



PMPR

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

December 2023

- Summary of alerts
- Countries to monitor
- Calendar



SSF
SCUTUM SECURITY FIRST

14 rue Magellan
75008 Paris
ssf-contact@scutum-group.com
01 55 57 16 10

Focal points in November

- Bangladesh
- Myanmar
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Sierra Leone
- Liberia
- + Madagascar

Countries to monitor in December

- Congo (DRC)** 20/12: general elections
- Egypt** 10 to 12/12: early presidential elections
- Serbia** 17/12: legislative elections

N O V E M B E R

- Sierra Leone** **Suspected attempted coup** in an attack on a military barracks in Freetown 26 November (21 dead and 57 people arrested).
- Israel/Palestine** **Israel/Hamas conflict: 7-day truce** between 24 and 30 November, allowing the **release of 110 Israeli hostages and 240 Palestinian prisoners**, before the hostilities **resumed with an extension of the Israeli military operation into the south of the Gaza Strip** - Ongoing conflict and the consequences of its regional impact.
- Bangladesh** **Demonstrations resulting in loss of life** and **growing socio-political tension** in the run up to the **7 January 2024 general elections**.
- Myanmar** **Intensification of the offensive** launched in **Shan State** 27 October **by rebel ethnic groups. Clashes spread** into large parts of the north and east of the country, notably in the states of **Kachin, Karen, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah**.

D E C E M B E R

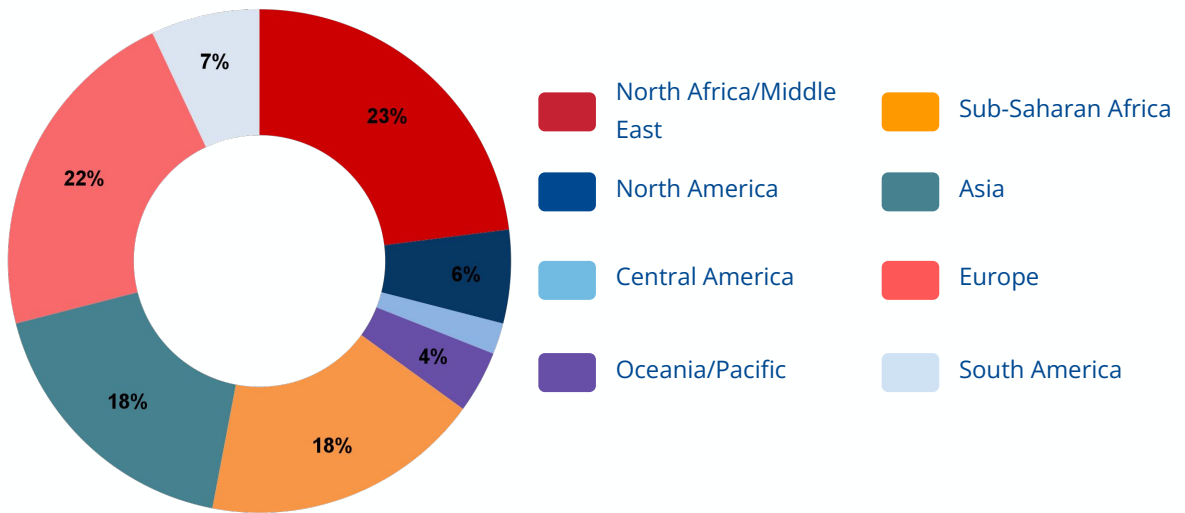
- Chile** **17 December:** new constitutional referendum, one year after the a previous draft was rejected. Socio-political rallies to be expected.
- Congo (Democratic Republic)** **20 December:** general elections. Security reinforcements and political rallies to be expected amid tension in the run up to the ballot, while the security situation in the east is deteriorating. Potential electoral disputes should not be ruled out.
- Egypt** **10 to 12 December:** early presidential elections. Rallies and major security reinforcements to be expected in the country.
- Serbia** **17 December:** early legislative elections on the fringes of an anti-government protest movement that has intensified in 2023 and amid a surge in tension with neighbouring Kosovo - Political rallies to be expected.
- Chad** **17 December:** referendum on a new constitution ahead of the end of the military transition scheduled at the end of 2024. Opposition rallies and incidents possible.

