CrisisWatch

Tracking Conflict Worldwide

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CrisisWatch is our global conflict tracker, an early warning tool designed to help prevent deadly violence. It keeps decision-makers up-to-date with developments in over 70 conflicts and crises every month, identifying trends and alerting them to risks of escalation and opportunities to advance peace. In addition, CrisisWatch monitors over 50 situations ("standby monitoring") to offer timely information if developments indicate a drift toward violence or instability. Entries dating back to 2003 provide easily searchable conflict histories. Building on our global conflict tracker, On the Horizon sounds the alarm about conflicts and crises that may emerge or escalate over the next three to six months in support of global conflict prevention efforts.

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Global Overview

JUNE 2026

Our monthly conflict tracker highlights **three conflict risks** in July alongside **two resolution opportunities**.

- **Sudan**'s paramilitary Rapid Support Forces massed troops around El Obeid, the besieged capital of North Kordofan, fuelling fears of an imminent assault on the city and prompting the UN to warn of the risk of atrocities.
- **Afghanistan**'s Taliban rulers and **Pakistan** traded cross-border attacks amid worsening acrimony over militancy in the latter's border provinces, raising the prospect of intensifying hostilities.
- In a major step toward healing a years-long rift, **Benin**'s President Romuald Wadagni visited **Niger**, creating momentum toward resuming security cooperation and reopening the border between the two countries.

Alongside Afghanistan and Pakistan, CrisisWatch identified **three other deteriorations** in June.

- Xenophobic violence in **South Africa** claimed several lives as anti-migrant protesters, some wearing symbols of ethnic affiliation, brought entire neighbourhoods in cities across the country to a standstill.
- **Zimbabwe**'s political crisis escalated after parliament passed controversial constitutional amendments extending President Mnangagwa's term in office, deepening divisions within the military and prompting accusations of a "constitutional coup" from the opposition.
- Amid escalating rivalry between Islamic State and Al-Qaeda affiliates, **Niger** faced a series of major jihadist attacks, including one on Niamey's international airport.

Our tracker also assessed an **improved situation** after the **U.S.** and **Iran** reached a memorandum of understanding to end hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, marking a diplomatic breakthrough that could offer a narrow pathway to a full-fledged settlement.

In addition to the scores of conflict situations we regularly assess, we tracked significant developments in: **Bahrain**, **Bolivia**, **Jordan**, **Kuwait**, **Nile Waters**, **Oman**, **Peru**, **Qatar**, **Senegal**, **Tanzania**, **United Arab Emirates** and **Zambia**.

Outlook for This Month
July 2026

CONFLICT RISK ALERTS

Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan

RESOLUTION OPPORTUNITIES

Benin, Niger

Trends for Last Month
June 2026

DETERIORATED SITUATIONS

Afghanistan, Niger, Pakistan, South Africa, Zimbabwe

IMPROVED SITUATIONS

Iran

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Latest Updates

Africa

Benin JUNE 2026

In a major step toward healing a years-long rift, President Wadagni visited the military-led Sahelian countries, raising prospects for renewed border security cooperation and the reopening of the Benin-Niger border.

Wadagni pursued rapprochement with Sahelian countries. Newly inaugurated President Wadagni 1 June embarked on regional tour, visiting eight West African countries by mid-month, including all three Alliance of Sahel States (AES) members and all of Benin's direct neighbours. Notably, Wadagni 2 June met with his Nigerien counterpart, President Gen. Abdourahamane Tiani, in Niamey; leaders pledged to work together to fight security threats along shared border and remove obstacles to enhanced cooperation. Wadagni and Tiani also established joint expert committee to examine conditions for reopening their shared border, which has been closed since 2023 military takeover in Niamey. Committee 16 June submitted findings to both heads of state, and Nigerien Interior Minister Gen. Mohamed Toumba 19-21 June visited Cotonou to lead Nigerien expert delegation; talks reportedly resulted in several agreements, including on defence cooperation.

Security operations continued along northern borders amid persistent jihadist threat. Security forces in June continued operations against suspected al-Qaeda-affiliated Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) militants northern Alibori and Atakora departments. Earlier, JNIM 25-26 May attacked two army positions in Kourou-Koualou (Atakora department along border with Burkina Faso); govt reported four soldiers killed, while JNIM claimed to have killed 12 and captured weapons and military vehicles.

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Burkina Faso JUNE 2026

Al-Qaeda-affiliated militants continued to attack state forces, particularly in the country's northern regions, as authorities doubled down on their military-first approach to tackling insecurity and intensified their crackdown on dissent.

Jihadist attacks on defence and security forces continued. Al-Qaeda-affiliated Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) 5 June claimed control of army post in Sabcé town, Bam province (Centre-Nord region); 15 June claimed assault on position held by govt-sponsored civilian militia (VDPs) in Namentenga province (also Centre-Nord); local sources reported group 18 June killed several VDPs near Tougou village (Nord region). Authorities said nothing publicly about these incidents, in keeping with their longstanding policy of refraining from comment on jihadist claims. Meanwhile, army spokesperson Lt. Col. Abdoul Aziz Ouédraogo 7 June said security forces had "neutralised" hundreds of militants during operations on several fronts in May, without providing details.

Authorities further entrenched military-led response to insecurity. Despite absence of durable security gains, authorities continued to rely on military-first approach to tackling armed group violence. After Legislative Assembly in May voted to establish military reserve force expected to reach 100,000 personnel by year's end, Council of Ministers 4 June approved security procurement projects worth $10mn to equip armed forces and security services.

Military rulers extended crackdown on civil society to religious associations. Authorities continued to neutralise social institutions that could serve as platforms for dissent. Notably, Territorial Administration Ministry 9 June suspended two Muslim associations – Coordination of Young Muslims of Burkina Faso and As Salam Association – for three months, accusing them of carrying out activities outside their remit and posing threat to "public order". Legislative Assembly 20 June adopted law on religious freedoms placing faith organisations under greater state oversight, despite widespread criticism; bill now awaits presidential promulgation.

Ouagadougou cut off diplomatic relations with France. Govt 26 June said it had severed ties with Paris, accusing former colonial power of acting against country's interests. French govt next day said it regretted "hostile and unfounded decision", adding that it was considering taking reciprocal measures.

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Burundi JUNE 2026

Tensions persisted over preparations for the May 2027 presidential election, while restrictions on civic space and economic pressures continued.

Opposition continued to raise concerns about lack of level playing field ahead of elections. Prominent opposition politician Agathon Rwasa 3 June accused govt of using judiciary to sideline him and prevent his participation in 2027 presidential election, pointing to continued delays in his Supreme Court challenge to his 2024 removal as National Congress for Freedom (CNL) leader. Following 15 May electoral dialogue, opposition parties including CNL Union for National Progress (UPRONA), Front for Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU) continued to denounce shortcomings in electoral code, regretting lack of adequate safeguards against irregularities and sufficient mechanisms to verify election results.

Civil society accused authorities of judicial harassment, forced disappearances. Director of PARCEM, Faustin Ndikumana, 5 June alleged that weapons found at his bar in May were part of "set-up" to silence him; six employees remained held without charges and premises closed. Meanwhile, five senior officials of National Independent Human Rights Commission (CNIDH) 12 June alleged CNIDH Secretary General Chantal Bakamiriza may be involved in unresolved disappearance of another CNIDH member, Chadia Mukaremera, since Feb 2026; officials urged commission president, Bishop Martin Blaise Nyaboho, to investigate incident.

Economic challenges remained prominent. Catholic bishops 9 June publicly warned of worsening economic and social conditions, citing deteriorating infrastructure, rising living costs, and shortages of essential goods. Anti-corruption NGO OLUCOME same day urged parliament to liberalise fuel market amid persistent shortages. President Ndayishimiye 16 June rebuked Catholic Church, accusing bishops of politicising poverty.

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Cameroon JUNE 2026

President Biya's prolonged absence during his trip to Switzerland fuelled speculation about his health and succession, while clashes between government forces and Anglophone separatists continued.

Speculation over Biya's succession intensified amid mounting political paralysis. Uncertainty grew as Biya failed to appoint govt eight months after presidential election, while newly created position of vice president (VP), whose holder would automatically assume power in the event of presidential vacancy, remained unfilled. After Biya 7 June left for Switzerland, local media reported that he was undergoing medical treatment, sparking renewed concern about his health and incomplete succession planning. Authorities mid-June arrested individual in capital Yaoundé for allegedly attempting to trick state broadcaster into airing fake presidential decree appointing new govt and VP; incident may point to hidden struggles over Biya's succession.

Opposition continued to explore tame avenues for expressing discontent. Exiled opposition leader Issa Tchiroma 12 June filed complaint in France against Biya and more than a dozen govt and military officials over deadly repression of Oct 2025 post-election protests, invoking principle of universal jurisdiction. Meanwhile, Constitutional Council 17 June rejected opposition Cameroon Renaissance Movement's petition to annul Biya's 4 May decree extending municipal councillors' mandate until 27 Feb 2027; petition was dismissed as inadmissible without consideration of its merits, further fuelling doubts about council's independence.

Fighting continued in Anglophone North West region. In Bui division, clashes between govt forces and Anglophone separatist combatants were reported in several localities. Separatists 5 June killed soldier in Kumbo city; troops next day reportedly killed eight rebels in nearby Sop locality; separatists 9 June killed four people including two soldiers in bar in Noni village. Elsewhere in North West, suspected separatists 8 June opened fire in Bambui town (Mezam division) during "ghost town" shutdown, killing two students, and 11 June attacked gendarmerie post in Belo town (Boyo division), killing two officers.

Boko Haram factions continued attacks in Far North, primarily targeting civilians. In Mayo-Sava division, unidentified insurgents 9 June killed two civilians in Kangarwa locality, and same night kidnapped four people in Gouzoudou locality. In Logone-et-Chari division, soldiers 13 June repelled Islamic State West Africa Province incursion in Ngouma village, killing one suspected fighter.

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Central African Republic JUNE 2026

The army leadership denied rumours of its involvement in a plot to overthrow President Touadéra, Bangui became the latest African capital to receive migrants deported from the U.S., and security in the east remained volatile.

National army denied coup rumours. In rare statement, army's general staff 13 June rejected allegations that it was involved in plot to overthrow govt; several close advisers to President Touadéra, including Sani Yalo, also denied role in alleged conspiracy. Rumours of coup began circulating on social media following announcement of new cabinet in late May, prompting govt to tighten security across capital. Limited cabinet reshuffle – which included slight readjustment of power balance within Touadéra's inner circle – left some ruling party factions dissatisfied.

Migrants deported from U.S arrived in CAR. Around 20 third-country nationals deported from U.S. 12 June arrived in capital Bangui. Govt did not comment on arrangement, which reportedly stems from deal between two countries, whereby Washington committed $85mn, including $25mn for management of deported migrants through International Organization for Migration and remainder for humanitarian operations in CAR. Deal may help Touadéra revive bilateral cooperation with U.S. and secure continued U.S. support for UN mission (MINUSCA), which faces liquidity crisis due to delayed or unpaid contributions from member states. MINUSCA 10 June handed over seven operational bases as part of gradual drawdown and transfer of responsibilities to national authorities.

Security situation remained volatile in east. In north east, armed groups 30 June launched attack in Am-Dafock sub-prefecture (Vakaga prefecture), near Sudanese border, reportedly killing around 10 people and injuring three UN peacekeepers; UN said assailants included fighters affiliated with Popular Front for the Renaissance of the Central African Republic and Democratic Movement for the Rally of the Central African People rebel groups *(await next month's edition for more)*. In south east, govt forces and Wagner elements 24-25 June briefly exchanged fire in Zémio town (Haut-Mbomou prefecture), leaving one woman dead and at least one soldier injured; clash was reportedly triggered by disagreements over operational control. Also in Zémio, unidentified gunmen 29 June shot dead Catholic priest known for involvement in peace initiatives in area.

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Chad JUNE 2026

Amid mounting security threats, authorities leaned toward reviving their security partnership with France less than two years after French troops were expelled from Chad; intercommunal violence left several people dead.

Reports suggested N'Djamena may seek to revive partnership with France. Chadian media from 8 June onwards reported that French troops could return to Chad, less than two years after N'Djamena unilaterally ended military cooperation with Paris. Reports, which Chadian govt has neither confirmed nor denied, emerged after French President Macron said at Africa Forward Summit held in Kenya in May that France was working, at President Déby's request, to restore defence cooperation with Chad. Growing security pressures – including spillover from war in Sudan into eastern provinces and mounting discontent within ruling Zaghawa elite over Déby's stance on the conflict, renewed Boko Haram activity in western Lake Province, and resurgence of previously dormant rebel threats in southern provinces – may explain N'Djamena's apparent shift. Withdrawal of French forces in 2024 left significant intelligence gap that Chad's new security partners, notably Türkiye, have so far failed to fill.

Security remained volatile in several regions. Conflict in Sudan continued to generate insecurity along eastern border. Residents of Chadian side of Tiné (Wadi Fira Province), which straddles the border between Sudan and Chad, 5 June reported hearing heavy explosions amid intense battle for Sudanese side of town. Meanwhile, intercommunal violence caused significant casualties in southern and western regions. In south, clashes between Fulani herders and local farmers in Kim sub-prefecture (Mayo-Kebbi Est Province) 4-6 June left at least 10 dead. In west, clashes involving two sedentary communities 9-10 June left at least three people dead and ten injured in Mamdi department (Lake Province). State of emergency declared in Lake Province following major Boko Haram attack in May remained in force throughout June.

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Côte d'Ivoire JUNE 2026

Authorities unveiled plans for a new electoral framework, drawing an initially positive response from the opposition; Abidjan signalled its openness to reviving security cooperation with its Sahelian neighbours.

Govt discussed plans for new electoral system with opposition. PM Robert Beugré Mambé 22 June briefed political parties on govt's plans to replace electoral commission, which govt dissolved in May amid sustained criticism over its handling of elections. Proposal would create three separate bodies: one responsible for organising elections, one for tabulating votes, and one for overseeing electoral process. Main opposition Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire senior official, Georges Ezaley, welcomed proposed model, but stressed that its credibility would eventually depend on its implementation.

Abidjan signalled willingness to revive security cooperation with Sahelian countries. Defence Minister Téné Birahima Ouattara 17 June said Abidjan was ready to resume cooperation with neighbouring Mali and Burkina Faso to counter jihadist threats along shared borders. Remarks suggest that Ivorian authorities may be willing to mend relations with Sahelian neighbours after years of deterioration. Also, authorities 19 June reportedly released Malian blogger Aziz Maïga, who had been arrested in May on allegations of espionage.

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Democratic Republic of Congo JUNE 2026

Fighting intensified in South Kivu as Kinshasa and allied militias stepped up efforts to recapture territory held by the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel group around Minembwe town, while parliament passed a referendum bill that could enable President Tshisekedi to seek a third term despite mounting opposition.

Fighting intensified between govt and M23 forces in South Kivu. Govt forces and allied Wazalendo militias early June reportedly seized several villages and positions close to M23 stronghold of Minembwe in South Kivu's Fizi territory; M23-aligned Banyamulenge Twirwaneho militia appeared to retain control of town, however. Lawyers representing Banyamulenge, Hema and Tutsi communities 17 June accused Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebels, which they claim are backed by Kinshasa, of committing ethnic cleansing crimes in Minembwe. M23 spokesperson Lawrence Kanyuka 24 June also accused govt forces of carrying out strikes on hospital and other civilian targets in and around Minembwe. Kinshasa 26 June filed case against Rwanda at International Court of Justice seeking accountability and reparations for decades of unlawful operations on its territory (see Rwanda).

Violence by other armed groups left scores dead in eastern provinces. Islamic State-affiliated Allied Democratic Forces late May-early June killed over 40 civilians in series of attacks across North Kivu's Beni territory and Ituri's Mambasa territory. Tshisekedi 5 June appointed Maj. Gen. Gaby Kasongo Mulumba military governor of Ituri, replacing Lt. Gen. Johnny Luboya Nkashama; Ugandan army chief Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba had for months called for Luboya's removal after he led counter-offensive against Convention for a Popular Revolution (CRP), an armed group led by Thomas Lubanga and widely believed to enjoy Ugandan backing. Meanwhile, attacks by angry crowds on health workers and facilities complicated efforts to contain Ebola outbreak in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, which had killed more than 400 people by late June.

Parliament passed controversial referendum bill. National Assembly 9 June endorsed bill opening door to referendum on new constitution that could allow Tshisekedi to serve third term. Opposition 12 June protested bill in capital Kinshasa; clashes with security forces reportedly left several people injured, including opposition figures Martin Fayulu and Delly Sesanga. Senate 15 June also adopted referendum bill. Opposition denounced "constitutional coup", vowed to intensify protests.

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Eritrea JUNE 2026

Asmara's relations with Addis Ababa remained tense while its ties with Cairo continued to deepen; meanwhile, the UN special rapporteur drew attention to the human rights situation in Eritrea.

Eritrea and Ethiopia traded more hostile rhetoric. In 11 June article for media outlet Al Jazeera, two senior Ethiopian officials, Redwan Hussein and Getachew Reda, accused Tigray People's Liberation Front – ruling party in Ethiopia's Tigray region – of preparing, with Eritrean backing, for an attack against Addis Ababa (see Ethiopia). Eritrea's Ambassador to Qatar 25 June issued response, also in Al Jazeera, calling narrative "a diplomatic smoke screen" designed to normalise Ethiopia's "unprovoked hostility, state-sponsored inflammatory rhetoric and aggressive military mobilisations" against Eritrea. Speaking same day at national security conference, Getachew argued that Eritrean state is in crisis and that its leadership views Ethiopia's development as threat to its own survival and therefore seeks to weaken it, including through proxy conflict.

Asmara deepened its partnership with Cairo. President Isaias Afwerki 7-10 June visited Egypt – another arch-rival of Ethiopia's – where he met with President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to discuss regional developments and safeguarding of Red Sea security; visit highlighted excellent state of relations between the two countries, which Ethiopia views as "encirclement strategy".

In another important development. UN Special Rapporteur Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker 15 June presented report to Human Rights Council, warning that there are "reasonable grounds" to believe that crimes against humanity continue in Eritrea; Asmara rejected findings.

