israel and Lebanon - **West Bank: increase in violence** between Palestinians and soldiers, as well as Israeli settlers in different cities (Bayt Rima, Jayus, Azzun, Nablus, Tulkarem, Hebron) - **Demonstrations** in demand of **Netanyahu's resignation** and the **release of the hostages** in Tel Aviv (6, 11 & 27 April) and in Jerusalem (7 April) with an increase in **arrests** (2, 6 & 27 April) and **clashes between the police and demonstrators** (6 & 27 April) - Ongoing **negotiations** between Hamas and Israel for a ceasefire and the release of the hostages (2, 26 & 29 April).

Mexico

Breaking of diplomatic relations with Ecuador after Ecuadorian law enforcement entered the Mexican Embassy (Quito 5 April) - **8 dead in clashes between criminals and the security forces** (Tabasco State 17 April). **Assassination of municipal election candidates** (Guanajuato, 1 April; Tamaulipas, 19 April; Oaxaca, 19 April) and an **attack on a candidate** (Puebla, 7 April). **Policeman beaten to death** (Tlaxcala, 9 April). One person injured in a **shooting** (Mexico City, 7 April). **Roadblock and vehicles set on fire by a gang** (Tabasco, 22 April) - **Announcement of the neutralisation and arrest of criminals** (Chiapas, 3 April) - 14 dead when a **bus overturned on a motorway** (Mexico City, 28 April) and 4 injured when a **bridge collapsed** (Nuevo León Province, 10 April) - **Demonstrations** by the Antorchista Movement (Mexico City, 12 April), by the police (Campeche, 13 April), by teachers (nationwide, 15 April), pro-choice activists (Mexico City, 27 April) - **Earthquakes** measuring 5.0 (Chiapas, 5 April), and 5.3 and 5.6 (Gulf of California, 18 April).

Nigeria

Ongoing **attacks** committed by **armed individuals** on the **security forces** in the states of Niger (19 April, 6 dead); Taraba (2 April) and Anambra (2 April, 5 dead) and on **civilians** in the states of Kogi (4 April, 21 dead); Plateau (18 April, 15 dead); Zamfara (26 April, 2 dead) - Ongoing **security operations** by the army targeting **terrorists** (2 & 26 April) and **demonstrations by the population against insecurity** (13-15 April, blockade on the Makurdi-Naka road) - **State of emergency** declared in Minna (15 April) due to insecurity and a **curfew** declared in Zamfara in response to an **upsurge in kidnappings** (3 April) - Increase in **explosions of landmines** targeting civilian convoys (17 & 27 April) - **Three humanitarian workers released** in Borno State (19 April) - Outbreak of **measles infections** in Adamawa State (27 April, 19 deaths).

Pakistan

21 April, National and Provincial Assembly by-elections in 21 constituencies in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan amid strict security conditions, including the **deployment of the army and the suspension of the internet** in some districts. **Ruling PML-N won 12 seats out of 21** - Ongoing **PTI opposition rallies** in cities in support of **former Prime Minister Imran Khan** (6, 7 & 28 April) and in **condemnation of alleged irregularities in the last legislative elections** (26 April) - **Demonstrations by farmers** to demand that the government drop the price of wheat (25 & 29 April) - **Further bad weather and loss of life** in several provinces, namely Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in which several thousand houses were destroyed - **A vehicle carrying Japanese nationals hit by a suicide bombing** in Mansehra Colony, Karachi 19 April.

Taiwan

Powerful earthquake measuring 7.5 near Hualien 3 April. **Tsunami warning** issued for the islands in the southwest of Japan and several Philippine provinces, then lifted a few hours later. **Strong aftershocks** throughout the month, notably 23 April with an **earthquake measuring 6.1. At least 17 people killed and 1,100 others injured. Vast material damage** reported, notably in **Hualien** and to a lesser extent in **Taipei** and **Taichung**. **Severe travel disruption** reported over the following days - **Taiwan Strait: Chinese military manoeuvres** 20 and 27 April - **Taipei: various demonstrations** 4 April (children's rights) and 27 April (children's rights and against nuclear power)

May 2024

Important events in the month to come

World

1 May: International Workers' Day – Demonstrations likely across cities in many countries.

Panama

5 May: presidential election - Security reinforcements and rallies should be expected.

Chad

6 May: first round of the presidential election - Security reinforcements and disruption should be expected, incidents should not be ruled out.

