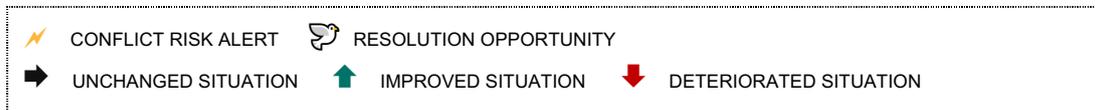




# CrisisWatch At A Glance

2022 AUGUST TRENDS AND SEPTEMBER ALERTS



## AFRICA

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### CENTRAL AFRICA

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- ➔ **Cameroon.** Govt forces and Anglophone rebels continued to clash amid resurgence of roadside bombs; jihadist attacks persisted in Far North.
- ➔ **Central African Republic.** Rebels kept up operations in rural areas and President Touadéra continued to move toward constitutional revision despite opposition.
- ➔ **Chad.** Transitional authorities signed peace deal with armed groups in Qatar, national dialogue kicked off to immediate delays, and intercommunal conflict flared in south.

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### GREAT LAKES

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- ➔ **Burundi.** Ruling party CNDD-FDD leader incited violence against dissenting voices, while hundreds of Burundian soldiers officially deployed to DR Congo.
- ➔ **Democratic Republic of Congo.** Amid widespread armed group violence in eastern provinces, hundreds of detainees released in jailbreak, while Burundi officially deployed troops to country.
- ➔ **Rwanda.** UN experts found “solid evidence” of Rwandan military intervention in DR Congo.
- ➔ **Uganda.** Opposition parties joined forces against President Museveni, and latter conducted several security sector changes.

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## HORN OF AFRICA

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- ➔ ⚡ **Eritrea.** Amid renewed Tigray conflict in neighbouring Ethiopia, threat of fresh clashes between govt troops and Tigray forces along Eritrea-Ethiopia border loomed large.
- ⬇️ ⚡ **Ethiopia.** Fighting erupted between federal and Tigray forces, shattering March ceasefire and threatening to derail long-awaited peace talks; conflict will likely spread to new fronts in coming days.
- ➔ **Kenya.** Deputy President William Ruto declared president-elect as runner-up Raila Odinga submitted challenge to court.
- ➔ **Nile Waters.** Ethiopia announced completion of third filling of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) despite concerns raised by Egypt and Sudan.
- ⬇️ **Somalia.** Al-Shabaab killed over 20 in first major assault in capital Mogadishu since President Mohamud returned to power; emerging political dispute in South West and Jubaland states could provide early test for Mohamud to prevent discord with federal member states.
- ⬇️ **Somaliland.** Protests over upcoming electoral cycle turned violent, leaving at least five dead.
- ➔ **South Sudan.** Signatories of 2018 peace deal approved roadmap to extend transitional govt's rule beyond Feb 2023 amid fierce criticism; deadly fighting displaced tens of thousands in Jonglei and Upper Nile states.
- ➔ **Sudan.** Amid ongoing anti-coup protests, impasse between military and civilian actors persisted; violence continued in Darfur, and tensions with Addis Ababa ran high amid renewed Tigray conflict in Ethiopia.

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## SAHEL

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- ➔ **Burkina Faso.** Govt forces increasingly targeted civilians as insecurity remained widespread despite notable reduction in violence in Sahel region.
- ➔ **Mali.** Jihadists launched deadliest attack on military since 2019 and continued southward expansion; govt met with northern armed groups to discuss stalled implementation of 2015 peace accord; and relations with UN mission and France remained tense.
- ➔ **Niger.** French Operation Barkhane completed relocation to Niger amid domestic opposition and persistent jihadist violence in southern regions.

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## SOUTHERN AFRICA

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- ➔ **Mozambique.** In far north Cabo Delgado province, Islamist insurgents launched attacks in several districts, beheading civilians and targeting security and defence forces in likely attempt to resupply weapons.
- ➔ **Zimbabwe.** Political tensions heated up months away from 2023 general elections as nomination fees sparked resistance, while ruling party supporters unleashed violence on political opposition.