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Ethiopia JUNE 2026

The ruling party secured a big parliamentary majority, but elections were marred by violence and the exclusion of 46 constituencies from voting, including all of Tigray region; meanwhile, tensions between the federal government and Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) continued to escalate.

Ruling party won elections marred by exclusions and violence. Elections took place 1 June, with PM Abiy Ahmed's ruling Prosperity Party securing 438 of 501 parliamentary seats. According to electoral authorities, approximately 50mn citizens registered to vote. Voting, however, did not occur in Tigray or eight constituencies in Amhara region due to absence of federal authority in former and conflict in latter. Security incidents were also reported during ballot in parts of Amhara and Oromia regions, forcing 143 of over 52,029 polling stations to close. Amhara experienced one of its most violent periods, as Amhara Fano National Movement sought to disrupt voting and challenge federal control; ACLED recorded at least 90 clashes on election day between Fano fighters and security forces, having recorded 108 for entire month of May. Violence also intensified in Oromia during election period. Notably, Oromo Liberation Army launched attacks against Orthodox Christians in East Arsi Zone, resulting in around 30 casualties, displacement, and destruction of homes and churches.

In Tigray, tensions between TPLF and Addis Ababa mounted. TPLF-led administration 1 June approved cabinet reshuffle after dismantling federal-backed Interim Regional Administration in May and reasserting control over Tigray's institutions. TPLF 4 June warned of risk of "catastrophic conflict" and called for urgent international intervention. Federal forces next day reportedly conducted drone strike against Tigray Defence Forces near Shiraro town, killing several fighters. Two senior govt officials, Redwan Hussein and Getachew Reda, 11 June accused TPLF of preparing, with Eritrean backing, for attack against federal govt; Asmara denied allegations (see Eritrea for more on Ethiopia-Eritrea relations). Fears of escalation were further heightened by new TPLF law ordering compulsory military mobilisation; one young man was killed 22 June for refusing conscription in Eastern Tigray Zone. TPLF 30 June accused federal govt of "mobilising its forces" across region. U.S., meanwhile, 18 June imposed visa restrictions on TPLF "hardliners".

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Guinea JUNE 2026

The ruling coalition backing coup leader turned President Mamady Doubouya secured a sweeping victory in parliamentary and municipal elections months after the authorities dissolved the country's three main opposition parties.

Ruling coalition secured landslide win in legislative and municipal polls. Following elections held 31 May, Supreme Court 19 June said President Doumbouya's coalition – comprising his Generation for Modernity and Development party and allied political parties – won 127 of 147 seats in National Assembly and secured majority in nearly all municipalities. Supreme Court reported turnout of nearly 54% in parliamentary polls, though civil society coalition Forces Vives de Guinée dismissed figure as "not credible" after provisional results were announced in early June, citing low attendance at polling stations. Court also dismissed appeals lodged by seven political parties, which 12 June challenged provisional results alleging "serious irregularities" and "alteration of results". Elections further consolidated 2021 coup leader turned President Mamady Doumbouya's grip on state institutions after his victory in Dec 2025 presidential election and dissolution of 40 political parties in March; reports of widespread manipulation, however, suggest that elections are unlikely to confer much legitimacy on his rule.

In other important developments. Landslide at artisanal gold mine in Kintinian sub-prefecture (Kankan region, north east) 8 June reportedly killed at least 11 people. Sierra Leone 28 June announced reopening of Yenga crossing point following tripartite summit between presidents of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia in March aimed at de-escalating border tensions, including long-running territorial dispute between Freetown and Conakry over Yenga village.

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Kenya JUNE 2026

Protests at a U.S.-backed Ebola facility left several dead, while tensions between the government and the opposition mounted over a controversial finance bill.

Security forces suppressed protests as anti-govt sentiment remained widespread. Amid Ebola outbreak in DR Congo, hundreds of residents of Nanyuki town, Laikipia County, 1 June protested construction at local air base of quarantine and treatment centre intended for infected U.S. nationals. Clashes with police left two protesters dead; police 9 June shot and killed another individual during new demonstration. High Court 22 June found Health Minister Aden Duale in contempt of court for ignoring late May order to suspend project pending hearing on case requested by two civil society organisations. Duale next day told court he had ordered halt to construction, but it remained unclear whether order would be enforced. Meanwhile, nationwide protests 25 June marked anniversary of 2024 anti-Finance Bill demonstrations, in which 60 people were killed. Security forces blocked roads in capital Nairobi and dispersed demonstrators, with govt later reporting 355 people arrested across country.

National Assembly approved controversial Finance Bill. Parliament's debate on Finance Bill descended into chaos as opposition argued that low-income earners would bear the brunt of new levies, including hefty import tax on second-hand goods, a key source of income for millions. MPs from ruling Kenya Kwanza coalition and opposition 16 June traded barbs during bill's second reading. National Assembly 18 June passed bill after Acting Speaker Farah Maalim expelled opposition MP Majimbo Kalasinga for "disorderly conduct", preventing him from voting. Bill reinforced public perceptions that govt is ignoring demand to address rising cost of living.

Al-Shabaab continued to target security forces along Somalia border. Notably, militants 10-12 June reportedly attacked two police camps in Lafey sub-county, Mandera county, leaving at least one police officer injured. In first abduction in Kenya in a year, Al-Shabaab 7 June kidnapped public transport bus driver in Hulugho sub-county, Garissa county.

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Mali JUNE 2026

Al-Qaeda-affiliated militants sustained pressure on Bamako and key western supply corridors, as government counter-insurgency operations reportedly caused civilian casualties and authorities introduced new measures to contain jihadist violence.

Security situation remained volatile. Al-Qaeda-affiliated Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) maintained partial blockade on capital Bamako, constraining movement of people and goods. Govt forces continued operations against jihadists. Notably, army 1 June reported series of airstrikes in Koulikouro and Mopti regions (centre); airstrikes 2 June also took place in Kidal city (north). Military operations led to civilian deaths. Notably, local sources said army and Russian Africa Corps elements 11 June killed at least 12 people in Echelle village, Timbuktu region (north); military airstrikes 15 June reportedly killed seven civilians in and around Kimya village, Douentza region (centre); and military drone strike 26 June reportedly left eight civilians dead near Tidermène village, Ménaka region (north east).

Authorities introduced measures to contain jihadist violence. Govt 3 June established 35 military zones – primarily covering forests in country's centre, south and west – banning civilian access to facilitate airstrikes on jihadist groups; also prohibited sale and use of large motorcycles outside major urban centres for one year to restrict militant mobility, drawing criticism from rural communities that rely on them for transport and farming. Authorities 4 June also announced rewards for information leading to capture or neutralisation of JNIM leader Iyad Ag Ghali, Katiba Macina leader Amadou Koufa and Tuareg-led Azawad Liberation Front leaders Alghabass Ag Intalla and Bilal Ag Chérif. JNIM 6 June announced its own bounties for capture or killing of several senior govt and security officials, including the transitional president, Gen. Assimi Goïta.

In other important developments. Authorities 8-9 June detained two prominent journalists, Chahana Takiou and Abdrahamane Keïta, charging them under cybercrime law with offences including undermining the state's credibility. NGO Committee to Protest Journalists 16 June urged authorities to release them, "stop their frenzied arrests of journalists".Court in Bamako 5 June sentenced French intelligence officer Lt. Col. Yann Vézilier to 20 years' hard labour for undermining state security; France rejected charges as unfounded.

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Mozambique JUNE 2026

Islamic State-affiliated combatants continued to operate across large swathes of the northern province of Cabo Delgado and at sea; the killing of two opposition members in May continued to fuel political tensions.

Islamic State Mozambique (ISM) remained threat across province and off coast. Insurgents continued maritime attacks on both military and civilian targets off Cabo Delgado's coast using small, highly mobile boats. Group late May hijacked at least 12 fishing vessels off Macomia and Mocímboa da Praia districts; 3 June raided Matemo island (Ibo district), looting food and medicines, and next day clashed with navy patrol off coast of Quiterajo town (Macomia). Spate of attacks demonstrated ineffectiveness of maritime exclusion zone which covers parts of waters off Macomia and Mocímboa da Praia and mouth of Messalo river, which ISM insurgents use to reach inland bases in Catupa forest; measure may also worsen relations with local fishing communities. Meanwhile, local media mid-Junereported security forces and allied militias were enforcing unofficial curfew and arbitrarily detaining civilians in Mocímboa da Praia town; govt denied imposing restrictions. Attacks also continued in Ancuabe, with UN 24 June saying attacks in district had displaced over 27,000 people since 1 May. In Muidumbe district, insurgents 5 June reportedly killed three civilians near Xitaxi village. President Chapo 29 June called on armed groups to take part in ongoing Inclusive National Dialogue process.

Fallout from targeted killings continued. After two opposition ANAMOLA party members were killed in May, party leader Venâncio Mondlane – who claims to have won 2024 presidential vote – 10 June skipped meeting of Council of State (advisory body set up by President Chapo following unrest over 2024 general elections), accusing authorities of failing to investigate "assassinations" of ANAMOLA figures. Meanwhile, gunmen 6 June killed bishop of Quelimane, capital of Zambézia province; murder – motive of which remained unclear – brought widespread condemnation, including from President Chapo and Pope Leo XIV.

Govt sought international financial support. Amid economic challenges sparked by early 2026 floods and fallout from Middle East conflict, govt 8-12 June hosted International Monetary Fund mission and 9 June signed financing agreements worth $450mn with World Bank.

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Niger JUNE 2026

Benin President Romuald Wadagni's visit to Niger marked a significant step toward rapprochement between the two neighbours and increased the prospects for reopening the border; jihadist groups escalated their campaign, launching a series of large-scale attacks, including on Niamey's airport.

Niamey and Cotonou moved to mend ties, reopen border. Nine days after his inauguration, Beninese President Romuald Wadagni 2 June visited Niamey for talks with President Gen. Tiani. Heads of state pledged to coordinate in combating common security threats and established expert committee to examine reopening border, closed since 2023 military takeover in Niamey. Visit marked major step toward ending years-long rift that has triggered mutual accusations of destabilisation and expulsion of diplomats. After expert committee 16 June delivered initial conclusions, Interior Minister Gen. Mohamed Toumba 19-21 June led Nigerien delegation to Cotonou; sides reportedly drafted several cooperation agreements, while Toumba reportedly said normalisation required "total transparency" regarding foreign troops stationed near border.

Jihadist groups launched spate of major attacks, including on Niamey's airport. Gunmen 18 June attacked Diori-Hamani International Airport in capital Niamey, with fighting lasting around two hours before security forces regained control. Al-Qaeda-affiliated Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) claimed responsibility. Defence Minister Gen. Salifou Mody said 11 security personnel and two civilians were killed and accused France of orchestrating operation. Assault exposed persistent security vulnerabilities despite heightened protection for airport following Islamic State Sahel Province (IS-Sahel)'s attack on site and adjacent Airbase 101 in January *(see CrisisWatch for January)*; it also highlighted intensifying competition between JNIM and IS-Sahel in Niger. Large-scale attacks also continued elsewhere, particularly in Tillabery region (south west). IS-Sahel 17 June attacked military bases in Inatès village (Ayorou department) and Bani Bangou town, claiming to have killed at least 80 soldiers and taken 65 vehicles. IS-Sahel also claimed 8 June attack on army patrol in Méhanna town (Téra department), which allegedly killed seven personnel. JNIM 30 June attacked two military checkpoints in Torodi department, claiming to have overrun them, though pro-govt sources said security forces repelled assault and killed 20 attackers.

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Nigeria JUNE 2026

Joint operations by Nigerian and U.S. forces disrupted jihadist networks in the North East, but extremist, criminal and herder-farmer violence persisted across much of the country.

Nigerian and U.S. forces maintained pressure on jihadist groups in North East. Nigerian forces and U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) continued joint air and ground operations against Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) in Borno state. Notably, army 6 June said troops overran major insurgent enclave in Mandara Mountains, rescuing around 360 of 416 people abducted in Askira-Uba area in March. At least 78 ISWAP fighters including four commanders 8-28 June surrendered to troops. Groups continued to target army and civilians, albeit at lower tempo than in recent months. Notably, troops 5 June lost at least five soldiers while repelling assault on military base in Biu area; insurgents 29 June attacked school in Askira/Uba area, killing teacher and abducting at least 36 students.

Criminal and jihadist violence left scores dead across North West. Violence continued after Islamic State Sahel Province claimed attacks in Kebbi and Sokoto states in May, marking its first public claim of operations in North West. In Kebbi, suspected members of extremist group Lakurawa 14 June killed over 20 people in village raid in Arewa area. In Sokoto, suspected criminal groups 31 May-16 June killed at least 58 people in Tureta, Sabon-Birni, Wurno and Rabah areas; suspected Lakurawa fighters 25 June killed four including Muslim cleric in Goronyo area. Meanwhile in Zamfara state, unidentified armed groups 3-26 June killed at least 41 farmers in Birnin Magaji, Maradun and Talata Mafara areas. Explosive devices 8-28 June killed at least nine people, most of them security personnel, in Sokoto and Zamfara.

Herder-farmer and other violence persisted in North Central Zone. In Plateau state, gunmen 22 June killed at least 25 people, including pastor, hospital staff and in-patients, in Bokkos area; residents blamed attack on Fulani herders. In Benue state, gunmen 26 June assassinated state chair of Fulani livestock owners' group (MACBAN) in Otukpo area, raising fears of herders' reprisals. Amid worsening insecurity along border with Benin, two suspected criminal groups 13 June killed at least ten people in Mariga and Borgu areas, Niger state.

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Nile Waters JUNE 2026

Nile Waters U.S. President Trump offered to mediate the Nile Waters dispute between Egypt and Ethiopia.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi 17 June met U.S. President Trump on sidelines of Group of Seven (G7) summit in France. During conversation, the two leaders discussed Ethiopia's contested Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, with Trump hinting at his willingness to mediate between Cairo and Addis Ababa. Trump stated that Egypt had been "very unfairly treated" by Ethiopia, however, which Addis Ababa will likely interpret as evidence of U.S. bias toward Cairo.

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Rwanda JUNE 2026

Kigali continued to face scrutiny over its role in the conflict in eastern DR Congo (DRC), even as it pursued diplomatic engagement abroad.

Rwanda remained under pressure from U.S., Kinshasa, and rights groups. Washington's Treasury Department 2 June sanctioned John Imani Nzenze, chief of intelligence for Rwanda-backed Congolese rebel group M23, and Gustave Kubwayo, commander of intelligence unit of anti-Kigali Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR); 25 June sanctioned Rwandan gold refinery Gasabo Gold and two of its executives, accusing them of smuggling minerals from M23-controlled areas of DRC. FM Olivier Nduhungirehe 29 June called U.S. mediation between Kigali and Kinshasa "increasingly biased", accusing Washington of sanctioning Rwanda alone while Kinshasa fails to honour 2025 Washington Accords. Meanwhile, Kinshasa 26 June filed case against Rwanda at International Court of Justice, accusing it of backing armed groups to conduct unlawful military operations on its territory since 1996, and demanding accountability and reparations; Rwanda dismissed move as "political manoeuvre". NGO Human Rights Watch 10 June published report documenting war crimes – including killings, torture, abusive detention and forced recruitment of child soldiers – by Rwandan forces and M23 at DRC training camps between mid-2024 and Dec 2025.

Kigali pursued active diplomacy over eastern DRC. At sixth Joint Oversight Committee meeting for June 2025 DRC-Rwanda peace agreement, representatives of Rwanda, DRC, Qatar, U.S., Togo and AU 24 June expressed concern over escalating fighting and worsening humanitarian situation in eastern DRC. Earlier, representatives from Rwanda, DRC and UN refugee agency 22 June met in Ethiopia to discuss roadmap for refugee repatriation. Nduhungirehe and South African counterpart Ronald Lamola 17 June met in Pretoria, seeking to reset bilateral relations strained by disagreements over eastern DRC conflict.

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Senegal JUNE 2026

The power struggle at the top of the state continued as the National Assembly passed a constitutional reform curbing presidential powers.

After dismissing Ousmane Sonko as PM in May, President Faye 1 June named 30-member cabinet led by newly appointed PM Ahmadou Al Aminou Lô; ruling PASTEF party, led by Sonko, refused to participate, citing "points of divergence", although several of its members retained cabinet posts. Sonko, who is also National Assembly speaker, 14 June ruled out definitive rupture with Faye but warned chamber, where PASTEF holds overwhelming majority, would act as check on executive decisions and resist any measures deemed harmful to public interest. National Assembly 29 June adopted PASTEF-sponsored constitutional amendment bill curbing presidential powers. Vote was marred by scuffle between PASTEF and opposition MPs, with gendarmes removing Takku Wallu Sénégal MP Abdou Mbow from chamber, prompting opposition walk-out. Invoking Article 103, Faye immediately said he would submit text to referendum despite its adoption by required parliamentary majority. Police same day fired tear gas to disperse protesters opposed to constitutional reforms outside parliament in capital Dakar. Political turmoil compounded debt crisis, with Senegalese bonds falling to near-record lows after Sonko's dismissal. Meanwhile, IMF 15-19 June visited country to discuss possible resumption of financial support after $1.8bn programme was suspended in 2024 over hidden debts.

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Somalia JUNE 2026

Violence erupted in Mogadishu between federal forces and militias aligned with opposition figures just weeks after President Mohamud's original four-year term expired; the main opposition coalition put forward an election proposal to counter the government's one-person, one-vote model.

Clashes erupted in Mogadishu over election row. Militias aligned with former President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and former PM Hassan Ali Khaire 3-4 June clashed with federal forces in capital Mogadishu; govt reported one casualty, while UN refugee agency put death toll at 13. Firefights erupted after govt forces moved to surround Sharif and Khaire, who had called for demonstrations on 4 June over election delays. Govt emerged with upper hand, stifling opposition's plans to mobilise supporters, but incident jolted international mediators into action. Notably, Türkiye 4 June sent delegation to Mogadishu to start dialogue between govt and opposition on electoral model and roadmap.

