








CrisisWatch At A Glance

2021 SEPTEMBER TRENDS AND OCTOBER ALERTS


 CONFLICT RISK ALERT  RESOLUTION OPPORTUNITY
 UNCHANGED SITUATION  IMPROVED SITUATION  DETERIORATED SITUATION

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICA

-  **Burundi.** Series of grenade explosions killed several people and wounded scores.
-   **Cameroon.** Separatists continued to deal heavy blow to govt forces in Anglophone areas, and violence will likely intensify around 1 Oct self-declared Independence Day.
-  **Central African Republic.** Govt forces and Russian allies pursued counter-insurgency operations, leaving high civilian toll, and President Touadéra again refused rebels' participation in national dialogue.
-  **Chad.** Uncertainty around national dialogue persisted and transitional authorities formed interim parliament; Libyan forces attacked Chadian rebels and intercommunal violence killed dozens.
-  **DR Congo.** ADF rebel group launched increasingly daring attacks in eastern provinces; tensions flared over stalled appointment of electoral commission's head.

HORN OF AFRICA

-  **Eritrea.** Govt continued to face accusations of war crimes in Ethiopia's Tigray region.
-  **Ethiopia.** Tigray forces' advance faced resistance in Amhara and Afar; violence continued in Oromia and federal govt deployed reinforcements to Benishangul-Gumuz.
-  **Kenya.** Violence flared up in centre, while political jockeying continued ahead of 2022 general elections.

→ **Nile Waters.** Amid stalled efforts to resolve Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) dispute, UN Security Council urged parties to resume African Union-led talks.

↘ ⚡ **Somalia.** Power struggle between President Farmajo and PM Roble escalated, putting at risk electoral progress; dispute could spark violence in capital Mogadishu.

→ **Somaliland.** President Bihi conducted major cabinet reshuffle.

→ **South Sudan.** Unravelling of VP Riek Machar's movement continued, and clashes between armed groups in south continued to prompt mass displacement.

↘ ⚡ **Sudan.** Coup attempt strained relations between civilian and military components of transition; unity of transitional govt at stake in coming weeks.

→ **Tanzania.** Authorities continued to harass opposition and suspended second newspaper in less than a month.

→ **Uganda.** Govt stepped up efforts to combat insecurity in parts of Central and Northern regions.

SAHEL

→ **Burkina Faso.** Military stepped up aerial campaign against jihadists in north, while deadly violence persisted in several regions, including in east and south west.

→ **Mali.** West Africa regional bloc imposed sanctions to encourage return to civilian rule, but PM said general elections could be delayed; reports of Russian mercenary deal alarmed France, while security situation remained fragile.

→ **Niger.** Govt's plan to relocate displaced people to violence-ridden south east and south west under strain as jihadist attacks on civilians continued.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

→ **Eswatini.** Authorities blocked small-scale pro-democracy protests and deployed security forces across country to stifle students' strikes.

→ **Mozambique.** Amid sustained offensive by govt forces and its allies, Islamist militants launched series of attacks in far north; counter-insurgency efforts reportedly expanded to Niassa province.

→ **Zimbabwe.** Ruling-party elections revealed internal rifts and deep-rooted factionalism, and Constitutional Court decision marked win for President Mnangagwa.

WEST AFRICA

→ **Côte d'Ivoire.** Former President Gbagbo moved to create new political party, and authorities stepped up security presence in north to address jihadist threat.

↘ **Guinea.** Military coup against President Condé opened period of great uncertainty.

→ **Nigeria.** Armed group attacks on villages and military left over 100 dead in north west, and jihadist violence persisted in north east.

ASIA

NORTH EAST ASIA

- **China/Japan.** Amid Japan's calls for resolute defence of disputed islands in East China Sea, China maintained heavy maritime presence in area.
- **Korean Peninsula.** Seoul and Pyongyang conducted high-profile missile tests, overshadowing high-level meetings to reignite diplomatic track.
- **Taiwan Strait.** China warned U.S. against official diplomatic interactions with Taiwan, while military activity continued in region.

SOUTH ASIA

- **Afghanistan.** Amid worsening humanitarian crisis and crackdown on protests, Taliban tightened its grip across country, including by gaining control over Panjshir province.
- **Bangladesh.** Authorities targeted members of opposition Jamaat-e-Islami party, and arrested dozens of Rohingyas fleeing refugee camp on flood-prone island.
- **India.** Military held exercises close to disputed Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, authorities signed agreement with insurgent groups in Assam state, and clashes with Maoists persisted.
- **India-Pakistan (Kashmir).** Tensions between India and Pakistan and within Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) continued to run high, including over controversial burial of Kashmiri leader.
- **Nepal.** Dispute among ruling parties continued to hamper appointment of govt ministers, while opposition Unified Marxist-Leninist party sought to block Nepali Congress-led coalition's legislative priorities.
- **Pakistan.** Political tensions persisted amid plans for new govt-controlled central media authority; authorities continued to debate ways to engage with new Afghan govt.
- **Sri Lanka.** UN Human Rights Council voiced concerns over erosion of rights, while economy continued to face deep strains.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Indonesia.** West Papua Liberation Army launched deadliest attack on military this year, while security forces killed East Indonesia Mujahideen militant group leader.
- **Myanmar.** While opposition govt declared "people's defensive war" to depose military dictatorship, announcement failed to lead to sustained escalation in attacks.
- **Philippines.** Violence persisted at low levels in south, while members of Bangsamoro Transition Authority passed bill to extend transition.

