



CrisisWatch At A Glance

2021 APRIL TRENDS AND MAY ALERTS

 CONFLICT RISK ALERT	 RESOLUTION OPPORTUNITY	
 UNCHANGED SITUATION	 IMPROVED SITUATION	 DETERIORATED SITUATION

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICA

- **Burundi.** Govt continued diplomatic offensive as part of effort to alleviate country's isolation; clampdown on opposition and civil society persisted.
- **Cameroon.** Sporadic fighting continued between govt forces and separatist militias in Anglophone regions, while jihadists continued attacks in Far North.
- **Central African Republic.** Govt forces continued to gain ground against rebels, prompting major armed group to announce withdrawal from coalition.
- ↘  **Chad.** President Déby killed amid rebel advance toward capital N'Djamena; fighting could escalate in coming weeks.
- ↘ **DR Congo.** Amid rising insecurity and deadly violence, President Tshisekedi declared "state of siege" in eastern provinces; new coalition govt formed.

HORN OF AFRICA

- **Djibouti.** President Guelleh re-elected for fifth term in landslide vote amid opposition boycott.
- **Eritrea.** Authorities acknowledged troops' presence in Ethiopia's Tigray region amid mounting international pressure for military withdrawal.
- ↘ **Ethiopia.** Intercommunal clashes escalated in several regions, leaving hundreds dead; govt faced mounting international scrutiny over war in Tigray.
- **Kenya.** Political jockeying continued ahead of 2022 general election.

→ **Nile Waters.** Tensions continued to mount among Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt ahead of Addis Ababa's planned second unilateral filling of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in coming months.

↘ **Somalia.** Amid stalled electoral process, extension of president's term triggered deadly clashes in capital Mogadishu, and violence could escalate in May; Al-Shabaab attacks continued.

→ **Somaliland.** Intercommunal clashes left over a dozen dead in Sool region in east, and authorities arrested opposition candidates ahead of parliamentary and local elections scheduled for May.

→ **South Sudan.** President Kiir took steps to consolidate his power and sideline potential rivals, and intercommunal violence persisted in centre.

↘ **Sudan.** Intercommunal violence flared up in West Darfur, leaving over 100 dead and tens of thousands displaced; tensions persisted with Ethiopia.

↗ **Tanzania.** Newly-inaugurated President Suluhu Hassan distanced herself from predecessor Magufuli's policies, signalling possible willingness to open up political space going forward.

→ **Uganda.** Govt faced mounting international pressure to end crackdown on dissent and improve democratic credentials.

SAHEL

→ **Burkina Faso.** Jihadist violence persisted in several regions, with clashes between competing jihadist groups reported in north and spike in attacks against security forces in north and east.

→ **Mali.** Jihadist violence continued unabated in centre and north, and interim authorities announced electoral calendar.

→ **Niger.** Jihadists continued to target civilians in south west, fuelling intercommunal tensions, and stepped up attacks on security forces in south east; President Bazoum took office and formed cabinet.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

→ **Mozambique.** Govt forces claimed they had regained Cabo Delgado's Palma town from Islamist insurgents.

→ **Zimbabwe.** Authorities continued to clamp down on opposition and civil society and parliament voted on controversial constitutional amendments consolidating President Mnangagwa's hold on power.

WEST AFRICA

↘ **Benin.** Protests against President Talon's re-election bid turned deadly.

→ **Côte d'Ivoire.** President Ouattara formed new govt without opposition and gave green light for former President Gbagbo's return.

→ **Guinea.** Govt continued to face international scrutiny over human rights record and deadly clashes erupted between gold miners and security forces.

↘ **Nigeria.** Country's multiple violent conflicts further escalated, notably in Borno and Zamfara states, leaving hundreds killed and tens of thousands displaced.

ASIA

NORTH EAST ASIA

→ **China/Japan.** Amid ongoing Japan-China tensions, Tokyo deepened international security ties.

