

# SECURITY BULLETIN



OCTOBER 2010

ARUP

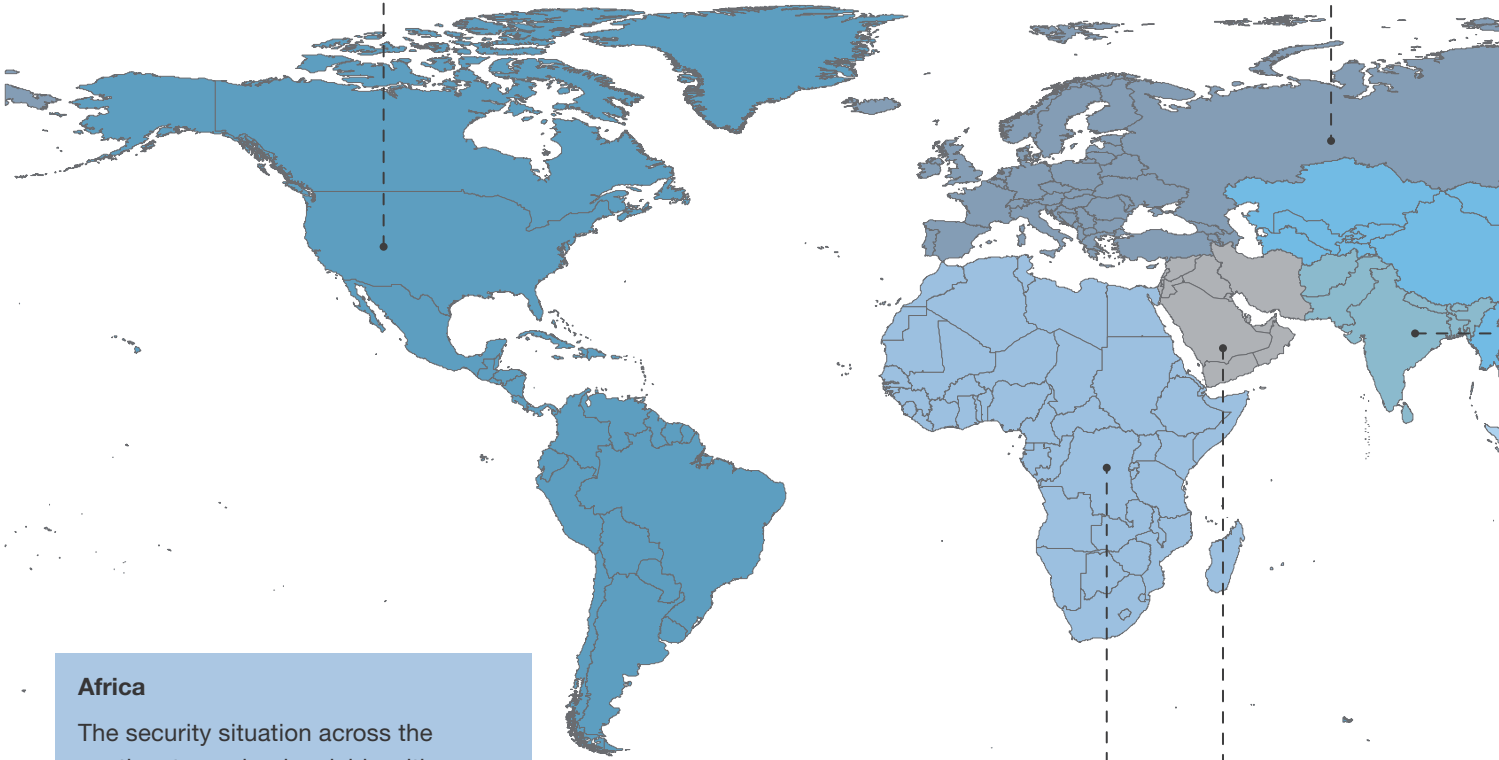
# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Americas

The Americas remain generally stable, but with very high security risk still concentrated in Mexico (especially in the states bordering the US) where drug cartels engage in extreme violence targeted at security forces and civilians alike. Brazil is expected to remain South America's most powerful economy and probably the third strongest in the Americas, after a stable transition of presidential power is signalled in recent elections.

## Europe

The region remains generally stable, but with extreme security risk still concentrated in Russia's Caucasus region, Turkey and Northern Ireland. Across Europe unhappiness with changes to welfare and pensions arrangements continues to generate localised public disorder. There are also more noises of national disquiet over how nationhood is being viewed in a more diverse Europe, even in Sweden – traditionally a very tolerant society.



## Africa

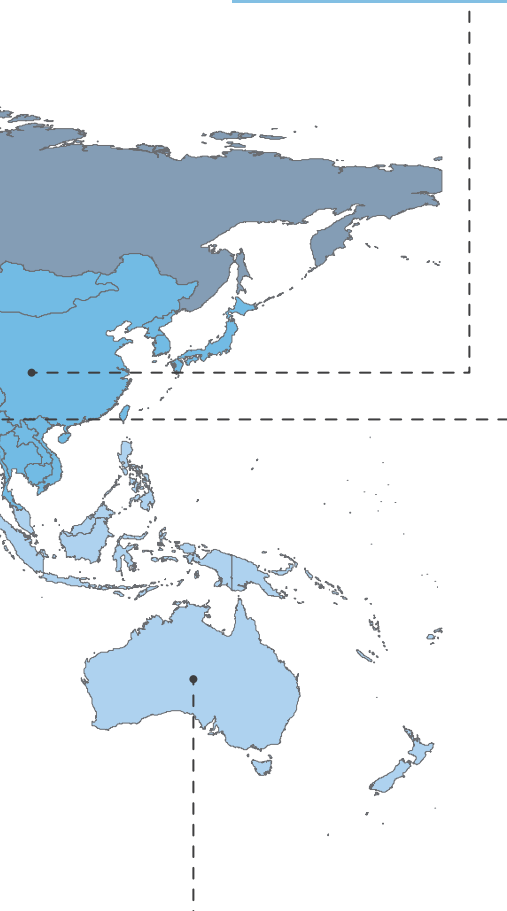
The security situation across the continent remained variable with some areas of enduring extreme security risk. Somalia remains a locus of acute instability and this is set to continue. October has seen increased tension in Nigeria's north-eastern corner and prominently the 1 October vehicle bomb attacks in the capital, Abuja.

## Middle East

The region remains generally stable albeit with a sustained strategic and security risk residing in Yemen and Iraq. This continues to be a sustained threat to the surrounding region and to global interests. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), the group behind the recent failed cargo plane bomb plot, is actively developing its capacity for other attacks on aviation, transport, government buildings and public figures.

## Asia

China is increasing its military and paramilitary presence in the South and East China seas, where there are simmering disputes with all its neighbours. Tension has been high in Myanmar in the run-up to the 7 November election. South Korea prepared for civil disturbances at the G20 meeting 11-12 November. Thailand experienced continued northern anti-government and southern separatist activities.



## South Asia

As Afghanistan awaited the results of the September parliamentary elections, which were marred by allegations of corruption, the relationship between Iran and the administration of President Hamid Karzai came under increased scrutiny. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's main opposition party has promised to lead widespread demonstrations against the continued detention of the main opposition candidate in the January presidential elections. Sectarian and separatist violence continued to be reported across Pakistan, and India's leftist insurgency endures.

## Australasia

The region remains generally stable, but there is continued unrest in the Philippines with a range of low level attacks and security force successes that culminated in an attack on a crowded bus in southern Mindanao. Security events in Indonesia have been overshadowed by a serious earthquake (and an associated tsunami) and the ongoing eruptions of Mount Merapi.

The Arup's resilience, security and risk practice bulletin is a monthly circulation summarizing selected security events and strategic risk issues from around the world.

This issue of the Arup's resilience, security and risk practice bulletin includes those incidents and strategic risk issues developing during the month of October 2010.

