



November 4, 2024

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Top Stories

Candidates Close Out Campaigning on Eve of U.S. Election as Authorities Prepare for Unrest

On the eve of Election Day in the U.S., Vice President Harris is campaigning in Pennsylvania while former President Trump stops in key swing states. Meanwhile, the specter of threats surrounding mis- and disinformation, violence against poll workers, and post-election civil unrest are looming over tomorrow's landmark election. On Saturday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released a [statement](#) regarding two videos circulating in relation to election security that falsely claim to be from the Bureau. The statement comes only a few days after intelligence officials [deemed](#) another widely circulated video that appears to portray voter fraud in the critical battleground state of Georgia to be the work of "Russian influence actors."

Authorities are implementing further security measures amid continuing threats of violence against election workers and infrastructure. Last Friday, an individual in Michigan was [charged](#) after insulting and attempting to run over election canvassers. In [Massachusetts](#), Oregon, and Washington, ballot drop boxes were set on fire a week before Election Day, and authorities [warn](#) that further attacks may occur. In Florida, an 18-year-old was [arrested](#) after brandishing a machete at a voting site. New vote-counting warehouses backed with heightened security have been [constructed](#) amid the growing threats against such sites. In the Pacific Northwest, local police and National Guard units are preparing to quell any civil unrest following the election, recalling previous riotous [activity](#) in Portland in the last two presidential elections. The Secret Service is also [bracing](#) for potential unrest, implementing extensive security measures surrounding key locations in the capital like the White House, parts of Lafayette Square, and Harris's residence, as well as the [Palm Beach County Convention Center](#), where the Trump campaign

plans to hold its election-night party. AlertMedia's Global Intelligence Team has surfaced numerous calls for post-election demonstrations across the U.S., starting with a November 5 rally outside News Corporation headquarters in Manhattan. Additional gatherings are scheduled for Wednesday at Lafayette Square in Washington, D.C., and Thursday in cities including Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis. *For further information on threats and other security considerations surrounding the U.S. election, see our updated [Situation Report](#).*

Last Month of Atlantic Hurricane Season Begins with Anticipation of 'Rafael'

As of late Monday morning, Tropical Storm 'Rafael' formation appeared imminent, with hurricane warnings issued for the Cayman Islands and tropical storm warnings for Jamaica. Forecasts suggest that Tropical Depression Eighteen could strengthen to Tropical Storm 'Rafael' by Monday afternoon, with possible intensification to a Category 1 hurricane by Tuesday as it approaches the Cayman Islands. Favorable conditions, including warm water and low wind shear, bolster confidence in this prediction. The storm is expected to track northwest, impacting western Cuba and possibly extending tropical storms to minimize hurricane conditions in Havana. Potential impacts include flash flooding, rain totals of three to six inches (locally up to eight inches), coastal storm surge, power outages, and transportation disruptions, particularly in Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, and western Cuba. Schools and businesses are anticipated to suspend operations, and the Cayman Islands have already confirmed school closures for Tuesday.

The U.S. Central Gulf Coast, including Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, lies within the five-day forecast cone. Still, significant impacts like those from past storms Helene or Milton are unlikely due to cooler water temperatures and expected wind shear.

Israel Withdraws Recognition of U.N. Relief Agency, IDF Claims Raid Into Syria, Israeli Authorities Investigate Leaks From Netanyahu's Office

Earlier today, Israel [informed](#) the United Nations that it was withdrawing from the 1967 agreement recognizing the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the primary aid organization operating in Gaza and the West Bank. The move follows legislation [passed](#) by the Knesset that would ban the agency from operating within Israel amid accusations that Hamas had infiltrated it. An [independent review](#) by former French foreign minister Catherine Colonna did not find sufficient evidence to support that claim. A ban on UNRWA operations within Israel would likely create a humanitarian vacuum in Gaza and the West Bank. However, UNRWA spokeswoman Juliette Touma said the organization intends to continue distributing aid at the operational level. Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz [said](#) there are "substitutes" for the agency but did not identify what those might be.

