



**November 25, 2024**

## Headlining This Week's Brief

### Top Stories

Climate and Natural Hazards  
Worldwide  
Cyber and Regulatory  
Infrastructure and Supply Chain  
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Demonstrations and Industrial Action  
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## Top Stories

### U.S. Thanksgiving Travel Period Weather Assessment

**Nearly 80 million people** are expected to travel during the Thanksgiving holiday, 1.7 million more than last year and an increase of two million on pre-pandemic levels. While much of the country will avoid major weather impacts, there will be some trouble areas, especially Thanksgiving Day into the post-Thanksgiving weekend.

- California's [Sierra Nevada Mountains](#) and other high terrain eastward across [Utah](#) and [Colorado](#) could observe multiple feet of snow Monday evening through Wednesday morning. Those traveling across the Rockies should closely monitor the latest [winter storm warnings](#) and road conditions in high terrain.
- Wednesday, no widespread significant weather-related travel disruptions are forecast, though a weak weather system will generate showers from Illinois and the Ohio Valley southward into the Tennessee Valley. Some wintry accumulation is possible across portions of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, though winter storm warning issuance is unlikely. Likewise, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are possible farther south, though no widespread severe weather is forecast.
- Thanksgiving Day, weather woes will target the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States. Throughout the day, a strong storm system will track from West Virginia to Massachusetts, producing areas of widespread rain, snow, and gusty conditions.
- Moderate rain showers and gusty winds will overspread the I-95 corridor between Baltimore, Washington D.C., New York, and Boston. Rain combined with wind chill values in the 30s and 40s may dampen outdoor holiday festivities, including the [Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade](#) in New York.

However, balloons will continue down the route so long as gusts don't exceed 35mph. Lesser wind speeds are currently forecast.

- North of the main storm track, the threat of accumulating snow may prompt Winter Weather Advisories and localized Winter Storm Watches over parts of interior Upstate New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Low elevations may receive a couple of inches of snow, enough to cause some travel slowdowns, whereas higher elevations could receive several inches and more notable impacts.
- The coldest air of the season will become well entrenched across the central and eastern United States between Thursday and Monday, December 2. Wind chill values will bottom out between –20 to –30F across upper North Dakota. Wind chill readings in the teens could reach the outskirts of Boston and D.C. by Sunday morning. Central areas of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia will experience their first freeze on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- A significant lake effect snow event is likely somewhere downwind of Lakes Erie and Ontario over Northeast Ohio, Northwest Pennsylvania, and western and Upstate New York between Friday night and Monday. Traditional lake effect snow belt regions could observe one to two feet of snow, locally higher, over two to three days. However, the exact placement of snow bands will be difficult to forecast more than one to two days in advance. Widespread moderate to localized major travel impacts are possible. Residents and travelers near Cleveland, Erie, Buffalo, and Watertown will want to remain weather-aware during this busier weather period.

## **Israel, Hezbollah Reportedly Closing in on Ceasefire Deal as ICC Issues Warrants for Netanyahu, Gallant**

Israel and Hezbollah are reportedly close to [finalizing a ceasefire deal](#), though no agreement has been announced yet. The Israeli Security Cabinet is expected to convene on Tuesday to approve the deal. The agreement would involve a 60-day pause in fighting and require armed groups to withdraw from south of the Litani River in Lebanon, leaving the area under the control of Lebanese Armed Forces and U.N. peacekeepers. Despite progress in negotiations, Israel and Hezbollah [traded attacks](#) over the weekend, including strikes on Beirut and Tel Aviv.

Last week, the U.S. [vetoed](#) a U.N. resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, arguing it did not ensure the release of hostages. The U.N. Security Council voted 14-1 in favor of the resolution, which also called for “safe and unhindered entry of humanitarian assistance at scale” to Gaza. The International Criminal Court (ICC) [issued arrest warrants](#) last week for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for alleged war crimes in Gaza, obliging the [124 countries](#) that

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are parties to the Rome Statute to arrest either official should they step foot on their soil. The ICC also issued a warrant for [Mohammad Deif](#), Hamas's military leader, who the IDF [claims](#) they killed in July.

Little progress has been made on a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas to release hostages, with Netanyahu [offering](#) \$5 million as a reward for each freed individual. Hamas claims a female hostage was [killed](#) over the weekend during Israeli [military operations](#) in Gaza, where flooding has [inundated](#) tent encampments and worsened the present humanitarian crisis. Elsewhere in the Middle East, police in Jordan [shot and killed](#) a gunman who opened fire near the Embassy of Israel in Amman on Sunday. At the same time, authorities in the United Arab Emirates [arrested](#) three people in connection with the killing of an Israeli citizen who was reported missing last Thursday.

## **Moscow's Slow Advance in Ukraine Continues Despite U.S. Authorizing Use of Long-Range Missiles in Russia**

Last week was significant in the continuing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. On the heels of the U.S. [authorizing](#) Kyiv's use of longer-range American-supplied [missiles](#) to attack inside Russia, Ukraine began putting them to use, [targeting](#) an arms depot near the town of Karachev. On the same day, in a move thought to be retaliation for Washington's policy shift, Russian President Vladimir Putin [updated](#) his country's military doctrine to permit nuclear retaliation against conventional attacks supported by another nuclear power. In addition, days later, Moscow launched an attack on the Ukrainian city of Dnipro with a [nuclear-capable intermediate-range ballistic missile](#) (IRBM) system, an event that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy [called](#) a "severe escalation."