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# EUROPE

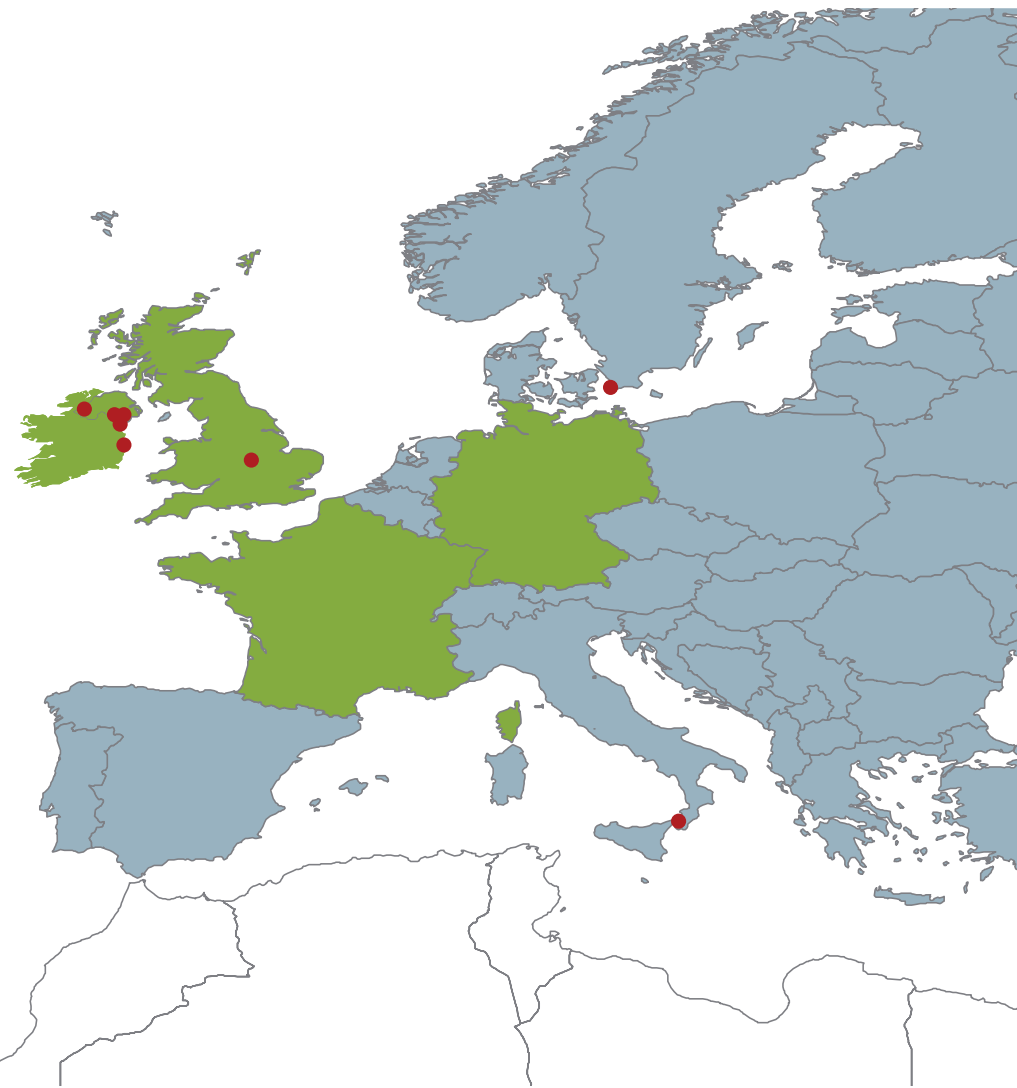
## Regional Summary

The region remains generally stable, but with extreme security risk still concentrated in Russia's Caucasus region, Turkey and Northern Ireland. Across Europe unhappiness with changes to welfare and pensions arrangements continues to generate localised public disorder. There are also more noises of national disquiet over how nationhood is being viewed in a more diverse Europe, even in Sweden – traditionally a very tolerant society.

## Strategic Risk Highlights

### United Kingdom

The coalition government and specifically its recently formed National Security Council have published a new national security strategy, which included an assessment on the risks the UK faces (out to the next five years). The four highest (Tier 1 - ranked) risks are terrorism, cyber attack, international military crises and major accidents or natural hazards that impact on national resilience. Predictably Al Qaeda (AQ) and its affiliates remain the most potent terrorist threat to the UK, although there is recognition that dissident Irish Republican terrorists are apparently determined to increase their attacks. Cyber vulnerabilities in the context of state-on-state espionage and criminal exploitation were also highlighted throughout the document. Curiously, for a national security strategy, the parlous financial situation is highlighted as a key constraint on defence and security capabilities. On relationships, there is a clear reaffirmation of the strategic ties that must endure with the US, NATO partners and the EU, but there is also clear recognition that further development of bilateral relations with China and India will be vital.



Unfortunately the strategy leaves the reader with little impression of how the government will ensure a secure and resilient UK in a non-too stable world while subject to budget constraints. The risk tiers do not provide insight into how the national security tasks will be executed i.e. how the means will be provided to achieve strategic ends.

### Germany

In a speech in mid-October the German Chancellor Angela Merkel clearly signalled that her nation's attempts to integrate waves of post-war immigrants have largely failed. While she was addressing her comments to a conference of the young party faithful, she was making it clear that that multiculturalism, or 'Multikulti' "has failed totally". This is a brave and uncompromising stance to take although it appears Ms Merkel's views are shared by other parties of the centre right. While this flies in the face of the

general trend of cultural adaptation within European democracies, it signals a general frustration in Germany that immigrants are holding back Germany's economy. Horst Seehofer, minister-president of Bavaria and the chairman of a sister party to Merkel's Christian Democrats, has publicly stated that the two parties are "committed to a dominant German culture and opposed to a multicultural one". The statements by these two political groups do not signal a shift to the right, but rather a general exasperation with non-Germans taking all they can from a generous welfare state. This political position does seem to place Germany squarely against the expansion of the EU into poorer less developed regions and Turkey's desire to join the Union is one clear pressure point.

### France

In October the Saudi Arabian government apparently warned that





## Significant Security Incidents

### Italy (Calabria), Reggio

On 5 October an unserviceable Yugoslavian-manufactured 'bazooka' was discovered near a courthouse in what police say was the latest act of intimidation by the Ndrangheta organised crime gang directed at the local chief public prosecutor. The Ndrangheta is the Calabrian version of the Sicilian Mafia.

### UK (Northern Ireland), Londonderry

On 5 October a Real IRA car bomb exploded near a bank and hotel in the city injuring two police officers as they evacuated the area. Local police have reported that the vehicle was probably abandoned by terrorists who were trying to attack another target.

### Republic of Ireland, County Louth

On 11 October a dissident republican explosives and arms dump was discovered by the Garda Síochána near the town of Dunleer. Garda officers found a homemade mortar, three kilos of TNT, bomb-making equipment, a pipe bomb, a general purpose machine gun and ammunition.

### Republic of Ireland, Dublin

On 14 October Irish army bomb disposal defused an improvised explosive device (IED) in south Dublin in the Ronanstown area. The device was described as viable but no details about the device have been released.

### Russian Federation (Chechnya), Grozny

On 19 October the parliament of the Republic of Chechnya was attacked by gunmen resulting in at least six dead. Local media reporting suggest that three of the dead were terrorists. This is likely to have been an attack mounted by Islamist extremists.

### Sweden, Malmö

As of 23 October, there had been 15 shootings in the city, which police consider are the work of one person. The unidentified shooter is targeting immigrants and is therefore assessed to be a far-right extremist.

### UK (Northern Ireland), Lurgan

On 29 October an IED in a beer keg, containing more than 40 kilograms of home-made explosive, was made safe after a two-day security alert in Lurgan. Dissident Irish Republican terrorists will have been responsible for this deploying the device.