Federal govt continued to roll out new electoral model, opposition made counter-proposal. Despite violence in South West state in May (*see CrisisWatch for May*), newly elected regional parliament 10 June overwhelmingly elected President Mohamud's Justice and Solidarity Party candidate, Aden Madobe, as regional president. Meanwhile, preparations continued for one-person, one-vote district and state parliamentary elections in Galmudug and Hirshabelle, though timetable slipped after planned 20 June polling date passed without voting. Somalia Future Council (coalition which brings together political opposition, Puntland and Jubaland states) 20 June put forward electoral proposal including direct elections for parliament, suggesting movement away from previously entrenched positions.

Security dynamics remained relatively contained. Govt forces maintained pressure on Al-Shabaab through airstrikes and ground operations. Notably, special forces raid on Al-Shabaab hideout in Kurtunwarey, Lower Shabelle region, 15 June reportedly killed 14 militants; airstrikes 24-25 June targeted alleged Al-Shabaab facilities in several areas of Middle Shabelle region, reportedly leaving at least 30 militants dead. Improvised explosive device attacks increased in Jowhar, capital of Hirshabelle state, including 18 June blast that killed four civilians; uptick in violence may reflect efforts by Al-Shabaab to disrupt electoral preparations in Hirshabelle. Inter-clan fighting around 17 June erupted in Jalalaqsi district, Hiraan region, killing at least four people, displacing civilians and prompting federal and Hirshabelle authorities to launch mediation efforts.

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Somaliland JUNE 2026

Somaliland inaugurated its embassy to Israel in Jerusalem, drawing domestic and international criticism.

Somaliland inaugurated its embassy to Israel. President Cirro mid-June made official visit to Israel amid deepening bilateral ties following Israel's recognition of Somaliland in Dec 2025. Cirro 15 June met Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and inaugurated Somaliland's embassy in Jerusalem. Decision to locate embassy in Jerusalem, whose status remains internationally disputed, drew criticism at home and abroad as it appeared to endorse Israel's claim to the city. Intergovernmental body Organisation of Islamic Cooperation 15 June condemned move as "illegal", while opposition Kaah party 29 June denounced it as violation of international law.

U.S. policy toward Somaliland sparked frustration. U.S. State Department early June submitted formal report to Congress assessing engagement with Somaliland. While report highlighted opportunities for deeper cooperation in security and trade, Washington reaffirmed its recognition of Somalia's territorial integrity, disappointing many in Somaliland who had hoped for movement toward recognition.

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South Africa JUNE 2026

Xenophobic violence claimed several lives as anti-migrant protesters, some wearing symbols of ethnic affiliation, brought parts of multiple cities to a standstill, although a heavy police deployment helped prevent major violence during nationwide demonstrations on 30 June.

Anti-migrant protests left several dead. Protests against undocumented African migrants continued throughout month in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), Free State and Western Cape provinces, leading to deadly violence. Notably, Mozambican govt 2 June said five of its nationals had been killed in recent xenophobic attacks in Mossel Bay town (Western Cape), while South African police same day acknowledged that two Mozambicans had died. Civil society 9 June launched Siyafana Sonke Action Campaign to call for urgent govt intervention against rising tide of xenophobia. Ruling African National Congress Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula 25 June condemned anti-migrant movement's "hijacking" of ethnic Zulu symbols and said "unlawful immigration is being manipulated by new political formations (…) whose real purpose is to manufacture chaos, to collapse the institutions of the state", drawing parallels with 2021 deadly unrest. Mbalula also criticised former President Zuma's MK party for participating in protests. Ahead of nationwide anti-migrant marches scheduled for 30 June, President Ramaphosa 29 June said "right to protest and freedom of expression does not allow people to threaten or intimidate others", adding that law enforcement was ready to protect rule of law, while police same day said 25,000 foreign nationals had been repatriated in recent weeks. Thousands 30 June took part in protests across country's main cities to demand deportation of migrants, as ultimatum set by March & March, which claims to be grassroots movement, for all undocumented foreigners to leave South Africa expired. Amid heavy security deployment, demonstrations remained largely peaceful despite isolated incidents, including theft and looting.

Political violence left several dead months away from local elections. Ahead of local elections set for 4 Nov, gunmen 20-21 June killed local election candidate on outskirts of Cape Town, local councillor in Gqeberha city and two political party members in Bekkersdal township.

In another important development. Parliamentary impeachment committee 18 June resolved to oppose President Ramaphosa's court application, filed 12 June, to halt its inquiry into whether sufficient evidence exists to recommend impeachment proceedings against him.

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South Sudan JUNE 2026

Violence continued to spread, driven by government-opposition fighting alongside intercommunal conflict and resource-driven clashes; meanwhile, authorities announced elections would take place on 22 December despite insecurity and political turmoil.

Govt-opposition confrontations continued in Jonglei state. Govt troops (SSPDF) continued to clash with suspended VP Riek Machar's opposition forces (SPLA-IO) and allied White Army militia in Jonglei. Notably, SSPDF infantry 7 June launched offensive against SPLA-IO positions in Nyirol County's Lankien town, but opposition fighters conducted decisive counter-attack, forcing SSPDF to retreat and firmly establishing SPLA-IO control over area. In Pigi County, SSPDF reconnaissance patrol 27 June engaged in firefight with SPLA-IO, resulting in deaths of two SPLA-IO fighters and one SSPDF soldier before govt troops withdrew to their base. Both sides also mobilised significant troops in Walgak Payam, Akobo County, heightening risk of confrontations. UN Refugee Agency 5 June said fighting had triggered "one of the most severe conflict-related displacement emergencies in recent years", with 300,000 people uprooted since Dec 2025.

Resource-driven violence and intercommunal conflicts were rife. Notably, Dinka fighters from Ruweng Administration Area 2 June attacked Leek Nuer cattle camp in Unity State's Rubkona County, stealing over 200 head of cattle and leaving at least 16 dead. In Jonglei, coalition of Lou Nuer, Gawaar Nuer and Nyarweng Dinka youth carried out mass mobilisation, allegedly with intent to conduct large-scale cattle raids against Murle community in Greater Pibor Administrative Area.

National Election Commission (NEC) announced election date. NEC 22 June announced elections would take place 22 Dec despite lack of voter registration, deteriorating security conditions and political turmoil driven by Kiir's regime shakeup. Uncertainty surrounding elections is compounded by continued house arrest and trial of Machar, which has sidelined leader of country's second-largest political constituency. SPLM-IO rejected NEC's announcement, warning elections would "throw the country into more chaos", though breakaway faction led by Peacebuilding Minister Stephen Par Kuol 30 June registered as IO Party.

In another important development. Businessman Gaddafi Athorbei Guet, who helped expose govt-linked corruption, was abducted 10 June in Kenya and deported to Juba, where he remains in military detention; action risks compromising Nairobi's perceived neutrality as mediator in South Sudan's peace dialogues.

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Sudan JUNE 2026

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) massed fighters around El Obeid in North Kordofan, fuelling fears of an imminent assault on the city and prompting the UN to warn about the risk of mass atrocities.

Fears grew of major RSF attack on El Obeid. Fears grew that RSF could launch major assault on besieged capital of North Kordofan, El Obeid, amid build-up of paramilitary and allied forces around city. Chorus of voices warned about risk of atrocities, with UN Sec-Gen António Guterres 18 June saying "we must not allow the horrors of El Fasher to be repeated". RSF also used drones to strike civilian infrastructure and military assets in and around city; UN's humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher 30 June warned attacks are disrupting access to water and electricity, deepening humanitarian harm.

Warfare continued elsewhere amid belligerents' growing use of drones. Notably, army 8 June reportedly struck Ardamata Bridge in West Darfur, vital route for commercial traffic and humanitarian supplies entering region. RSF mid-month launched drones on several locations in Khartoum State and deployed strategic drones for reconnaissance missions over capital Khartoum and sister city, Omdurman. Large-scale ground confrontations were limited compared to previous months, though Darfur saw heavy clashes toward end of June. Notably, UN migration agency 25 June said around 1,430 people were displaced from villages in North Darfur's Ambro area due to RSF attacks, while paramilitary also captured Um Baru town. In West Darfur, army-aligned Joint Forces 29 June retook Kulbus town.

Communal conflict rose in RSF-controlled areas. Notably, clashes in South Darfur between Salamat and Beni Helba communities late May-early June left scores dead, underscoring challenges RSF faces in managing communal tensions in areas its controls.

Sudanese civil and political forces signed joint declaration on peace roadmap. Quintet mechanism – comprising AU, IGAD, Arab League, EU and UN – 3-5 June facilitated consultations in Addis Ababa involving rival Sudanese civil and political forces. Number of participants issued joint declaration saying they had agreed on unified vision for launching political process to end war, though some refused to sign, arguing it did not clearly stipulate exclusion of Islamists from process.

In another important development. U.S. 26 June imposed fresh sanctions on actors "fuelling Sudan's war".

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Tanzania JUNE 2026

Authorities announced a ban on public rallies ahead of anti-government protests scheduled for 7 July as the main opposition party, Chadema, faced further harassment.

Authorities suspended political rallies. Govt 26 June announced police would not issue permits for "public rallies", giving few details about duration of measures; move came amid social media calls for nationwide protests on 7 July against President Suluhu Hassan's 2025 re-election and repression of dissent, with govt and police alleging protest organisers were looking to foment unrest. Opposition party ACT Wazalendo said suspension is illegal, vowed to challenge it in court. Security forces late June deployed in large numbers in all major cities in apparent effort to block demonstrations. Earlier, ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)'s Secretary for Ideology, Propaganda and Training, Kenani Kihongosi, 13 June alleged main opposition party Chadema planned to "mobilise violence through demonstrations" and "disrupt" peace. Meanwhile, treason case against party leader, Tundu Lissu, saw further controversial delays, prolonging his detention; Court of Appeal 10 June postponed hearing case planned for following day until 6 July with no explanation.

Reports of divisions within ruling party emerged. CCM MP Simai Mohammed Said 2 June called unnamed senior govt official "Judas" and "burden" on administration, reportedly referring to VP and influential ruling party figure Emmanuel Nchimbi. Remarks echoed apparent tensions between Suluhu Hassan and Nchimbi, reportedly driven by latter's unease over security forces' heavy-handed response to post-Oct election unrest and spate of enforced disappearances.

Govt faced further U.S. and EU scrutiny over political violence, turned to Russia for investments. U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee 17 June advanced legislation to Senate floor requiring comprehensive review of bilateral relations in response to Tanzania's democratic backsliding and growing ties with China and Russia; bill could trigger sanctions and suspend U.S. economic and development assistance. EU parliament 18 June adopted resolution calling on European Commission to withdraw €156mn in funding support to Tanzania, effectively maintaining freeze on EU aid imposed after 2025 elections. Meanwhile, Suluhu Hassan 3-5 June undertook first visit to Russia by Tanzanian leader since 1969, with discussions focused mainly on trade.

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Uganda JUNE 2026

President Museveni's son and army chief, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, led an escalating crackdown on dissent while increasingly asserting his political influence.

Muhoozi strengthened his grip with escalating crackdown on critics. Elite army unit 15 June captured former Kampala Mayor Erias Lukwago, who is also long-time lawyer of four-time presidential candidate Kizza Besigye. Museveni's son and Chief of defence forces, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, later same day boasted on social media that he had "captured a fool". Besigye's lawyer Martha Karua 16 June wrote to Chief Justice and Attorney General to protest Lukwago's kidnapping. After soldiers 17 June dropped him to police station in Kira town, Lukwago was charged with treason-linked offence and remanded in custody, and later hospitalised. Security operatives 17 June abducted rights activist and opposition National Unity Platform (NUP) photographer, Andrew Natumanya, who was close aide to presidential candidate Robert Kyagulanyi (also known as Bobi Wine) during early 2026 election campaign; Muhoozi later said Natumanya had been released, warned of further arrests. Security operatives 26, 28 June detained and later charged prominent journalist Timothy Kalyegira and former minister Miria Matembe. Soldiers 28 June also shut down Kampala offices of *Daily Monitor* newspaper and three other sister broadcast stations after Muhoozi ordered newspaper's closure, said "from now on all media in Uganda will follow the rules".

Vetting of Museveni's new cabinet sparked dual citizenship row. Four minister-designates on 1 June failed parliamentary vetting after MPs ordered them to renounce their foreign citizenship before they could be sworn in. Uganda's constitution bars dual citizens from several senior public offices.

Uganda contained spread of Ebola virus. World Health Organization (WHO) mid-June praised Uganda's response to Ebola outbreak after country went two weeks without new case. Uganda could be declared Ebola-free on 16 July if no further infections are reported.

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Zambia JUNE 2026

Political violence left at least one person dead ahead of 13 August general election.

Clashes between supporters of ruling United Party for National Development (UPND) and opposition National Reconciliation Party for Unity and Prosperity 29 June left one UPND supporter dead in Kaputa district (Northern province); police said ten people were arrested in connection with the killing. Earlier, electoral commission 9 June suspended campaigning for 13 August general election in Mazabuka Central constituency (Southern province), citing unstable security situation following campaign-related violence.

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Zimbabwe JUNE 2026

The political crisis escalated after Parliament passed controversial constitutional amendments extending President Mnangagwa's term in office, deepening divisions within the military and prompting accusations of a "constitutional coup" from the opposition.

Legislature overwhelmingly backed bill amid reports of discontent within security forces. National Assembly 18 June approved Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 3 (CAB3) which, among other measures, would extend President Mnangagwa's term from 2028 until 2030 and remove direct presidential elections; 216 MPs voted in favour and 42 against amid reports of vote-buying. Senate 24 June overwhelmingly passed bill, with 75 votes in favour and four against. While bill advocates argued changes would increase govt stability, signs of strains surfaced in both ruling ZANU-PF and security sector in lead-up to votes. Anonymous pamphlets 10 June circulated across several military barracks in capital Harare claiming CAB3 would weaken military influence and accusing political and military leaders of enriching elites and neglecting soldiers. Meanwhile, group of former generals and senior civil servants, led by retired Air Marshal Henry Muchena, 3 June said they met Mnangagwa twice in May in attempt to persuade him to reconsider bill. Constitutional Court 17 June dismissed legal challenge to bill brought by war veterans.

Civil society voiced opposition to CAB3, faced further intimidation. Constitution Defenders Forum civic group 18 June call parliament's approval of bill "dark and regrettable", later called CAB3 "a calculated constitutional coup"; police 23 June raided group's offices in capital Harare and arrested one of its leaders. Another civil society group, WeThePeople, 26 June urged Mnangagwa to submit CAB3 to referendum before signing it into law. Opposition and civil society figures faced anonymous threats. Notably, human rights activists Youngerson Matete 6 June received bullet through post alongside warning to withdraw legal challenge to CAB3.

Zimbabwe secured seat on UN Security Council (UNSC). Zimbabwe 3 June elected to one of three non-permanent African seats at UNSC for 2027-2028 term, receiving 182 of 191 votes.

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Asia-Pacific

Afghanistan JUNE 2026

Kabul and Islamabad traded cross-border attacks amid worsening acrimony over militancy in Pakistan's border provinces, raising the rospect of intensifying hostilities.

Islamabad and Kabul traded attacks, which could escalate. In response to deadly militant attack (see Pakistan), Islamabad 10 June launched cross-border airstrikes on alleged Pakistani Taliban (TTP) sites in Kunar, Khost and Paktika provinces; strikes killed at least thirteen civilians, according to UN's Afghanistan mission (UNAMA), while Islamabad same day claimed its attack killed 26 "militants" affiliated with TTP. Afghan Taliban 18 June launched drone strikes in Pakistan's Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, targeting hideouts allegedly used by Islamic State Khorasan Province (IS-KP); Pakistani officials refuted allegations of IS-KP presence and claimed to have intercepted drones. China reportedly sought to organise talks but prospects appeared dim. In further escalation, militants 27 June killed three paramilitary rangers in Pakistan's Karachi city, which Pakistan blamed on armed faction Jamaat-ul-Arhar (aligned with TTP), calling it "Indian proxy" and identifying perpetrators as Afghan nationals. In response, Pakistan 28-29 June launched strikes in Afghanistan and ground assault, claiming to have killed 25 militants; Kabul said strikes killed "dozens of civilians". Underscoring retaliatory cycle of violence that could escalate further in coming weeks, Kabul 30 June launched drone attacks in Pakistan; Islamabad claimed it intercepted four "rudimentary drones".

Intra-Taliban feuding resumed over mining resources in Badakhshan province (north east). Protests 7 June occurred in Nusay district, Darwaz region – home to some of Badakhshan's largest gold mines – against provincial authorities' decision to close mines; local Taliban commander Juma Khan Fatih appeared to resist Kabul's attempts dismantle his control over mining. Taliban 23 June reportedly removed Fatih from his role as deputy governor of Zabul province as he opted to remain in his stronghold in Badakhshan, where he claims to command thousands of fighters. Tensions raised prospect of intra-Taliban clashes.

In Herat city, Taliban arrests sparked protests and anti-Taliban groups staged attacks. Taliban 6-7 June arbitrarily detained at least 30 women for allegedly violating dress code in Herat city (west); subsequent crackdown on protests against detentions in city's Shia-inhabited Jebrail area killed at least one, according to UN. In response, Afghanistan Freedom Front 12 June claimed killing three Taliban morality police personnel in Herat city. National Resistance Front claimed killing two Taliban fighters in Herat's Enjil district on 15 June.

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Bangladesh JUNE 2026

The former ruling Awami League party stepped up its activity ahead of local elections expected to start in September, while immigration returned as a major flashpoint in relations with India.

Despite ban on political activism, Awami League began to reassert itself. Govt 16 June announced local elections were likely to take place in stages from Sept, after monsoon season. Despite formal ban on Awami League's political activities, PM's advisor 9 June stated party's members would be allowed to individually contest elections, provided they do not use party's "name and slogans". Awami League increased political activities in June. Most notably, over 100 activists from party's student wing, Bangladesh Chhatra League, 1-3 June held five rallies in Chattogram city; police arrested 68 activists. Risk of political violence continued as Awami League and ruling Bangladesh National Party (BNP) 6 June clashed in Noakhali district, injuring nine. Assailants 12 June killed BNP leader in Khulna city and day after killed youth wing member in Chattogram.

