

## Security Scale

Risk Level	Geopolitics	Socio-politics	Crime	Terrorism	Health & Natural Hazards	Travel
Serious (3/5)	1/5	3/5	3/5	1/5	3/5	3/5

### Key Recommendations

- Keep strictly away from gatherings, areas with increased security and neighbourhoods affected by demonstrations. If you find yourself in an area affected by unrest, leave immediately and take refuge in a safe place.
- Avoid all non-essential travel and find out in advance about your route and any rallies in progress. Do not go out on foot for the time being.
- Check the status of your flights with your airline.
- Monitor the development of the situation by checking SSF alerts and the local news.

### 25/09 demonstrations and unrest

Amid recurring water and electricity shortages particularly affecting the capital, Antananarivo, **anti-government protests broke out 25 September, giving rise to clashes between protesters and security forces**, who fired tear gas and rubber bullets. The protests are part of a broader pattern of **deep social frustration** among the population over persistent economic difficulties and poor governance.

**Various acts of violence and unrest** were reported throughout the day and evening in many neighbourhoods of the capital. The Tana Water Front Shopping Centre, banks, convenience stores, electrical appliance shops, the Ankorondrano cable car station and the homes of three MPs close to the government were **looted and set on fire**. Residents also erected burning barricades in different areas.

According to a hospital source, **at least five people were shot dead** and several others were injured. The exact circumstances surrounding these deaths remain unknown for the time being. Several people were also arrested.

In response to the unrest, the Madagascan government has imposed a **curfew from 19:00 to 05:00 local time**. The prefect said the measure would be **renewed at the same time over the next few days until order is restored**.

### 26 September, a decisive day for the potential continuation of the movement

26 September, **many shops remained closed in Antananarivo** and classes were suspended in several major cities, including the capital. The security forces were reportedly mainly visible on 13 May Square and the **main roads were said to be clear**. However, several calls for further protests are circulating on social media, and **further rallies have been reported in Antananarivo, as well as in Toliara, Toamasina and Antsiranana**.

**The situation remains unclear and volatile, but no major unrest** has been reported in the city centre today. However, sporadic looting is reportedly continuing in a suburban shopping area. Persistent rumours of a telecommunications and internet blackout from 14:00 onwards have been denied by the Ministry of Digital Development, Posts and Telecommunications. **Antananarivo International Airport remains open**, but several flights have been cancelled and further disruption should be expected.

President Andry Rajoelina, speaking from New York, condemned "acts of violence and the desire to plunge [the] country into chaos", calling on the Madagascan people to "remain calm" and "promote reconstruction". **His remarks are unlikely to defuse the situation.**

Although the situation appears less tense than yesterday, **the risk of further unrest remains high, particularly after dark.** At this stage, and in the absence of political reactions or possible measures, it is difficult to predict how the demonstrations will evolve. **The scale of the protests and the level of violence/repression on this second day will likely determine the political response and whether the protests will continue for a prolonged period or quickly lose momentum.**

If protests continue, the government may make **certain concessions in an attempt to appease the population while maintaining a significant security presence** in order to deter further demonstrations or violent action. Regardless of whether the situation calms down, given the deep-rooted and long-standing causes of the current social crisis in Madagascar, **the risk of further protests and unrest will remain high in the coming weeks and months in the absence of appropriate and comprehensive political and social solutions.**