### UK, East Midlands Airport

On 29 October an IED was discovered at a cargo handling area after an intelligence-led police search of air cargo. An adapted printer cartridge was found to contain explosive and an initiation circuit. As at 31 October this was one of two IEDs found in air cargo, which have been linked with the Yemen-based Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

### UK (Northern Ireland), Belfast Airport

On 30 October an IED was found inside a car in one of the airport's parking areas. Flights in and out of the airport were not affected. Dissident Irish Republican terrorists will have been responsible for this deploying the device.

### Turkey, Istanbul

On 31 October a suspected suicide bomber detonated an IED beside a police bus in Taksim Square, injuring more than thirty police and civilians. A second, unexploded, explosive device was reportedly found at the scene. The bomber detonated his bomb after he failed to force his way onto the police vehicle. It is assessed that this attack was carried out by Kurdish extremists.

France is the target of an 'imminent' AQ attack, according to France's Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux. This was the first time a French official had offered details about potential threats since mid-September, when officials first publicly admitted the possibility that France could be a target of radical Islamist groups. France has been on high alert (one below the highest threat level) following earlier non-specific warnings of possible attacks aimed at France, Germany and the UK. The bombs found in air cargo as the month closed confirm that the most viable threat emanates from AQ's affiliate in based in the Arabian Peninsula (specifically Yemen). The discovery of the air cargo bombs addressed to US sites does not mean that the threats to France and the rest of Europe have evaporated; most European governments remain deeply concerned over the enduring threat from Islamist extremism.

# MIDDLE EAST

## Regional Summary

The region remains generally stable albeit with a sustained strategic and security risk residing in Yemen and Iraq. This continues to be a sustained threat to the surrounding region and to global interests. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), the group behind the recent failed cargo plane bomb plot, is actively developing its capacity for other attacks on aviation, transport, government buildings and public figures.

## Strategic Risk Highlights

### Yemen

Following a tip-off from Saudi intelligence services (allegedly from a former Al Qaeda member) US and UK authorities named Ibrahim Hassan Al Asiri, a Saudi-born bomb-maker as the prime suspect for constructing improvised explosive devices (IEDs) found in air cargo. The two devices were discovered in the UK's East Midlands Airport (aboard a UPS cargo plane) and at Dubai International (aboard a Fedex cargo plane) on 29 October 2010. Al Asiri is also supposed to have had a role in the construction of an IED worn by Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who tried to blow up a plane as it landed in the US in December 2009. Security agencies have reported that the device found in the UK was en route to Chicago. The package, originally from Yemen, contained a computer printer ink cartridge adapted to contain a quantity of high explosive with attached wiring. The second device was reportedly similar in design and also believed to have been despatched from Yemen. It appears that the explosive used in both cases was PentaErythritol TetraNitrate (PETN), which is a plastic explosive favoured by AQAP as it is



colourless, odourless and cannot be easily detected. These finds illustrate the resilience of AQAP to the counter terrorism efforts of Yemen and the value of human intelligence from Saudi Arabia's infiltration of AQ networks. AQAP are assessed to be the most technical adept of the AQ 'franchise groups' and their expertise in the construction of disguised and ultra-compact IEDs is well developed. What is also apparent is that AQ remains fixated on attacking western airlines and the cities they fly to and from. Questions remain over Yemen's ability to genuinely tackle its indigenous AQ extremist groups, while also dealing with secessionists in the south and the Al Houthi rebels in the north. President Ali Al Saleh describes

his role as Yemen's leader as like "dancing on the heads of snakes".

### Bahrain

The final results of recent parliamentary elections give supporters of the country's Sunni-led government a slight majority in the 40-member lower house of parliament. In the first round vote, Shia opposition group Al Wafaq retained its 17 seats and gained one more. The recent election was the third of its kind in Bahrain since the king launched a reform process a decade ago to help to quell Shi'ite protests. It was expected that elections would maintain the status quo without causing significant improvement or deterioration of the situation. In terms of results Al



Wafaq has emerged as the single largest political party in the lower house; yet smaller Sunni groups still be able to outvote it. It remains to be seen whether this result placates the nation's Shi'ites who are far from happy with how the election was conducted; i.e. election district boundaries arranged to favour the Sunni minority, as well as fairly blatant intimidation of Shi'ite candidates and voters. All of which points to the likelihood of future trouble in the kingdom, especially when one considers the antics of a hostile (Shia-supporting) Tehran intent on exerting its growing power in the region. It is this interference that has most frustrated Bahrain's close allies (e.g. Saudi Arabia and the US).

## Significant Security Incidents

### Yemen, Sana'a

On 6 October, militants fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a British embassy vehicle in Sana'a, and a Frenchman was shot dead in a separate incident at an oil company's compound. The attacks on western targets were the latest sign of Yemen's instability. The embassy vehicle was carrying the deputy head of mission, Fiona Gibbs, and four other staff members, one of whom was slightly injured. At least two bystanders were also injured.

### Yemen, Sana'a

On 29 October, following discovery of two IEDs in air freight, a further 26 cargo packages were seized in Yemen's capital Sana'a and are being investigated. A 22-year-old woman student, Hanan al Samawi, who was being held by Yemeni police on suspicion of posting the devices, is reportedly the victim of stolen identity and was later released.

### Yemen, Sana'a

On 8 October a Specialist Criminal Court convened for the trial of Al-Qaeda militants of the Arhab (Terrorist) Cell. The cell members are accused of involvement in planning to attack government and foreign facilities and assassinating security officials. No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but it repeated AQ's tactical use of motorcycles in assassinating security personnel in other restive governorates

### Yemen, Mukalla

On 8 October, a Yemeni police intelligence officer was shot dead by two masked gunmen on a motorcycle in Foha, west of Mukalla, capital of Hadramawt province in southern Yemen. The same day in Abyan province further west, a police car was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades. Two policemen were wounded, as well as a man whom they had arrested on criminal charges and who suffered serious injuries.

Shabwa, Abyan, Lahj and Dhalae.

### Iraq, Baghdad area

On 11 October a top police chief survived a bomb attack in the Iraqi capital but gunmen shot dead four men in. The town of Yusufiyah, south of Baghdad, is located in a Sunni-dominated region that was an AQ stronghold until 2008, when local militiamen rose up against the insurgents. An interior ministry official stated that all the victims were members of the Sahwa (Awakening) militia that was instrumental in turning the tide against AQ.

### Iraq, Baghdad

On 31 October at least 58 people were killed, including 12 policemen and five bystanders, by car bombing and blasts outside the Assyrian Catholic church in central Baghdad, before terrorists stormed inside. Forty-one Christians inside the church also died, including two priests.

### Iraq, Baghdad

On 26 October, Iraq's high tribunal passed a death sentence on Tariq Aziz, one of deposed leader Saddam Hussein's most prominent deputies. The death sentence was the first to be handed to Aziz, who had previously been convicted for his role in the execution of dozens of merchants for profiteering.

