



# CrisisWatch At A Glance

2021 JUNE TRENDS AND JULY ALERTS

 CONFLICT RISK ALERT	 RESOLUTION OPPORTUNITY	
 UNCHANGED SITUATION	 IMPROVED SITUATION	 DETERIORATED SITUATION

## AFRICA

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### CENTRAL AFRICA

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- **Burundi.** Authorities clashed with Kinyarwanda-speaking rebels near Rwandan border and unidentified assailants staged deadly ambush in centre.
-  **Cameroon.** Separatists stepped up violent attacks in Anglophone regions, leaving dozens of soldiers killed; meanwhile, Far North region benefited from respite after death of Boko Haram leader.
- **Central African Republic (CAR).** Govt forces and foreign allies faced mounting international scrutiny over alleged abuses, relations with France soured and deadly farmer-herder violence flared at border with Chad.
- **Chad.** Amid calls for inclusive dialogue, interim authorities consolidated grip over transitional institutions.
- **DR Congo (DRC).** Amid ongoing political tensions, President Tshisekedi visited eastern region apologising for past human rights violations and criticising role of army and other institutions.

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### HORN OF AFRICA

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- **Eritrea.** Govt continued to face accusations of war crimes in Ethiopia's Tigray region.
- **Ethiopia.** Amid looming famine, Tigrayan forces made significant gains against federal troops in Tigray region; meanwhile, general elections held despite insecurity in several regions.

→ **Kenya.** President Kenyatta adopted confrontational stance toward judiciary, govt took steps to mend relations with Somalia, and Al-Shabaab launched further attacks in north east.

→ **Nile Waters.** Egypt and Sudan continued to increase pressure on Ethiopia to negotiate legally binding agreement on filling and operation of giant dam on Blue Nile river.

↗ **Somalia.** Federal govt and member states agreed on new schedule for long-delayed elections; Al-Shabaab attacks continued despite fresh assaults by army, and govt took steps to mend ties with Kenya amid ongoing tensions.

↗ **Somaliland.** Somaliland successfully concluded long-delayed elections process, marking country's first parliamentary polls in sixteen years.

→ **South Sudan.** Intercommunal violence continued in centre and south while tensions persisted between govt and holdout rebel group in south.

↘ **Sudan.** Tensions rose markedly over paramilitary Rapid Support Forces' refusal to integrate into regular forces, with PM warning of "chaos" should security sector reform not proceed; protests erupted over end of fuel subsidies.

→ **Tanzania.** Govt continued to take steps to curb COVID-19 pandemic and faced accusations of complacency toward Islamist insurgency in neighbouring Mozambique.

→ **Uganda.** Former army chief survived assassination attempt and President Museveni reshuffled military and cabinet.

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## SAHEL

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↘ **Burkina Faso.** Suspected jihadists launched deadliest attack in country since 2015, killing 160 and displacing thousands.

→ **Mali.** New transition president appointed PM and govt while army retained major influence over institutions; violence continued in north and centre.

→ **Niger.** Suspected jihadists conducted series of attacks in south west, while joint French-Nigerien operations dealt major blow to Islamic State in the Greater Sahara.

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## SOUTHERN AFRICA

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↘ **Eswatini.** Anti-monarchy protests turned violent, reportedly leaving scores dead.

→ **Mozambique.** Islamist militants continued to resist govt forces and launch deadly attacks against civilians in far north.

→ **Zimbabwe.** Legal battles around chief justice position continued and infighting persisted within main opposition party.

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## WEST AFRICA

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→ **Côte d'Ivoire.** Former President Gbagbo returned from ten-year exile, sparking localised clashes between his supporters and security forces, and deadly attacks targeted military in north.

→ **Guinea.** Authorities continued to restrict space for opposition and civil society, and violence erupted in north west.

→ **Nigeria.** Govt shut down social media platform Twitter citing security concerns as country's multiple violent conflicts continued.

