



## RECENT INCIDENTS

### Serbia:

26 May: FCO warns of protests in Belgrade following arrest of Ratko Mladic, a fugitive from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. *The war crimes suspect has since been extradited to The Hague to face a UN tribunal.*

### Spain:

31 May: Iberia pilots have threatened to strike this summer. Almost all of the airline's pilots are members of the union, meaning any industrial action would ground the airline.

### Spain:

30 May: Protesters against the economic problems in the country have pledged to occupy a major square (Puerta del Sol) in Madrid indefinitely.

### Lebanon:

27 May: A UNIFIL soldier was killed and four other Italian peacekeepers were injured when a bomb struck a UN vehicle near Sidon.

### Syria:

27 May: Thirteen people are believed to have been killed when Syrian security forces fired at anti-government protesters in several southern towns.

## FORTHCOMING SIGNIFICANT DATES

### ELECTIONS

#### Macedonia:

5 June: Parliamentary (Snap)

#### Portugal:

5 June: Parliamentary (Snap)

#### Turkey:

12 June: Parliamentary

#### Tunisia:

24 July: Legislative (Snap)

#### Sao Tome & Principe:

17 July: Presidential

### OTHER

#### Nigeria:

29 May: Goodluck Jonathan was sworn in as president of Nigeria in Abuja. The 16 April election was seen as the fairest that Nigeria has held since it became a democracy twelve years ago. However, tensions continue to provoke violence in many parts of the country.

#### Netherlands:

June: Public transport operators will be holding 24-hour strikes in Amsterdam on 7 June, The Hague on 8 June and Rotterdam on 9 June.

### Greece:

4 June: The Civil Servants' Confederation has called for a protest against government austerity measures. The protest will take place at Klathmonos Square beginning at 11.00am. Travellers are advised to avoid the area, as some previous protests have led to clashes.

### Middle East: Naksa Day

5 June: The group for the "Third Palestinian Intifada" has called on Palestinian refugees to march to the Israeli border in Lebanon, Syria, and the Gaza Strip. It is reported the Lebanese Army may hold back protesters planning to demonstrate on their border with Israel for fear of a repeat of the events of Nakba Day (15 May), when at least 15 people were killed by Israeli gunfire.

### United Kingdom:

12 July: Orangemen's Day March in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

### LONG RANGE

#### 1 – 30 August: RAMADAN

The ninth month of the Islamic calendar; the month of fasting and the holiest period for the Islamic faith. Public life in Muslim countries will slow down with some disruption to normal working practices.



## RECENT INCIDENTS

### **USA:**

23 May: At least 116 people died and more than 400 were injured in Joplin, Missouri when a major tornado struck the town.

### **Mexico:**

May: Monterrey has suffered another month of multiple drug-related deaths and violence affecting civilians and police officers.

### **Venezuela:**

30 May: Around ten thousand people marched in Caracas to protest the sanctions by the U.S. on Venezuela's state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) for trading with Iran.

### **Colombia:**

25 May: Over 5,000 people marched against health system corruption in Bogota. Similar marches were also held in other parts of the country.

### **Argentina:**

19 May: SOL airlines flight 5428, a SAAB 340 turboprop, crashed in a remote area of Patagonia killing all 22 on board. Rescue workers struggled to reach the crash site.

## FORTHCOMING SIGNIFICANT DATES

### **ELECTIONS**

#### **Peru :**

5 June: Presidential (Second Round)

#### **Turks & Caicos**

July (TBC): Parliamentary

### **OTHER**

#### **Ecuador:**

24 May: The U.S. Embassy in Quito has issued a Warden Message advising travellers living or travelling in Ecuador that the volcano Tungurahua, located near the tourist community of Baños in central Ecuador, appears to be returning to a state of high activity. If travelling to the area, familiarize yourself with evacuation plans, monitor news outlets, use good judgment, and take all appropriate safety measures as volcanic conditions can change rapidly.

#### **Puerto Rico:**

14 June: President Barack Obama has accepted an invitation to visit the island. No sitting president has visited the U.S. island territory since President John F. Kennedy in 1962. The Puerto Rico Independence Party (PIP) is planning a rally in the capital San Juan to coincide with visit by US president Barack Obama. The party is demanding independence from the US and the release of alleged political prisoners.

#### **Canada:**

1 July: Canada Day

#### **USA:**

4 July: Independence Day

#### **Nicaragua:**

19 July: Liberation Day

#### **Peru:**

28 July: Independence Day

#### **Ecuador:**

10 August: Independence Day



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### China:

26 May: Two people were killed in three explosions targeting government buildings in Fuzhou city. Some reports suggested the first explosion was a car bomb. An official reported that the culprit was a farmer angry over the government's handling of a dispute.

### Indonesia:

25 May: Bomb-making materials were discovered on Garuda Airlines flight 313. The flight was bound for Jakarta from Juanda in Surabaya. A bomb threat had been faxed to airport authorities at Juanda International Airport.

### India:

30 May: Air India announced it is to cancel twelve flights daily due to a jet-fuel bill. Flights will be cancelled until the middle of June as the national carrier is unable to make full payment for jet fuel purchases. Some flights to London and Tokyo have been cancelled while a few local flights have also been scrapped.

### Japan:

24 May: TEPCO confirmed that 2 more reactors at the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant had suffered a partial fuel meltdown following the March 11th earthquake and tsunami.

## FORTHCOMING SIGNIFICANT DATES

### ELECTIONS

#### Thailand:

3 July: Parliamentary

#### Vietnam:

July (TBC): Presidential

#### Singapore:

August (TBC): Presidential

### OTHER

#### Hong Kong:

4 June: Up to 150,000 people are expected to turn out for the annual vigil in Hong Kong's Victoria Park to mark the 22nd anniversary of the Beijing Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989.

#### Malaysia:

6 June: The trial of opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim is set to resume in Kuala Lumpur, as a High Court Judge has ruled that he has a case to answer in his sodomy trial. Sodomy is illegal in Muslim-majority Malaysia, whether or not between consenting adults. Mr Anwar insists the accusations are part of a long-running government plot to derail his political career, but authorities deny any conspiracy.

#### Pakistan:

June: The TTP (Pakistani Taliban) continues to threaten attacks against the US and its allies, following the killing of Osama bin Laden. Likely targets include government and military personnel, but all foreign travellers to the country should remain vigilant and employ rigorous security protection.

#### Philippines:

12 June: Independence Day

#### India:

15 August: Independence Day

#### Taiwan:

1 July: Bank Holiday