North Macedonia

8 May: second round of the presidential and legislative elections - Security reinforcements should be expected.

Spain

9 and 21 May: teachers set to strike and demonstrate in Madrid - Security reinforcements and disruption should be expected.

Dominican Republic

19 May: presidential election - Security reinforcements should be expected.

South Africa

29 May: general elections to choose the new president - Security reinforcements and disruption should be expected, tension should not be ruled out.

Madagascar

29 May: legislative elections - Security reinforcements should be expected.

EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN MAY 2024

Until 4 June

India: legislative elections - Rallies and tension likely.

1 to 2 May

United Kingdom: strike action by workers at Dounreay Nuclear Power Station - Rallies likely.

1 May

Belgium: 20th anniversary of ten countries joining the EU (Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta and Cyprus).

Germany: anti-war demonstration in Stuttgart - Travel disruption should be expected.

Indonesia: anniversary of the "attachment" of Western New Guinea to Indonesia (1963) – Rallies likely, violence possible.

Greece: national trade union strike action - Disruption should be expected.

Kazakhstan: Kazakhstan People's Unity Day.

Marshall Islands: Constitution Day (1979).

Tunisia: demonstration in Tunis in relation to the inauguration of the new headquarters of the UGTT union - Travel disruption should be expected.

World: International Workers' Day – Demonstrations likely across cities in many countries.

2 to 8 May

Sri Lanka: celebrations likely on the occasion of a Buddhist festival – Security reinforcements and disruption should be expected.

2 May

Brazil: teachers set to go on strike in Rio de Janeiro - Rallies and security reinforcements should be expected.

Hungary: anniversary of the start of the breakup of the "Iron curtain" between Hungary and Austria (1989).

Pakistan/World: 13th anniversary of the death of Osama bin Laden (2011).

Russia: 10th anniversary of the Odessa massacre (2014) – Commemorations likely.

Slovakia: opposition demonstration in Bratislava - Security reinforcements should be expected.

Ukraine: 10th anniversary of the clashes between pro-Russians and pro-Ukrainians in Odessa (2014).

United Kingdom: national local elections and London Assembly Elections - Security reinforcements should be expected.

3 May

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): verdict expected in the trial of 11 Congolese soldiers facing the death penalty for "fleeing the enemy" - Rallies should not be ruled out.

Japan: anniversary of the new constitution in 1947 – Commemorations possible.

Poland: Constitution Day (1791) – Commemorations likely.

Serbia: first anniversary of the Ribnikar school shooting in Belgrade - Commemorations likely.

Spain: 6th anniversary of the dissolution of the ETA (2018).

World: World Press Freedom Day.

4 to 6 May

United Kingdom: refuellers working at London Heathrow Airport set to go on strike - Flight disruption should be expected.

4 to 5 May

Gambia: summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation - Security reinforcements should be expected.

4 May

China: commemoration of the Chinese student uprising against Japan (1919).

Germany: pro-democracy rally in Stuttgart - Security reinforcements and travel disruption should be expected.

Israel/Palestine: 30th anniversary of the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area (West Bank) signed in Cairo (1994).

Latvia: Independence Day (1990) – Ceremonies likely.

Pakistan: opposition rally in Karachi - Tension between the police and demonstrators should not be ruled out.

United Kingdom: London Underground train drivers set to go on strike - Travel disruption should be expected.

5 to 9 May

United Kingdom: Tram drivers set to go on strike in London - Travel disruption should be expected.

5 May

Egypt: Coptic Easter - Security reinforcements should be expected.

Ethiopia: Patriots' Victory Day, paying tribute to fallen independence fighters (1941).

Hungary: anti-Orban rally organised by dissident Peter Magyar - Tensions likely.

Panama: presidential election - Security reinforcements and rallies should be expected.

Togo: opposition demonstration in Lomé - Tension likely between demonstrators and the security forces.

World: Orthodox Easter - Christian celebrations and security reinforcements should be expected.

6 to 7 May

Italy: RAI journalists set to go on strike - Rallies should be expected.

6 to 8 May

Germany: German conservative party conference in Berlin - Security reinforcements should be expected.

6 to 10 May

Mali: national phase of the inter-Malian dialogue - Security reinforcements should not be ruled out.

6 May

Chad: first round of the presidential election - Rallies and tension possible between the opposition and the security forces.

Lebanon and Syria: Martyrs' Day commemorating the execution of nationalist militants by the Ottoman Empire (1916) – Demonstrations possible.

Poland: March of the Living in remembrance of victims of the Holocaust - Commemorations likely.

Russia: anniversary of the Bolotnaya Square riots (2012) – Commemorations possible.

