



**November 11, 2024**

## Headlining This Week's Brief

### Top Stories

Climate and Natural Hazards  
Worldwide  
Cyber and Regulatory  
Infrastructure and Supply Chain  
Health  
Demonstrations and Industrial Action  
Upcoming Events

## Top Stories

### **Mountain Fire Continues to Burn in Southern California, Winds to Increase Monday Afternoon**

Evacuations remain in effect today due to a wildfire on South Mountain in Ventura County, California, northwest of Thousand Oaks, last Wednesday morning. Down-sloping Santa Ana winds gusted between 60-80mph at times Wednesday, rapidly spreading the fire west-southwestward. Officials quickly alerted thousands of residents to evacuate as the Mountain Fire reached over 10,000 acres and barreled down on neighborhoods. By the following day, the fire had burned over 20,000 acres, prompting Governor Gavin Newsom to declare a [State of Emergency](#). While 168 structures were destroyed, no deaths have been [reported](#). More favorable weather conditions over the weekend helped firefighters boost the fire's containment up to [36%](#) as of this morning. [Ventura County officials](#) have downgraded evacuations in some areas due to the fire becoming increasingly contained; however, the National Weather Service (NWS) issued a [wind advisory](#) for the region beginning this afternoon as a weather boundary approaching from the northwest will produce gusty winds into Tuesday. Interests within the region should continue to monitor the wildfire, as additional spread towards the southeast and localized evacuations cannot be ruled out.

### **Thousands Protest Across the U.S. Following Trump's Re-Election**

Initial protests in response to Donald Trump winning the presidential election have been largely peaceful, with only isolated reports of arrests and vandalism. Thousands of people [marched](#) in major cities across the U.S. on Saturday against President-elect Trump. Further protests can be expected in the coming months, particularly [surrounding Inauguration Day](#) and other key dates. In Washington, D.C., authorities are [warning](#) of the "likelihood of violence and civil unrest" during the vote certification

# Weekly Intelligence Briefing

November 11, 2024



process and the presidential inauguration. The likelihood of widespread civil unrest in the U.S. is low; however, polarization is expected to remain high, with wedge issues—such as the Middle East conflict, abortion rights, environmental policy, and immigration—likely to drive protest activity leading up to and during Trump’s second presidency.

Foreign adversaries also remain a threat, highlighted by the efforts to [spread](#) mis- and disinformation by Russian and Iranian-linked groups during the election. On Election Day, false bomb threats [temporarily disrupted voting](#) in several swing states. Federal and local authorities [stated](#) that the threats appeared to “originate from Russian email domains.” At the Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, D.C., Capitol police [arrested](#) an individual who “smelled like fuel and was carrying a torch and a flare gun.” U.S. security officials noted that other incidents on voting day, such as issues with ballot machines, were “[largely expected, routine, and planned-for events.](#)”

## **Experts Warn of Famine in Gaza as Israel, U.S. Adjust to Future Trump Presidency**

Dozens of deaths were [reported](#) this morning in Lebanon, Gaza, and Syria as Israel continues its offensive to the north against Hezbollah and to the south against Hamas. Meanwhile, Hezbollah injured seven as it [launched](#) drones and missiles at towns in northern Israel, including [Haifa](#). In northern Gaza, aid groups have said that the Jabalia refugee camp and other parts of the territory are [under siege](#), and global food security experts with the independent Famine Review Committee [assessed](#) that there is a “strong likelihood that famine is imminent” in certain areas. Israel has rejected that assessment, but it comes ahead of a [Wednesday deadline](#) for Israel to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza or risk restrictions on the supply of American military aid.