Summary of Alerts

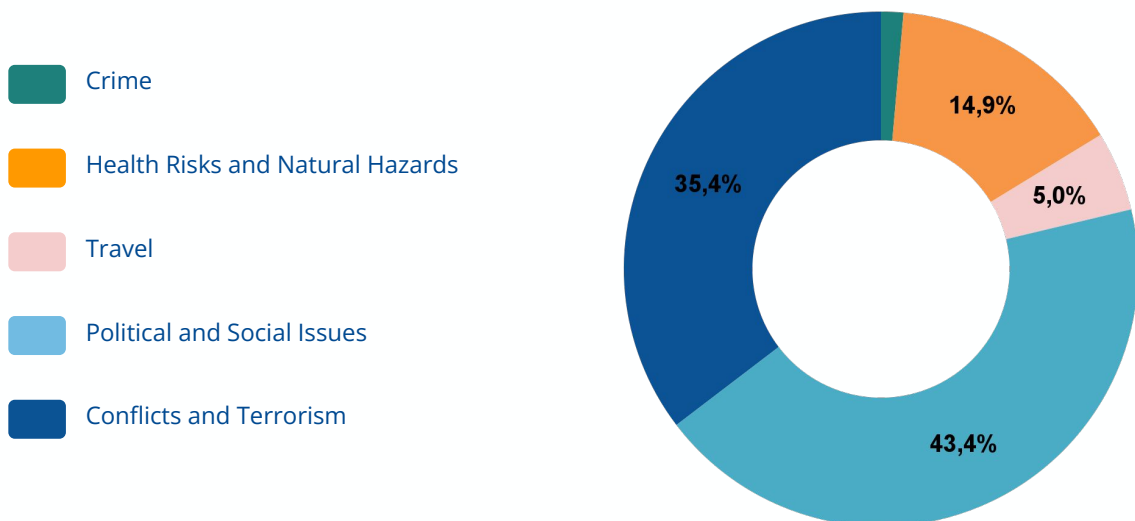
November 2023

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 November 2023, SSF issued a total of **885 safety-security alerts**, concerning all kinds of risks in **130 countries**.