### Iraq, Balad Ruz

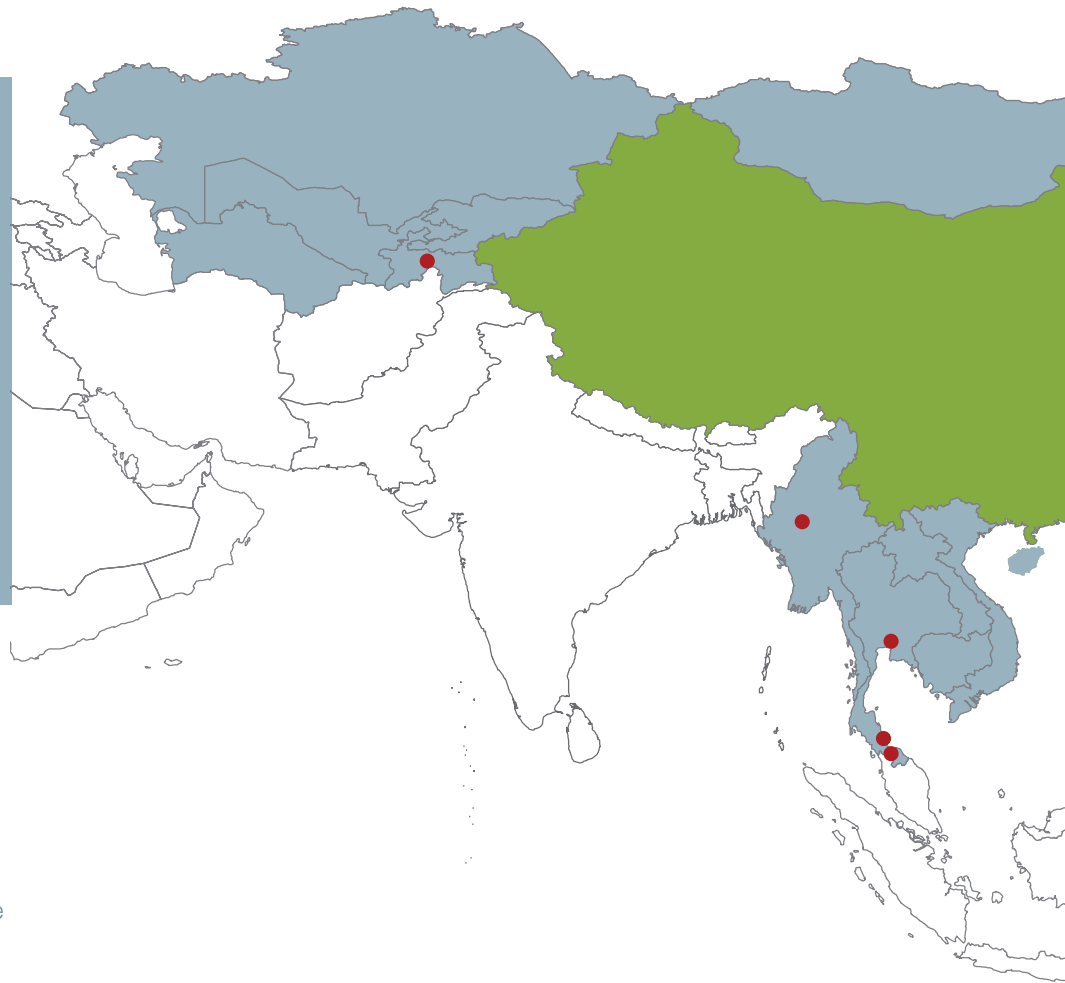
On 29 October at least 26 people were killed and 72 others injured in a suicide bombing in the Iraqi town of Balad Ruz in Diyala province.

### Qatar, Doha

On 31 October, Global air safety concerns shifted abruptly from cargo to passenger flights on Sunday night after Qatar Airways confirmed that one of the bombs posted from Yemen last week was carried on one of its passenger aircraft before being seized in Dubai.

## Regional Summary

China is increasing its military and paramilitary presence in the South and East China seas, where there are simmering disputes with all its neighbours. Tension has been high in Myanmar in the run-up to the 7 November election. South Korea prepared for civil disturbances at the G20 meeting 11-12 November. Thailand experienced continued northern anti-government and southern separatist activities.



## Strategic Risk Highlights

### China's maritime presence

China is strengthening its maritime presence with the addition of 36 marine surveillance ships. In connection with the launch of the first vessel on 26 October an anonymous official quoted in the official China Daily stated that a lack of maritime law enforcement vessels had hindered China in protecting its maritime rights.

The launch of the first of the 36 vessels comes at a time when China and Japan have been at odds over the status of the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands. The new vessels will be part of China Marine Surveillance (CMS), which is a paramilitary organisation under the State Oceanic Administration, and one of four "coast guard-like" organisations in the People's Republic. The new vessels will be from 600 to 1,500 tons and it is reported that the Maritime Safety Administration, which is part of the Ministry of Transport, will also get one 5,000 ton vessel.

In addition to its disputes with Japan, China also has maritime boundary disputes with Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and North Korea. The neighbouring countries are rightly concerned that China will now be

better prepared to assert what it sees as its rightful maritime claims. State affiliated commentators stress that China's move is not aggressive but rather that China is only equipping itself to take its rightful place at the table.

In parallel with the increase in Chinese maritime paramilitary and law enforcement capabilities, Chinese politicians last year gave the People's Liberation Army Navy a strategic goal of becoming a proper blue-water navy, rather than a coastal force. The last month has seen increasing reports of a new type of Chinese submarine being deployed. With an increase in Chinese surface naval activity, the submarine fleet has not increased significantly in recent years. With a new model of submarine launched, the People's Liberation Army Navy may also be prepared to increase the number of its subsurface vessels.

The US Government is concerned that territorial disputes could make it more difficult to use vital international shipping

lanes. The Chinese Government, well aware of the huge portion of its exports that are transported on ships will be sensitive to making moves that could jeopardise these sea lines of communication.

### South Korea

South Korea is preparing to host the 5th G20 summit, which will take place in Seoul 11-12 November. 10,000 participants and 32 heads of government are expected to attend the meeting.

The Korean National Police Agency will be prepared for violent demonstrations, and the days leading up to the summit have seen both lightly clad vegetarian demonstrators and 20,000 anti-globalisation demonstrators.

With the 38th parallel and North Korea only 100 km (60 miles) north of Seoul the grand strategic concerns add to the usual riot concerns that come with G20 summits. Pyongyang being





## Significant Security Incidents

### Myanmar, Bago Township

On 1 October a bomb was detonated at a government office in the Bago Township, ca 80 km (50 miles) north of the former capital Yangon. No casualties were reported but the blast added to concerns of violence before the 7 November election.

### Japan

On 28 and 29 October plastic containers labelled to hold "multiple-drug-resistant bacteria" were sent to six Chinese diplomatic posts in Japan, shortly after the two countries had a new dispute over islands in the East China Sea. The embassy in Tokyo and consulates in Nagoya and Sapporo received parcels, while similar consignments destined for the consulates in Fukuoka, Nagasaki and Osaka were intercepted before delivery. The sender calls himself the "The captain of the Sekih tai", a reference to an extremist group during the Japanese civil war in the 1860s. The parcels were found to contain harmless material.

### Thailand, Bannangsta

On 4 October Thai security forces in the Bannangsta area of the southern Yala province were ambushed by (the government says) Runda Kumpulan Kecil terrorists. About ten armed separatist fighters attacked the government forces resulting in the death of two soldiers and injuries to six others.

### Thailand, Nonthaburi

On 5 October four people were killed and at least eight injured in a bomb blast in the Nonthaburi province, just north of Bangkok. The blast appears to have happened while the bomb was being assembled on the second of six stories in a residential building. Thai Police found fertiliser which is believed to be bomb material. The blast is attributed to an anti-government protester who had rented the apartment where the explosion occurred.

### Thailand, Songkhla City

On 5 October a bomb went off at a railway safety fence in the Chana district of Songkhla City in southern Thailand. Three police officers and a member of the railway staff were injured in the blast, which appeared to be caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) set off by a mobile phone. The Songkhla province is immediately northwest of the three southern Thai provinces of Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala where Muslim separatists are active.

### Thailand, Yala/Pattani

On 6 October three separate shooting incidents in the Pattani and Yala provinces were attributed to Muslim separatists. A man was shot dead outside his home in the Yala province. The same day the Muslim head of a local administration was killed in the neighbouring Pattani province. Three men transporting chickens also fell victim to shooting by alleged separatists in Pattani.

### China, Beijing

On 21 October a small explosive device went off outside the Dongzhimen underground station in Beijing. The blast happened in the early afternoon and an American student was reported to have sustained mild injuries from the blast. Responsibility for the explosion is unclear.

### Tajikistan, Childukhatoron

On 21 October government security operatives belonging to the National Security Committee in Tajikistan killed two members of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) in the north of the country. The government of Tajikistan alleges that IMU was behind the 3 September bombing in Khujand, that killed three police officers and injured 28.