Whatever determination the U.S. makes may not lead to a long-term shift in policy with President-elect Donald Trump set to take office in January. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has [reportedly](#) had several conversations with Trump. Netanyahu says the two leaders see “eye-to-eye on the Iranian threat in all its aspects.” Netanyahu’s statement also follows his decision to fire Yoav Gallant, his defense minister. Gallant and Netanyahu had repeatedly clashed over how to prosecute the war with Hamas, with Gallant [pushing back](#) on Netanyahu’s stated goal of “absolute victory” over the militant group. Neither Trump’s election nor Gallant’s firing appear to bode well for the prospects of a ceasefire in the immediate future. Underscoring that point, Qatar has informed Hamas and Israel that it is [withdrawing](#) from its role as mediator between the two parties, saying that both sides have refused to negotiate in good faith. In Lebanon, Israel said that there has been [progress](#), but Hezbollah said that it has not received a formal peace proposal yet.

## Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Typhoon Toraji Makes Landfall in the Philippines:** Toraji, known as 'Nika' in the Philippines, made [landfall](#) as a typhoon Monday morning, local time, over Dilasag, Aurora. According to [officials](#), over 140,000 people have been impacted, and nearly 7,000 have evacuated to shelters. [Satellite](#) imagery as of Tuesday morning, local time, reveals the storm has weakened due to land interaction and exited the Philippines to the northwest. Toraji is forecast to gradually weaken as it approaches Hong Kong by mid-week but will still pose an elevated flash flood threat. Attention now turns to recently formed [Tropical Storm 27W](#), which is expected to strengthen as it approaches Luzon from the east. It may impact the country as early as Thursday.
- **Monitoring Caribbean Sea for Late Season Development:** The [National Hurricane Center](#) has introduced a medium chance for tropical development over the western Caribbean Sea as a broad low-pressure system is expected to form late in the week. Forecast model guidance shows an increasing signal for gradual development as the system consolidates near Honduras and Nicaragua by Friday into the weekend. Track and intensity details remain highly uncertain in the forecast, though an elevated flash flood threat appears likely across the region. Interests within Nicaragua, Honduras, the Yucatan peninsula, western Cuba, and surrounding areas should monitor forecast trends in the coming days.
- **State of National Disaster Declared as Colombia Battles Flooding:** Torrential rainfall across Colombia in recent days has led to areas of significant flooding, prompting the president to declare a [State of National Disaster](#). At least 186 municipalities across 27 departments have been affected by the flooding. Alta Guajira, Bogotá, and Chocó have been the [most impacted](#), with flooding leading to a shortage of drinking water and tens of thousands left displaced in the Chocó Department.
- **Increased Flash Flood Threat Returns to Spain:** Nearly two weeks after catastrophic flooding claimed the lives of over [220 people](#) in Valencia, the flash flood threat is expected to increase again. An upper-level low-pressure storm system is expected to enter the region from the northeast on Tuesday and meander over the Iberian Peninsula through the weekend. Slow-moving thunderstorms fueled by above-average moisture content will lead to an isolated severe flash flood threat throughout the period.

## Worldwide

- **G20 Summit in Rio to See Transport Disruptions, Demonstrations:** The [2024 G20 Summit](#) will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, between November 14-19. Leaders from all 19 member countries are [expected](#) to attend, including [U.S. President Joe Biden](#) and [Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum](#). President Lula [declared](#) a Guarantee of Law and Order (GLO), allowing the military

# Weekly Intelligence Briefing

November 11, 2024



to be temporarily deployed to oversee the summit. Additionally, approximately 7,000 police officers will be deployed across the city to bolster security for the event. Rio will see demonstration activity during the summit, particularly on November 16 and 18, as various groups organize large-scale demonstrations to coincide with the G20 Summit. More information is included in AlertMedia's [Situation Report](#).