→ **Korean Peninsula.** Amid concerns over North Korea economic situation, Japan and U.S. committed to working toward denuclearisation of peninsula.

→ **Taiwan Strait.** Amid intense Chinese military activities, U.S. bolstered its diplomatic support for Taipei.

SOUTH ASIA

↗ **Afghanistan.** Taliban attacks continued at high intensity amid signs group could be gearing up for May offensive, while U.S. announced full troop withdrawal by 11 Sept 2021.

→ **Bangladesh.** Tensions continued to run high following anti-India unrest in March, as authorities arrested dozens of protest leaders and activists; election-related violence persisted.

↘ **India (non-Kashmir).** Maoists launched deadliest ambush in four years, deadly COVID-19 wave engulfed country, and govt and China held new round of talks on disputed border.

→ **Kashmir.** Ceasefire continued to hold along Line of Control (LoC, dividing Pakistan and Indian-administered Kashmir), while insecurity persisted inside Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

→ **Nepal.** Ruling party and opposition continued competing efforts to secure majority in parliament; meanwhile, govt faced criticism for handling of COVID-19 pandemic.

↘ **Pakistan.** Deadly unrest erupted after political-religious group launched nationwide protests against ruling party; militant attacks continued at high intensity.

→ **Sri Lanka.** Country commemorated deadly 2019 Easter attacks as authorities furthered "anti-extremism" agenda; meanwhile, govt bill on Colombo mega project sparked legal challenges.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- **Indonesia.** Amid series of deadly attacks in Papua's Puncak district, govt designated Papuan separatist armed groups as "terrorists".
- **Myanmar.** Security forces continued brutal crackdown on anti-coup protesters and civilians, escalating their counter-insurgency practices, as resistance groups launched sporadic deadly attacks on military.
- **Philippines.** Low-level violence continued in south between militant groups and security forces.
- **South China Sea.** Heated exchanges continued between Philippines and China over Chinese maritime presence at disputed reef in South China Sea (SCS).
- **Thailand.** Pro-democracy activists held protests throughout month on smaller scale, while violence continued in deep south.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

BALKANS

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina.** Political tensions grew after memo promoting country's partition circulated publicly.
- **Kosovo.** Parliament endorsed Vjosa Osmani as new president while EU and U.S. continued to call for normalisation talks with Serbia.

CAUCASUS

- **Armenia.** Tensions persisted with Azerbaijan, PM Pashinyan resigned ahead of June elections, and U.S. President Biden recognised 1915 Armenian genocide.
- **Azerbaijan.** Tensions persisted with Armenia over repatriation of prisoners of war from Azerbaijan.
- ✓ **Georgia.** Govt and opposition reached deal to end months-long political crisis following EU- and U.S.-facilitated talks.
- **Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.** Russian-brokered ceasefire held in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone amid tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan over release of prisoners of war.
- **Russia (internal).** Nationwide rallies in support of imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny resurged; meanwhile, in North Caucasus, authorities killed suspected Islamist militant.

CENTRAL ASIA

↘ **Kyrgyzstan.** Deadliest fighting in years erupted on Kyrgyz-Tajik border, killing dozens and displacing thousands, while voters endorsed constitutional amendments to strengthen presidential powers.

↘ **Tajikistan.** Deadliest fighting in years erupted on Kyrgyz-Tajik border, killing dozens and displacing thousands.

→ **Uzbekistan.** Authorities implemented last month's border agreement with Kyrgyzstan while seeking to improve economic ties with adjoining provinces in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

EASTERN EUROPE

→ **Belarus.** Opposition leader called for greater international support while President Lukashenka claimed assassination attempt and U.S.-backed coup plot.

→ **Moldova.** Amid ongoing political tensions, President Maia Sandu called for parliamentary elections in July; meanwhile, news reports revealed Russian military activity in Transnistria.

→ **Ukraine.** Fighting continued in east while largest Russian military build-up at border since Moscow's 2014 invasion brought renewed international attention.