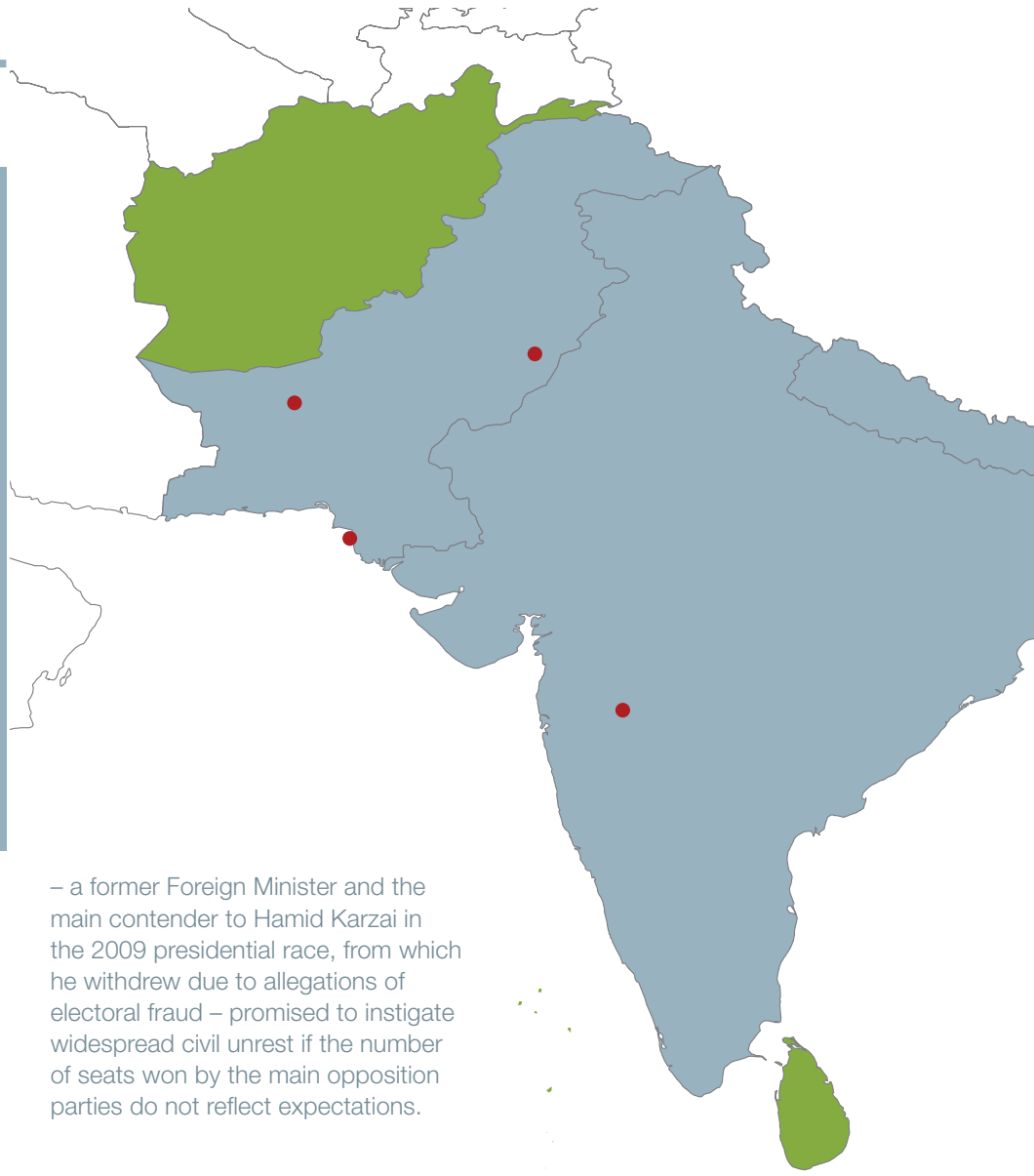
notoriously unpredictable it is difficult to say if they will try to steal some of the show or respect the fact that the premier global leaders are meeting to discuss economic affairs. There are reports in advance of the G20 summit about an increase in North Korean hacker activity targeted at South Korea.

France will take over the presidency of G20 on 12 November, and is expected to host the next G20 summit (which from 2011 will be an annual rather than biannual event). Unconfirmed reports suggest that the next venue will be Cannes and that the meeting will take place in June.

# SOUTH ASIA

## Regional Summary

As Afghanistan awaited the results of the September parliamentary elections, which were marred by allegations of corruption, the relationship between Iran and the administration of President Hamid Karzai came under increased scrutiny. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's main opposition party has promised to lead widespread demonstrations against the continued detention of the main opposition candidate in the January presidential elections. Sectarian and separatist violence continued to be reported across Pakistan, and India's leftist insurgency endures.



## Strategic Risk Highlights

### Afghanistan

On 31 October, the preliminary results of the 2010 Afghan Parliamentary elections – held on 18 September were announced. As the month closed, complaints were growing over the Electoral Complaints Commission's (ECC) slow action in investigating and publishing its findings on the honesty of the process. The election saw an almost unprecedented level of fraud, and around a quarter of all the ballots cast have been discarded as fraudulent.

Nearly 2,500 candidates contested 249 seats in the Wolesi Jirga, the lower house of the National Assembly of Afghanistan. However, despite the Independent Election Commission's attempts to avoid the widespread fraud that accompanied the 2009 presidential elections, approximately 170 candidates (including 25 incumbent MPs) have had allegations of fraud made against them and more than 20% of votes cast were disqualified from the count due to irregularities. Prior to the results being announced, Abdullah Abdullah

– a former Foreign Minister and the main contender to Hamid Karzai in the 2009 presidential race, from which he withdrew due to allegations of electoral fraud – promised to instigate widespread civil unrest if the number of seats won by the main opposition parties do not reflect expectations.

### Afghanistan

Iranian influence over the administration of Afghan president Hamid Karzai came under scrutiny in October, as the New York Times revealed that in August the Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan, Feda Hussein Maliki, handed a bag containing hundreds of thousands of euros to Umar Daudzai, Mr Karzai's chief of staff. When asked about the claims, Mr Karzai acknowledged the payment and denied any suggestion of impropriety, claiming that the Iranian government made regular cash donations to help finance the presidential office. However, the payments have raised concerns about the growing effect of Iran's two sided strategy in Afghanistan – providing weapons and operational support to insurgents fighting the government and coalition forces, while at the same time cultivating close relations with the Karzai administration.

### Sri Lanka

The former Sri Lankan army commander, General Sarath Fonseka, had his parliamentary seat formally revoked on 7 October. Mr Fonseka contested the January 2010 presidential elections as a candidate for the opposition party, the Democratic National Alliance, which he led. Although he won a seat in parliament, Mr Fonseka was heavily defeated (4 million votes to 6 million) in the presidential race by the incumbent President Mahinda Rajapaksa. As the commander of the Sri Lanka army, Mr Fonseka oversaw last year's military victory over the Tamil Tiger insurgency, bringing to an end a conflict that had dominated the country for more than 30 years. Mr Fonseka attempted to capitalise on this success by winning political office. However, shortly after the January elections, Mr Fonseka

## Significant Security Incidents

### India, Bihar & Maharashtra

On 22 October, at approximately 8.45pm, suspected Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) militants detonated an explosive device close to Lalgarh in the Sheohar district of Bihar State. The attack targeted a passing security patrol and killed five police officers and injured a sixth. The incident represents one of a number of CPI-Maoist attacks targeting security forces in India during October. For example, on 4 October, suspected CPI-Maoist militants detonated an explosive device in the Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra state, killing at least five members of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Another device in the same area detonated the following day, injuring eight members of the security forces.



was arrested and has remained imprisoned ever since. Originally he was charged with 'committing military offences', although it was later clarified that the charges relate to allegations concerning the infringement of laws which prohibit members of the military from discussing political matters. It was confirmed that these rules still apply to Mr Fonseka despite his resignation from the army. Mr Fonseka's case has been taken up by Sri Lanka's main opposition party, the United National Party, which reaffirmed its support of the jailed parliamentarian on 12 October and announced that nationwide demonstrations would be held on 10 December to put pressure on the government to release Mr Fonseka.