Geographic Distribution

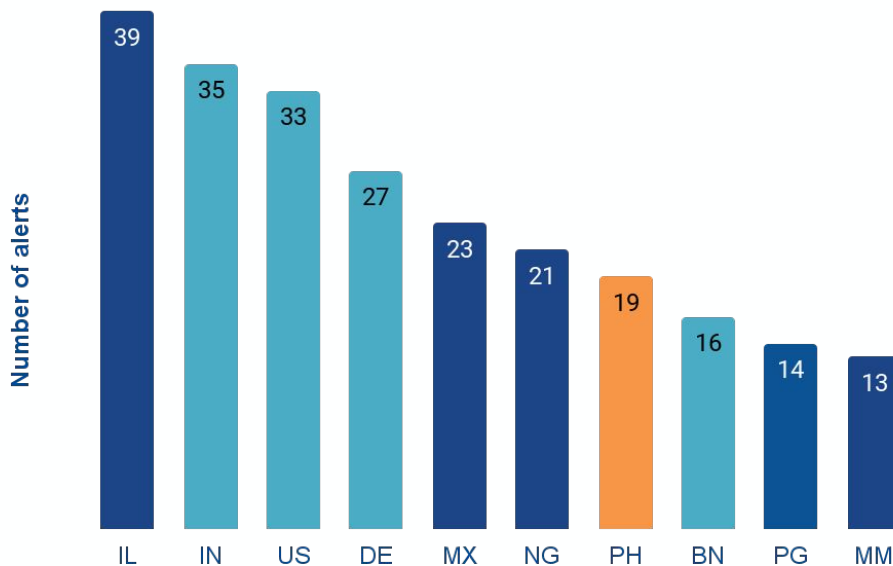
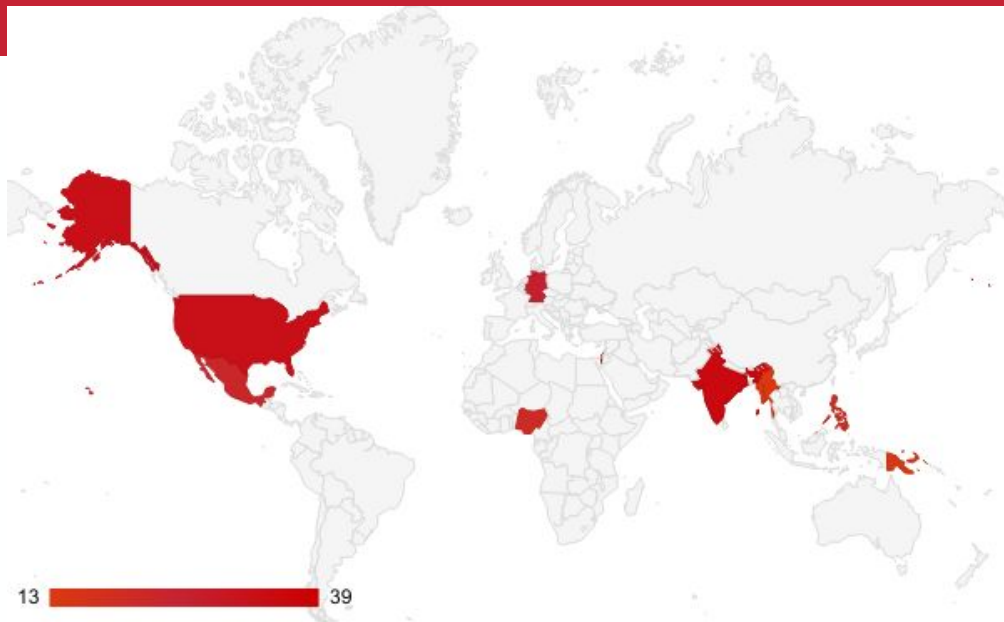


Type of Risk



10 countries to monitor

The following **10 countries** account for **240 safety-security alerts** representing **27%** 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, 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



Germany

Considerable security reinforcements due to an increased risk of attacks in connection with the Israel-Hamas conflict. **Property owned by Hamas and Samidoun searched** by the German authorities from 23 November. **2 suspected terrorists** based in **North Rhine-Westphalia** thought to have plotted an attack on a Christmas market **arrested 29 November** - **Storm Ciaran**: at least one dead and significant material damage caused, notably in **Lower Saxony** - **Hamburg International Airport closed due to hostage situation 4 and 5 November** - **Ongoing rallies against anti-Semitism and in support of Palestine**, notably 2, 17 and 24 November.

Bangladesh

Ongoing tension in the run up to the 7 January 2024 general elections. The BNP blocked the main transport hubs nationwide between 8 and 10 November, 12 and 14 November, 19 and 20 November and 29 and 30 November, as part of **huge rallies** against the arrest of senior leaders and the bloody crackdown on anti-government demonstrations by the police. The Jamaat-e-Islami Islamist party has been banned from taking part in the ballot - **Violent crackdown on demonstrations by textile workers in Gazipur and Mirpur**, on the outskirts of Dhaka 8 and 9 November (at least 4 protesters killed) - **Dengue fever epidemic**: 290,084 cases recorded in 2023, including 1,466 fatalities - **Cyclone Midhili**: at least 3 dead and significant material damage in Chittagong's coastal districts and in the Dhaka Division.

USA

Ongoing pro-Palestine and pro-Israel demonstrations in major cities in the country, surrounded by a surge in Islamophobic and anti-Semitic incidents. Pro-Palestine rallies regularly marred by **clashes**, such as in Washington D.C. 15 November and New York 29 November, while **clashes sometimes resulting in loss of life** were reported between pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli supporters, specifically 6 November when a pro-Israel demonstrator was killed by suspected Palestinian demonstrators. Blockades set up causing travel disruption: San-Francisco-Oakland Bridge blocked by pro-Palestinian protesters 16 November - **Environmental demonstrations and protest action on the fringes of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit** in San Francisco from 11 to 17 November.