India resumed forcible deportations across Bangladeshi border. After new leader of India's West Bengal state (bordering Bangladesh) announced deportation campaign directed at undocumented Bangladeshis and Rohingya, Border Guard Bangladesh 4 June said it thwarted multiple attempts by India's Border Security Force to "push in" people across border, with dozens reportedly stranded in no man's land. At 8-11 June annual meeting of border force heads, Bangladesh urged India to cease "push-ins" and mid-June formally protested India's construction of barbed-wire fencing along border. Bangladesh's home minister 17 June told parliament Border Guard Bangladesh had prevented 36 push-in attempts since West Bengal elections.

Amid economic challenges, govt unveiled budget unprecedented in scale. Govt early June raised fuel prices for second time in six weeks and hiked electricity prices by 16%; Dhaka hopes U.S.-Iran deal to end war can end global energy disruption (see Iran). Govt 11 June presented largest budget in country's history, with new welfare programs and hiked health and education spending.

Govt signalled intent to engage Arakan Army in Myanmar. FM Khalilur Rahman 17 June told parliament govt was trying to establish dialogue between Myanmar's administration and Arakan Army, which controls much of Rakhine State, citing need for stable environment to facilitate return of Rohingya refugees.

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China-U.S. JUNE 2026

Beijing and Washington continued to manage relations amid persistent "irritants" and trade tensions.

U.S. announced intention to manage ties with Beijing. During Senate Foreign Re-lations Committee hearing on 2 June, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated there are still significant irritants in U.S.-China relations, but two countries need to keep talking to prevent flashpoints from erupting; Rubio clarified Washington is try-ing to manage period of "strategic stability", while recognising that areas exist where both countries would compete for decades to come. U.S. President Trump 17 June described Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Putin as "neutral" during U.S.-Israeli war against Iran, claiming that Xi was helpful in resolving conflict because he did not send "big weaponry" or "shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles" to Tehran (see Iran). Earlier, South China Morning Post 1 June reported Trump urged Xi to help end Ukraine war by bringing Putin back to negotiating table with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy.

Trade tensions persisted. U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent 3 June claimed China is "very interested" in purchasing additional Boeing aircraft, suggesting that Beijing may commit to larger purchase when Xi visits U.S. in Sept. Bessent's re-marks came after U.S. announced new wave of proposed tariffs against 60 countries, including China, for allegedly committing forced labour; Beijing 3 June criticised new tariffs, arguing that trade war was in no one's interest. China 22 June added 10 U.S.-based companies to its export control list and banned procurement from 50 U.S. companies, in retaliation against U.S. decision early June to put some of China's most well-established companies onto its blacklist for alleged ties with Chinese military.

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China/Japan JUNE 2026

Beijing continued its maritime presence in the disputed East China Sea, while the months-long diplomatic rift between Tokyo and Beijing rumbled on.

China continued maritime presence in East China Sea. As of 29 June, Japan spot-ted 104 Chinese vessels in Japan's contiguous zone, with four detected within Japan's territorial sea. Further afield, Japan's Defence Ministry 1 June reported China's aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, and its accompanying vessels were cruising east of Philippines late May. China and Russia 27 June conducted 11th joint strategic air patrol over Sea of Japan, East China Sea and Western Pacific, involving some 15 aircraft.

Diplomatic spat persisted between China and Japan. Amid diplomatic rift that began Nov 2025, Japan's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi 17 May stated that "there have not been many opportunities for direct communication recently" with China but "Japan is always open to dialogue". After U.S., Japan and South Korea 8-9 June held "Extended Deterrence" dialogue – with U.S. reaffirming its commitment to defend Japan using all available capabilities, including nuclear forces – China 18 June expressed concern, warning that policies to boost deterrence increase risks of nuclear proliferation and conflict. China's Commerce Ministry 29 June added 20 Japanese companies, including several leading defence companies, to its export control list, thus banning Chinese and foreign companies from selling dual-use items to them; Beijing accused them of contributing to Japan's "remilitarisation", prompting Tokyo to denounce decision as "unacceptable and extremely regrettable".

Tokyo and Manila continued to deepen ties. After Japan and Philippines in May agreed to elevate bilateral relations to comprehensive strategic partnership, Philip-pine FM Theresa Lazaro 4 June stated Manila and Japan increasingly view East Chi-na Sea and South China Sea as single security theatre; Lazaro added that pair's mari-time delimitation talks over waters east of Taiwan are bilateral, thus excluding Tai-wan. Tokyo and Manila 15 June announced Japanese Self-Defence Forces would join parachute training in Philippines' Batanes islands facing Taiwan as part of annual Philippines-U.S. exercise running to 1 July.

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India JUNE 2026

The ethnic conflict in Manipur state in the far north east continued to simmer amid persistent armed violence, while immigration returned as a major flashpoint in relations with Bangladesh.

In Manipur, militants continued lethal attacks. Unidentified gunmen 5 June killed three Kuki villagers and torched seven houses in Kangpokpi district; Kuki Inpi, apex body of Kuki community, same day blamed attack on Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagalim, which dismissed allegations. The Kuki groups reiterated their demand for separate administration for community. Following intervention by church and civic groups, Naga armed groups 9 June released 14 Kuki civilians held hostage for month. Police 10 June located bodies of six Naga civilians allegedly abducted by Kuki armed groups in May, with hundreds 20 June marching in state capital Imphal to demand justice for victims. Unidentified attackers 11 June killed two Kuki civilians in Kamjong district. After Kuki and Naga communities 15 June exchanged fire, with at least three Kuki civilians injured, Meitei protesters 16 June clashed with police after trying to storm hospital and abduct the wounded. Meanwhile, anti-militant operations continued. Security forces 17 June claimed they killed suspected militant associated with United Kuki National Army in Churachandpur district, although village authorities claimed suspect was civilian. Security forces 18 June arrested four alleged members of Kangleipak Communist Party-People's War Group for allegedly handing out grenades around East Imphal district.

India resumed forcible deportations across Bangladeshi border. After ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) win in May elections in West Bengal (which borders Bangladesh), and new Chief Minister announcing deportation campaign directed at undocumented Bangladeshis and Rohingya, Border Guard Bangladesh 4 June said it thwarted multiple attempts by India's Border Security Force to "push in" people across border. At 8-11 June annual meeting of border force heads, Bangladesh urged India to cease push-ins (see Bangladesh).

India and China resumed diplomatic engagement. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese FM Wang Yi 22 June held talks on sidelines of BRICS meeting in New Delhi, as India noted "progress towards gradual normalisation"; it was fourth meeting between the special representatives on disputed boundary question since talks resumed in Dec 2024.

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India-Pakistan (Kashmir) JUNE 2026

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah continued to demand statehood for Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), while ties between India and Pakistan remained severely strained.

Chief Minister sought support from opposition alliance for statehood. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah 8 June requested national opposition INDIA bloc to join protest in capital New Delhi set for 20 July, the first day of parliament's upcoming monsoon session, to demand restoration of J&K's statehood. Reactions from regional parties was mixed. Earlier, opposition leader Mehbooba Mufti, from People's Democratic Party, 2 June called for "united outreach" to PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to initiate sustained dialogue with people of J&K.

Lull in militant activity continued amid security operations. Security operation launched late May in forests of Jammu's Rajouri district saw ongoing combing operations. Security forces 12 June arrested alleged Pakistani national in north Kashmir's Kupwara district; 19 June arrested two people, including forest department employee, for allegedly providing support to local militants in Kishtwar district. Officials 21 June said govt scaled up security measures ahead of upcoming Hindu pilgrimage, Amarnath Yatra, set for 3 July-28 Aug in bid to prevent militant attacks.

India and Pakistan traded barbs over regional Pakistani election and water pact. Ahead of 7 June elections for regional assembly in Gilgit-Baltistan, autonomous administrative territory of Pakistan, India 5 June objected to polls and claimed that Jammu and Kashmir, including "the so-called Gilgit-Baltistan", belonged to India; Islamabad same day rejected "unfounded assertions". Pakistan 4 June denounced India's plans to divert water from Chenab River, allocated to Pakistan under Indus Waters Treaty, describing it as "grave violation" and warning Pakistan "maintains all options necessary" to safeguard rights under treaty. India's Minister of Water CR Patil 10 June stated intention to ensure "not a single drop of water" will flow into Pakistan; Islamabad next day warned such actions would be treated as "act of war". After lethal militant attack in Pakistan's Karachi city on 27 June, India next day rejected accusations of involvement of "Indian proxy" (see Afghanistan and Pakistan).

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Indonesia JUNE 2026

Economic discontent fuelled a new wave of student protests, while Jakarta continued developing regional defence ties and military capabilities.

Economic grievances triggered student protests. Thousands of students 12 June rallied in capital Jakarta and other cities under slogan "#MenujuIndonesiaBangkrut" ("Heading to Bankrupt Indonesia"), protesting rising living costs, rupiah depreciation and fuel price hikes after govt raised non-subsidised prices by some 30% in May. Demonstrators accused President Prabowo Subianto's ("Prabowo") govt of wasteful public spending as ordinary citizens faced mounting economic pressures.

Jakarta continued to boost defence capabilities and regional security ties. Media report 1 June claimed Defence Ministry had doubled its order for Chinese J-10C fighter aircrafts to 24, with Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin framing purchase as part of broader military modernisation; Indonesia would become second official customer for aircraft after Pakistan, showcasing Jakarta's diversification of suppliers. Japan 5 June confirmed start of formal talks with Jakarta on possible transfer of Asagiri-class destroyers to Indonesian Navy, building on cooperation framework established in May. Discussions follow incursions in recent years by Chinese coastguard ships escorting commercial fishing fleets into Indonesia's exclusive economic zone in North Natuna Sea. Indonesia and U.S. representatives 25 June met in Jakarta to discuss expanding bilateral cooperation on air defence, military capacity building and regional security. Indonesia and Australia 26 June agreed to strengthen border security cooperation at ASEAN-Australia consultation in Cambodia. Naval chiefs from Indonesia and Pakistan 25 June agreed to deepen defence cooperation and explore closer coordination on regional maritime security.

Military court convicted four over acid attack on activist. Military tribunal 10 June sentenced three navy marines and one air force officer linked to military intelligence agency to up to three years in prison over March acid attack on human rights defender, Andrie Yunus; case has intensified scrutiny over military accountability and alleged intimidation of govt critics.

Govt engaged Myanmar's leadership. In sign of growing normalisation with Myanmar after years of diplomatic isolation, FM Sugiono 8 June met Myanmar's President Min Aung Hlaing in capital Naypyitaw, describing Myanmar as "part of the ASEAN family" (see Myanmar).

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Korean Peninsula JUNE 2026

North Korea accelerated the expansion of its navy, as Seoul-Washington nuclear talks drew Pyongyang's ire; Chinese President Xi Jinping made his first visit to North Korea since 2019.

Pyongyang announced naval expansion and continued weapons tests. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un 23 June formally commissioned Choe Hyon warship, North Korea's first 5,000-tonne naval destroyer, at Nampo city on western coast; Kim claimed Pyongyang had overcome major technical barriers – possibly with Russia's assistance – and stated navy would move beyond coastal defence role to nuclear-armed tasks. Kim also announced ambitious acceleration of naval program, including construction of two 5,000-tonne warships every year for next five years, two 10,000-tonne vessels and development of both surface and underwater combat systems. Meanwhile, North Korea 25 June test fired rocket launcher, artillery systems and tactical ballistic missiles, as Kim touted bolstered fire posture along border with South Korea.

North Korea rejected U.S.-South Korea's nuclear talks. U.S. Sec State for Political Affairs Alison Hooker 2-3 June visited Seoul to discuss nuclear matters, including South Korea's pursuit of nuclear-powered submarines and desire to enrich and reprocess uranium; visit came amid apparent pushback to South Korea's nuclear designs from some parts of U.S. administration. Washington and Seoul 11 June held sixth Nuclear Consultative Group meeting, reaffirming extended deterrence and goal of North Korean denuclearisation as well expanding discussions on nuclear integration. Pyongyang 14 June rejected meeting and reiterated its nuclear status is "irreversible". Earlier, North Korea criticised comments by commander of U.S. forces in Korea, who called South Korean forces the "dagger in the heart of Asia".

Chinese visit to Pyongyang signalled warming ties. Chinese President Xi Jinping 8-9 June visited North Korea for first time in seven years, stressing strength of ties ahead of 65th anniversary of bilateral friendship treaty in early July. Readouts of meetings stressed sovereignty, security and cooperation but notably did not mention denuclearisation, suggesting China tacitly accepts North Korea's nuclear status, at least for now.

In another important development. At G7 summit, South Korean President Lee 16 June asked U.S. President Trump to lead peaceful diplomacy with North Korea.

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Myanmar JUNE 2026

The military made uneven progress in its offensives in the north and west amid resistance from armed groups, while a spurt of regional engagements signalled an easing of Myanmar's years-long diplomatic isolation.

In west, military offensive made halting progress. In northern Chin state, army continued push against resistance forces and 11 June retook road from Thantlang town to state capital Hakha. Military 7 June began campaign to retake Kalay-Tamu road in neighbouring Sagaing region, strategically important route for trade with India. Offensive in southern Chin, however, lost momentum amid fierce resistance; fighting in Mindat township reportedly displaced 17,000.

In Rakhine state (west), Arakan Army continued to rebuff military. In Kyaukphyu township, Arakan Army late May-early June repelled regime's amphibious push from strategic naval base toward Sane town, seizing several outposts in counter-offensive; base looked increasingly isolated with land routes cut. Arakan Army also kept up pressure on state capital Sittwe, with fighting reported along border of Sittwe and Ponnagyun township.

In north, military prepared further operations but faced persistent resistance. After reopening Mandalay-Myitkyina highway in May, regime sent supplies including weaponry to Kachin state and northern Sagaing ahead of expected operations against Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allies. Area, however, remained contested with resistance forces ambushing military along road, while heavy fighting was reported around Indaw and Shwegu townships as army advanced toward KIA-held Bhamo town.

In centre, govt continued reprisals against civilians. Notably, regime late May-early June allegedly killed over 40 civilians in Pakokku township, Magway region.

Regional govts pursued normalisation of ties with Myanmar. President Min Aung Hlaing 30 May-3 June visited India, in first foreign trip since becoming president, and 15-19 June undertook state visit to China, signing 18 agreements in strong public endorsement of recently-installed administration. Although regional body ASEAN remained divided over relations with regime, individual member states showed desire for engagement: notably, after Malaysia's FM Mohamad Hasan visited late May, Indonesian FM Sugiono 8 June and Laotian FM Thongsavanh Phomvihane 12-13 June visited capital Naypyitaw. Washington's policy towards regime remained ambiguous amid reports of U.S. reticence to spend $121mn in aid set aside for Myanmar.

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Pakistan JUNE 2026

Islamabad and Kabul traded cross-border attacks amid worsening acrimony over militancy in the border provinces, raising the prospect of intensifying hostilities; protests in Pakistan-administered Kashmir turned deadly.

Islamabad and Kabul traded attacks amid lethal militancy in border regions. In deadliest attack of June in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, militants 9 June killed six paramilitary personnel and injured four on outskirts of Peshawar city. In response, Pakistan 10 June launched airstrikes on alleged Pakistani Taliban (TTP) sites in Afghanistan's Kunar, Khost and Paktika provinces, killing at least 13 civilians, according to UN's Afghanistan mission (UNAMA), while Islamabad claimed its attack killed 26 "militants" affiliated with TTP. In retaliation, Afghan Taliban launched drone strikes in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, targeting hideouts allegedly used by Islamic State Khorasan Province (IS-KP); Pakistani officials refuted allegations of IS-KP presence and claimed to have intercepted drones. China reportedly sought to organise talks but prospects appeared slim. In further escalation, militants 27 June killed three paramilitary rangers in Karachi city, which Pakistan blamed on armed group Jamaat-ul-Arhar (aligned with TTP), calling it "Indian proxy" and identifying perpetrators as Afghan nationals. In response, Pakistan 28-29 June launched additional strikes in Afghanistan and ground assault, claiming to have killed 25 militants; Kabul claimed strikes killed "dozens of civilians". Underscoring retaliatory cycle of violence that could escalate further in coming weeks, Kabul 30 June launched drone attacks in Pakistan; Islamabad claimed it intercepted four "rudimentary drones".

Deadly violence roiled Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Election Commission in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) – semi-autonomous state in Pakistan-administered Kashmir – 5 June announced regional polls for 27 July; civil society alliance Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), which staged mass protests in Sept-Oct 2025, demanded abolition of 12 seats reserved since 1947 for refugees from Indian-administered Kashmir. AJK govt same day banned JAAC under anti-terrorism act and arrested scores of leaders and activists in crackdown that killed activist in Poonch district. The death 7 June sparked violent clashes between protestors and police, killing seven demonstrators and four police officers; civilian death toll 7-14 June reportedly reached 20. While protests subsided, violence could surge again around July elections.

Pakistan facilitated U.S.-Iran diplomatic deal. In major diplomatic breakthrough after weeks of painstaking mediation, PM Shehbaz Sharif 14 June announced U.S. and Iran had reached Memorandum of Understanding (see Iran).

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Philippines JUNE 2026

Insecurity persisted in the Bangsamoro region ahead of inaugural parliamentary elections set for September, while the military sustained pressure on Communist militants.

Sporadic violence in Bangsamoro region continued. Firefight linked to suspected drug deal 2 June killed four and wounded four in Barangay Malingao, Kadayangan (part of Special Geographic Area of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, BARMM); subsequent shooting 4 June, with suspected links to 2 June firefight, forced evacuation of some 800 villagers. Gunmen 12 June shot dead commander of Moro Islamic Liberation front (MILF) in Barangay Tuayan Mother, Maguindanao del Sur province; authorities investigated potential links to recent surge in gun attacks in area in recent months, while local Teduray tribal leaders have alleged that non-Tedurays were attempting to violently seize Teduray state-recognized ancestral land. Meanwhile, ahead of BARMM's inaugural parliamentary elections slated for 14 Sept and amid delays in final phase of MILF decommissioning, concerns continued about intra-MILF rifts. In positive sign, MILF peace panel chief Mohagher Iqbal 12 June publicly welcomed newly-appointed officials to Manila's Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity – signalling intent to maintain working relations.