### Pakistan, Karachi

On 7 October, two suicide bombers attacked the Abdullah Shah Shazi shrine, a prominent Sufi religious site, in the Clifton area of Karachi, Sindh province. The first assailant is reported to have been challenged at the shrine's outer gate and immediately detonated the explosive device he was carrying. The second assailant is reported to have subsequently run through the outer entrance before being tackled by security personnel at the shrine's inner entrance, at which point he detonated his bomb. Nine people were killed in the attack and at least 60 others were injured. Responsibility for the attack has been attributed to the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Security at the shrine – which honours a revered Sufi religious leader who is widely regarded as the patron saint of Karachi – had recently been increased as a result of a similar attack on the Dara Darbar shrine in Lahore in July.

### Pakistan, Pakpattan

On 25 October, an improvised explosive device detonated at the gates of the Farid Shakar Ganj shrine, a Sufi religious site, in the city of Pakpattan in the Punjab province. The device had

been planted on a motorcycle which was parked outside a cafe at the main entrance to the shrine. Six people were killed in the attack and a further 13 sustained injuries. The blast also caused extensive damage to nearby shops, although the shrine itself was only slightly damaged. The incident is the latest in a series of sectarian attacks in Pakistan attributable to the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which has recently changed strategy and is now focussed on fomenting unrest between the country's religious communities. The TTP has also extended its operational reach beyond its heartlands in Kyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and now has an established presence elsewhere in the country, including in Punjab province.

### Pakistan, Baluchistan

On 12 October, a remote-controlled improvised explosive device detonated on the western bypass road in the Akhtarabad area, on the outskirts of Quetta, capital of Baluchistan. The attack targeted a passing police van. It has not been possible to confirm the number of casualties resulting from the incident. The attack represents one of a number of attacks in Baluchistan in October, where separatist violence dominates the security situation. In another incident, a home-made bomb consisting of approximately three kilograms of explosives detonated close to the Munir Mengal market in the Sariab district of Quetta on 27 October. The remotely-controlled device targeted a passing police vehicle, killing two and injuring a further 11. The Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the attack.

### Bangladesh, Dhaka

On 2 October, police in Dhaka arrested three operatives from the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist group. Subsequently, on 10 October, two alleged explosive experts providing assistance to LeT were detained in the Uttara area of the city and found to be in possession of 30kg of high explosives and other bomb-making equipment.

# AUSTRALASIA

## Regional Summary

The region remains generally stable, but there is continued unrest in the Philippines with a range of low level attacks and security force successes that culminated in an attack on a crowded bus in southern Mindanao. Security events in Indonesia have been overshadowed by a serious earthquake (and an associated tsunami) and the ongoing eruptions of Mount Merapi.



## Strategic Risk Highlights

### Australia

On 25 October 'The Australian' newspaper published an article based upon documents obtained under Freedom of Information (FOI) requests that revealed that the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) has advised the Federal Government to improve domestic security due to concerns at the rise of home grown potential terrorists. Recently intercepted attacks have involved both immigrant and second generation Australians and there is concern that elements of the small (1.5% at the last census in 2001) but growing Islamic population are becoming alienated and radicalised; however, there are other groups whose inter-ethnic and internecine conflicts could spill over into Australia and should not be discounted. In addition, criminal elements within the nation's organised crime gangs and groups such as some of motor-cycle gangs also employ terrorist style tactics in their inter-gang conflicts. It is the growing fear of a radicalised and alienated Islamic fringe, however, that is seen as increasing the potential for the first successful terrorist attack (of modern times) in the country. The newspaper's FOI enquiry was provoked by the

Attorney-General's announcement that a budget of AUD \$9.7 Million had been allocated over the next four years to target violent extremism in Australia.

### Philippines

In the Philippines, President Aquino has been in office for barely 3 months and the scale of the nation's internal divisions (and thus the scale of the task facing him) must be starting to focus his mind. There have been several attempts at achieving negotiated settlements with the individual groups. Even towards the end of the Arroyo regime, ongoing talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) seeking to achieve a lasting settlement were reported to be close to success; however, as soon as the elections were

over it became obvious that success was still a long way off with the peace announcements nothing more than a cynical attempt to garner support by the outgoing regime. In reality, members of the various terrorist groups see their membership as little more than a vehicle to local status and a semi-legitimate cover for basically criminal activities.

### Indonesia

Trials of alleged terrorists continue in a reflection of the recent successes for the Indonesian security forces. Despite these administrative procedures, the government continues to emphasise the need to de-radicalise suspects whilst they are in custody. Official sources claim a high level of success for the de-radicalization process;



## Significant Security Incidents

### Indonesia, Bali

On 12 October a memorial service was held at the Australian Consulate for the victims of the 2002 Bali bombings of the Sari Club and Paddy's Bar carried out by Jemaah Islamiyah (JI). At the memorial the service The Australian Embassy Charge d'Affairs stated that Australia would continue to stand firmly with Indonesia in the struggle against terrorism.

### Indonesia, Bali

On 18 October Djoko Suyanto, Indonesia's Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs, addressed 22 senior counter-terrorism officials from 22 countries at an international seminar on counter terrorist co-operation in Bali that the focus on repressing and punishing terrorists had failed to prevent the spread of radical ideas and that the Indonesian government was in the process of revising its strategy on combating terrorism and that de-radicalisation is far more important.

### Indonesia, Jakarta


On 14 October three suspected members of the JI network went on trial over the 2009 suicide bombings of the JW Marriott and Ritz Carlton hotels in Jakarta in which two suicide bombers detonated backpacks containing explosives killing seven people.

### Indonesia, Jakarta

On 18 October the West Jakarta District Court heard evidence that Ahmad Sutrisno supplied 28 firearms and 20,000 rounds of ammunition to a military training camp in Aceh during the trial of Mustaqim who is charged with leading the camp. The training camp is alleged to be preparation by a group called Lintas Tanzim for a Jihad against the Indonesian Government. Lintas Tanzim is a loose coalition of several Islamic extremist groups previously led by Dulmatin, the late JI commander.

### Philippines, Kidapawan City

On 21 October an IED detonated on a bus in Kidapwan City in the south of the province of Mindanao. The blast killed 10 and injured a further 30 people. The bomb had been placed inside a bag and is believed to have been planted on the bus by one of perhaps three potential suspects who disembarked prior to the detonation. The local Police stated that local members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were responsible for the bombing. Police have also stated that they believe the bombing may have been in retaliation for the arrest of MILF member Abraham Yap Alonto on 22 September 2010. Officers from the Explosives and Ordnance Division reported that the bomb was fabricated from a mortar shell and initiated by a mobile telephone signal. Following the incident, the Police Director for Central Mindanao ordered an increase of security measures across the region including establishing checkpoints for the inspection of buses using the national highways. The local police assessment is considered credible at this stage given the tit-for-tat nature of terrorist and security force actions in recent years.



however, groups such as Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) claim that the prisons are, in reality, a revolving door with so called "reformed" terrorists returning to the groups from which they originally came as soon as they are released. The fact that convicted terrorists are being released early is not denied by the Indonesian government; however, data (official or otherwise) on those who return to their former ways is not available and any form of independent assessment is hard to complete.

# AFRICA

## Regional Summary

The security situation across the continent remained variable with some areas of enduring extreme security risk. Somalia remains a locus of acute instability and this is set to continue. Kidnapping remains a major threat in many parts of the continent and significant incidents occurred both in the Sahel area and Central Africa, as they have during the past months.

## Strategic Risk Highlights

### Nigeria car bombs signal new attack method

As Nigeria gathered to celebrate a half-century of independence from the United Kingdom two vehicle bomb attacks rocked the capital city of Abuja. The attacks occurred at ca 11.00 in the morning of 1 October, close to the area where President Goodluck Jonathan and other dignitaries had gathered to celebrate independence. 16 people are reported to have been killed in the attacks.