WESTERN EUROPE AND MEDITERRANEAN

→ **Cyprus.** Informal five-plus-one talks commenced in Geneva, ending without breakthrough but with sides expressing willingness to continue dialogue in near future.

→ **Eastern Mediterranean.** Ankara hosted high-level Greek delegation for talks on regional disputes while maritime tensions continued between Turkey and Greece.

↘ **Northern Ireland.** Violent unrest erupted in capital Belfast and other cities against backdrop of rising unionist anger over controversial Northern Ireland Protocol.

→ **Turkey.** Military operations continued against Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in south-eastern Turkey and northern Iraq, killing eight soldiers.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ANDES

→ **Colombia.** Security situation continued to deteriorate along Pacific coast and Venezuelan border, and govt took further steps toward restarting contentious coca crop fumigation.

↘ **Venezuela.** Deadly clashes between military and Colombian guerrilla groups in border region fuelled tensions between Caracas and Bogotá.

CARIBBEAN

→ **Haiti.** PM Joseph Jouthe resigned amid mounting public anger over govt's failure to address rising gang violence and kidnappings.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

→ **El Salvador.** Amid ongoing political tensions, President Bukele took confrontational stance against U.S. officials who voiced concern over his rule of law record.

→ **Honduras.** Govt continued to face legitimacy crisis ahead of Nov general elections amid drug trafficking and corruption allegations against senior officials.

→ **Mexico.** Criminal groups continued to target politicians and civil society activists ahead of June general elections, and tensions ran high between ruling party and electoral authorities.

→ **Nicaragua.** Govt continued to restrict political space in lead-up to Nov general elections.

SOUTHERN CONE AND BRAZIL

→ **Brazil.** Amid spiralling COVID-19 infection rates, series of Supreme Court rulings posed challenge to President Bolsonaro's rule, notably his handling of pandemic.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

↘ **Israel-Palestine.** Amid tensions in Jerusalem, Jewish extremist attacks injured over hundred Palestinians; President Abbas indefinitely postponed elections, raising prospects of major protests in coming weeks.

→ **Jordan.** Govt accused former crown prince of plot to destabilise country.

→ **Lebanon.** Govt warned of further funding cuts as fighting over dwindling subsidised goods in northern city Tripoli turned deadly; France considered new approach to break deadlock over govt formation.

→ **Syria.** Clashes resumed between Kurdish and govt-affiliated forces in north east amid hostilities between Kurdish and Turkish-backed forces; Idlib ceasefire largely held and violence continued in south west.

GULF AND ARABIAN PENINSULA

- **Iran.** U.S. and Iran participated in expert-level negotiations as sabotage attack targeted nuclear facility, prompting Tehran to ramp up enrichment activities.
- **Iraq.** Suspected Popular Mobilisation Forces paramilitary groups continued rocket attacks in capital Baghdad and north as U.S. and govt struck initial deal on withdrawal of coalition troops.
- 🗨️ **Saudi Arabia.** While Huthis continued cross-border attacks, Saudi and Iranian officials began dialogue to de-escalate inter-state tensions, raising prospect of deepening talks in coming weeks.
- **Yemen.** Hostilities in Taiz and Marib governorates continued between Huthis and govt-backed forces while tensions between separatists and govt persisted in south.

NORTH AFRICA

- **Algeria.** Authorities continued to respond to resurgence of Hirak protest movement with combination of repression and co-optation.
- **Egypt.** Jihadist insurgency persisted in Sinai Peninsula, while govt took further steps toward rapprochement with Turkey.
- **Libya.** Discussions on roadmap for elections planned late this year and budget stalled amid disagreement between different constituencies.
- **Tunisia.** Power struggle pitting presidency against parliament and govt continued.
- **Western Sahara.** Morocco reportedly used drone for first time on disputed territory, killing one Polisario Front independence movement leader.