Military continued operations against Communist rebels. Clashes between govt forces and communist rebels in Visayas (Negros Occidental) resulted in at least three casualties in June. Military commander 2 June stated rebels in Northern Mindanao and Caraga regions have been "dismantled", with merely a "handful" of combatants left in field.

In another important development. President Marcos Jr and ASEAN leaders 18 June met Russian President Putin and adopted Kazan Declaration 2026, aimed at deepening cooperation between ASEAN and Russia; engagement signals ASEAN's balancing strategy in foreign relations and intent to refrain from rigid blocs.

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South China Sea JUNE 2026

Tensions mounted between Beijing and Manila in the South China Sea (SCS) over a temporary Chinese structure at the contested Scarborough Shoal, while the Philippines deepened regional ties.

Maritime tensions between Philippines and China centred on Scarborough Shoal. Manila 9 June announced formal protest with China over "illegal presence" of float-ing structure near entrance of disputed Scarborough Shoal; Armed Forces of Philip-pines chief Gen. Romeo Brawner said Manila would not allow installation to grow into artificial island. In response, China claimed "indisputable sovereignty" over shoal and denied platform had military purpose, calling it part of scientific expedition; media reports suggested U.S. had also raised issue with Beijing. Philippines 17 June confirmed Beijing had removed the structure. Four Chinese warships 20 June engaged in standoff with Philippine naval vessel near Scarborough Shoal; incident coincided with end of joint military exercise involving more than 7,000 troops from U.S., Philippines, Japan, New Zealand and Australia. Fuelling bilateral tensions, China 11 June barred Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro and family from entering country. Separately, Radio Free Asia 8 June reported satellite imagery showing Vietnam building military infrastructure at 27 sites across eighteen reefs in disputed Spratly Islands.

Manila deepened defence and diplomatic ties with allies and partners. Philippine President Marcos Jr and Vietnamese President To Lam 1 June elevated bilateral re-lations to enhanced strategic partnership and signed memorandum focused on mar-itime security, reaffirming peace and freedom of navigation in SCS "remains non-negotiable". Philippines, U.S. and Japan 8 June held second trilateral maritime dialogue in Manila, reaffirming 2016 ruling of Permanent Court of Arbitration and opposing "any unilateral attempts to change status quo by force". Philippine FM Theresa Lazaro 4 June said Manila and Japan increasingly viewed East China Sea and SCS as single connected security theatre. Tokyo and Manila 15 June announced Japanese Self-Defence Forces would join parachute training in Batanes islands facing Taiwan as part of annual Philippine-U.S. exercise running to 1 July.

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Sri Lanka JUNE 2026

The government faced criticism over its use of controversial anti-terror laws and apparent disinterest in expediting the reestablishment of provincial councils, while the investigation into the 2019 Easter bombings advanced.

Govt's use of anti-terror laws came into sharp focus. Police 2 June arrested popular Tamil rapper Ganeshkumar Sangeethsan under Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) for allegedly promoting banned Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Attorney General 12 June withdrew PTA charge and filed new charges under Section 120 of Penal Code, allowing magistrate to grant bail and release Sangeethsan. Justice Minister Harshana Nanayakkara 19 June told parliament long-awaited legislation to repeal and replace PTA would soon be presented to cabinet and introduced in parliament. Parliament 23 June debated bill to repeal Online Safety Act, another key reform promised by ruling National People's Power supported by EU and various UN bodies. President Dissanayake 25 June reaffirmed govt's commitment to repealing and replacing PTA and Online Safety Act.

Investigation into Easter Sunday bombings continued to stoke controversy. Public Security Minister Ananda Wijepala 10 June told parliament police investigations uncovered evidence that former State Intelligence Director, Maj Gen Suresh Sallay – detained by police under PTA for alleged involvement in 2019 Easter suicide bombings – had "conspired with and strategically directed" small team of Sri Lankan Islamist militants who carried out attacks. Sallay 6 June began hunger strike to protest alleged abuse in police custody. Human Rights Commission 16 June announced it was investigating Sallay's allegations, which opposition politicians from former Rajapaksa govts have used in coordinated campaign to present Sallay as unjustly framed. Colombo magistrate overseeing investigation 3 June approved police request for foreign travel ban on former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa and two retired intelligence officers; Gotabaya 16 June petitioned High Court to issue injunction to prevent police arresting him in case.

Govt faced criticism over failure to expedite provincial elections. PM Harini Amarasuriya 10 June told parliament long-delayed provincial council elections will only be held following introduction of new election law to ensure proportional representation and women and youth participation. Move drew criticism from Tamil and other opposition parties for ruling out fastest option of holding one-time-only election under previous proportional representation system.

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Taiwan Strait JUNE 2026

China maintained its aerial and maritime presence around Taiwan, with the South China Sea increasingly becoming a site of contestation; Taiwan conducted military exercises with an eye on a potential Chinese attack.

Beijing continued military activity around Taiwan and expanded into South China Sea (SCS). As of 29 June, Taiwan detected 193 Chinese military aircraft around island, of which at least 124 crossed unofficial "median line" or were detected in Taiwan's de facto air defence identification zone. Taiwan spotted 208 naval vessels in surrounding waters. Chinese aircraft carrier, the Fujian, 23 June sailed through Taiwan Strait in first such passage since April. Earlier, Taiwanese Defence Minister Wellington Koo 1 June said navy will support coast guard around Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands in SCS amid intensified Chinese activity in area, noting 39 incursions recorded near islands since Feb 2025. Taiwanese and Chinese coast guards 5 June engaged in tense standoff near Pratas Islands, second in fortnight. Also in SCS, two Chinese vessels 11 June entered waters around Taiwan-controlled Itu Abu island for first time. China 6-10 June conducted maritime "law enforcement operation" in waters east of Taiwan, as Taipei accused Beijing of harassing commercial ships; UK, U.S., France and Germany 24 June expressed concern about China's operations. China rejected protests.

Taipei tested ability to respond to Chinese invasion. Taiwanese forces 9-10 June conducted live-fire drills, practicing repelling Chinese amphibious invasion on banks of Dajai river, and 22-26 June conducted combat readiness drills as Wellington Koo stated that "warning time is shortening" for potential Chinese attack. Taiwanese govt 18 June proposed $6.6bn special budget for domestically-produced drones, offsetting opposition-controlled parliament's cuts to previous defence bill. President Lai 16 June pledged to increase defence spending and 18 June reiterated desire for talks with China based on "parity and respect".

U.S. signalled no policy shift on Taiwan. After comments by U.S. President Trump in May fuelled concerns about shift in policy vis-à-vis Taiwan, U.S. Sec State Marco Rubio 2 June insisted maintaining "status quo" was best way to ensure stability; Rubio added that $14bn arms package to Taipei would not be held up by Beijing-Washington relations.

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Thailand JUNE 2026

Cambodia and Thailand agreed to begin a UN conciliation process to resolve the maritime border dispute, while militant violence in the deep south persisted.

Cambodia and Thailand launched compulsory conciliation process. Cambodia 2 June announced initiation of compulsory conciliation process under UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to resolve maritime boundary dispute with Thailand, appointing Danish and French experts as conciliators. FM Sihasak Phuangketkeow 5 June said Thailand would join UN conciliation process, while PM Anutin Charnvirakul paused all other bilateral talks with Cambodia; Thailand 16 June appointed South African and German experts as conciliators. Tensions along land border continued concurrently: Cambodia 24 June lodged formal protest with Thailand after Bangkok installed boundary markers in several locations along border.

Insurgent violence in deep south persisted. Head of govt's delegation to Peace Dialogue in Southern Border Provinces, Thanut Suvarnananda, 6 June met with Southern Border Provinces Civil Society Council Association as part of effort to canvas views from various sectors ahead of meeting with main separatist armed group, Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN), which took place 12 June. Meanwhile, militant attacks continued. In Narathiwat province, ranger was 1 June killed in operation to arrest suspected insurgents in Chanae district. Militants 4 June ambushed and killed defence volunteer in Sungai Padi district. Gunmen 7 June ambushed defence volunteer in Tak Bai district. Gunmen 10 June opened fire on patrol of national park officials in Sungai Padi district. Bomb attack 19 June injured five security officers in Mayo province. In Pattani province, security forces 4 June killed two suspected insurgents in counter-insurgency operation in Khok Pho district. IED attack 11 June targeted security forces convoy in Mayo district, wounding six volunteer defence corps members. In Yala province, IED targeting police officers 9 June wounded three and one civilian in Raman district. IED targeting border patrol police officers 19 June wounded six officers in Thanto district. Militants 26 June killed defence volunteer in Yarang, Pattani. Assailants 28 June bombed three petrol stations in Muang district, Yala, and Saiburi and Yaring districts, Pattani.

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Europe

Armenia JUNE 2026

Prime Minister Pashinyan's ruling Civil Contract party swept to victory in a hotly contested parliamentary election that took on geopolitical hues; Azerbaijan responded positively to the outcome, raising hopes for sustained momentum in the peace process.

Ruling party clinched victory in hotly contested poll. Pashinyan's Civil Contract party won nearly 50% of vote in 7 June parliamentary elections, ahead of Strong Armenia and Armenia Alliance, which came second and third respectively. Fourth-placed Prosperous Armenia received just under 4% of vote, the threshold to be represented in parliament, after electoral authorities annulled results in three precincts. Opposition and independent election monitors criticised move, which helped Civil Contract secure stronger majority. Citing this and other irregularities, opposition refused to recognise results. Pashinyan, meanwhile, 11 June accused opposition forces of widespread vote-buying and threatened their leaders; prosecutors subsequently brought charges against two opposition figures, Gagik Tsarukyan and Robert Kocharyan, while Russian-Armenian billionaire Samvel Karapetyan, who leads Strong Armenia, remained under house arrest.

Moscow stepped up pressure on Yerevan amid latter's tilt toward Europe. Vote took place under heavy Russian criticism of Pashinyan, who has sought to diversify Yerevan's foreign policy away from dependence on Moscow. Following election, Russia 12 June expanded restrictions on imports of Armenian agricultural products first imposed in run-up to vote. EU responded to growing pressure by preparing over €50mn aid package.

Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process continued. Baku responded cautiously but positively to election outcome and, one week later, highly influential presidential aide Hikmet Hajiyev travelled to Armenian city of Dilijan for talks with Security Council Secretary Armen Grigoryan; visit suggested that both govts are attempting to create more stable framework for normalisation, confidence-building and regional cooperation. Obstacles to finalising peace deal remain, however, including Baku's demand that Armenia remove references to Nagorno-Karabakh from its constitution. Pashinyan's party fell short of two-thirds majority needed to call referendum on new constitution and opposition parties are unlikely to support calls for plebiscite. Meanwhile, in important step for regional connectivity, Armenia and Azerbaijan's leading telecom companies 22 June agreed to route international internet traffic through each other's telecommunications infrastructure.

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Azerbaijan JUNE 2026

Baku appeared to welcome Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan's electoral victory as a positive development for the peace process; meanwhile, a U.S. media report alleged that Israel deployed military units to Azerbaijan during the Iran war.

Baku signalled cautious support for Pashinyan's electoral victory. Baku responded cautiously but positively to outcome of Armenia's 7 June parliamentary elections, viewing Pashinyan's victory as important for maintaining momentum in peace talks and broader normalisation process (see Armenia). In symbolic move, President Aliyev's highly influential aide, Hikmet Hajiyev, travelled to Armenian city of Dilijan one week after elections for talks with Armenia's Security Council Secretary Armen Grigoryan; visit suggested that both govts are attempting to create more stable framework for normalisation, confidence-building and regional cooperation. Obstacles to finalising peace deal remain, however, chief among them Baku's demand for removal of references to Nagorno-Karabakh in Armenia's constitution. Pashinyan's party fell short of two-thirds majority needed to call referendum on new constitution and opposition parties are unlikely to support calls for plebiscite. Meanwhile, in important step for regional connectivity, Azerbaijan and Armenia's leading telecom companies 22 June agreed to route international internet traffic through each other's telecommunications infrastructure.

Israel allegedly deployed forces to Azerbaijan during Iran war. Media outlet CNN 5 June published report claiming that Israel secretly deployed elite military and intelligence units to Azerbaijan during U.S.-Israeli war with Iran to facilitate operations against Tehran, suggesting that cooperation between Baku and Tel Aviv may have extended beyond previously known defence and intelligence ties. Baku responded furiously, calling report "entirely baseless" and noting that Azerbaijan would never allow its territory to be used for such purposes. Allegations attracted considerable attention because they implied that South Caucasus is becoming increasingly connected to broader Iran-Israel rivalry and could face additional geopolitical pressure as a result.

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Belarus JUNE 2026

Tensions between Minsk and Kyiv escalated amid fears that Belarus could be dragged deeper into Russia's war with Ukraine; meanwhile, President Lukashenko and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping reaffirmed strong bilateral ties.

Fears grew that Belarus could play bigger role in Ukraine war. Tensions between Belarus and Ukraine sharply deteriorated after drone 17 June hit bus in Russia's Bryansk region carrying children's football team from Belarus; strike killed one and injured eight. Belarus blamed Ukraine, which has been escalating aerial attacks on Russian territory (see Russia), though Kyiv denied involvement. Ukrainian President Zelenskyy next day accused Minsk of facilitating Russian strikes on Ukrainian territory from Belarus and said that Minsk had one week to remove signal relay stations allegedly used to guide strikes or face "extremely dangerous consequences"; Zelenskyy subsequently claimed equipment had gone offline. Lukashenko 25 June said during meeting with Russian Ambassador Boris Gryzlov in Minsk that Russia was pressing Belarus to become more directly involved in war and reiterated that Belarusians do not want to fight Ukrainians. Lukashenko following day met Russian President Putin at his residence in Valdai (north west Russia). Official readouts gave only a broad description of agenda, saying pair discussed bilateral cooperation, joint projects, international issues and regional situation. Despite fears of second front opening up, there was no evidence of significant military build-up by Russian or Ukrainian forces on either side of Belarus-Ukraine border, and Ukraine's Commander-in-Chief Oleksandr Syrskyi 30 June said use of Belarus as "staging area for an offensive operation" was unlikely (see Ukraine).

Lukashenko met with Xi Jinping shortly after holding talks with Putin. Lukashenko travelled to China from Russia and 29 June held talks with Xi Jinping, who said bilateral ties are reaching a "historic peak" and described relationship as "ironclad". Beijing also reaffirmed its support for Belarus' national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

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Georgia JUNE 2026

A court handed down more prison sentences over election protests in October 2025, Tbilisi's relations with the EU and U.S. remained strained, and the de facto leader of South Ossetia breakaway region resigned and became an adviser to Russian President Putin.

More individuals involved in Oct 2025 anti-govt protests received prison sentences. Tbilisi City Court 22 June sentenced eight people to five-year prison terms for their participation in Oct 2025 demonstrations, which comes amid steadily intensifying domestic crackdown. Court 29 June also handed prison sentence to opposition politician Zviad Kuprava for calling for "overthrow" of govt ahead of vote.

Georgia's relations with EU and U.S. saw few signs of improvement. Notably, EU Enlargement Commissioner Marta Kos 15 June announced bloc was discussing "safeguards" to prevent new EU member states from backsliding on reforms or abusing veto rights; Parliament Speaker Shalva Papuashvili next day seized on comments, saying Georgia would only enjoy second-class membership if it were to join EU. Meanwhile, U.S. Sec-State Marco Rubio 3 June said in response to question from Republican lawmaker Joe Wilson that Georgia needs to change its behaviour, dashing hopes for rapid reset in relations. Rubio did, however, acknowledge Georgia's efforts to improve relations, saying "hopefully we can build on that basis".

De facto leader of South Ossetia resigned and became adviser to Russian president. Alan Gagloev 23 June stepped down as de facto president of South Ossetia and became adviser to Putin. In his resignation address, Gagloev reportedly referred to "Treaty on Deepening Allied Cooperation" signed between Tskhinvali and Moscow in May, saying it will help region "reunite with Great Russia". Georgian civil society representatives 28 June issued statement condemning "ongoing process of de facto annexation of Georgia's occupied regions" and called for "timely and coordinated" response by international organisations.

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Kosovo JUNE 2026

Prime Minister Kurti's Vetëvendosje party won snap parliamentary polls but fell short of the majority needed to govern alone, likely prolonging the political crisis; meanwhile, NATO announced cuts to peacebuilding troops in the Serb-majority north.

Ruling party won snap elections but lacked majority to break political deadlock. PM Kurti's Vetëvendosje party 7 June won third parliamentary poll in 18 months but fell short of decisive majority needed to govern alone. Shortly after declaring victory, Kurti called for cooperation with all parties to break deadlock, though deep polarisation could undermine his attempts to cobble together coalition, prolonging political crisis. Ahead of elections, EU Council President António Costa 3 June travelled to Kosovo and urged political actors to set aside their differences, saying Pristina needs "strong, stable and functional institutions" to implement reforms and seize opportunities offered by EU. Costa 4 June also visited Serbia as he pushed sides to continue EU-led dialogue.

NATO announced reduction of peacekeeping force. NATO 12 June announced it would cut number of peacekeepers from 4,700 to 3,000-3,500 over next year, citing improved security situation in north; alliance bolstered its presence following Sept 2023 clashes between heavily armed Serbs and Kosovo police in Banjska village.

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Kyrgyzstan JUNE 2026

The trial against former security chief Kamchybek Tashiev continued, while Bishkek completed a land swap with Tashkent and won a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

Tashiev's trial continued. Trial of Kamchybek Tashiev, former head of State Committee for National Security (GKNB), and seven others was opened to public 15 June in capital Bishkek at request of defendants, who are accused of plotting violent seizure of power and abuse of office. Court hearings were tense, with Tashiev notably shouting at one witness, leading court 22 June to re-close trial. Prosecutors reportedly requested nine years of jail time for all defendants. Meanwhile, President Japarov reshuffled security services, notably dismissing Zhumbalbek Shabdanbekov as head of GKNB in late June, several months after he assumed post.

Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan completed land exchange. Authorities 23 June announced transfer of Chungara and Tash-Tobo villages – home to around 2,500 residents – from Uzbekistan to Kyrgyzstan as part of ongoing implementation of countries' 2023 border agreement; in exchange, Bishkek transferred equal sized plot of land to Uzbekistan.

In another important development. Kyrgyzstan 3 June won race to become non-permanent member of UN Security Council 2027-2028 for first time ever, defeating Philippines for Asia-Pacific seat after four rounds of voting.

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Russia JUNE 2026

Washington's haphazard peace efforts between Moscow and Kyiv remained on pause, Russia and Russian-occupied territory faced fuel shortages amid Ukraine's repeated aerial attacks on logistics and key infrastructure, and Western actors piled on fresh sanctions.

Peace talks remained at standstill. With U.S.-led negotiations on pause, Ukrainian President Zelenskyy 4 June sent Putin open letter calling for face-to-face talks. Putin 5 June said he saw "no point" in meeting, 23 June said Russia is prepared to negotiate "based on the agreements reached in Istanbul, on the modalities discussed in Anchorage, and, most importantly, on the realities on the ground"; remarks indicated that he has not backed down from his maximalist demands, including Ukraine's neutrality and relinquishing territory it holds in Donbas region. Separately, Kyiv's European backers increased their diplomatic activity with Russia. Notably, French, German and British ambassadors 11 June held rare meeting with Deputy FM Mikhail Galuzin, while European Council President António Costa reportedly sought to establish direct line of communication with Kremlin. FM Lavrov 19 June accused Europe of using diplomacy as "cover for expansionist ambitions".

Russia and Russian-occupied territory faced fuel crisis amid Ukraine's intensifying airstrikes. Ukraine waged near-daily strikes across Russia targeting oil and military facilities, as well as Russian logistics. Notably, Kyiv 3 June launched wave of strikes on oil terminal in city of St Petersburg and Russia's Baltic Fleet base in port city of Kronstadt, 18 June targeted Moscow with 200 drones in attack on capital, striking oil refinery. Ukraine's repeated attacks reportedly pushed oil refining volumes to 16-year low, with nearly all Russian regions and occupied territories consequently facing fuel restrictions. Russian-occupied Crimea experienced most severe shortages due to strikes on logistics along crucial highway linking Russia to peninsula, leading authorities to declare "emergency situation".

Western actors imposed fresh sanctions. EU Council 15 June imposed sanctions notably targeting Russian energy and military-industrial complex, UK 16 June added over 20 oil tankers to its sanctions list, and U.S. 17 June allowed waiver on Russian oil to expire after reaching Memorandum of Understanding with Iran (see Iran). Meanwhile, G7 countries 17 June pledged to increase pressure on Russian economy and expand arms deliveries to Ukraine.

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Tajikistan JUNE 2026

Six police officers went on trial over the death of an individual in custody, while Russian fuel shortages raised concern in Tajikistan, which relies on Russia for over 80% of its fuel imports.

Supreme Court 1 June began criminal case against six former police officers in capital Dushanbe accused of involvement in death of detainee in Jan; case marks rare instance of police facing prosecution over alleged mistreatment. Meanwhile, fuel prices in Tajikistan rose amid Russian supply disruptions due to Ukrainian strikes on oil infrastructure (see Russia); according to media reports in June, Ukraine's repeated attacks have pushed Russia's oil refining volumes to 16-year low. With Tajikistan reliant on Russia for over 80% of its fuel imports, Minister of Energy and Water Resources Daler Juma 19 June met with Russia's Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev to discuss "issues related to the supply of Russian oil products and gas".

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Türkiye JUNE 2026

The government and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) remained committed to the peace process, as attention turned to parliament to take the next step by adopting new legislation.

Ankara-PKK process remained on track amid slow progress. Pro-Kurdish DEM party member Mithat Sancar 7 June stated that during 24 May meeting imprisoned PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan had set out roadmap for moving process forward, specifically requesting parliament pass "framework law" before summer recess, adding there was "no time to lose"; parliament is expected to adopt law that would expedite PKK's demobilisation by, among other measures, offering path to subset of group's members to return to Türkiye or relocate to other countries. President Erdoğan 9 June reaffirmed govt's willingness to move process forward, arguing that successful completion would strengthen country's domestic front. Parliament speaker Numan Kurtulmuş same day reiterated need for legal steps to advance progress.

Main opposition party remained in disarray. After Ankara appeals court in May suspended CHP chair Özgür Özel and reinstated former CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, leadership struggle ensued between the pair. Özel 18 June submitted petition signed by 833 of 1,130 CHP delegates demanding extraordinary party congress; key question is whether party can maintain cohesion to avoid splintering.

Ankara welcomed U.S.-Iran deal. After Pakistan 14 June announced U.S. and Iran agreed Memorandum of Understanding to formally end war, reopen Strait of Hormuz and begin negotiations on nuclear issues (see Iran), Erdoğan next day said he "sincerely hoped" deal would establish lasting peace and security, and 19 June added Ankara would remain engaged in supportive diplomacy; conflict had raised prospect of several security risks and heaped economic pressure on country.

Eastern Mediterranean tensions continued to simmer. U.S. 12 June hosted Greece, Republic of Cyprus and Israel for launch of East Med Energy Center, a new platform for cooperation on energy security, technology, innovation and critical infrastructure. Erdoğan previous day warned that any threat to rights of Türkiye or Turkish Cypriots in Eastern Mediterranean would draw "very clear and very firm" response; new initiative will likely reinforce Ankara's worries about being excluded from energy-related cooperation in region amid tensions with Israel.

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Ukraine JUNE 2026

Frontline fighting continued, though Russian advances were blunted by Ukraine's innovative drone tactics; meanwhile, President Zelenskyy proposed direct talks with Russian President Putin and introduced long-awaited military reforms.

Ukrainian drone tactics blunted Russian advances, while airstrikes continued. Fierce fighting continued along line of contact as Russia tightened its stranglehold on southernmost city of Kostyantynivka and pushed toward northern city of Sloviansk, both "fortress belt" cities defending remainder of Ukrainian-held Donetsk region. But Ukraine's growing use of mid-range drones to disrupt Russian logistics blunted its enemy's advances and, in May, helped Kyiv recapture more territory than it lost for first time since 2023. Commander-in-Chief Oleksandr Syrskyi 30 June warned of possible Russian attack from north and said use of Belarus as "staging area for an offensive operation" was unlikely; comments came amid fears that Moscow was pushing to deepen Minsk's involvement in conflict (see Belarus). Russia, meanwhile, carried out more drone and missile strikes to pressure Kyiv amid dwindling air defences; UN 12 June said at least 274 civilians were killed and 1,763 injured in May, more than in any other month since April 2022. Ukraine also continued strikes deep inside its adversary's territory, resulting in fuel crisis (see Russia).

Kyiv proposed direct talks with Putin while rallying Western support. With U.S. mediation at a standstill, President Zelenskyy 4 June published open letter to Putin inviting him for face-to-face talks; Putin next day said he saw "no point" in meeting (see Russia). Zelenskyy also continued to seek Western assistance in purchasing and co-producing air defence missiles to ward off deadlier Russian aerial onslaught. G7 leaders 17 June praised "new momentum" on battlefield and agreed to increase Ukraine's air defence capacities and tighten sanctions on Russia. Ukraine's Western allies, meeting through Ukraine Defence Contact Group, following day pledged additional $4bn in military aid.

Zelenskyy introduced long-awaited military reforms. Amid persistent mobilisation challenges, Zelenskyy 12 June announced reforms to armed forces, including higher compensation, combat bonuses and fixed-term contracts. Reform package also envisages significantly expanding recruitment of foreign nationals into army ranks.

In another important development. EU 15 June formally opened its first accession negotiations "cluster" with Ukraine.

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Uzbekistan JUNE 2026

Tashkent completed a land swap with Bishkek as part of their 2023 border agreement, hosted a regional dialogue and boosted economic ties with Washington.

Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan completed land exchange. Kyrgyz authorities 23 June announced transfer of Chungara and Tash-Tobo villages – home to around 2,500 residents – from Uzbekistan to Kyrgyzstan as part of ongoing implementation of countries' 2023 border agreement; in exchange, Bishkek transferred equal sized plot of land to Uzbekistan.

In other important international developments. Uzbekistan 4 June hosted top officials from Central and South Asia for trade talks under format known as Termez Dialogue, interregional platform aimed at enhancing economic and security ties. Discussions about Afghanistan's integration into regional trade networks featured heavily, with Uzbekistan's first deputy FM Bakhromjon Aloev arguing that deepening engagement with Kabul could also "contribute to regional stability". Meanwhile, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce David Fogel 8 June signed memorandum of understanding with Investment Minister Laziz Kudratov reportedly aimed at "advancing interregional cooperation, expanding commercial contacts and promoting new investment projects".

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Latin America & Caribbean

Bolivia JUNE 2026

Tensions eased in Bolivia after President Paz reached a deal with the country's biggest union and announced a state of exception to remove blockades.

Anti-govt demonstrations that escalated in May, sparked by opposition to proposed agrarian reform law and economic grievances, continued into June, with protesters blocking roads across country as they called for President Paz's resignation. Clashes 8 June erupted between protesters and police in Cochabamba city after Paz signed legislation allowing govt to more easily enact emergency measures. Bolivia's leader subsequently declared 90-day state of exception on 20 June, banning roadblocks and allowing military deployments into the streets to assist police in reopening key routes. Announcement came shortly after Paz struck agreement with country's main union, Bolivian Workers' Central, to end actions; other groups involved in protests, such as Indigenous union Túpac Katari Federation and coca farmers, declared temporary pause. Soldiers and armed police began clearing roadblocks using bulldozers. Protests could re-erupt if govt fails to deliver on its agreed promises.

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Colombia JUNE 2026

The right-wing candidate Abelardo de la Espriella won by a razor-thin margin in a presidential run-off against left-wing Senator Iván Cepeda, a result that will likely bring an end to President Petro's "total peace" policy in favour of a hardline security approach.

Arch-conservative candidate won presidential election. National Electoral Council 24 June proclaimed political newcomer de la Espriella president-elect after he secured 49.66% of vote, defeating Cepeda by less than one percentage point in polarising 21 June run-off; he is due to assume office on 7 Aug. De la Espriella has vowed to conduct 90-day "shock plan" including aerial bombardment, forced coca eradication and offensives against armed and criminal groups, marking dramatic departure from outgoing President Petro's "total peace" policy; he has also promised to build mega-prisons and strengthen alignment with U.S. After receiving credentials as president-elect on 25 June, he offered armed groups 30-day window to "organise their submission" to justice system, after which he said there would be no more "generous offers". After results were announced, Petro alleged irregularities and foreign interference but ultimately recognised outcome, while Cepeda 24 June accepted defeat but 30 June objected to de la Espriella's dual U.S. nationality and alleged interest in extraditing Petro to U.S. He went on to say that he would call for "peaceful civil disobedience" against incoming govt unless these concerns were addressed by installation of congress on 20 July.

U.S. President Trump's election meddling sparked backlash. Ahead of vote, Trump publicly endorsed de la Espriella, who thanked him and said there was "full alignment" between their security policies; Petro 2 June rejected interference and urged citizens to "vote in complete freedom". Twenty Democratic U.S. lawmakers 12 June also condemned Trump's actions, while 11 more 17 June called for investigation into de la Espriella's alleged links to former paramilitary groups.

Govt-led peace efforts saw some progress. Govt 13 June ordered temporary, geographically limited suspension of operations against armed group Comandos de la Frontera from 14-19 June to facilitate movement of 99 combatants to temporary location zone in Putumayo department. Fighters 18 June surrendered weapons and moved into zone, marking first such transfer under Petro's "total peace" policy.

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Cuba JUNE 2026

The U.S. piled on new sanctions, intensifying economic pressure on Cuba and deepening humanitarian harm; faced with a mounting crisis, Havana announced broad economic reforms.

Pressure from Washington increased Havana's economic isolation. U.S. 4 June sanctioned five state-linked entities and five senior Cuban officials for "subversive anti-American activities"; 11 June designated state-owned oil company CUPET, exposing foreign firms and financial institutions dealing with Cuba's energy sector to potential secondary sanctions; 23 June expanded sanctions to five additional state-linked entities and one member of Castro family. Sanctions campaign accelerated Havana's economic isolation. Notably, airlines and financial services providers reportedly curtailed operations, while tourism – one of Cuba's principal sources of foreign currency – has been particularly impacted, with decrease in tourism revenues likely to further constrain food, fuel and medical imports. Washington maintained that sanctions relief is dependent on political and economic reforms; Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth's 10 June visit to Guantanamo Bay highlighted U.S.' increasingly coercive posture toward Cuba.

Havana introduced economic reforms but kept tight political control. Faced with U.S. pressure and growing economic crisis, President Díaz-Canel 12 June announced package of economic reforms aimed at expanding private sector activity, attracting foreign investment and allowing greater autonomy for state-owned companies. Communist party 18 June and National Assembly next day approved measures. Proposals are most ambitious restructuring of economy in decades and raised hopes of more serious diplomacy with U.S., though FM Rodriguez 30 June said talks with Washington "show no progress". Govt, meanwhile, maintained tight political control, though small protests took place in cities like Havana and Santiago de Cuba.

Humanitarian conditions worsened. Suffering on island continued to worsen amid fuel shortages – due to near-total U.S. blockade on imports – and lack of access to essential goods, water, medicine and public services. Shipments of food and other aid from regional allies – including Mexico and Belize 7 June and Colombia 12 June – were insufficient to alleviate shortages. Following Havana's proposed economic reforms, Mexico 22 June said it would seek to send oil to Cuba via private companies. Multilateral organisations expressed growing concern about humanitarian situation, with UN human rights chief Volker Türk 8 June warning that sanctions were "endangering lives".

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Ecuador JUNE 2026

As criminal violence persisted, the government expanded emergency security measures and strengthened ties with Washington; meanwhile, a "recall" effort to remove President Noboa from office gained traction amid growing opposition to his administration.

Noboa renewed state of exception and internal armed conflict status. Noboa 16 June issued new 60-day state of exception covering ten provinces and three cantons, citing serious internal unrest. Govt 18 June separately issued decree ratifying existence of internal armed conflict, which grants president power to: pardon, reduce or waive sentences against security personnel; call on National Assembly to approve amnesties for officials and civilians working in national defence; and provide immunity to foreign personnel involved in security operations. Violence persisted despite tough security measures. Notably, gunmen 14 June killed prosecutor Alexandra Bravo, who investigated organised crime, and her sister in port city of Manta, Manabí province. Bravo had been leading probe into 6 June fire that destroyed 35 fishing boats in Manta's port, though any possible link between that case and her killing remained unclear.

Quito continued to bolster security ties with Washington. Notably, Noboa 11-15 June visited U.S. capital Washington DC, where he met with Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth and National Security Adviser Stephen Miller to discuss organised crime, security cooperation and strengthening of defence capabilities. Ecuador and U.S. 22 June signed "Safe Border Implementation Charter" to combat transnational crime, drug trafficking, illegal immigration and other threats affecting border areas.

Citizens launched effort to recall Noboa. Representatives of social organisations, trade union and Indigenous groups filed two separate requests 9, 23 June with National Electoral Council (CNE) to launch recall proceedings against Noboa and VP María José Pinto. (This constitutional mechanism allows for removal of elected officials before their term ends.) If CNE approves requests – which came amid growing dissatisfaction with Noboa's administration – organisers will need to collect signatures from at least 15% of last electoral roll (roughly 2.1mn people) to trigger recall vote.

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El Salvador JUNE 2026

President Bukele registered his intention to run in 2027 elections, while his government maintained its draconian anti-gang measures and concern over prison conditions continued.

Bukele eyed third term. Bukele 28 June registered his pre-candidacy to run for third consecutive term in 2027 elections, following 2025 constitutional reforms that allows indefinite presidential re-election.

Tough stance on crime continued. Legislative Assembly 24 June renewed state of exception for 52nd time. Within that framework, mass trial against at least 485 alleged MS-13 gang members resumed 4 June, with prosecutors seeking "maximum" sentences (up to life imprisonment following constitutional amendments). Attorney General's Office 12 June filed request to open proceedings against 563 members of Barrio 18 gang for over 14,000 crimes, in what will likely be another mass trial. Meanwhile, concern about prison conditions persisted. Notably, monitors mid-June alleged prisons are holding three times as many inmates as their capacity due to mass arrests under state of exception; NGO Socorro Jurídico Humanitario 30 June reported at least 540 deaths in prison since measure came into force in March 2022. UN working group on arbitrary detention 8 June called for release of former San Salvador mayor Ernesto Muyshondt, imprisoned in 2025 for various alleged crimes including association with illicit groups.

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Haiti JUNE 2026

Security forces stepped up operations against gangs in and around the capital Port-au-Prince as the Gang Suppression Force (GSF) began patrols; meanwhile, disputes over electoral rules heightened tensions between the government and electoral authorities.

Security forces intensified operations against gangs on multiple fronts. Police and govt-sponsored security task force 1 June entered Port-au-Prince's Village de Dieu neighbourhood, controlled by 5 Segonn gang, for first time in five years; several gang members were reportedly killed. Security forces 14 June also launched offensive against 103 Zombies gang in Gressier commune (Ouest department), with footage showing helicopters allegedly operated by task force. Meanwhile, GSF 1 June announced it had begun patrolling parts of Port-au-Prince.

Inter-gang violence continued. Tensions between gangs led to renewed clashes beginning 14 June in capital's southern Cité Soleil neighbourhood, an area that had not seen inter-gang fighting since formation of Viv Ansanm coalition in 2024. Police struggled to stem violence, which was apparently over control of resources that can be extorted from nearby Varreux fuel terminal. Meanwhile, in high-profile abduction, assailants 11 June kidnapped Defence Ministry's cabinet director James Boyard, his wife and daughter in Bourdon neighbourhood, an area of Port-au-Prince considered relatively safe.