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## WEST AFRICA

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- ➔ **Côte d'Ivoire.** President Ouattara pardoned former President Gbagbo as part of national reconciliation drive; negotiations for release of Ivorian soldiers held in Mali remained stalled.
- ➔ **Guinea.** Under mounting street pressure and lack of agreement with regional body ECOWAS over transition's duration, ruling junta dissolved main opposition coalition, replaced PM and revamped cabinet.
- ➔ **Nigeria.** Authorities beefed up security in federal capital Abuja and economic capital Lagos as jihadist, criminal and separatist violence continued in several regions.
- ⬇️ **Sierra Leone.** Deadly protests over rising cost of living erupted across country, leaving two dozen dead; President Bio accused political opposition of insurrection.
- ➔ **Togo.** Suspected jihadists launched new attack against govt forces in northern region.

## ASIA

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### NORTH EAST ASIA

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- ➔ **China/Japan.** China's live-fire drills around Taiwan spilled over into Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), while Tokyo and Beijing held first high-level dialogue since Feb 2020.
- ➔ **Korean Peninsula.** U.S. and North Korea traded barbs over latter's nuclear weapons program, while Pyongyang rejected Seoul's new denuclearisation initiative amid U.S.-South Korea military drills.
- ⬇️ **Taiwan Strait.** Tensions soared as China conducted large-scale live-fire exercises around Taiwan as part of its multi-pronged response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to island.

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### SOUTH ASIA

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- ➔ **Afghanistan.** U.S. killed al-Qaeda chief in first high-profile strike since Aug 2021 withdrawal, Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) targeted Taliban and religious minorities, and Taliban clashed with Pakistani forces.
- ➔ **Bangladesh.** Ruling Awami League (AL) adopted austerity measures amid energy crisis, triggering violent protests and deepening tensions with opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).
- ➔ **India.** Relations with China remained tense over military activity on unofficial border, while separatist groups in north east conducted sporadic attacks on security forces.
- ➔ **India-Pakistan (Kashmir).** Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) marked three years since India revoked its special status, as controversy persisted over electoral register.
- ➔ **Nepal.** Govt announced date for general election in Nov, which sparked haggling among ruling coalition parties over seat-sharing arrangements.

➔ **Pakistan.** Election Commission inflicted major setback to former PM Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, while Khan faced terrorism charges amid escalating rhetoric against military and officials.

➔ **Sri Lanka.** Govt continued repression against protesters despite international pressure and sought International Monetary Fund (IMF) assistance as way out of deepening economic crisis.

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## SOUTHEAST ASIA

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➔ **Myanmar.** Deadly clashes between regime and armed groups persisted amid uptick in assassinations in urban areas, while regional body ASEAN lamented regime's "limited progress" on plan to resolve crisis.

➔ **Philippines.** Insecurity persisted in south amid jihadist activity, clan violence and fighting between armed forces and communist militants.

➔ **South China Sea.** China conducted minesweeping and training exercises, while regional body ASEAN announced intention to proceed with Code of Conduct negotiating text.

➔ **Thailand.** Constitutional Court suspended PM Prayuth Chan-ocha amid dispute over legal term limits, while gov't and Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) held talks prior to coordinated attacks in deep south.

## EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

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### BALKANS

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➔ **Kosovo.** Following sharp rise in tensions late July, gov't reached agreement with Serbia allowing border crossings with existing ID cards, but failed to resolve license plate dispute.

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### CAUCASUS

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➔ **Armenia.** Azerbaijan launched military operation in Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) ahead of high-level meetings in Brussels and Moscow; opposition announced return to parliament after five-month boycott.

➔ **Azerbaijan.** Gov't launched military operation in Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) ahead of high-level meetings with Armenia in Brussels and Moscow, while proceeding with return of internally displaced people to adjacent territories.

⚠ **Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict.** Azerbaijan launched military operation in Nagorno-Karabakh (NK), ending period of relative calm as clashes with ethnic Armenian forces left three dead.

➔ **Georgia.** Breakaway South Ossetia reopened crossing points with Georgia proper after three years, tensions with U.S. ambassador persisted, and EU published review of gov't's progress on reforms needed for accession.

➔ **Russia (Internal).** Clampdown on opposition persisted, Ukraine continued attacks on Russian borderlands, and govt temporarily halted gas supplies to Europe.

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## CENTRAL ASIA

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➔ **Kyrgyzstan.** Authorities detained three alleged jihadists, while military participated in U.S.-sponsored exercises in Tajikistan.

➔ **Tajikistan.** Human rights organisation condemned crackdown in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO), as U.S.-sponsored military exercises took place in capital Dushanbe.

➔ **Uzbekistan.** Calm prevailed in Karakalpakstan as President Mirziyoyev appointed new leader to head region following July's deadly protests.