India

Growing political rallies and incidents on the fringes of the legislative elections in the states of Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Chhattisgarh from 7 November, notably in Chhattisgarh State where a **local leader of the BJP was killed** by suspected Naxalite militants 4 November and where **IED attacks** were reported 7 and 18 November - **Maharashtra State: mass rallies among the Maratha community** on the fringes of a visit from a leader of the ethnic group from 15 to 23 November - **Ongoing clashes between the security forces and rebels in Jammu and Kashmir**, notably 17 and 23 November - **Kerala State**: at least 4 dead and 64 people injured in a **stampede** at a university in Cochin 25 November.

Israel/Palestine

Truce reached between Hamas and Israel 24 november under the aegis of Qatar and extended twice, resulting in the **release of 110 Israeli hostages and 240 Palestinian prisoners**, before Israel resumed its military operation in Gaza 1 December, notably by **moving into the south of the enclave**, specifically targeting Khan Yunis. **In the West Bank, the Israeli raids continued** without respite, regularly inflicting Palestinian casualties, notably in Jenin and Nablus. 30 November, **Hamas claimed responsibility for a shooting in West Jerusalem in which 3 people were killed**. Anti-government demonstrations and protests in demand of the release of the hostages continued in Tel Aviv. Although Israeli society remains divided on a political level, there is, however, **no visible opposition of consequence to the continuation of the operation against Hamas**, despite growing international pressure.

Mexico

Ongoing clashes and gunfights between the security forces and suspected criminal groups, notably in the states of **Tamaulipas** 3 November, **Mexico** 10 November, **Zacatecas** 11 November, **Jalisco** 14 November, **Morelos** 20 November, **Oaxaca** 23 and 25 November and **Chiapas** 25 November. Many police officers either wounded or killed - **Jalisco State: CJNG cartel chief arrested** by the Mexican security forces in **Tapalpa** 25 November - **Puebla, Mexico and Morelos: renewed activity at the Popocatepetl volcano** from 17 November - **Veracruz State:** at least 12 dead and 58 people injured in an accident involving a tour bus on the Tinaja-Acayucan Highway 21 November - 5 to 7 November: **protest caravan from Acapulco to Mexico City** in demand of greater aid for those affected by Hurricane Otis.

Myanmar

Ongoing and intensification of the offensive launched by ethnic rebel groups in Shan State 27 October. Clashes spread into large parts of the north and east of the country, namely the states of Kachin, Karen, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah and the region of Sagaing. Rebels **capture strategic military outposts at the China-Myanmar border**, notably 4, 13 and 26 November. **Counter-offensive by the military junta**, specifically in **Rakhine State** from 16 November. Beijing condemns shell fired by the Myanmar army that fell within its territory in **Yunnan Province** 4 November. As of 15 November, at least 200,000 people displaced, 75 dead and 84 people injured. Overall increase in prices recorded due to rebels blocking strategic trade routes. President of Myanmar warned of the **risk of the country imploding** - **China-Myanmar border: combat training exercises launched by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)** 25 November - **Shan State: earthquake measuring 5.7** strikes near Kēng Tung 17 November.

Nigeria

Surge in violence committed by criminal groups involved in **banditry, kidnappings and killings** in the northwest of the country, especially in **Zamfara State** where **attacks** were reported 1, 11, 19, 21 and 24 November. Tens of people were reportedly killed, while at least 150 are believed to have been kidnapped - **Borno State: attacks attributed to Boko Haram** targeting farmers, notably 5 and 27 November, thought to have left at least 33 people dead. **Clashes reported between Boko Haram and ISWAP** near **Lake Chad** 17 and 18 November - **Successive general strikes accompanied by demonstrations nationwide** from 8 November, led by the NLC and TUC unions. Demonstrators **block access to Abuja International Airport** 9 November - **Violence on the fringes of the governorship elections in the states of Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi** 11 November: at least 2 people killed, an official from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) kidnapped.