Disputes over electoral preparations continued. Council of Ministers 2 June adopted new electoral decree, drawing criticism from Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), which argued executive had exceeded its authority by substantially altering draft CEP submitted in April. Most controversially, decree created position of director general within CEP appointed by Council of Ministers and entrusted with significant authority over electoral preparations; Uder Antoine was selected for post 3 June. While UN Office in Haiti and U.S. embassy welcomed decree as important step toward elections, several political parties and civil society organisations 5, 27 June accused PM Fils-Aimé of undermining CEP's independence. Following talks between govt, CEP and political parties, govt 26 June said agreement had been reached on amendments to decree, though revised text had not been published by month's end.

In another important development. U.S. Supreme Court 25 June allowed Trump administration to terminate Temporary Protected Status for roughly 350,000 Haitians.

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Mexico JUNE 2026

U.S.-Mexico tensions persisted as Washington renewed pressure over organised crime and extraditions; meanwhile, the football World Cup matches proceeded without major security incidents, though violence continued in high-conflict states.

U.S.-Mexico relations remained tense. U.S. President Trump 17 June again threatened military action against drug trafficking organisations, saying President Sheinbaum was unwilling to confront criminal groups that "run" Mexico. Tensions also simmered over extraditions. Sheinbaum said U.S. had failed to comply with over 260 extradition requests, though U.S. ambassador 15 June disputed claim. Pressure on Sheinbaum persisted over U.S. extradition requests for ruling Morena party-linked officials in Sinaloa state, who were indicted in May for alleged ties to Los Chapitos, a faction of the divided Sinaloa Cartel; govt claimed Washington had not presented sufficient evidence to detain the accused. Reports 10 June also suggested two Morena-affiliated governors had their U.S. visas revoked over alleged organised crime links, while *The New York Times* 27 June reported that Morena officials had offered U.S. authorities information on other party members, potentially bolstering Washington's investigations into alleged cartel collusion. Meanwhile, U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement negotiations continued, although Trump 17 June again criticised pact.

Nationwide violence reportedly dropped, but criminal activity remained rampant in high-conflict states. Govt 16 June touted 46% reduction in homicides and other violent crimes since Sheinbaum took office in Oct 2024, though verifying claims remains difficult. States like Sinaloa and Michoacán, however, witnessed continued inter- and intra-cartel violence. In Sinaloa, conflict between Los Chapitos and Los Mayos factions pushed cumulative toll since Sept 2024 to roughly 3,400 deaths and over 3,900 disappearances. In Michoacán, authorities blamed Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) for 10 June ambush that killed five police officers; attack came against backdrop of escalating clashes over turf between CJNG and local criminal outfits following death of cartel's leader in Feb.

Football World Cup became platform for social protest. Football matches in three host cities proceeded without major security incidents, though social groups used event to draw international attention to their concerns. In capital Mexico City, for example, thousands of teachers mobilised 11, 17 June against govt pension policies, while families of the disappeared staged demonstrations highlighting Mexico's over 130,000 registered missing persons.

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Nicaragua JUNE 2026

The government continued its repression and expanded financial oversight as it faced more international pressure.

Human rights concerns persisted as govt expanded state financial control. Authorities early June buried Indigenous leader and legislator Brooklyn Rivera – who died in custody late May – without his family's authorisation. Relatives and associates who travelled to capital Managua late May requesting return of his remains subsequently disappeared, with their whereabouts still unknown by June's end. Inter-American Court of Human Rights 10 June issued provisional measures ordering their release and clarification of their whereabouts. Meanwhile, tightening financial control, authorities 5 June created new committees to oversee administration and sale of state assets. Lawmakers 17 June adopted anti-money laundering law that would allow Financial Analysis Unit, which reports directly to regime, to monitor purchases made with credit and debit cards.

International actors maintained pressure on regime. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, 2 June condemned Rivera's death and pointed to "pattern of serious allegations of torture and mistreatment of inmates in Nicaraguan prisons". Meanwhile, U.S. Sec-State Marco Rubio 8 June announced visa restrictions on 100 Nicaraguan officials for "crimes and brutality", prompting sharp criticism from Co-President Murillo.

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Peru JUNE 2026

Right-wing candidate Keiko Fujimori narrowly won a presidential run-off against left-wing rival Roberto Sánchez, who filed an appeal over alleged irregularities.

Peruvians 7 June headed to polls for second round of presidential election pitting conservative Keiko Fujimori, daughter of deceased authoritarian President Alberto Fujimori, against left-wing candidate Roberto Sánchez of Together for Peru party. Election monitors from Organisation of American States and EU said vote proceeded normally. As Fujimori took slim lead in race, Together for Peru filed six applications for annulment between 11-14 June alleging irregularities, but all were declared inadmissible by Special Electoral Juries. Fujimori secured victory at completion of vote count on 29 June with 0.27% vote difference and is expected to be declared winner on 3 July. Sánchez, who 29 June claimed he had been defeated unfairly, continued to denounce irregularities and announced formation of "resistance" coalition to oppose incoming administration. Fujimori's victory does not guarantee greater political stability for Peru, as new govt will inherit highly polarised country and is likely to face social demonstrations.

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Venezuela JUNE 2026

Twin earthquakes caused devastation, with hundreds of buildings either collapsed or rendered uninhabitable and thousands killed or injured; meanwhile, the U.S. and Venezuela carried out a "joint military operation" against a gang leader, while uncertainty over the political transition persisted.

Twin earthquakes struck country, with death toll projected in the thousands. Venezuela was hit 24 June by twin earthquakes, causing hundreds of buildings to collapse, especially in north coastal state of La Guaira and capital Caracas. As of 30 June, almost 2,000 people had died, though toll is expected to mount; Rodríguez immediately declared state of emergency while U.S. President Trump said his country "will be there for our new and great friends". Aid and rescue teams arrived from across globe, but public anger and widespread criticism grew over what many described as tardy and inadequate govt response. Local rescue teams were overwhelmed and lack of heavy equipment left many survivors forced to dig in rubble themselves, often with their bare hands, in search of those buried.

U.S.-Venezuela operation targeted Tren de Aragua leader. Trump 12 June announced death of Héctor "El Niño" Guerrero, one of the top leaders of crime group Tren de Aragua, in airstrike carried out by U.S. in coordination with Venezuelan authorities. Govt later confirmed Guerrero had died during "joint operation" in Las Claritas, illicit mining centre in south-eastern Bolívar state, though no proof of his death was presented. Reported strike coincided with military raids on mines long dominated by armed groups (often alongside elements of security forces and civilian authorities) and appears linked to efforts to reassert state control over area as foreign interest in Venezuela's gold and strategic minerals grows.

Competing opposition initiatives underscored uncertainty over transition. National Assembly head Jorge Rodríguez 18 June held unexpected meeting with Dinorah Figuera, exiled leader of opposition-controlled 2015 National Assembly, in U.S.-backed talks; both parties said meeting marked start of dialogue on possible democratic transition. Discussions appeared to sideline opposition leader María Corina Machado, whose "Panama Manifesto", unveiled late May, envisioned her leading negotiations with interim authorities and serving as opposition candidate in future presidential election.

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Middle East & North Africa

Algeria JUNE 2026

The opposition denounced the exclusion of candidates from the 2 July legislative elections, while Algeria launched construction of a strategic gas pipeline and deepened economic and security ties with the U.S.

Opposition protested disqualification of legislative election candidates. In run-up to 2 July legislative elections, several political parties, including Socialist Forces Front and Workers' Party (PT), said National Independent Election Authority rejected hundreds of candidates under Article 200 of electoral code, which bars candidates with alleged links to "suspicious financial or business circles" or suspected of involvement in "suspicious political activities". Opposition parties argued exclusions were intended to sideline dissenting voices, with PT denouncing "machine designed to crush" constitutional rights *(await next month's CrisisWatch for more on elections).*

Algeria began construction of strategic gas pipeline. Algerian, Nigerian and Nigerien officials 4 June inaugurated construction of Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline in Aoulef district of Adrar province (south). Upon completion, pipeline is expected to supply up to 30bn cubic meters of Nigerian gas to Europe each year.

Algiers and Washington discussed deepening bilateral cooperation. Algeria's Sec State to Minister of Mines, Karima Bakir Tafer, 7 June met with U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Mark Schapiro in capital Algiers to discuss opportunities for bilateral cooperation in mining industry. Meeting centred on Algeria's recently enacted mining law, which aims to attract foreign investment in mining sector. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Saïd Chengriha 9 June met with Admiral George Wikoff, commander of U.S. naval forces Europe and Africa, in Algiers to discuss strengthening military cooperation.

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Bahrain JUNE 2026

Iran and the U.S. signed a memorandum of understanding to end hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, offering a chance to restore regional calm despite Iranian attacks on Bahrain and Kuwait.

As U.S. and Iranian forces continued exchanging fire in early June, Iran 3 June fired projectiles at U.S. base in Bahrain and Kuwait's international airport (see Iran and Kuwait). In response, Bahrain arrested 15 people with suspected links to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. Iran 10-11 June fired drones at U.S. Fifth Fleet headquarters at Port Salman, with authorities reporting minor injury to girl and damage to homes and vehicles in Hamad city and capital Manama. In major diplomatic breakthrough, Pakistan 14 June announced Iran and U.S. had agreed to "memorandum of understanding" to bolster April ceasefire, reopen Strait of Hormuz and begin negotiations on nuclear issues (see Iran). Most of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, however, voiced muted criticism behind closed doors that deal is too generous to Iran in sequencing and substance. They said immediate priority is to avoid imposition of tolls in Strait of Hormuz. Bahrain 25 June hosted summit between GCC states and the U.S., seen as Washington's attempt to allay GCC concerns about deal; joint statement stressed importance of "free, unconditional and unrestricted navigation" in Strait of Hormuz and rejected any "tolls, fees or attempts to assert control". Amid further skirmishes late June between U.S. and Iranian forces over Strait of Hormuz, Bahrain 27 June reported several Iranian drones targeted country; Iran next day said it launched further attacks on U.S. Fifth Fleet headquarters. U.S. and Iran 28 June reportedly agreed to halt hostilities and continue technical negotiations.

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Egypt JUNE 2026

Cairo reinforced its role as a mediator by supporting regional efforts around the U.S.-Iran agreement and hosting Gaza ceasefire consultations, while expanding its strategic engagement in the Horn of Africa amid concerns over Red Sea and Nile water security.

Egypt played supporting mediation role in U.S.-Iran negotiations. Cairo contributed to narrowing gap between U.S. and Iran that eventually led to signing of memorandum of understanding on 17 June (see Iran). Iranian FM Abbas Araghchi 15 June called his Egyptian counterpart, Badr Abdelatty, praised Egypt's role in brokering understanding. Cairo 21 June hosted quadripartite summit with Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, which called on Washington and Tehran to work toward "permanent" and "verifiable" agreement addressing nuclear issues, Gulf security and freedom of navigation.

Egypt hosted new round of consultations on Gaza. Hamas delegation 5 June arrived in Cairo for discussions with Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye about implementation of Gaza ceasefire, in particular ways to move from phase 1 to phase 2, as well as negotiations with other Palestinian factions; Hamas official 11 June said progress had been achieved. Daily newspaper *Al Shourouk* 8 June published outline of new Egyptian disarmament proposal; demobilisation of Hamas combatants would be conducted by Palestinian authorities in stages, in parallel with Israel's gradual withdrawal from territory.

Cairo continued to deepen ties with partners in the Horn. Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki 8 June visited Cairo and met with President Sisi to discuss Red Sea security amid mounting tensions between Asmara and Addis Ababa. Foreign Ministry 16 June condemned Somaliland's opening of embassy in Jerusalem and renewed support for unity and sovereignty of Somalia. Sisi 17 June met with U.S. President Donald Trump at G7 summit in France; Trump once again offering to mediate Nile waters dispute between Cairo and Addis Ababa. Water Resources and Irrigation Minister Hani Sweilem 29 June ruled out immediate return to negotiations with Ethiopia over Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (see Nile Waters).

In another important development. As economic pressure seemed to be waning, PM Mostafa Madbouly 4 June announced that Cairo will not seek new IMF financing arrangement once existing one runs out.

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Iran JUNE 2026

Iran and the U.S. signed a memorandum of understanding to end hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, offering a narrow pathway – littered with already evident pitfalls – toward a full-fledged settlement.

U.S. and Iranian forces continued exchanging fire in early June. Notably, U.S. 2 June disabled Iran-bound oil tanker, struck Qeshm Island and launched attacks against Iranian air defence and surveillance sites near Strait of Hormuz following downing of U.S. helicopter on 8 June; Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps 10 June claimed retaliatory drone and missile strikes on U.S. facilities in Bahrain, Jordan and Kuwait. After Israel 7 June struck Lebanon's capital Beirut, Iran acted on its prior warning and launched several salvos of ballistic missiles toward Israel; Israel next day retaliated by hitting sites in Iran, prompting another missile attack by Tehran. In major diplomatic breakthrough, Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif 14 June announced Iran and U.S. had agreed to 14-point "memorandum of understanding", which Presidents Trump and Pezeshkian electronically signed 17 June. The deal formally ends war on all fronts (including Lebanon), gives U.S. and Iranian negotiators 60 days to work toward more detailed accord on Iran's nuclear program and sanctions relief, removes naval blockades in Strait of Hormuz, and envisages $300bn reconstruction/development fund for Tehran. U.S. 18 June announced lifting of naval blockade imposed in April and Iran suspended fees charged by its Persian Gulf Strait Authority, facilitating resumption of maritime traffic. U.S. 22 June issued 60-day licence permitting production, delivery and sale of Iranian oil. Tensions rose, however, amid dispute over permitted maritime routes in Strait of Hormuz: Iran 25 June fired on vessel using route off coast of Oman (see Oman), which triggered several days of tit-for-tat exchanges with U.S. – including Iranian attacks on Bahrain and Kuwait – before sides 28 June reportedly agreed to halt hostilities and continue technical negotiations. While deal marks important step forward, broader settlement is far from guaranteed, given hostilities in Lebanon, ambiguities over management of strait and fact that sides remain far apart on key nuclear issues. Consequently, negotiations could extend beyond 60 days in drawn-out, inconclusive process or outright collapse into major conflict.

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Iraq JUNE 2026

Despite its formal end, the U.S.-Iran war cast a long shadow over Iraq; meanwhile, two Tehran-backed factions agreed to place weapons under state authority, as hardline groups resisted any such move.

Despite U.S.-Iran memorandum, Iraq felt war's economic toll. In major diplomatic breakthrough, Pakistan 14 June announced Iran and U.S. had agreed to "memorandum of understanding" to bolster April ceasefire, reopen Strait of Hormuz and begin negotiations on nuclear issues (see Iran). Blockade of strait in early March had caused significant reduction in Iraq's state revenue due to halt of oil exports, which account for some 90% of revenue; even if exports can now resume, return to pre-war state revenue could take months. Seeking alternative export routes, cabinet 2 June approved agreement for Syria to store Iraqi crude oil transported via road, which provides limited capacity. Baghdad also sought to increase exports through its northern pipeline with Türkiye, with which negotiations continued.

First armed groups agreed to greater state oversight. After Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr late May placed his political movement's armed wing Saraya Salam (which is not supported by Tehran) under state authority, two Iran-backed militias from paramilitary umbrella group Popular Mobilisation Forces – Asaib Ahl Al Haq and Imam Ali Brigades – 2 June announced intention to place all weapons under state control. Neither group, however, is member of so-called Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella organisation of hardline Iran-aligned factions that reject disarmament. PM Ali al-Zaidi 3 June met the two factions and announced "joint committee" to oversee process of "restricting arms", which is likely to face manifold challenges. Signalling heavy U.S. pressure on govt to rein in groups, U.S. special envoy Tom Barrack and al-Zaidi 16 June called for "complete disarmament and disbandment of all armed groups". Govt 29 June announced 30 Sept deadline for all armed factions to place weapons under state control.

PM al-Zaidi launched sweeping anti-corruption campaign. Al-Zaidi 28 June oversaw arrests of 47 parliamentarians and govt officials over corruption allegations; al-Zaidi likely hopes to boost domestic standing while signalling to Washington his willingness to take bold action ahead of his visit to U.S. mid-July.

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Israel/Palestine JUNE 2026

Israel traded blows with Tehran before grudgingly accepting the U.S.-Iran accord, yet its occupation of southern Lebanon looked set to continue following a framework deal with Beirut; the Gaza ceasefire remained stalled, while Israel continued to repress the West Bank.

Israel's campaign in Lebanon triggered clashes with Tehran. Israel 7 June bombed Beirut. Acting on warning that strikes on Beirut would trigger response, Tehran launched several salvos of ballistic missiles toward Israel. Israel next day struck various sites in Iran, prompting Iran to launch another missile attack. U.S. President Trump 14 June rebuked Israel for again striking Beirut same day, signalling potential rift. Pakistan 14 June announced "memorandum of understanding" between U.S. and Iran, marking diplomatic breakthrough that offers narrow pathway to broader settlement despite numerous pitfalls (see Iran). Complicating the picture, deadly Israeli attacks continued in Lebanon; U.S. 26 June announced framework deal between Lebanese govt and Israel, which in effect leaves Israel in control of wide "security belt" in southern Lebanon; Hizbollah outright rejected deal (see Lebanon).

In Gaza, Israel continued attacks as Oct 2025 ceasefire stalled. Israel continued lethal strikes in Gaza, killing over 120 Palestinians in June and bringing death toll since Oct 2025 ceasefire to more than 1,050. Deal's progress remained deadlocked as Hamas insists Israel fulfil provisions of its first phase, especially on aid. Citing Hamas's "failure to disarm", Israel may decide to restart broad military offensive in Gaza. Meanwhile, UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry 23 June found Israel "deliberately targeted Palestinian children resulting in genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes".