Responsibility for the attacks has been claimed by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). This organisation is a collection of various rebel groups that mainly operate in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Their stated aim is a fair distribution of Nigeria's oil revenues, which to a large extent derive from the Niger Delta area. MEND has also focused on what it alleges to be exploitation of the people who live in the Niger Delta and on environmental damage caused mainly by the extractive industries in the same area.

MEND has been known to "outsource" terrorist actions to criminal groups. This also makes it difficult to distinguish some of its

stated political aims from financially motivated crime such as extortion.

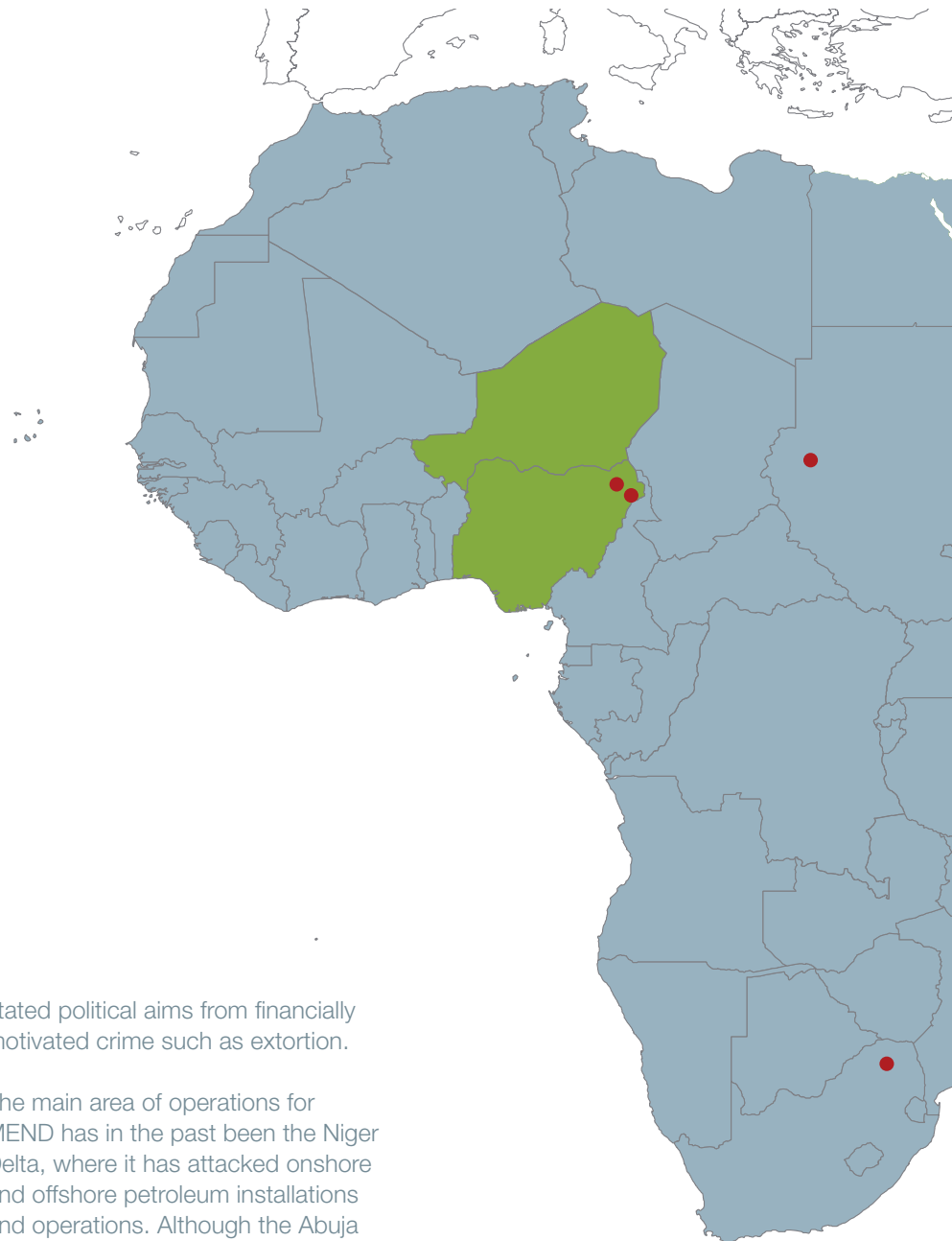
The main area of operations for MEND has in the past been the Niger Delta, where it has attacked onshore and offshore petroleum installations and operations. Although the Abuja attack is not the first attack MEND has conducted outside the Delta, it is believed to be the first attack in the capital – more than 500 km (300 miles) from MEND's core operational area. Given that the attacks in Abuja do not appear to have been set up to create a high number of casualties, it is likely that they have been designed by MEND to show their reach and thus political power.

Nigeria is expecting a Presidential election on 22 January, in which incumbent president Goodluck Jonathan will seek a renewed mandate. Attacks by MEND as well as sectarian violence in the mid- and north of the country is therefore likely in the two months leading up to the election.

### Successful constitutional referendum in Niger

Niger held a successful constitutional referendum on 31 October. The referendum was the result of a year-long political struggle that had culminated in President Mamadou Tandja being ousted by a junta on 18 February 2010.

Niger is a severely impoverished and landlocked country, covered 80 percent by the Sahara desert. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) gives the country the lowest human development rating of any country. After independence from France in 1960 the country had various civilian single-party and military rules until the Third Republic came into place





## Significant Security Incidents

### Kenya, Garissa

On 5 October two people were killed and several hundred people were displaced in the Kenyan district of Garissa in fighting between the sub-clans Abdalla and Awdag of the Ogaden. The fighting started in villages but later spread to Garissa town.

### Sudan, El Fasher

On 7 October a civilian Hungarian national, István Papp, working for the United Nations, was kidnapped from his home in the town of El Fasher in the Darfur region of Sudan. The kidnapping happened as a group of UN envoys was about to enter the town. Mr Papp, a retired colonel, was working to disarm child soldiers and it is believed that he was abducted by four armed men.

### Nigeria, Maiduguri City

On 9 October two gunmen on a motorcycle shot dead the Muslim cleric Bashir Kashara in his home in Maiduguri City in Northern Nigeria. It is believed that the Islamist sect Boko Haram was behind the murder. Mr Kashara had earlier criticised the sect for their opposition to Western education.

### Nigeria, Gamboru

On 11 October a police station in Gamboru, in north-eastern Nigeria was attacked with incendiary devices. The station burnt down and three police officers were hurt. The attack is attributed to the same Islamist group, Boko Haram, who allegedly killed the cleric Bashir Kashara two days earlier. The attack on Mr Kashara and subsequent attack on the police station led to new federal military deployments in the Borno State of Nigeria. President Goodluck Jonathan has promised to fight extremism in Nigeria but his Christian background makes action in the Muslim areas of the country sensitive.

### Somalia, Jariban

On 8 October a vehicle convoy carrying Somali Ports Minister Said Mohamed Rageh's was attacked twice. The second attack led to his capture together with Somali Director General for Counter-Piracy Abdirisak Mohamed Dirir. Two people were reportedly killed in the attack. The officials were captured by pirates and subsequently held in the pirate stronghold of Jariban in the south of the Puntland region. Puntland declared autonomy in 1998 but has been plagued by widespread pirate activity. The administration of Puntland has voiced strong opposition to piracy but the attack, the first successful capture of senior officials in Puntland, is an indication that the security situation in the area is still dire for attractive targets. Somali troops were engaged in trying to free the hostages but it appears that it was negotiations with local elders that secured their release on 12 October.