Meanwhile, fighting continues across the conflict's front lines. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) [released](#) a statement saying that in recent months, they had [conducted](#) a ground operation in Syria that resulted in

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the capture of “Iranian terror network operative” Ali Soleiman al-Assi. Israel rarely acknowledges military operations within Syria. In Lebanon, Hezbollah [appointed](#) deputy secretary-general Sheikh Naim Qassem as the group’s new leader, succeeding Hassan Nasrallah. Meanwhile, Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in [comments](#) made marking the 45th anniversary of the 1979 seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, said that the U.S. and Israel “will receive a crushing response” following Israeli attacks on Iranian military sites. The Biden administration has [reportedly](#) told Iran that if it responds to these latest strikes, it may not be able to prevent Israel from hitting Iran’s nuclear or oil production sites.

Finally, tensions are rising within Israeli society itself after more than a year of war. Israeli authorities are [investigating](#) a person in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office for allegedly leaking classified information that [bolstered](#) Netanyahu’s position as ceasefire talks stalled over the summer. The case adds to the perception among many in Israel’s opposition that Netanyahu is deliberately stalling efforts to reach a deal and return the remaining Israeli hostages held in Gaza. Israel has seen regular demonstrations over the past several months demanding the government get an agreement with Hamas to secure the hostages’ return. Family members of those taken hostage have [announced](#) a new campaign to block access roads to government institutions in Jerusalem.

Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Renewed Flooding in Catalonia:** Severe flooding in Catalonia, Spain, caused significant disruption earlier Monday, prompting the Spanish Meteorological Agency (AEMET) to once again issue maximum-level [Red Warnings](#). Confirmed impacts include 67 flight cancellations and 304 delays at Barcelona International Airport, [metro station flooding](#), and stranded vehicles along major routes like C-32 and A- 27. Emergency services have conducted over 200 interventions, particularly between Tarragona and Torredembarra. As of late Monday afternoon, rain coverage and intensity were beginning to subside, with rainfall warnings downgraded to Yellow and Orange severity. High pressure is expected to bring drier conditions from Monday night through Friday.
- **Typhoon Yinxing Approaching Northern Philippines:** Typhoon-force winds are expected to impact extreme [northern Luzon and Batanes](#) late Wednesday into Thursday. All sustained tropical storm conditions are likely to bypass Manila well to the north. Residents and travelers near Hainan and Vietnam should monitor the storm’s progress, though atmospheric conditions are expected to result in weakening over the South China Sea.
- **Limited Weather Hazards on U.S. Election Tuesday:** Scattered showers and thunderstorms will extend across the Great Lakes, Mid-South, and central Gulf Coast. Severe thunderstorms and flooding, if any, are likely to be isolated. Farther west, scattered snow showers are forecast over

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the northern Rockies and western High Plains, though most impactful amounts will confine to high elevations.

Worldwide

- **COP29 Kicks Off in Azerbaijan Next Week:** Transport disruptions, area restrictions, and heightened security can be expected in Baku in the days surrounding the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29). The event is set to take place from November 11-22 at Baku Stadium. Organizers expect around 50,000 participants, including several heads of state, business leaders, academics, media, and non-governmental organizations. The summit will be accompanied by demonstrations by climate and human rights activists worldwide, although disruptions due to protest activity in Baku are expected to be minimal. Regional tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan remain high following Azerbaijan's [military offensive](#) to reclaim control of Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023. For an in-depth look at the threat environment surrounding COP29 in Baku, please see our [Situation Report](#).
- **State of Emergency, Curfew in Florida Following Mass Shooting Incident:** The Mayor of Orlando declared a local state of emergency last Friday after a [fatal shooting](#) during Halloween celebrations killed two people and injured seven others. City officials [implemented](#) several public safety measures, including a ban on alcohol sales after midnight and a curfew between 1 am and 5 am in the downtown entertainment district. These restrictions remain in effect until 5 pm on November 8. The shooting suspect is in custody, and authorities [believe](#) he acted alone. According to data from the [Gun Violence Archive](#), this was Florida's twenty-seventh mass shooting this year.
- **France Reintroduces Border Checks Through April:** France has [reinstated border controls](#) with six neighboring Schengen countries—Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland— effective November 1 through the end of April. Though France initially reintroduced controls before the Summer Olympic Games, it now joins several countries that have closed their borders to mitigate threats to public order, irregular migration, and terrorist activities. While neighboring Belgium has not changed its Schengen stance, their National Crisis Centre (NCCN)'s [latest report](#) on national threats identified espionage, foreign interference, new infectious diseases, and cyberattacks on critical infrastructure as top risks in the next two years and beyond.
- **Crime-Related Violence Surges in Guanajuato, Tabasco States:** A car bombing injured three police officers in the Guanajuato town of Acámbaro in late October, highlighting the prevalence of cartel-related violence. A second explosion occurred less than an hour later in the town of Jerécuaro. Both instances came weeks after authorities [arrested](#) a leader of the Santa Rosa de Lima Cartel in Guanajuato's Dolores Hidalgo. Meanwhile, in Tabasco, cartel-related violence has