In West Bank, Israel advanced de facto takeover amid settler violence. Pushed by far-right govt coalition, Israel continued tightening its hold on West Bank, further undermining what remains of Oslo accords. Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich 16 June stated Israel had abolished 1997 Hebron Agreement that afforded Palestinian municipal council in city a measure of control of planning around Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs; Smotrich next day approved construction of large Jewish school in Hebron. Concurrently, Israeli settler violence persisted. Eight Muslim countries, among them Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, 18 June condemned settler violence, specifically burning of mosques. Dozens of former Israeli officials 18 June issued "final warning" to govt to curtail "Jewish terror" in West Bank.

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Jordan JUNE 2026

Ahead of a U.S.-Iran diplomatic breakthrough, Tehran struck U.S. forces in Jordan during tit-for-tat skirmishes in early June.

Before Iran and U.S. mid-June concluded "memorandum of understanding" to end war, the sides traded attacks in early June (see Iran). Notably, Iran 10 June launched projectiles at Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait. Jordanian authorities claimed intercepting Iranian missiles aimed at Muwaffaq Salti Air Base, located 100km east of capital Amman and used by U.S. forces, and 11 June claimed intercepting 20 additional missiles headed for same area; authorities reported no casualties or damage.

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Kuwait JUNE 2026

Iran and the U.S. signed a memorandum of understanding to end hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, offering a chance to restore regional calm despite Iranian attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain.

As U.S. and Iranian forces continued exchanging fire in early June, Iran fired projectiles 3 June at Bahrain and struck passenger terminal at Kuwait's international airport, killing one and wounding 63; Kuwait's defence ministry announced it detected 30 ballistic missiles and drones, while Tehran claimed airport was struck by errant U.S. Patriot interceptor. Kuwait summoned Iran's chargé d'affaires and demanded two Iranian embassy staff leave country within 24 hours. In major diplomatic breakthrough, Pakistan 14 June announced Iran and U.S. had agreed to "memorandum of understanding" to bolster April ceasefire, reopen Strait of Hormuz and begin negotiations on nuclear issues (see Iran). Most of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, however, voiced muted criticism behind closed doors that deal is too generous to Iran in sequencing and substance. They said the immediate priority is to avoid imposition of tolls in Strait of Hormuz. Amid further skirmishes between U.S. and Iran, Kuwait claimed its air defences 27 June intercepted two Iranian ballistic missiles, and Iran next day said it had fired at U.S. Ali Al Salem airbase located in country's centre. U.S. and Iran 28 June reportedly agreed to halt hostilities and continue technical negotiations.

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Lebanon JUNE 2026

Israeli attacks killed hundreds and threatened to derail U.S.-Iran diplomacy; Hizbollah rejected a late June framework deal between Beirut and Israel, which conditions Israel's withdrawal on the group's disarmament.

U.S. 3 June announced second ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel, which for first time contemplated "pilot zones" in south controlled by Lebanese army and without Hizbollah presence; deal demanded Hizbollah hold fire and withdraw from lands south of Litani River before Israel itself withdraws – a demand group promptly rejected. Dampening prospects of de-escalation, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu declined to refer proposal to security cabinet for approval. Fighting with Hizbollah intensified over following days. In significant escalation, Israel 7 June bombed apartment building in Beirut's southern suburbs. In response, Tehran – acting on warning that Israeli strikes on Beirut would trigger response – launched several salvos of ballistic missiles toward Israel. Israel next day struck various sites in Iran, prompting Iran to fire more missiles (see Iran). U.S. President Trump 14 June rebuked Israel for again striking Beirut's southern suburbs same day. After Pakistan 14 June announced U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding, which explicitly firmed up ceasefire on all regional fronts (including Lebanon), Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz next day asserted Israeli forces would not withdraw from Lebanon. Signalling potential rift between Israel and Washington, U.S. VP JD Vance 18 June called on Israel to "respect the peace process" and Trump declared Washington "expects a complete ceasefire on all fronts, including Lebanon". In the four days after U.S.-Iran deal, however, Israeli attacks killed over 150 people and wounded hundreds more; death toll 2 March-30 June exceeded 4,200. For its part, Hizbollah continued stiff resistance; notably, group 19 June killed four Israeli soldiers, prompting far-right Israeli minister Itamar Ben-Gvir to say "all of Lebanon must burn". In significant development, U.S. 26 June announced framework deal between Israel and Lebanon, which envisions Lebanese army asserting authority over Lebanese territory and disarming Hizbollah before Israel's full military withdrawal. Deal divided Lebanese political factions, with Hizbollah rejecting it outright as group's supporters protested in Beirut; violence could erupt should govt seek to enforce deal with firmer action against Hizbollah. Israeli attacks subsequently continued, albeit at reduced intensity.

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Libya JUNE 2026

A U.S. initiative aimed at unifying the country's rival governments fuelled tensions, while the U.S.-mediated unified budget deal came under increasing strain.

Various actors presented competing roadmaps to end transition period. British daily newspaper *The Financial Times* 17 June reported that U.S. senior adviser for Arab and African affairs Massad Boulos is actively working toward power-sharing agreement between Libya's rival administrations; plan, which makes no mention of elections, would reportedly place Saddam Haftar, son of eastern strongman Khalifa Haftar, at head of executive presidential council, while Abdulhamid Dabaiba, PM of UN-backed govt in Tripoli, would lead new unified govt. General Command of Haftar's Libyan Arab Armed Forces 18 June hailed initiative, and Saddam Haftar 29 June met with U.S. Sec State Marco Rubio in Washington. Anti-Haftar camp from Tripoli and Misrata, including mufti of Tripoli, opposed U.S. plan, warning that it could enable Haftar power grab and criticising absence of Libyan people's voice. Presidencies of rival parliaments, eastern-based House of Representatives (HoR) and Tripoli-based advisory High Council of State, 16 June announced their own roadmap aimed at holding elections by Feb 2027. UN 7 June also concluded its six-month structured dialogue. In her briefing to UN Security Council, Special Representative Hanna Tetteh 18 June said dialogue recommendations provide "credible Libyan-owned foundation" for advancing elections, strengthening state institutions and addressing structural causes of instability. She made no mention of U.S. initiative.

Anti-migrant protests intensified. Demonstrators 4 June gathered outside office of UN refugee agency in Tripoli to protest what they described as alleged efforts to resettle migrants in country. Protesters 17 June shut down office of International Organization for Migration in Tripoli, blocking its entrances to demand suspension of its activities and deportation of all irregular migrants. Eastern govt 23 June barred nationals of Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia from entry.

HoR member threatened to withdraw from U.S.-mediated deal on unified budget. In strongly worded statement, Issa Al-Areibi, chairman of HoR's Unified Expenditure Committee, 21 June urged Central Bank Governor Naji Issa to ensure full implementation of April agreement on unified spending, warning HoR would otherwise withdraw from arrangement.

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Oman JUNE 2026

Iran and the U.S. signed a memorandum of understanding to end hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, offering a chance to restore regional calm despite skirmishes.

In major diplomatic breakthrough, Pakistan 14 June announced Iran and U.S. had agreed to "memorandum of understanding" to bolster April ceasefire, reopen Strait of Hormuz and begin negotiations on nuclear issues (see Iran). While most of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states voiced muted criticism behind closed doors that deal is too generous to Iran in sequencing and substance, adding that immediate priority is to avoid imposition of tolls in Strait of Hormuz, Oman's FM Badr Albusaidi 15 June said the "entire global community should welcome Iran-U.S. understanding", calling it "a timely win for diplomacy and common sense". Despite Oman facing pressure from its Gulf neighbours and other powers over its negotiations with Iran on new governance mechanism for Strait of Hormuz, talks in capital Muscat saw Oman and Iran 23 June agree to set up "joint working group" to negotiate future management of navigation in Strait of Hormuz, holding first meeting on 29 June. Oman, in collaboration with International Maritime Organisation, 24 June announced safe and toll-free shipping corridor along its coast. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps swiftly declared alternative route "unacceptable and extremely dangerous", warning that any vessel bypassing Iranian-approved channels would lose safety guarantees. Iranian forces 25 and 27 June launched attacks on commercial ships travelling through new Omani passage, forcing UN to pause its mass maritime evacuation and triggering tit-for-tat exchanges with U.S., which included further Iranian attacks on Bahrain and Kuwait. Tehran and Washington 28 June reportedly agreed to halt hostilities and continue technical negotiations.

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Qatar JUNE 2026

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Saudi Arabia JUNE 2026

Iran and the U.S. signed a memorandum of understanding to end hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, offering a chance to restore regional calm despite skirmishes.

U.S.-Iran deal marked major diplomatic breakthrough. Pakistan 14 June announced Iran and U.S. had agreed to "memorandum of understanding" to bolster April ceasefire, reopen Strait of Hormuz and begin negotiations on nuclear issues (see Iran). Most of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, however, voiced muted criticism behind closed doors that deal is too generous to Iran in sequencing and substance. They said immediate priority is to avoid imposition of tolls in Strait of Hormuz. Iranian forces 25 and 27 June launched attacks on commercial ships travelling through new Omani maritime passage (see Oman), triggering tit-for-tat exchanges with U.S., which included Iranian attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain. Tehran and Washington 28 June reportedly agreed to halt hostilities and continue technical negotiations. Reflecting urgency of establishing means of bypassing Strait of Hormuz, Riyadh and Türkiye 9 June signed agreements to revive historic Hejaz Railway, with plans to extend to Oman. Riyadh is cautiously working on dialogue track with Tehran to discuss regional concerns that Iran-U.S. interim agreement omitted.

Houthi missile aimed at Israel triggered alarms. Houthis 8 June launched first missile attack on Israel since April (see Yemen), triggering air raid sirens in Al Kharj city, near Prince Sultan Air Base; Saudi authorities stated missile had malfunctioned before landing in uninhabited area.

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Syria JUNE 2026

The U.S. urged the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to complete its integration with the central government by the end of 2026, while several distinct security challenges came into focus.

Damascus-SDF integration process continued. U.S. Special Envoy for Syria and Iraq Tom Barrack 16 June met SDF chief Mazloum Abdi in capital of Iraqi Kurdistan, Erbil, where Barrack reportedly conveyed expectation for integration process to be completed by end of 2026. Discussions between Damascus and SDF continued, including on how to incorporate senior SDF-linked figures into central govt. In significant step toward integrating education systems, Damascus 19 June announced that it will recognise diplomas issued previously by SDF-backed Autonomous Administration.

Sectarian attacks and transitional justice challenges remained prominent. Vigilante reprisals against people accused of ties to former Assad regime rose again in June, spotlighting transitional justice challenges. Notably, gunmen on motorcycles kept shooting Alawite civilians, with at least a dozen killings reported in Homs and Hama governorates in late May and early June. Protests 13-17 June took place in Aleppo, Idlib, Deir Ezzor, Raqqa and Damascus governorates demanding accountability for crimes committed by former regime figures; mobs attacked suspected former regime members in Aleppo province and 15-16 June attempted to storm Alawite-majority neighbourhoods in Damascus.

Education dispute in south underscored lingering tensions. Damascus and armed Druze factions in Suweida province (south) remained at loggerheads over location of national exams for province's students, after central govt ruled in mid-May that exams would be held in capital and its environs, citing insecurity. In protest, armed men from Druze faction National Guard early June blocked passage to Damascus and stormed Suweida education directorate.

Israel continued military incursions in south. Israeli forces 27-28 June shelled and fired from helicopters amid incursion into Abdin town in western Daraa countryside, before reportedly withdrawing; Syria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Türkiye, Qatar and Jordan condemned incursion.

U.S. President Trump suggested Syrian role in confronting Hizbollah. Trump 16 June criticised Israel's continuing strikes on Hizbollah in Lebanon, saying Israel had been fighting "too long" and "killing too many people", as well as suggesting Israel let Syria "take care" of Hizbollah. President al-Sharaa immediately denied any intention to stage military incursion (see Lebanon).

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Tunisia JUNE 2026

Authorities further intensified their crackdown on civil society, while protests over deteriorating socio-economic conditions persisted and a video of an assault on a sub-Saharan African family sparked outrage.

Repression of civil society intensified, lawyers denounced attacks on judicial independence. Several civil society figures in June were sentenced to prison or saw previous prison sentences confirmed. Notably, court in capital Tunis 26 June sentenced prominent rights activist Sihem Bensedrine to 25 years in prison on charges of "fraud" and "forgery" related to her work as president of Tunisia's Truth and Dignity Commission (2014-2019). Bensedrine said she would lodge appeal. Lawyers 18 June launched nationwide strike to protest lack of judicial independence and restrictions on civil liberties.

Social and economic protests persisted across various regions. Group of graduates 11 June gathered at Kasbah Square in Tunis demanding job opportunities. Employees of state-owned Environmental, Plantations and Gardening Company in Tataouine 10-12 June staged three-day protest demanding payment of their April and May salaries. Sfax regional labour union 11 June organised march to defend private-sector workers' purchasing power, notably demanding wage increases.

Video showing assault on sub-Saharan migrants sparked outrage. Video from 3 June circulated on Tunisian social media showing group of individuals attacking sub-Saharan African family inside a home and threatening pregnant woman with sexual assault. Footage prompted racist reactions online, but also widespread outrage among civil society. Broad coalition of Tunisian civil society organisations, political parties and human rights groups 5 June issued joint statement condemning "normalisation of racist and hate crimes", "systematic impunity" and "complicity of state institutions". Interior ministry same day said video depicted incident that occurred five years ago and questioned motives behind circulating it now, while announcing that security services had identified and arrested those involved in attack.

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United Arab Emirates JUNE 2026

Iran and the U.S. signed a memorandum of understanding to end hostilities and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, offering a chance to restore regional calm despite skirmishes.

In major diplomatic breakthrough, Pakistan 14 June announced Iran and U.S. had agreed to "memorandum of understanding" to bolster April ceasefire, reopen Strait of Hormuz and begin negotiations on nuclear issues (see Iran). Most of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, however, voiced muted criticism behind closed doors that deal is too generous to Iran in sequencing and substance. They said immediate priority is to avoid imposition of tolls in Strait of Hormuz. UAE issued measured statement, affirming "the importance of prioritising dialogue and diplomacy, and adhering to international law, in a manner that reinforces regional security and stability." Iranian forces 25 and 27 June launched attacks on commercial ships travelling through new Omani maritime passage (see Oman), triggering tit-for-tat exchanges with U.S., which included Iranian attacks on Kuwait and Bahrain; Tehran and Washington 28 June reportedly agreed to halt hostilities and continue technical negotiations. Reflecting urgency of establishing means of bypassing Strait of Hormuz, Abu Dhabi's crown prince directed Abu Dhabi National Oil Company to fast-track West-East Pipeline project to double export capacity via Fujairah city, located on Gulf of Oman. In positive sign, media reports 10 June revealed senior UAE and Iranian officials had held first face-to-face meeting since start of war, reflecting growing recognition on both sides of need to de-escalate and re-establish dialogue. Direct commercial flights between Iran and UAE 29 June officially resumed after suspension late Feb.

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Western Sahara JUNE 2026

A Moroccan drone strike killed a senior Polisario Front official, fuelling tensions, while UN envoy Staffan de Mistura pursued shuttle diplomacy to explore prospects for renewed talks ahead of the UN Security Council's October meeting.

Prominent Polisario figure killed in Moroccan strike. Moroccan drone 7 June killed son of former Polisario Front leader and member of Polisario General Secretariat, Lahbib Mohamed Abdelaziz, inside UN-monitored buffer zone. Lahbib's death came as a shock to Polisario supporters, many of whom saw him as potential future leader, and could strengthen hardline voices within independence movement.

UN envoy liaised with Polisario and Algerian officials. As Algeria and Polisario continued to refuse framework agreement based on Morocco's autonomy proposal, UN envoy Staffan de Mistura explored possibility of breaking deadlock and resuming direct talks between conflict parties ahead of UN Security Council meeting on Western Sahara in October. De Mistura around 8 June held consultations with senior Polisario officials in Tindouf refugee camps, before meeting Algerian FM Ahmed Attaf on 15 June in Algiers and Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani on 18 June in Nouakchott.

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Yemen JUNE 2026

The Houthis launched their first missile attack on Israel since April and their first maritime strikes in the Gulf of Aden since late 2025; along Yemeni front lines, the group intensified probing attacks on government forces.

Houthis supported Iran with anti-Israel attacks. Amid tit-for-tat exchange early June between Israel and Iran (see Israel/Palestine, Lebanon and Iran), Houthis 8 June launched at least two ballistic missiles at Israel in first declared fire since U.S.-Iran truce took effect in April; Israel reported single missile was intercepted, while Saudi Arabia claimed one malfunctioned (see Saudi Arabia). Houthis framed launches as part of campaign linking multiple theatres of conflict, and 8 June reiterated ban on Israel-linked shipping in Red Sea. In first maritime attacks since Sept 2025, Houthi anti-ship missiles 8-9 June struck two commercial vessels in Gulf of Aden, claiming their operating companies had links to Israeli ports. Meanwhile, Houthis 25 June vowed to target any Israeli presence in Somaliland (see Somaliland).

Houthis intensified military action on Yemeni fronts. Houthis during first half of June launched series of attacks on govt positions in Marib, Lahj, Shabwa and southern Hodeida, relying heavily on armed drones, artillery, snipers and limited ground assaults, and killing several soldiers and striking residential neighbourhoods. In response, govt forces launched pre-emptive artillery strikes on Houthi positions in al-Dhalea and engaged Houthi fighters along western coast. Houthis appeared intent on testing govt defences without committing to large-scale offensives, signalling gradual erosion of frontline stability. Houthi operatives 7 June assassinated Brigadier Yahya Wuhaysh, senior commander in National Resistance forces, in Red Sea coastal city of Khokha.

Electricity crisis triggered unrest in govt-controlled areas. In Aden, Mukalla, Seiyun, Tarim and other cities, power outages in May reached critical levels when temperatures rose early June, with residents enduring up to 10-14 hours of blackout. Growing public frustration led to road blockages, demonstrations and calls for urgent govt intervention; notably, demonstrations in Aden and Hadramawt escalated into confrontations with security forces, resulting in eight people injured. Govt9 June announced emergency measures to secure additional fuel supplies with Saudi Arabia's support and unveiled plans to increase generation capacity in Aden and Hadramawt, seemingly appeasing protesters for now.

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