- **Deadly Protests Rage on in Mozambique, South Africa Briefly Shuts Border:** At least 18 people have died amid nationwide protests against the government taking place across Mozambique. The demonstrations—led by opposition candidate Venancio Mondlane—[peaked](#) last Thursday as police clashed with thousands of demonstrators in the capital, Maputo. South Africa [announced](#) it would temporarily close one of its main borders with Mozambique, although it has since [reopened](#). The U.S. Embassy [issued](#) a security alert to citizens, warning of the likelihood of further protests and difficulties traveling in and around Maputo.
- **Heightened Security Expected at France-Israel Football Match After Violence in Amsterdam:** French authorities are [deploying](#) 4,000 police officers to bolster security for a France-Israel football match in Paris's Saint-Denis suburb on Thursday. The game, which was already set to occur under heightened tensions due to Israel's military operations in the Middle East, comes after violent protests [marred](#) a football game in Amsterdam last week. The situation in Amsterdam escalated after Israeli fans of the team Maccabi Tel Aviv reportedly [tore down](#) Palestinian flags in the Dutch city, resulting in a three-day ban on demonstrations in the city to prevent further violence. On Sunday, Israel's National Security Council [issued a statement](#) recommending that citizens abroad avoid sports and cultural events, particularly the upcoming match in Paris.
- **German Snap Election Expected in Early 2025:** Germany is currently experiencing significant political upheaval, marked by the [collapse](#) of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's three-party coalition government. A parliamentary confidence vote [could happen](#) before the end of the year, which would lead to elections as early as February. Concurrently, the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party has achieved unprecedented electoral success, securing a [regional election victory](#) in Thuringia with approximately 33% of the vote this fall. These political developments come amid [challenges](#) for Europe's largest economy, including concerns over deindustrialization.
- **Parcel Fires in Europe Linked to Russian Sabotage Attempts:** Polish prosecutors suspect recent fires in courier company facilities were part of Russian intelligence operations targeting cargo flights bound for the U.S. The fires, which occurred in July, involved parcels containing incendiary devices that were allegedly designed to ignite spontaneously. Western officials believe the Russian military intelligence agency GRU orchestrated these incidents, although Russia denies involvement. Four suspects are in custody in Poland, additional arrests have been made in Lithuania, and investigations are continuing across Europe. DHL has since [increased security measures](#) at facilities across Europe, while the Polish government has responded by closing a

Russian consulate and threatening further diplomatic actions. This campaign is seen as part of Russia's broader "hybrid attacks" in response to Western support for Ukraine.

## Cyber and Regulatory

- **Canada Deems TikTok a National Security Risk:** Officials have [ordered](#) the dissolution of TikTok's Canadian operations, citing potential national security risks, though access to the application won't be blocked. Minister François-Philippe Champagne, head of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), stated the decision was made following a review of TikTok's investment and expansion plans that began in September 2023. The order follows a decision by U.S. President Joe Biden for ByteDance Ltd, the parent company of TikTok, to sell the application to a U.S. company by January 19, 2025, or risk a ban. TikTok sued the U.S. to block the order and has said it will also challenge the Canadian dissolution in court.
- **DocuSign API Used in Convincing Phishing Attacks:** Malicious actors are [using](#) DocuSign's API to send fake invoices to businesses to acquire payment authorizations. By creating legitimate accounts and utilizing certain endpoints, attackers can switch between seemingly authentic templates, allowing them to impersonate brands like Norton Antivirus and send invoices in bulk. Once a business e-signs the document, the form can be used to request payment through DocuSign or outside the platform. Security researchers [warn](#) that since the fake invoice is sent through a trusted platform and doesn't contain malicious links, it bypasses email filtering rules.
- **San Francisco to Host International Discussion Surrounding AI Safety:** International artificial intelligence (AI) experts will [meet](#) in San Francisco from November 20-21 to discuss mitigating risks related to AI. The meeting follows a 2023 safety summit in the U.K. where countries promised to work together to contain future risks, and it precedes a wider-ranging AI summit scheduled for February in Paris. The group plans to discuss the surge of AI-generated deepfakes and misinformation, identify dangerous AI systems, and align on technologies that AI shouldn't have access to, like nuclear weapons.
- **DoD Partnering With Various Generative AI Developers:** National security officials and select members of the military in the United States are testing the efficacy of various large language models (LLMs) for mission planning and intelligence-gathering operations. Scale AI [announced](#) its Defense Llama, built off Meta's Llama 3 LLM, is currently deployed in various testing environments and has been fine-tuned to bypass previously instilled restrictions about defense topics. In addition, [Meta](#) and [OpenAI](#) have announced partnerships with the Department of Defense (DoD) to assist in the development and future implementation of generative AI across the national security landscape.
- **TSA Proposes Mandate to Bolster Cyber Resilience Across Critical Transportation Infrastructure:** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has [proposed](#) a rule to consolidate and codify cyber security directives issued by the agency following the 2021 Colonial

Pipeline ransomware attack. TSA officials [state](#) the ruling will impact roughly 300 rail transit and pipeline owners and operators and certain bus operators. The mandate would require organizations to create cyber risk management plans and report cyber incidents to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

## Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **Businesses Prepare for Second Trump Term:** Importers in the U.S. are [moving up orders](#) and sending freight rates higher as they look to mitigate the impact of new tariffs that President-elect Donald Trump has promised to impose on all imported goods once he comes into office. As a candidate, Trump promised to impose tariffs of 10%-20% on all goods entering the U.S. and 60%-100% on those from China. Other [Asian countries](#) with trade surpluses with the U.S. are wary that they may also see higher tariffs slapped on their goods, while U.S. businesses are bracing for potential retaliatory measures by other countries. Outside of trade policy, business leaders are also watching how Trump plans to fulfill his promises on immigration. A report from the [American Migration Council](#) estimated that if the government were to deport all of the roughly 11 million people in the U.S. who lack legal status, as Trump has [promised](#), GDP would decrease by between 4.2% and 6.8%, with the construction, agriculture, and the hospitality sectors particularly hard hit.
- **Freight Watcher Advises of Theft Ring Near O'Hare, Sees Heightened Risk in LA:** Logistics monitoring firm Overhaul has [reportedly](#) warned that an "active criminal crew" is targeting cargo shipments near Chicago O'Hare International Airport and advised that an increase in targeting in the Los Angeles area is expected during the holiday season. Both cities are located in U.S. states that saw the highest level of cargo theft in Q3 2024, according to a recent report by [CargoNet](#). That report also found that cargo theft in the U.S. and Canada increased by 14% in Q3 2024 compared to last year's timeframe, with 776 incidents amounting to \$39.4 million in stolen goods. CargoNet said that warehouses and distribution centers were top targets in Q3.
- **Ground Supply Chains in Mexico See Continued Targeting in Q3:** To tamp down cargo theft incidents across Mexico, the National Guard and vehicle tracking companies are planning to [increase cooperation](#). The efforts came as authorities grappled with significant cargo security issues in Q3 2024, particularly in Puebla and the State of Mexico. Official numbers suggest theft decreased year-over-year through September, though private entities [say otherwise](#), with [discrepancies](#) in reporting an ongoing issue. Approximately 83% of theft incidents during Q3 2024 [reportedly](#) involved violence; most targeting occurred in transit. Groceries loads remain [heavily targeted](#), as do merchandise, empty vans, and pharmaceuticals.
- **Bird Flu Confirmed in U.K., Two U.S. States Report Human Infection:** Just hours after [increasing](#) the risk level of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 in wild birds from medium to high, the U.K. government [announced](#) that it had confirmed the presence of HPAI

# Weekly Intelligence Briefing

November 11, 2024



H5N5 in a poultry farm in the Yorkshire area. Following the discovery, all poultry on the premises was culled, and a three-kilometer protection zone was put in place. The U.K. government issued the advisory for the H5N5 and H5N1 strains of the virus. In addition to the U.K., two states in the U.S., California and Washington, [reported](#) that an additional seven people were most likely infected by H5 avian flu from dairy cattle and commercial poultry operations. California has reported 20 cases, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirming 17 cases, and Washington has reported 12, with nine confirmed.

- **Myanmar Rebels Seize Rare-Earth Mining Hub:** The Kachin Independence Army (KIA), a rebel group in Myanmar, [seized](#) two critical rare-earth mining hubs from the Myanmar military in early November, impacting supply chains. Myanmar produces 11% of the world's rare-earth minerals, only lagging behind China and the U.S. in resources. The Chinese special envoy for Asian Affairs, Deng Xijun, urged the KIA to cease its resistance to the Myanmar military. Myanmar [shipped](#) over 41,000 tons of rare-earth minerals to China in 2023. Rare-earth minerals are [key](#) in the production of electric vehicles, glass, lights, batteries, and other household and commercial items.

## Health

- **Lahore Implements Restrictions to Combat Air Pollution:** [Severe air pollution](#) in Lahore over the past few weeks has led to the [closure of educational institutions](#) and public spaces until at least November 17. Most outdoor activities in Punjab have been banned, and officials told markets and malls in some areas to close early today. Officials attribute the smog partly to cross-border crop burning in India and have called for diplomatic talks to address the issue. Residents are urged to stay indoors to protect their health from hazardous air quality. Officials in Delhi, which is grappling with its worsening air quality, will [monitor](#) industrial units across the city to ensure compliance with environmental regulations.
- **Seven U.S. States Pass Measures Protecting Abortion Rights:** Voters in Missouri, Arizona, Maryland, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, and New York opted to [protect or expand](#) abortion rights during the U.S. election last week. In Missouri, which had a near-total abortion ban, abortion rights advocates [celebrated](#) the passage of Amendment 3, enshrining a right to reproductive freedom in the state's constitution. In Florida, a similar measure [fell](#) just short of the 60% threshold needed for a constitutional amendment, allowing a ban on most abortions after the six-week mark to remain in place. Voters in [Nebraska](#) and [South Dakota](#) also rejected efforts to expand abortion access.
- **Australia Wrestles With Record Whooping Cough Outbreak:** Australia has recorded [over 42,000 cases](#) of whooping cough (also known as pertussis) so far this year, putting the country on pace to hit 45,000 by year's end and surpassing the previous record—38,748, set in 2011—by a wide margin. New South Wales reported the highest number of cases, around 20,000. Cases have

# Weekly Intelligence Briefing

November 11, 2024



been concentrated in children aged 14 and under, with 40% of cases recorded in 10 to 14-year-olds. Authorities are [encouraging](#) those with respiratory symptoms to avoid contact with infants and for caregivers to ensure infants are vaccinated on time. Australia isn't alone; several other countries have seen significant rises in cases of pertussis, including the [United States](#) and the [United Kingdom](#). Experts are attributing the rise in cases to normal cyclical variations in virus levels following several years of limited circulation due to the pandemic.

- **U.K. Reports First Cluster of New Mpox Variant Outside Africa:** Officials have [identified](#) four cases of the clade 1b variant of mpox in the United Kingdom, making it the first cluster to be confirmed outside of Africa. All of the cases belong to the same household—the U.K. Health Security Agency (UKHSA) [stresses](#) that the overall threat to the general U.K. population remains low. Within Africa, cases have [surpassed](#) 50,000 after over 2,500 were reported in the last week, primarily in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Efforts to increase vaccinations in the DRC and other countries with substantial caseloads received a boost in recent days, with the [allocation](#) of nearly 900,000 vaccines to nine countries across the region. Officials expect over 5.85 million vaccines to be available by the end of the year.
- **AHA Partnering With FBI to Address Workplace Violence in Healthcare Settings:** The American Hospital Association (AHA) [announced](#) that it was partnering with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to create new resources for healthcare facilities to use to enhance the safety of their staff. The effort comes as healthcare workers continue to see heightened levels of violence in the workplace. In 2021-2022, the last year for which data is available, the Bureau of Labor Statistics [found](#) that 73% of nonfatal workplace violence incidents that required employees to miss work occurred in the healthcare and social services sector. Some states have taken measures to increase workers' safety, including North Carolina, which recently put into effect a law that [requires](#) armed law enforcement officers to be stationed in hospital emergency departments.

## Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Montreal Port Labor Dispute Escalates With Lockout:** The Maritime Employers Association [announced it would lock out](#) unionized dockworkers at the Port of Montreal beginning at 9 pm Sunday, November 10. The move came after dockworkers with the Canadian Union of Public Employees voted to reject an offer from the Maritime Employers Association. Approximately 1,200 unionized dockworkers began a strike on October 31. Port labor stoppages are also ongoing on Canada's west coast, where federally mediated talks between the BCMEA and ILWU Local 514 [concluded](#) on Saturday without resolution.
- **Peru to See Nationwide Strike as Lima Hosts APEC Summit:** Transport groups across Peru are [calling](#) for a 72-hour nationwide strike and demonstrations beginning on Wednesday, November 13, to [denounce](#) perceived inaction by the government to combat high crime rates. Over 200



# Weekly Intelligence Briefing

November 11, 2024



unions with the Committee of Transport Unions and other associations, including the General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP), have confirmed their participation in the strike. The action is expected to cause extensive disruptions. It is meant to coincide with the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum (APEC), which began on Sunday in Peru's capital city and runs through Saturday.

- **Climate, Human Rights Demonstrations Mark Start of COP29:** Activist groups around the globe are organizing demonstrations during the [COP29 Climate Change Conference](#), which kicked off today in Baku, Azerbaijan. Most protest activity is expected to take place outside of Azerbaijan during the summit, with the main global demonstration day set for Saturday, November 16. On that day, the Climate Justice Coalition has called for a Global Day of Action for Climate Justice and is hosting a march in London from Great Russel St to Downing St. Demonstration activity over issues related to human rights can be expected in addition to climate-related protests, with the BDS Movement calling for pro- Palestinian groups to join global COP29 mobilizations. On Monday, several cities saw protests outside Turkish and Azeri embassies, and climate activist Greta Thunberg [criticized](#) Baku's selection as host city during a demonstration in Tbilisi, Georgia. For more information, review AlertMedia's [Situation Report](#) on the conference.
- **Catastrophic Flooding Fuels Public Anger, Demonstration Activity in Spain:** Spain is likely to see demonstration activity continue as public dissatisfaction grows over the government's response to flooding that [killed](#) at least 220 people. More than 130,000 people marched in Valencia on Saturday, with some clashes [reported](#) between police and demonstrators. Spaniards are calling on the regional president, Carlos Mazón, to resign over the government's handling of the country's deadliest weather disaster in decades. Residents of Valencia [reportedly](#) received delayed warnings for the floods, likely contributing to the high death toll.
- **Pro-Palestine Demonstration Activity Continues in U.S., Globally:** Several pro-Palestinian activist groups are organizing multiple days of demonstration activity in Texas later this week in response to the Jewish National Fund-USA (JNF-USA) Global Conference for Israel, which is scheduled to take place in Dallas beginning this Thursday. Activist groups, including the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, are organizing a major day of action on Saturday, November 16, with calls to "shut down the JNF" shared on social media. Across the Atlantic, several large gatherings are expected in Italy on Saturday, including in Rome (Piazza Della Camelia), Florence (Piazza di Santa Maria Novella), and Bologna (Piazza dell'Unita). In Ireland, demonstrators in Dublin intend to march from the Embassy of Germany to Leinster House on Saturday.

# Weekly Intelligence Briefing

November 11, 2024



## Upcoming Events

- 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 14: Parliamentary Election (Sri Lanka)
- November 14-16: Cambodian Water Festival (Cambodia)
- November 15: Guru Nanak Jayanti (India, Nepal, Pakistan)
- November 16: Constitutional Referendum (Gabon)
- November 17: Parliamentary Elections (Senegal)
- November 17: Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day (Czechia)
- November 18: Independence Day (Morocco)
- November 18-19: G20 2024 L\_e\_a\_d\_e\_r\_s'\_ \_Summit (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- November 20: Legislative Assembly Election (Maharashtra, India)
- November 24: Presidential Election (Romania)
- November 24: Presidential Election, Second Round (Uruguay)
- November 27: General Election (Namibia)
- November 27: Regional Elections (Indonesia)
- November 28: Thanksgiving (United States)
- November 28: Independence Day (Panama)
- November 29: Parliamentary Elections (Ireland)
- November 29: Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (Global)