→ **South China Sea.** Australia, UK and U.S. unveiled trilateral defence pact that provoked mixed reactions in region, while Chinese naval forces conducted military exercises.

→ **Thailand.** PM Prayuth Chan-ocha and govt officials saw off no-confidence vote, while series of protests rocked capital Bangkok, leading to hundreds of arrests.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

BALKANS

→ **Kosovo.** New govt regulations on licence plates triggered protests at Serbian border and escalated tensions with Belgrade.

→ **Montenegro.** Inauguration of new head of Serbian Orthodox Church in Montenegro sparked protests and inflamed political tensions.

CAUCASUS

→ **Armenia.** Armenia and Azerbaijan commenced legal proceedings against each other at International Court of Justice (ICJ), while tensions surfaced with Baku over control of regional highway.

→ **Azerbaijan.** Tensions with Armenia continued as both sides initiated legal proceedings at International Court of Justice (ICJ) and disputed control of regional highway.

→ **Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.** Low-level clashes continued in conflict zone, while Armenian and Azerbaijani FMs met for first time since Nov 2020.

→ **Georgia.** Acrimony between opposition and ruling Georgian Dream party surfaced ahead of Oct local elections, raising prospect of disputed results.

→ **Russia (internal).** Ruling United Russia party maintained constitutional majority in parliamentary elections.

CENTRAL ASIA

→ **Kyrgyzstan.** Senior officials met Taliban leadership following group's takeover of Afghanistan.

→ **Tajikistan.** Authorities continued to express concern about threat to regional security arising from Afghanistan.

→ **Uzbekistan.** President Mirzyoyev confirmed candidacy for Oct presidential election.

EASTERN EUROPE

- **Belarus.** Authorities continued sentencing of opposition figures, while Russia boosted its support for govt.
- **Ukraine.** Low-level violence continued in Donbas conflict zone, while parliament passed controversial “anti-oligarch” legislation.

WESTERN EUROPE AND MEDITERRANEAN

- **Cyprus.** Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders discussed reigniting talks, while tensions persisted over hydrocarbon exploration.
- **Eastern Mediterranean.** Diplomatic and maritime tensions continued between Greece and Turkey.
- **Turkey.** Authorities reported dwindling number of Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) militants across country, and continued operations against alleged Islamic State supporters.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ANDES

- **Colombia.** Confrontations between armed actors and attacks against security forces and civilians ran high along border with Venezuela.
- **Venezuela.** Govt and main opposition alliance reached limited agreements in Norwegian-facilitated talks, and President Maduro joined regional summit in first trip abroad in three years.

CARIBBEAN

- **Haiti.** Political crisis deepened as chief public prosecutor sought to charge PM Ariel Henry for potential role in President Moïse’s killing and authorities postponed elections indefinitely.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

- **El Salvador.** First signs of discontent surfaced as President Bukele launched Bitcoin and continued to concentrate power in executive branch.
- **Honduras.** Political tensions ran high ahead of general elections scheduled for Nov, and deportation of Honduran migrants from Mexico and U.S. continued.
- **Mexico.** High-level criminal violence persisted, with activists at particular risk, while authorities relaunched economic dialogue with U.S., including on migration issues.

→ **Nicaragua.** Repression against opposition leaders continued ahead of legislative and presidential elections due in Nov.

SOUTHERN CONE AND BRAZIL

→ **Brazil.** Political tensions persisted as President Bolsonaro made incendiary remarks toward Supreme Court, which fuelled alarm among politicians.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

→ **Israel/Palestine.** Unprecedented jailbreak from Israeli maximum-security prison prompted Palestinian solidarity protests across Israel, West Bank and Gaza.

↗ **Lebanon.** Parliament approved formation of new govt led by Najib Mikati, ending 13-month period with caretaker authorities.

→ **Syria.** Govt forces struck deal with rebels to end fighting in south west, Russia stepped up attacks in Idlib, and clashes continued between Kurdish and Turkish-backed forces in north east.

GULF AND ARABIAN PENINSULA

→ **Iran.** Tehran struck last-minute understanding with UN nuclear watchdog regarding access to surveillance equipment, deferring diplomatic showdown with U.S. and European powers.

→ **Iraq.** Opposition parties announced boycott of October polls, Islamic State (ISIS) conducted deadliest attack this year, and Turkey continued operations against Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

→ **Saudi Arabia.** Huthis continued cross-border attacks, while minister of interior visited Qatar's capital Doha and talks continued with Iran.

↘ ⚡ **Yemen.** Huthis intensified assault in north and consolidated control in central al-Bayda governorate, raising prospect that fighting could increase further in coming month; protests escalated in south.

NORTH AFRICA

→ **Algeria.** Authorities continued to restrict civil society and closed airspace to Moroccan planes in ongoing dispute with Rabat.

→ **Egypt.** Govt scored major victory against jihadist group amid persistent violence in Sinai, and U.S. decided to withhold part of military aid over human rights concerns.

↘ **Libya.** Prospects of holding elections by year's end fading as parliament unilaterally issued presidential election law and voted no-confidence motion against unity govt, escalating political tensions.

→ **Tunisia.** Despite mounting opposition, President Saïed set to ignore large parts of constitution and rule by decree with no end date, further cementing authoritarian drift.

→ **Western Sahara.** Search for UN special envoy made progress, while tensions remained high between Rabat and Algiers.