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[escalated](#) in recent weeks, with authorities [reporting](#) more than 60 homicides in October. In response, authorities have [ramped up](#) security operations, though analysts [warn](#) unofficial migration policies are contributing to heightened criminal activity.

- **North Korea Deploys Troops in Russia, Tests Intercontinental Ballistic Missile:** Ukraine has [fired](#) on North Korean troops stationed in Russia's Kursk border region, where Ukrainian forces made gains this year. Approximately 10,000 North Korean troops have been sent to Russia in what NATO calls a "significant escalation" in Pyongyang's involvement in the conflict. Both South Korea and the U.S. have expressed concern that this military support could lead to Russia providing North Korea with advanced technology for its nuclear weapons and missile programs in return. North Korea conducted an [intercontinental ballistic missile](#) (ICBM) test of the newly developed Hwasong-19 last week. The U.S., Japan, and South Korea [responded](#) with a trilateral drill involving the flight of a long-range bomber.

Cyber and Regulatory

- **U.S. Treasury Blocks U.S. Investors From Helping China Develop Military Technology:** The U.S. Treasury Department has [issued](#) a final rule regarding an Executive Order prohibiting American outbound investments to countries of interest in advancing technologies. The Executive Order, signed in August 2023, specifically mentions China, including the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau. It blocks semiconductors, microelectronics, quantum information technologies, and artificial intelligence investments. In addition to monetary investments, Americans cannot provide "intangible benefits" like management assistance, access to investment and talent networks, or additional financing. The regulations are slated to go into effect on January 2, 2025.
- **Attackers Utilize Facebook Business Accounts to Spread InfoStealer Malware:** Cybercriminals are using Meta's [advertising](#) platform and hijacked Facebook accounts to target users globally in an ongoing malvertising campaign. Attackers are impersonating a variety of well-known and trusted brands, like Netflix, Office 365, and Express VPN, to spread the SYS01 InfoStealer malware and harvest personal information. Compromised Facebook Business accounts [serve](#) as a launch point for malicious ads, providing them with more credibility and allowing them to bypass usual security measures. Attackers are using a slew of evasion tactics, including anti-sandbox detection before the execution of critical stages and updating the code when cybersecurity firms detect and block specific versions.
- **Global Eventbrite Phishing Campaign Impersonates Brands:** Researchers have [identified](#) a growing phishing campaign utilizing Eventbrite, a ticketing and event management platform. After signing up for an account, attackers can create an event and send an "invite" message to a list of

“attendees.” The messages are curated to impersonate trusted brands like DHL and Qatar Post and launch an urgent request, prompting the user to click a malicious link. Since the emails arrive from Eventbrite’s verified domain and IP address, they are more likely to bypass email filters and other security measures. In addition, emails have been observed in multiple languages, including English and German, to reach a global audience and circumvent evasion detection.

- **LA Housing Authority Targeted in Second Ransomware Attack:** The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) was [targeted](#) in an apparent ransomware attack. However, officials state their “systems remain operational.” The Cactus ransomware group claimed responsibility, stating they stole nearly 900 GB of data, including personal identifiable information (PII), financial documents, and database backups. The HACLA was previously breached in 2022, and stolen files were leaked after officials refused to pay the ransom demanded by the LockBit group.