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## EASTERN EUROPE

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➔ **Belarus.** Crackdown on dissent continued apace, air force conducted exercises with Russia, and govt agreed to strengthen economic ties with Iran.

➔ **Ukraine.** Russian campaign in Donbas remained largely static, Ukrainian army announced counteroffensive in south as it stepped up attacks in Russian-occupied areas, and fears mounted over shelling at Zaporizhzhia power plant.

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## WESTERN EUROPE AND MEDITERRANEAN

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➔ **Cyprus.** Türkiye continued hydrocarbon exploration in undisputed maritime zones north of island, while European energy companies announced major gas discovery south of island.

➔ **Türkiye.** Amid military operations against Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), fighting escalated with Kurdish-led forces in Syria, while tensions persisted with Greece and govt restored ties with Israel.

# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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## ANDES

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➔ **Colombia.** New govt took steps to revive talks with ELN and other armed and criminal groups; Colombia and Venezuela restored diplomatic relations.

↓ **Ecuador.** Bomb exploded in port city of Guayaquil, killing five and prompting authorities to impose state of emergency; negotiations between govt and Indigenous organisations stalled.

➔ **Venezuela.** Colombia and Venezuela restored diplomatic relations, Mexico dialogue remained on hold, and divisions within opposition over question of primaries to elect candidate for 2024 elections persisted.

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## CARIBBEAN

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➔ **Haiti.** Civil society platform Montana Accord called off negotiations with PM Ariel Henry while protesters demanded his resignation, and EU called for end to gang violence as clashes reignited.

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## CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

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➔ **El Salvador.** Govt extended state of emergency for fifth time to combat gang violence as more evidence emerged of authorities' abuses.

➔ **Honduras.** Amid ongoing efforts to detain and prosecute criminal leaders, authorities eradicated large number of coca bushes, and negotiations to establish UN-backed anti-corruption commission continued at slow pace.

➔ **Mexico.** Rival criminal groups clashed, deadly attacks on journalists continued, and govt announced plans to extend military's control over policing.

➔ **Nicaragua.** President Ortega's govt tightened grip on Catholic Church amid continued crackdown on civil society; tensions with foreign partners persisted.

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## SOUTHERN CONE AND BRAZIL

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➔ **Brazil.** Supreme Electoral Court resisted continued military interest in electoral process as public polarisation over armed forces grew.

# MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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## EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

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⚠ **Israel/Palestine.** Israel launched offensive against Islamic Jihad in Gaza that killed dozens in worst fighting since May 2021; Israeli forces continued lethal raids in West Bank.

➔ **Lebanon.** Govt formation efforts continued without breakthrough as economic crisis deepened, while hopes persisted of deal to resolve maritime dispute with Israel.

⚠ **Syria.** Deadly clashes escalated in north between Turkish and Kurdish-led forces; Idlib ceasefire held despite violations, as skirmishes broke out between U.S. forces and Iran-linked groups.

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## GULF AND ARABIAN PENINSULA

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➔ **Iran.** U.S. and Iran returned to EU-brokered talks in most substantive engagement to restore nuclear accord since March, leading to back-and-forth exchanges as prospects for final deal remained uncertain.

➔ **Iraq.** Unrest escalated further in capital Baghdad, where armed clashes between rival Shiite factions killed 30; ruling Kurdish parties quashed protests in Kurdistan.

➡ **Saudi Arabia.** Govt welcomed truce extension in Yemen.

➡ **Yemen.** Warring parties agreed two-month truce extension, while deadly clashes in Shebwa among rival anti-Huthi factions widened cracks within Political Leadership Council.

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## **NORTH AFRICA**

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➡ **Algeria.** Govt ruled out reconciliation with Morocco, while French President Macron visited country in bid to mend strained relations.

➡ **Egypt.** Amid growing economic hardship, President Sisi reshuffled cabinet and Central Bank governor resigned; govt forces engaged in days-long clashes with Islamic State-affiliated militants near Suez Canal in Sinai Peninsula.

⬇️ ⚡ **Libya.** Worst fighting in years broke out in capital Tripoli between forces loyal to rival govts, raising prospect of a return to full-blown war.

➡ **Tunisia.** New constitution giving President Saïed nearly unchecked powers came into force, and administrative court dealt blow to Saïed's moves to control judiciary.

➡ **Western Sahara.** Diplomatic row erupted between Morocco and Tunisia over Western Sahara; UN warned of serious food insecurity in Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria.