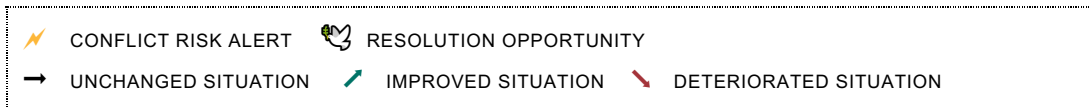




CrisisWatch At A Glance

2021 AUGUST TRENDS AND SEPTEMBER ALERTS



AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICA

- **Burundi.** Authorities stepped up repression of political opponents amid tensions within ruling party over suspension of foreign mining operations.
- **Cameroon.** Violence continued between govt forces and separatists in Anglophone regions; in Far North, clashes over resources turned deadly and jihadists attacked govt positions.
- **Central African Republic.** Govt forces and foreign allies faced renewed international scrutiny over alleged abuses while tensions persisted between govt and opposition.
- **Chad.** Disagreements over national dialogue persisted; intercommunal violence left dozens dead and Boko Haram attacked army positions.
- **DR Congo.** Authorities extended state of siege amid ongoing violence in east; appointment process of electoral commission reached impasse.

HORN OF AFRICA

- **Djibouti.** Deadly intercommunal violence broke out in capital.
- **Eritrea.** Amid spreading violence in Ethiopia's north, govt faced renewed scrutiny over troops' presence in Tigray.

→ **Ethiopia.** Amid spreading conflict across Ethiopia's north, Tigrayan forces and federal govt intensified war rhetoric and took steps to mobilise reinforcements; clashes in centre left hundreds dead.

→ **Kenya.** Political jockeying continued ahead of 2022 general election, and diplomatic engagement with Somalia deepened further.

→ **Nile Waters.** Efforts to resolve water dispute between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan remained at standstill.

→ **Somalia.** Electoral cycle remained behind schedule while Al-Shabaab attacks and counter-offensives continued.

→ **Somaliland.** Opposition coalition secured speaker's position in parliament's lower house following tight vote.

↘ **South Sudan.** Split within VP Riek Machar's movement sparked deadly violence; govt faced new calls to stand down, and implementation of transitional security arrangements remained stalled.

→ **Sudan.** Intercommunal violence persisted in west, govt made progress in implementation of Oct 2020 peace deal, and tensions with Ethiopia continued to run high.

→ **Tanzania.** Deadly gunfire erupted in economic capital Dar es Salaam, court case against opposition leader sparked tensions, and govt suspended newspaper.

→ **Uganda.** Clampdown on civil society intensified, security forces foiled suicide bomb attack, and unidentified assailants killed dozens in south.

SAHEL

↘ **Burkina Faso.** Jihadists stepped up attacks, inflicting heaviest monthly death toll on military since 2019 and leaving scores of civilians killed.

→ **Mali.** Violence in north and centre showed jihadist groups' sustained capacity to inflict considerable damage; govt's action plan sparked concern over transition timeline.

→ **Niger.** Jihadist violence against civilians and military continued in south.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

↗ **Mozambique.** Islamist militants faced major setback as joint Mozambican and Rwandan forces regained control of strategic Mocimboa da Praia town and other key locations.

↗ **Zambia.** Despite heightened political tensions in lead-up to 12 Aug polls, country witnessed peaceful transfer of power, with opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema sworn in as president.

→ **Zimbabwe.** Authorities continued to intimidate and threaten opposition and civil society.

WEST AFRICA

- **Côte d'Ivoire.** President Ouattara made new gestures of political appeasement, and former President Gbagbo took steps to regain control of his deeply divided party.
- **Guinea.** Authorities continued to stifle dissent, and renewed clashes erupted between gold miners and locals in north west.
- **Nigeria.** Hundreds of jihadists surrendered amid continued attacks in north east, while criminal, intercommunal and separatist violence persisted in other regions.

ASIA

NORTH EAST ASIA

- **China/Japan.** Tensions continued between Japan and China over contested island chain in East China Sea amid ongoing Chinese maritime presence.
- **Korean Peninsula.** Pyongyang severed inter-Korean hotline reestablished late July amid tensions surrounding annual joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises.
- **Taiwan Strait.** Cross-strait tensions continued between Beijing and Taipei as U.S. announced new arms deal with Taiwan and China conducted military exercises.

SOUTH ASIA

- ↘ **Afghanistan.** In rapid takeover, Taliban regained control over country, prompting fall of govt and ending 20-year U.S. occupation; uncertainty over new political order fuelled domestic and international security concerns.
- **Bangladesh.** Amid ongoing security concerns, authorities rejected U.S. plea to host Afghan refugees, and reiterated 1.1mn Rohingya refugees granted temporary shelter only.
- **India.** Maoist violence continued in south and centre, farmers marked nine months of protests, and inter-province tensions remained high in north east.
- **India-Pakistan (Kashmir).** Pakistan-India tensions ran high amid regional security concerns over Afghanistan and anniversary of India's revocation of special status for Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- **Nepal.** PM Deuba faced criticism for his role in enabling split in largest opposition party as former PM and senior communist leader Madhav Kumar Nepal pledged to join ruling coalition.
- **Pakistan.** Taliban's victory in Afghanistan heightened concerns regarding associated security risks for Pakistan, while deadly militant violence persisted.
- **Sri Lanka.** Supreme Court suspended regulations linked to controversial Terrorism Act, while govt faced rising popular protests and spiralling COVID-19 cases.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Myanmar.** Acts of resistance and deadly clashes between regime and insurgents continued amid deadly COVID-19 wave; regional bloc ASEAN appointed special envoy for Myanmar.
- **Philippines.** Low-level violence persisted in south, while clashes between govt forces and communists killed at least two dozen.
- **South China Sea.** Region witnessed uptick in military activity as China as well as U.S. and its allies held naval exercises; Washington deepened diplomatic ties with claimant parties.
- **Thailand.** Regular and large-scale anti-govt protests resumed in capital Bangkok, leading to clashes with police, while violence continued in deep south.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

BALKANS

- **Kosovo.** Parliament failed to adopt non-binding resolution calling for implementation of U.S.-brokered 2020 deal with Serbia.