United States: federal police officers to stand trial for the death of a young African American man following his arrest - Rallies and tension possible.

7 to 9 May

United Kingdom: national rail strike - Travel disruption should be expected.

7 to 13 May

United Kingdom: workers at London Heathrow Airport set to go on strike - Travel disruption should be expected.

7 May

Argentina: birthday of Eva Peron (1919) – Commemorations likely.

Chile: Announcement of the sentencing of the leader of the "radical" Mapuche organisation - Rallies possible.

Guatemala: regional conference on migration - Security reinforcements should be expected.

New Zealand: junior doctors set to strike - Demonstrations and healthcare disruption should be expected.

8 May

Algeria: National Remembrance Day, commemorating the victims of the massacres of 8 May 1945.

North Macedonia: second round of the presidential and legislative elections - Security reinforcements should be expected.

Pakistan: 22nd anniversary of the bomb attack in Karachi (15 dead, including 11 French employees of the *Direction des Constructions Navales*).

United Kingdom: 17th anniversary of the creation of a power-sharing government in Northern Ireland, bringing together Catholic separatists and Protestant unionists.

World: Victory in Europe Day, marking the anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe (1945).

9 to 19 May

Uganda: national census.

9 and 11 May

Sweden: demonstrations in Malmö in protest against Israel's participation in Eurovision - Security reinforcements and disruption should be expected.

9 May

Spain: teachers set to strike and demonstrate in front of the Education Ministry in Madrid - Security reinforcements and travel disruption should be expected.

United States: Recep Tayyip Erdogan to pay a visit to the White House - Security reinforcements should be expected.

Italy: G7 Justice Meeting - Security reinforcements should be expected.

Russia and former USSR countries: Victory Day, marking the anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe (1945) – Commemorations likely, including a military parade in Moscow.

10 May

Israel/Palestine: 3rd anniversary of the start of the last war between Israel and Hamas (2021) – Risk of growing tension, notably in Gaza.

Poland: farmers set to rally in Warsaw - Security reinforcements and travel disruption should be expected.

12 May

China: anniversary of the Sichuan earthquake, which claimed the lives of more than 87,000 people (2008) – Commemorations likely.

Spain: early legislative elections in Catalonia for seats in the regional parliament - Rallies and security reinforcements should be expected.

12 May

Lithuania: presidential election - Security reinforcements should be expected.

13 May

Burundi: anniversary of the attempted coup led by General Godefroid Nyombare (2015).

China: 32nd anniversary of the creation of the Falun Gong cult (1992) – Demonstrations and clashes possible with the police.

Guinea: opening of closing arguments in the trial of the September 2009 massacre - Rallies possible and security reinforcements should be expected.

Indonesia: 6th anniversary of the Surabaya bombings (2018) – Commemorations likely.

Madagascar: 52nd anniversary of the killing of demonstrators during a student protest (1972) – Rallies possible.

Spain: farmers to demonstrate in Grenada - Security reinforcements should be expected.

Türkiye: commemorations of the Soma mine disaster (2014).

14 May

Cambodia: birthday of King Norodom Sihamoni.

Israel/Palestine: 76th anniversary of the proclamation of the State of Israel by David Ben Gurion (1948) and the 6th anniversary of the transfer of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, recognised by Washington has the capital of the Jewish State (2018).

15 May

Israel/Palestine and the Muslim world: Nakba Day (“catastrophe”) marking the exodus of the Palestinians (1948) – The day traditionally sees violent demonstrations at Israeli borders and checkpoints.

Japon: 52nd anniversary of the reversion of Okinawa from the US to Japan.

Singapore: Lawrence Wong to be sworn-in as prime minister - Security reinforcements to be expected.

Spain: 13th anniversary of the creation of the "indignant" protest movement (2011) – Mass demonstrations possible.

16 May

China: anniversary of the official start of the Cultural Revolution (1966).

17 May

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): 27th anniversary of the coup by Laurent-Désiré Kabila – Demonstrations should not be ruled out.

Ireland: 50th anniversary of the Dublin and Monaghan bombings - Commemorations to be expected.

Norway: Constitution Day (1814) – Celebrations likely.

World: International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia – Rallies in support of the LGBTQ+ community likely in several countries.

18 to 19 May

Spain: far-right Vox party conference with participation from Argentine President Javier Milei - Opposition demonstrations possible.

18 May

Haiti: Flag Day celebrations – Demonstrations should not be ruled out.