## ASIA

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### NORTH EAST ASIA

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→ **China/Japan.** Amid ongoing Japan-China tensions, Tokyo engaged in diplomatic tour to build common position on maritime threats in East and South China Seas.

→ **Korean Peninsula.** North Korea acknowledged severity of food insecurity amid COVID-19 pandemic, while U.S. reaffirmed readiness to continue dialogue.

→ **Taiwan Strait.** China stepped up intrusions of Taiwan's aerial zone after relative decline in recent months, while COVID-19 crisis fuelled domestic and cross-strait tensions.

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### SOUTH ASIA

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↘ **Afghanistan.** Taliban sustained major offensive, gaining additional district centres and killing over 500 Afghan security forces; deadly terror attacks targeted minority Hazara community.

→ **Bangladesh.** Govt continued crackdown on critics under Digital Security Act, while concerns over relocation of Rohingya refugees to flood-prone Bashan Char island persisted.

→ **India (non-Kashmir).** Reports revealed increased military build-up along disputed China-India border; meanwhile, Maoist violence persisted.

→ **Kashmir.** Amid ongoing tensions between Pakistan and India over Line of Control (dividing Pakistan and Indian-administered Kashmir), violence persisted in Jammu and Kashmir.

→ **Nepal.** Supreme Court began hearings against President Bhandari's decision to dissolve House of Representatives in May.

→ **Pakistan.** Political tensions heightened following controversial electoral reforms, while militant attacks and counter-insurgency operations continued.

→ **Sri Lanka.** COVID-19 crisis continued to worsen as economy faced growing strains, while EU and UN voiced concerns over govt's abuse of rule of law.

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### SOUTHEAST ASIA

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→ **Indonesia.** Low-level armed violence persisted in Papua amid arrests of pro-independence activists; concerns rose about spread of COVID-19.

→ **Myanmar.** Tatmadaw continued to struggle to contain acts of resistance amid intense fighting with civil defence groups and ethnic armed groups across country.

→ **Philippines.** Low-level violence continued in south between militant groups and security forces.

→ **South China Sea.** Regional defence ministers expressed support for legally binding code of conduct in South China Sea, while tensions persisted between China and claimant parties.

→ **Thailand.** Parliament considered series of constitutional amendments as protesters commemorated end of absolute monarchy in 1932; violence persisted in deep south.

## EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

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### BALKANS

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→ **Kosovo.** EU- and U.S.-led Kosovo-Serbia dialogue resumed in Brussels.

→ **Montenegro.** Parliament passed resolution prohibiting Srebrenica genocide denial and dismissed justice minister, creating rift within ruling coalition.

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### CAUCASUS

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→ **Armenia.** Acting PM Pashinyan won snap parliamentary elections, while diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving weeks-long military standoff on border with Azerbaijan continued.

→ **Azerbaijan.** Diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving weeks-long military standoff on border with Armenia continued, while govt bolstered ties with Turkey.

→ **Georgia.** Discord surfaced between govt and opposition, threatening implementation of April agreement, while govt and breakaway territories engaged in meetings to resolve issues.

→ **Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.** In spite of ongoing border tensions, Azerbaijan exchanged Armenian detainees in return for mine maps from Armenia.

→ **Russia (internal).** U.S. expressed support for imprisoned opposition figure Alexei Navalny, while parliament continued to introduce restrictions on foreign organisations operating in country.

→ **U.S./Russia.** U.S. and Russian presidents held face-to-face summit in Geneva, agreeing to continue arms control dialogue and return ambassadors.

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### CENTRAL ASIA

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→ **Kyrgyzstan.** Amid ongoing tensions with Tajikistan, sides struck new agreement to stabilise border.

→ **Tajikistan.** Amid ongoing tensions with Kyrgyzstan, sides struck new agreement to stabilise border; concerns rose over border security with Afghanistan.

→ **Uzbekistan.** Authorities made series of arrests of suspected extremists, and concerns rose over border security with Afghanistan.

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## **EASTERN EUROPE**

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→ **Belarus.** Western countries announced additional sanctions on govt, while opposition called for greater international pressure.