CAUCASUS

- **Armenia.** Deadly clashes with Azerbaijan continued on international border, while Russian border guards deployed in north-eastern region.
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- **Georgia.** Breakaway territory Abkhazia received Russian support amid new wave of COVID-19 cases, and breakaway South Ossetia signed dual citizenship law with Moscow.
- **Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.** Hostilities intensified in conflict zone, while Russian-mediated talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan on regional transportation links resumed.
- **Russia (internal).** Ahead of Sept elections, authorities criticised regional body OSCE's decision not to send electoral monitors, and continued to take steps restricting space for opposition.

CENTRAL ASIA

- **Kyrgyzstan.** Border tensions continued with Tajikistan.
- **Tajikistan.** Following Taliban's takeover of major Afghan cities, country faced influx of Afghan military aircraft and forces; meanwhile, border tensions with Kyrgyzstan persisted.

→ **Uzbekistan.** Amid concerns over regional security, country faced influx of Afghan military aircraft and forces following Taliban's takeover of major Afghan cities.

EASTERN EUROPE

→ **Belarus.** Amid new Western sanctions to mark first anniversary of disputed presidential election, govt continued crackdown on dissent and allegedly lent support to border crossings of illegal migrants.

→ **Ukraine.** Low-level clashes continued in Donbas conflict zone and President Zelenskyy hosted international conference to draw attention to Russian-annexed Crimea.

WESTERN EUROPE AND MEDITERRANEAN

→ **Cyprus.** Tensions persisted on island over passport dispute, while international partners criticised Turkish Cypriot plan to reopen section of Varosha/Maraş.

→ **Eastern Mediterranean.** Maritime and diplomatic tensions continued between Greece and Turkey.

→ **Turkey.** Authorities continued to target pro-Kurdish opposition, and to launch operations abroad against Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK); concerns grew over potential new wave of Afghan refugees.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ANDES

→ **Colombia.** Amid implementation of 2016 peace deal's justice provisions, court ruled case of former army chief charged in false positives scandal should remain with transitional justice tribunal.

↗ **Venezuela.** Govt and main opposition alliance held Norway-facilitated talks for first time since 2019, and in major strategic shift opposition announced participation in upcoming elections.

CARIBBEAN

→ **Haiti.** Concerns rose over judiciary's ability to investigate President Moïse's killing, and gang violence disrupted earthquake relief.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

→ **El Salvador.** Authorities presented constitutional reform plan seeking to extend presidential term and rejected new evidence pointing to talks between govt and gangs.

- **Guatemala.** Political tensions persisted as authorities appointed controversial figure as new top anti-corruption prosecutor, and anti-govt protests continued, albeit at lower intensity.
- **Honduras.** Authorities expanded tax-free zones despite opposition and launched major anti-gang operation.
- **Mexico.** Drug cartel violence continued, with journalists at particular risk; U.S. policy toward migrants and refugees came under scrutiny.
- **Nicaragua.** Despite govt's growing international isolation, crackdown on opposition and independent media continued ahead of Nov general elections.

SOUTHERN CONE AND BRAZIL

- **Brazil.** Rifts continued to deepen between President Bolsonaro and top court.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

- **Israel/Palestine.** Supreme Court offered deal to Sheikh Jarrah residents, Gaza factions fired rockets at Israel, and Israel exchanged retaliatory attacks with Hizbollah for first time in years.
- ↘ **Lebanon.** Central Bank's cut of subsidies dramatically worsened fuel crisis and sparked unrest; Hizbollah and Israel exchanged fire.
- **Syria.** Govt forces continued to target rebels in south west, hostilities persisted between Kurdish and Turkish-backed forces in north east, and Idlib ceasefire held despite violations.

GULF AND ARABIAN PENINSULA

- **Iran.** President Raisi took office, Vienna talks remained paused as Tehran continued nuclear activities, and international powers condemned Iran over recent maritime incident.
- **Iraq.** Divisions emerged within political factions ahead of Oct elections, security operations targeted Islamic State (ISIS), and intra-Kurdish rivalry boiled over in Kurdistan.
- **Saudi Arabia.** Huthis continued cross-border attacks and anti-corruption authorities arrested hundreds of officials.
- **United Arab Emirates (UAE).** UAE took steps to improve relations with main regional rivals Turkey and Qatar.

→ **Yemen.** Fighting lulled in north but violence persisted in south amid tensions between govt and southern separatists; UN Sec-Gen appointed new special envoy, and UN sounded alarm over risk of famine.

NORTH AFRICA

→ **Algeria.** Political tensions ran high as deadly wildfires sparked violence in Kabylia and govt cut diplomatic relations with Morocco.

→ **Egypt.** Amid ongoing violence in Sinai Peninsula, security forces faced accusations of extrajudicial killings.

→ **Libya.** Implementation of UN-backed peace process stalled amid tensions between rival armed coalitions and rising blockages between parliament and govt.

→ **Tunisia.** In worst political crisis since 2011, President Saïed extended parliament's suspension indefinitely, consolidating his power grab.

→ **Western Sahara.** Tensions persisted as Polisario Front independence movement contested Rabat's economic and diplomatic moves on disputed territory.