### Somalia, Indian Ocean coast

On 10 October the Japanese owned, Panama flagged, cargo ship MV Izumi was seized by Somali pirates. The pirates took control of the 14,000 ton vessel and its 20 Filipino crew members. The Royal Danish Navy command and support ship HDMS Esbern Snare investigated the event. The same group of pirates is believed to be behind an attack on the vessel MV Petra 1 on 7 November. This attack was fought off by the Spanish Navy corvette Infanta Cristina.

### South Africa, Limpopo

On 10 October a group of six people attacked two alleged mobile phone thieves in the Limpopo province of South Africa. The suspects were stoned to death in the attack. Lack of faith in the criminal justice system has led to widespread vigilantism in South Africa.

in 1993. A plural political system only lasted until 1996. A new attempt at multi-party governing was introduced with the Fifth Republic in 1999.

Mamadou Tandja had been president throughout the Fifth Republic but in 2009 tried to get the constitution changed in order to permit him to serve for another term. This sparked the coup in February this year. The peaceful referendum on 31 October provided overwhelming support for a new democratic constitution, and paves the way for a possible democratic future in Niger. Mr Tandja remains under house arrest but has so far been successful in fighting for his freedom in Nigerien courts.

# AMERICAS

## Regional Summary

The Americas remain generally stable, but with very high security risk still concentrated in Mexico (especially in the states bordering the US) where drug cartels engage in extreme violence targeted at security forces and civilians alike. Brazil is expected to remain South America's most powerful economy and probably the third strongest in the Americas, after a stable transition of presidential power is signalled in recent elections.

## Strategic Risk Highlights

### Mexico

In its four-year campaign against drug trafficking organisations, the Mexican government has maintained that most of the 30,000 people killed have had some role in the drug cartels. However, this received wisdom is being questioned when one considers the scale of indiscriminate killings that have taken place in Mexico over October (see significant incidents). There should be a grudging acceptance on the part of President Calderón that innocents are being commonly caught up in the battle between drug cartels and police and army units. What is worrying for state governors is that the drug gangs are killing in order to destabilise and terrorise regions rather than to protect their rackets from predation by other gangs. Assessing the patterns of violence in Mexico's drug war is problematic, as at least seven major organisations and smaller groups are fighting to control lucrative smuggling routes into the US. The US Secretary of State's recent assessment that Mexico's drug cartel violence was becoming more like terrorism or an insurgency, is apposite. Whether this view is held by the Mexican government is hard to assess; publicly President



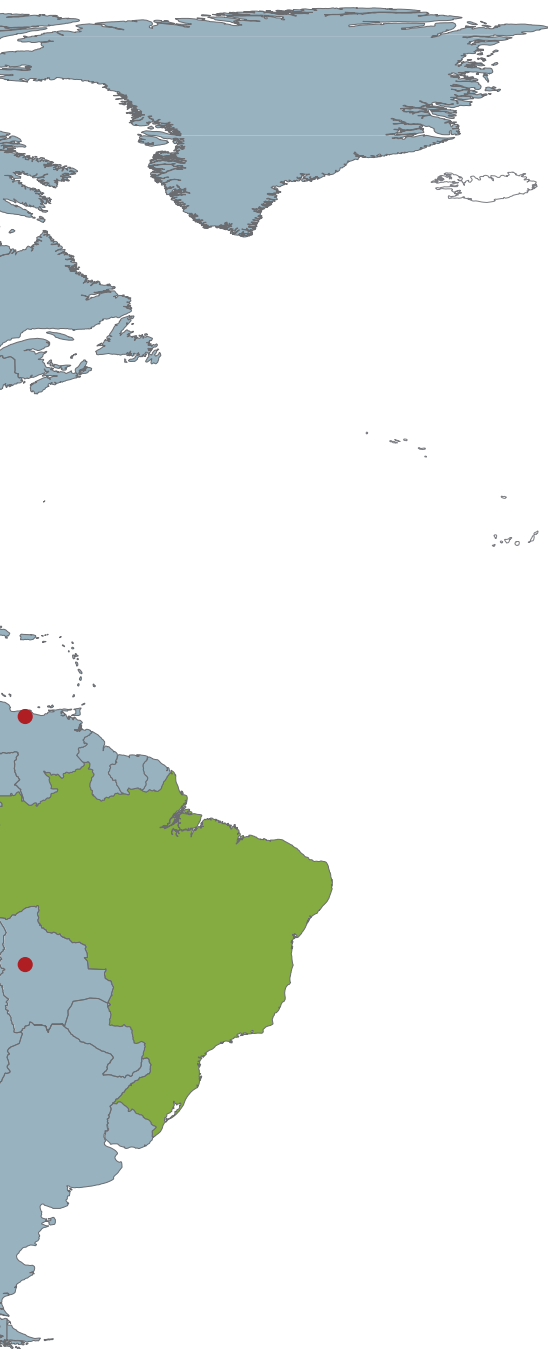
Calderón's administration is keen to play this as a serious crime gang network and nothing more and some in the government contend that the spike in violence is a sign that progress is being made. This view is a little too optimistic and clearly the Ministry of Interior will be under pressure to develop other tactics to tackle the drug cartels.

### Brazil

After a hard-fought election Dilma Rousseff was elected as president of Latin America's biggest nation. She is scheduled to take over formally from her close political ally President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on 1 January 2011, becoming Brazil's first female president. It appears Ms Rousseff secured 55 percent of the votes cast in the second

round compared to 44 percent for her centrist rival, Jose Serra. Ms Rousseff, was extensively supported by the very popular presidential incumbent (she was his chief of staff for nearly seven years) and she is expected to continue with his progressive social policies mixed with fairly orthodox economic reforms. Her big challenge will be moving out from President da Silva's shadow and developing her own leadership style, without damaging her standing with a Brazilian people. She has claimed in interviews that her political thinking has evolved drastically from her earlier Marxist leanings to pragmatic capitalism. If she holds true to Brazil's current domestic policies, Brazil can be expected to remain a stable and powerful non-aligned nation.





## Significant Security Incidents

### Ecuador, Quito

On 1 October Ecuador's police chief, Freddy Martinez, resigned in the wake of a police mutiny which had resulted in President Rafael Correa being manhandled at a hospital in this capital where he was receiving treatment. Mr Martinez had tried to calm tensions over an attempts to cut police pay.

### Guatemala, Jutiapa Province

On 11 October four people died and four were wounded in a shootout aboard a bus in south-eastern Guatemala. The incident occurred on the Inter-American Highway near the town of San Jose Acatempa. Motives behind the incident are unclear at this stage.

### Bolivia, La Paz Province

On 24 October 15 people were injured in a clash between rival coca growers in the town of Apolo. The headquarters of one of the groups, which reached an agreement with the government which gave legal status to coca growers in the area, was attacked with dynamite by residents of another area who oppose the deal.

### Venezuela, Caracas

On 28 October gunmen opened fire on a car carrying leaders of the national business federation, wounding one of them, before hijacking the vehicle.

The victims were held at gunpoint for two hours and beaten before being released. Police said the motive appeared to be robbery.

### Mexico

October saw a series of brutal drug gang-related incidents and disturbingly many innocent victims were targeted:

- A carwash in the state of Nayarit was attacked, killing 15
- A drug-rehabilitation centre in Tijuana was attacked killing 13
- A party was attacked in Ciudad Juarez killing 14 young people
- A shooting in Mexico City left six people dead
- Four assembly plant workers were killed when gunmen attacked factory buses in Ciudad Juarez.

### Mexico, Guadalajara

On 28 October two fragmentation grenades were thrown at a private residence in the Zapopan municipality, Guadalajara. The attack occurred one block away from the Zapopan Basilica. This is the first grenade attack in the Guadalajara metropolitan area in daylight hours and in a tourist area. The motives behind the attack are unclear at this stage.

### Colombia

On 28 October two police officers were killed and three civilians wounded when Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels attacked a highway checkpoint in the eastern province of Arauca (on the road linking the towns of Tame and Saravena). Interestingly in a separate incident the deputy commander of FARC's south-central Colombia front has turned himself in along with seven other combatants. He 'demobilised' near the village of Mapiripan in province of Meta.



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