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **Volkswagen to Shutter Three German Plants:** Volkswagen AG, facing a deepening [crisis](#), plans to close three German plants, slash wages by 10%, and potentially cut thousands of jobs. These moves marked a historic shift for VW, which had never closed a factory in Germany. The restructuring follows management’s struggles to transition to electric vehicles, missed sales targets in China, and an overall downturn in European car sales. The cuts sparked a rally of 25,000 workers. With declining sales and profits, negotiations between management and unions remain tense as potential strikes loom.
- **Active Port Strike on Canada’s East Coast as Strike Looms at West Coast Ports:** Dockworkers at Montreal’s port began a [strike](#) on Thursday, October 31, shutting down two major terminals and intensifying supply chain concerns ahead of the holiday season. Around 320 dockworkers represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees are protesting scheduling practices they say disrupt work- life balance. The ongoing strike and overtime ban could delay shipments crucial to retailers preparing for Black Friday and Christmas. Union demands include a 20% wage hike over four years, matching rates in Halifax and Vancouver. The Montreal port strike comes ahead of a [threatened](#) 72-hour strike by a union representing about 700 foremen at British Columbia ports.
- **ILA, USMX Resume Talks on New Labor Contract, Shippers Still Avoiding East Coast Ports:** The International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) will resume contract [negotiations](#) this month after reaching a tentative wage agreement. They’ll focus on automation, jurisdiction protections, healthcare benefits, and container royalties. A potential strike looms if no agreement is reached by the January 15 deadline, halting East and Gulf Coast ports operations. Some U.S. shippers are [diverting](#) goods to West Coast ports due to strike fears.

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- **Canada Post Workers in Contract Negotiations:** Members of the Canada Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) are [urging](#) Canada Post to return to the bargaining table with a better deal in order to avoid a strike. The CUPW was able to conduct a legal strike as of last Sunday, but the union and Canada Post agreed to issue a 72-hour notice before a strike or a lockout, and so far, neither has been issued. The union is pushing for better working conditions and higher salary increases. Results from a preliminary vote showed that more than 95% of CUPW supports a strike mandate. The CUPW has been [involved](#) in 19 major contract disputes with the Canada Post since 1965, with the most recent strike in 1991.
- **Low Water Levels on the Mississippi River Raise Grain Shipping Prices:** Ahead of the U.S. harvest, the main source of shipping grain, the Mississippi River, is [suffering](#) from low water levels. This marks the third straight fall that the river has faced lower water levels due to limited rainfall. The drying of the river has raised shipping costs and impacted U.S. farmers' ability to compete against countries such as Brazil.

Health

- **U.K. Reports Imported Clade 1b Mpox Case:** Last week; the U.K. [reported](#) its first clade 1b mpox case in an individual who had traveled to an African country where community transmission of the deadly strain is ongoing. Despite the reported infection, U.K. [health officials](#) said the risk to the public from clade 1b remains low; they are working to trace contacts and reduce the risk of any potential spread. The U.K. joins a handful of nations that have now recorded imported cases of the strain, which continues to spread primarily in Central Africa. African officials recently [said](#) that the virus is not under control on the continent, noting that cases are still trending up.
- **Oregon Pig Tests Positive for Bird Flu, Prompting Concern Over Potential Reassortment:** For the first time in the U.S., a pig has [tested positive](#) for the H5N1 avian influenza virus. While the case [does not appear](#) to represent a threat to the nation's pork supply as it occurred on a small, noncommercial farm, it has sparked [concern](#) in the health community, as pigs are "viewed as the ideal mixing vessels for pandemic pathogens." In related news, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will [reportedly](#) start bulk testing raw milk for bird flu as the virus continues to impact cow herds across the country. Additional human cases of avian influenza were [reported](#) recently as well.
- **Rwandan Authorities Report Progress in Marburg Fight:** New cases of Marburg in Rwanda have slowed significantly, and [officials claim](#) the outbreak is contained. Only four cases were [reported](#) in the second half of October, bringing the national total to 66. No deaths have been recorded in the past three weeks.
- **Ethiopia Facing Malaria Surge, Pakistan Sees Chikungunya Spike:** Ethiopia is seeing its worst Malaria outbreak in seven years, according to a new World Health Organization (WHO) [report](#).

For the year up to October 20, the country reported 7.3 million cases and 1,157 deaths due to the disease. Despite the surge, the WHO does not recommend any general travel or trade restrictions to Ethiopia; however, it does say that the national risk level for malaria is high due to several factors, including the spread of [invasive mosquitoes](#) that thrive in urban areas, weather anomalies, conflict, and drought. In other news about mosquito-borne illness, Pakistan's capital, Karachi, continues to deal with a [significant outbreak](#) of Chikungunya. Local officials there have [put the blame](#) on climate change.