Philippines

Earthquake measuring 6.7 strikes on Mindanao Island 17 November: at least 9 dead and considerable material damage reported, notably in **General Santos** where more than 800 houses are believed to have been destroyed or damaged - **Centre and south:** at least **57,000 people displaced** due to heavy rain and **flooding** 22 November, notably in the **Province of Eastern Samar** - **Surge in cases of measles and rubella recorded across the whole country:** at least 1,731 cases and 5 fatalities, namely in the **Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)** - **Local journalist assassinated in Calamba (Mindanao)** 5 November - **National Day** 30 November: celebrations, rallies and disruption in major cities, namely in **Manila**.

Papua New Guinea

Surge in tribal tension and security stepped up in the Highlands Region on the fringes of a local elections. Curfew declared in the **districts of Wabag and Wapenamanda** from 15 November for at least one month - **Eruption at the Ulawun volcano** 20 November: large plume of ash reported. Risk level raised to 4, the highest level - **Inter-communal violence reported from 11 november in Rabaul**, in East New Britain Province - **Earthquake measuring 6.5 strikes off the coast of Sepik Province** 28 November: no tsunami warning.

December 2023

Important events in the month to come

Chile

17 December: new constitutionnel referendum a year after a previous draft was rejected. Socio-political rallies to be expected.

Egypt

10 to 12 December: early presidential elections. Rallies and considerable security reinforcements to be expected across the country.

World

7 December: day of action for the climate, on the fringes of COP 28 in Dubai until 12 December. Environmental rallies and protest action should be expected in several cities.

31 December: security reinforcements to be expected in many major cities on the occasion of New Year's Eve celebrations. The threat of attack should not be ruled out especially in sensitive countries.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

20 December: general elections. Security reinforcements and political rallies to be expected amid tension in the run up to the elections, while the security situation in the east is deteriorating. Potential electoral dispute should not be ruled out.

Serbia

17 December: early legislative elections on the fringes of an anti-government protest movement that has intensified in 2023 and amid renewed tension with neighbouring Kosovo - Political rallies likely.

Chad

17 December: referendum for a new constitution ahead of the end of the military transition scheduled at the end of 2024. Opposition rallies and a risk of incidents.

EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN DECEMBER 2023

December

World: ongoing demonstrations in support of the Palestinian people likely in capitals and major cities.

1 to 9 December

UK: national rail strike - Travel disruption to be expected.

1 and 2 December

United Arab Emirates: Commemoration Day and National Day - Ceremonies and festivities likely.

1 December

Armenia: anti-government demonstration in Yerevan - Security reinforcements likely, unrest should not be ruled out.

Central African Republic (CAR): National Day celebrating creation of the autonomous republic (1958) - Rallies and festivities likely.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): trial of journalist, Stanis Bujakera, set to resume - Demonstrations should not be ruled out.

Indonesia: anniversary of the raising of the flag of independence (1961) - OPM separatist demonstrations scheduled in the provinces of Papua and West Papua on the anniversary of the movement's creation (1965), security reinforcements likely, tension possible.

Israel: 50th anniversary of the death of David Ben Gurion (1973), founder of the State of Israel - Commemorations to be expected.

Italy: general strike and demonstrations in the south of the country, notably in Naples - Disruption likely.

Kazakhstan: First President's Day, marking the first election of President Nursultan Nazarbayev (1991) - Ceremonies likely.

Romania: Great Union Day - Disruption likely and demonstrations possible.

Serbia: 105th anniversary of the first Yugoslavia.

South Korea: civil society demonstration in Seoul - Security reinforcements and disruption likely.

World: World AIDS Day - Demonstrations likely in major cities.

2 December

France: demonstration by the "Gilets Jaunes" in Paris - Security reinforcements and disruption likely.

Laos: National Day - Ceremonies likely in Vientiane.

North Macedonia: trade union demonstration in Skopje - Security reinforcements and disruption likely.

United Arab Emirates: 52nd anniversary of the creation of the UAE federation.

UK: environmental and pro-Palestine demonstrations, notably in London - Security reinforcements and disruption likely.

World: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - Commemorations likely.

3 December

Belgium: environmental demonstration in Brussels - Security reinforcements and localised disruption to be expected.

Cambodia: civil society demonstration in Phnom Penh - Security reinforcements and localised disruption to be expected.

Venezuela: referendum on the creation of a disputed region with neighbouring Guyana - Diplomatic tension likely.

4 to 7 December

Mali: national strike in the healthcare industry - Disruption to be expected.

4 and 5 December

Spain: national rail strike - Travel disruption to be expected.

4 December

Uganda: national day against corruption - Demonstrations likely in Kampala, unrest should not be ruled out.

5 to 12 December

Brazil: cuts to the supply of water expected in Rio de Janeiro - Disruption likely.

5 and 10 December

Spain: national strike in the airline industry - Travel disruption to be expected.

5 to 7 December

Belgium: national strike by rail workers - Travel disruption to be expected.

5 December

Italy: national strike in the medical industry - Disruption to be expected when accessing healthcare; associated demonstrations should not be ruled out.

South Africa: 10th anniversary of the death of Nelson Mandela - Commemorations and rallies to be expected.

6 December

Finland: Independence Day - Celebrations and demonstrations likely, especially in Tampere, led by the Suomi Herää far-right movement.

Germany: environmental demonstration in Leipzig - Security reinforcements and disruption to be expected.

Greece: anniversary of the death of a student in the 2008 riots - Demonstrations likely, specifically in Athens, clashes should not be ruled out.

India: anniversary of the destruction of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh State, 1992) by Hindu nationalists - Security reinforcements and rallies likely, risk of violence.

Israel/Palestine: 6th anniversary of the US recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel (2017) - Tension could increase around the symbolic date.

7 December

Germany: demonstration against anti-Semitism in Berlin - Localised disruption to be expected, counter-demonstrations and unrest should not be ruled out.

Ivory Coast: 30th anniversary of the death of former President Houphouët-Boigny (1993) - Commemorations likely.

8 December

Nigeria: trade union demonstration across Rivers State - Security reinforcements and disruption to be expected.

World: World Climate Day - Demonstrations to be expected in city centres.

9 December

Ireland: environmental demonstration in Dublin - Security reinforcements and disruption likely.

Poland: 33rd anniversary of the election of Lech Walesa as president (1990) – Commemorations and rallies possible.

Somalia: 31st anniversary of the start of the UN-sanctioned “Operation Restore Hope”.

Tanzania: Independence Day (1961) - Ceremonies and disruption likely.

UK: environmental demonstration in London - Localised disruption to be expected.

World: International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime - Commemorations likely.

World: International Anti-Corruption Day.

10 to 12 December

Egypt: early presidential elections - Rallies and security reinforcements to be expected.

10 December

Türkiye: anniversary of twin bombings at the Vodafone Arena, the home of Istanbul football team Besiktas, in which 44 people were killed (2016) - Commemorations likely.

World: Human Rights Day - Demonstrations to be expected in major cities, disruption should not be ruled out.

11 December onwards

Belgium: risk of an indefinite national strike in the airline industry - Travel disruption to be expected.

11 to 19 December

Mauritania: national strike in the teaching industry, notably in Nouakchott - Disruption and demonstrations to be expected.

11 December

France: anniversary of terrorist attack on the Strasbourg Christmas Market (2018) - Commemorations likely.

World: 26th anniversary of the signing of the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gases - environmental demonstrations likely.

12 December

Czech Republic: environmental demonstration in Prague - Disruption likely.

Kenya: Independence Day (“Jamhuri Day”) - Celebrations and disruption likely nationwide.

Mexico: annual celebration of the Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe - Festivities likely.

13 December

Chine, Hong Kong (SAR): anniversary of the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese troops (1937) - Anti-Japanese demonstrations possible.