→ **Ukraine.** Deadly combat continued in Donbas as President Zelenskyy reinvigorated bid for NATO membership and U.S. reaffirmed support for Minsk diplomatic process.

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## **WESTERN EUROPE AND MEDITERRANEAN**

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→ **Cyprus.** Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders agreed to open border crossings, while UN continued diplomatic engagement with Cypriot parties in hope of scheduling new international conference.

→ **Eastern Mediterranean.** Ankara and Athens held leader summit in Brussels, while maritime tensions in Aegean Sea continued.

→ **Turkey.** Authorities continued to restrict pro-Kurdish opposition, and arrested over 200 Islamic State suspects; meanwhile, military operations targeting Kurdish militants in neighbourhood continued.

# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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## **ANDES**

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→ **Colombia.** Bomb attack at military base injured dozens and helicopter carrying President Duque struck by bullets; National Strike Committee suspended weekly protests.

↘ **Peru.** Tight presidential runoff vote fuelled electoral crisis as right-wing supporters rejected results, alleging fraud, and some called for military to step in.

→ **Venezuela.** Mainstream opposition participation in upcoming elections increasingly likely; situation at Colombian border remained tense.

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## **CARIBBEAN**

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→ **Haiti.** Authorities postponed controversial constitutional referendum, while gang violence displaced thousands in capital Port-au-Prince.

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## CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

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- **El Salvador.** Govt shut down anti-corruption body, fuelling further tensions with international partners.
- **Honduras.** Deadly brawl opposed members of two rival gangs in country's most notorious prison.
- **Mexico.** Legislative elections marked setback for ruling party amid ongoing violence by criminal groups.
- ↘ **Nicaragua.** Govt launched unprecedented wave of arrests of political and business representatives ahead of Nov general elections.

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## SOUTHERN CONE AND BRAZIL

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- **Brazil.** Tensions ran high over management of COVID-19 pandemic as country surpassed 500,000 deaths.

# MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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## EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

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- **Israel/Palestine.** Israeli forces launched wave of arrests inside Israel and suppressed Palestinian protests in West Bank amid attacks by settlers; ceasefire between Israel and Hamas faced strains.
- **Lebanon.** Political infighting continued to stall govt formation while Lebanese pound fell to record low amid worsening economic crisis.
- **Syria.** Clashes erupted in Manbij area in north east, Russian strikes in Idlib province resumed, and suspected ISIS militants killed dozens in central desert.

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## GULF AND ARABIAN PENINSULA

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- **Iran.** Sixth round of nuclear talks made progress while UN temporary inspections agreement into nuclear sites expired with unclear next steps; Ebrahim Raisi elected president.
- **Iraq.** Amid ongoing calls to resolve targeted killings of activists, rockets attacks continued to target U.S.-led coalition and skirmishes broke out between Kurdish factions.
- **Saudi Arabia.** Huthis continued cross-border attacks.
- ↘ ⚡ **Yemen.** Huthis reinvigorated offensive in Marib governorate, raising prospect of all-out summer offensive in coming month, while nationwide ceasefire talks remained stalled.

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## **NORTH AFRICA**

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→ **Algeria.** Legislative elections marred by repression and lowest voter turnout since country's independence.

→ **Egypt.** Nile waters crisis with Ethiopia started to shake up domestic politics, and jihadist attacks regained intensity in Sinai Peninsula.

↘ **Libya.** Tensions between rival armed coalitions rose and ISIS staged first attack in a year; at Berlin conference, Libyan govt and foreign states renewed calls for elections in Dec and foreign forces withdrawal.

→ **Morocco.** Tensions remained high between Morocco and Spain over Western Sahara.

→ **Tunisia.** Violent protests erupted on outskirts of capital Tunis over alleged police brutality and price hikes, while attempts to solve political crisis remained stalled.

→ **Western Sahara.** Polisario Front independence movement leader testified before Spanish court and left country for Algeria.