- **Other Health Stories We're Watching:** Health officials in Illinois have [confirmed](#) a third case of tuberculosis tied to Elmhurst University in DuPage County. The cases arrived the same week that the WHO released its [annual report](#) on the disease, which it said has "probably returned to being the world's leading cause of death from a single infectious agent (replacing COVID-19)." Elsewhere in the U.S., an Iowa resident died recently due to a suspected Lassa virus infection. Despite the occurrence, the CDC [reports](#) that the risk of Lassa fever spreading in the U.S. is low.

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Pro-Palestine Protests Planned on and After Tuesday's U.S. Presidential Election:** While there are no known plans for widespread demonstrations immediately following Election Day, various groups plan to hold protests. In New York, the pro-Palestine group Within Our Lifetime plans to demonstrate outside the News Corporation headquarters (1211 6th Ave) at 7 pm. At the same time, in Washington D.C., the Palestinian Youth Movement and other allied groups plan to hold an action in Lafayette Square. The following day, other pro-Palestine groups plan to gather in Milwaukee (Red Arrow Park at 6 pm), Chicago (Federal Plaza at 6 pm), and Minneapolis (301 Cedar Ave at 5 pm).
- **Italian Unions Plan Nationwide Public Transport Strike Ahead of General Strike:** Several Italian transport unions are planning a [nationwide strike](#) on November 8 that would potentially block buses and subways for the entire 24-hour period without any guaranteed service slots. It would be the first time in nearly 20 years that such an action has taken place. Only "absolutely essential services for the general public" and "specialized services of particular social importance" would be maintained. The strike will be accompanied by a rally in front of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MIT). The transport strike comes ahead of a [threatened](#) eight-hour general strike by the CGIL and UIL trade unions on November 29 to protest government budget plans.
- **Demonstrations Over Election Continue in Mozambique, National Rally Planned for Thursday:** Demonstrators continue to [gather](#) in Mozambique to protest the results of an October 9 election that the opposition claims was rigged. Venancio Mondlane, the leading opposition candidate, has called for a nationwide strike and protests throughout the country until Thursday, when he has called for supporters to gather in the capital, Maputo, for a final

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show of strength. Internet restrictions have been put in place since violence broke out following the elections, including limiting access to Instagram, WhatsApp, and Facebook. Human Rights Watch [claims](#) that at least 11 people have been killed during the ongoing demonstrations.

- **Activists in Poland Plan Independence March in Warsaw:** After initially [barring](#) the annual Independence Day March from going forward, Warsaw officials have [reversed](#) their position and will allow the demonstration to proceed as scheduled on November 11. The march, organized by groups often described as [nationalist](#) or [far-right](#), regularly draws tens of thousands of participants. Past marches have [involved](#) clashes. Demonstrators plan to march from the Roman Dmowski Roundabout at 2 pm.
- **Indonesia's Labor Party Threatens Nationwide Strike:** Indonesia's Labor Party and the Indonesian Trade Union Confederation (KSPI) have [threatened](#) a nationwide strike sometime between November 19 and December 24 if the government fails to comply with a ruling by the Constitutional Court related to the Job Creation Law. According to a [statement](#) from Labor Party and KSPI leader Said Iqbal, the strike will last at least two days, involve five million workers across several sectors, and be accompanied by nationwide demonstrations.

Upcoming Events

- November 5: General Election (United States)
- November 5: Guy Fawkes/Bonfire Night (Global)
- November 7: Chhath Puja (India, Nepal)
- November 7: Nationwide Marches by Opposition (Mozambique)
- November 11: Remembrance Day/Armistice Day (Global)
- November 11-22: COP29 - United Nations Climate Change Conference (Baku, Azerbaijan)
- November 10-16: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit 2024 (Lima, Peru)
- November 12: Birth Anniversary of Sun Yat-sen/Autumn Struggle Demonstrations (Taiwan)
- November 17: Parliamentary Elections (Senegal)
- November 18-19: G20 2024 Summit (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- November 28: Thanksgiving (United States)
- November 28: Independence Day (Panama)
- November 30: Independence Day (Yemen)
- December 14: Martyred Intellectuals Day (Bangladesh)