Eritrea/Ethiopia: anniversary of the Algiers Agreement (2000) ending the war between the two countries.

14 December

Bangladesh: Martyred Intellectuals Day (1971) - Commemorations likely.

Israel: 42nd anniversary of the annexation of the Golan Heights.

15 December

Italy : public transport strike - Travel disruption to be expected.

16 to 20 December

Roumania: 34th anniversary of the Romanian Revolution (1989) - Commemorations and rallies likely, notably in Timișoara.

16 December

Bahrain: National Day and Martyrs' Day - Opposition demonstrations possible, notably in Manama and the surrounding area.

Bangladesh: 52nd anniversary of the end of the War of Independence.

India: 11th anniversary of the gang rape of a female student on a bus - Demonstrations protesting violence against women should not be ruled out.

17 December

Chile: referendum on a new draft constitution - Socio-political rallies should not be ruled out.

Chad: referendum for a new constitution as the transition is coming to an end - Security reinforcements likely, opposition demonstrations and unrest should not be ruled out.

Cuba: 9th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic relations between the US and Cuba.

Serbia: early legislative elections - Security reinforcements likely.

Tunisia: 13th anniversary of the start of the revolution (2010) - Rallies to be expected. prévoir.

18 December

Hong Kong (China): trial of pro-democracy militants set to resume - Demonstrations should not be ruled out.

Niger: Republic Day (1958) – Security reinforcements possible.

Qatar: National Day celebrations likely, notably in Doha.

World: International Migrants Day – Demonstrations possible.

19 to 26 December

Israel/Palestine: Hanukkah, Festival of Lights

19 December

Germany: anniversary of vehicle-ramming terrorist attack on the Berlin Christmas Market, which left 12 people dead (2016).

Sudan: 5th anniversary of the start of the 2018 protest movement that led to Omar al-Bashir being overthrown - Renewed fighting between the armed forces and the RSF should not be ruled out.

20 December

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): general elections (presidential and legislative) - Security reinforcements, political rallies and election violence should not be ruled out.

Panama: anniversary of the US invasion in 1989 - Security reinforcements and demonstrations should not be ruled out, especially in the vicinity of US diplomatic representations.

21 December

Germany: 51st anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) - Commemorations likely.

22 December

Zimbabwe: Unity Day.

23 December

Italy: 21st anniversary of the return of Vittorio Emanuele of Savoy, after 56 years in exile.

Nicaragua: 51st anniversary of the earthquake, which claimed more than 10,000 lives and left 20,000 others injured in the region of Managua - Commemorations likely.

24 and 25 December

World: security measures likely to be stepped up in many countries for Christmas celebrations. Risk of attacks should not be ruled out in sensitive countries.

24 December

Ivory Coast: 23rd anniversary of the coup in which Henri Konan Bédié was overthrown (1999).

25 December

Russia: anniversary of Russian military plane crash in the Black Sea near the resort city of Sochi with 92 people on board (2016) - Commemorations likely.

26 December

English-speaking world: Boxing Day - Disruption likely on the occasion of the public holiday in several countries.

China: 130th anniversary of the birth of Mao Zedong - Commemorations likely.

Indonesia: 19th anniversary of the tsunami off the coast of Sumatra that inflicted heavy loss of life (2004).

28 December

Afghanistan: anniversary of Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan (1979).

Pakistan: 16th anniversary of the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto - Commemorations likely.

29 December

Mongolia: Independence Day - Celebrations likely in Ulan Bator.

31 December

Panama: anniversary of the retrocession of the Panama Canal by the US (1999).

Timor Leste: Memorial Day - Commemorations likely.

UK: 3rd anniversary of the United Kingdom leaving the European single market (Brexit) - Demonstrations against Brexit possible, notably in London and Scotland.

World: security reinforcements and disruption should be expected in numerous countries on the occasion of New Year's Eve celebrations. Attacks in sensitive countries should not be ruled out.

SSF Information & Analysis



Monitoring, Risk Assessment and Forecasts

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Round the clock safety-security alerts covering 203 countries and territories in both French and English.



Country Profiles

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.