India: 50th anniversary of the first nuclear test - Commemorations to be expected.

18 May

Poland: demonstration in support of farmers - Security reinforcements and disruption should be expected.

Russia/Ukraine: anniversary of the deportation of Crimean Tatars (1944) – Commemorations and security reinforcements to be expected

19 May

Dominican Republic: presidential election - Security reinforcements should be expected

Sri Lanka: Remembrance Day commemorating soldiers who died in fighting – Ceremonies likely.

Thailand: 14th anniversary of the final assault launched by the police on the “Red Shirts” in Bangkok (2010).

United States: birthday of Malcolm X (1925) – Demonstrations against police brutality should not be ruled out.

20 to 25 May

Venezuela: eighth round of peace talks between the government and the ELN guerrilla.

20 May to 2 June

Ivory Coast: funeral of former President Henri Konan Bédié - Commemorations should be expected.

20 May

Cambodia: National Day of Remembrance commemorating the victims and suffering of the Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1979).

Cameroon: National Day (1972) – Festivities should not be ruled out.

Indonesia: National Awakening Day – Security reinforcements likely.

Italy: trade union demonstration scheduled in Naples - Disruption should be expected.

Spain: farmers to demonstrate in Grenada - Travel disruption possible.

Taiwan: President Lai Ching-te to be sworn-in - Security reinforcements should be expected.

Timor Leste: anniversary of the declaration of independence (2002) – Commemorations likely.

United Kingdom: extradition hearing of Julian Assange - Rallies possible and security reinforcements should be expected.

21 May

Spain: teachers set to go on strike and assemble in Madrid - Demonstrations and travel disruption should be expected.

22 to 23 May

Asia: Vesak Day, celebrating the birth of Buddha. - Commemorations likely.

22 May

United Kingdom: 7th anniversary of the Manchester Arena suicide bombing, claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group (22 dead and more than 500 people injured, 2017) – Commemorations should be expected.

Thailand: 10th anniversary of the military coup (2014) – Pro-democracy demonstrations should be expected.

Yemen: Unity Day

24 May

Belgium: 10th anniversary of the shooting at the Jewish Museum of Belgium (2014) – Commemorations likely.

Bermuda: National Day - Commemorations and rallies should be expected.

Eritrea: Independence Day (1991).

25 and 26 May

Israel: celebrations should be expected on the occasion of the Jewish festival of Lag BaOmer, particularly at Mount Meron – Security reinforcements expected, incidents should not be ruled out.

25 May

Argentina: anniversary of the May Revolution marking the first uprising against Spanish rule (1810) – Commemorations likely, rallies possible.

United States: 4th anniversary of the death of George Floyd, killed by a police officer at the time of his arrest in Minneapolis (2020) – Mass national rallies likely, specifically led by the Black Lives Matter movement.

Jordan: Independence Day (1946).

26 May

Georgia: Independence Day, celebrating breaking away from the Russian Empire (1918).

27 May

Colombia: anniversary of the creation of former rebellion, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) (1964).

Spain: farmers set to demonstrate in Grenada - Travel disruption should be expected.

Russia: 26th anniversary of the NATO–Russia Founding Act.

Serbia: 25th anniversary of the charges brought against Milosevic by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia - Rallies possible.

28 May

Azerbaijan: Republic Day (1918) – Celebrations likely.

Ethiopia: National Day commemorating the fall of the Derg (1991).

Israel/Palestine: anniversary of the creation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) (1964) – Anti-Israel rallies in the occupied territories should not be ruled out.

Türkiye: anniversary of the start of the 2013 protest movement against Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the wake of the elections – Rallies should not be ruled out.

29 May

South Africa: general elections - Security reinforcements and rallies should be expected.

Madagascar: legislative elections - Security reinforcements should be expected.

Thailand: court ruling on the lèse-majesté charges against the leader of the opposition.

30 May

Nigeria: anniversary of the creation of the short-lived Republic of Biafra (1967-1970) – Demonstrations likely, incidents should not be ruled out.

Israel: 52nd anniversary of the Lod Airport attack (26 dead, 1972) – Commemorations should be expected.

31 May

United States: Memorial Day – Commemorations to be expected.

SSF Information & Analysis



Monitoring, Risk Assessment and Forecasts

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Safety situation analysis according to area and type of risk for every country in the world.



PMPR

Point Mensuel des Pays à

Risques: the SSF monthly report on high-risk countries providing a calendar of notable events in the month to come.



Customised Studies

Reports and monitoring targeting a specific area, country or security issue.