Washington's shifting stance on longer-range offensive missile usage was paired with a decision to [send anti-personnel mines](#) to Ukraine and comes as Russia continues its grinding assault on Ukraine's east. Russian troops are advancing in the area and have also [reportedly](#) taken back over 40% of the territory that Ukraine captured during its offensive into Russia's Kursk region. The Biden administration's moves were said to be triggered in part by [reports](#) that North Korean troops are fighting to help regain that seized land for Russia. The impact of Ukraine's new missile permissions remains to be seen because while they can now more effectively threaten [key Russian assets](#) across the border, their military continues to face [major challenges](#) on the front, particularly when it comes to manpower.

## Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Storm Bert Leaving U.K. and Ireland, Though Impacts Persist:** Severe flooding and disruptions from Storm Bert continue, with major incidents declared in [south Wales](#) and [Northamptonshire](#), impacting up to 300 homes. Flooding has led to road and train disruptions,

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power outages, and school closures, with emergency crews rescuing residents in affected areas. At least [three people were killed](#) in England and Wales. While rain from Storm Bert has moved on to France and Germany, some showers persist in Scotland and Ireland, with a yellow rain warning in effect for central Scotland. Conditions are expected to improve by Tuesday morning, though lingering flooding may take days to subside fully.

- **Tropical Cyclone Forming Near Southeast India:** There is a high potential for [tropical cyclone formation](#) near Sri Lanka and Southeast India through mid-week. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued maximum-tier [red rainfall warnings](#) for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry for Tuesday through Wednesday. There is high forecast uncertainty mid-week and beyond, though rainfall warnings may need to extend farther north as the slow-moving system parallels the coast.
- **Türkiye Digging Out After Winter Storm:** A [powerful winter storm](#) is exiting northern Türkiye, leaving behind difficult travel conditions, landslides, and school closures in multiple provinces. Heavy snow and strong winds are forecast to continue across north-central and eastern regions, with warnings in effect and snowfall totals of 10-20 cm expected in higher elevations. Road-clearing efforts are ongoing, but severe disruptions are likely to persist until Tuesday or Wednesday.

## Worldwide

- **Dozens Injured as Imran Khan's Party Protests for His Release:** At least 70 people have been injured, and one police officer killed during [clashes](#) outside Islamabad as members of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party march on the capital calling for his release from prison. Yesterday, the PTI began convoys toward Islamabad, where they intend to gather and hold an indefinite sit-in in a prominent public square. Ahead of the march, authorities banned gatherings in the city, placed heavy containers on roadways, and [suspended internet services](#) in some locations to limit communications. Despite the measures, as of Monday, PTI leadership [reported](#) that convoys "from all over Pakistan, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," were entering Islamabad. Further disruptions and clashes appear likely, as the party has [vowed to continue](#) its protest until Khan is released.
- **Second Car-Ramming Attack in China This Month:** Multiple students were injured in a [car-ramming attack](#) at a school in Changde, central China, last Tuesday. The incident follows two other recent mass violence events: a car-ramming attack in [Zhuhai](#) and a knife attack at the [Wuxi Vocational Institute of Arts and Technology](#). Authorities have recorded 19 attacks this year, with a total of 63 people killed and 166 others injured, [a significant increase from 2023](#). The exact motives behind the recent incidents are unclear due to the limited information from

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Chinese authorities. Still, some observers have suggested that the perpetrators are [“taking revenge on society”](#) as the country [struggles](#) with a slowing economy and strained social safety net.

- **Iran to Activate Advanced Centrifuges Following IAEA Resolution:** The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) met in Vienna and [passed a resolution](#) directing Iran to cooperate fully with the IAEA and to provide a [“comprehensive” report](#) on all nuclear activities while condemning the previous lack of cooperation by the Iranian government. The IAEA would likely expect an explanation in this report as to why there were traces of uranium previously found at centrifuges in Varamin and Turqzb ad near Tehran. Prior to the IAEA vote, Iran volunteered to [stop expanding](#) its stock of uranium that’s been enriched to 60% purity; however, following the passage of the resolution and criticism from the IAEA, Iran [declared](#) it would be “activating new advanced centrifuges.”
- **Travel Advisories Issued After Six Tourists Die From Tainted Alcohol in Laos:** Several countries, including the [U.S.](#) and [Canada](#), have issued travel advisories for Laos after six tourists died from consuming tainted alcohol. The victims included tourists from Australia, Denmark, the U.K., and the U.S. visiting the town of Vang Vieng, about two hours from the capital. The alcohol was [suspected](#) to be laced with methanol, a lethal substance commonly used in bootleg alcohol. The Laotian government [stated](#) that the operators of the hostel where two of the victims were staying have been detained for questioning.
- **Over 40 Hong Kong Democracy Advocates Sentenced to Prison:** Last week, authorities in Hong Kong [sentenced](#) 45 individuals, including former lawmakers, to prison under the territory’s [2020 National Security Law](#) (NSL). The democracy advocates were charged with [subversion of state power](#) for their role in an [unofficial primary election](#) in 2020. In response to the news, the U.S. issued a [statement](#) “strongly condemning” the sentences and announced plans to impose visa restrictions on officials who implemented the NSL, a move Beijing [said](#) would face countermeasures if followed through on. The rulings marked the [largest prosecution under the NSL](#) since its inception.

## Cyber and Regulatory

- **U.N. Cybercrime Treaty Raises Concerns Amid U.S. Support:** The United Nations will [conduct](#) a final vote in December to approve a treaty that looks to set global guidelines for cybercrime laws. The [Convention Against Cybercrime](#) focuses on advancements in technology and how they’re used in cybercrime. Tech companies worldwide have voiced concerns, claiming the treaty’s broad language is insufficient to protect human rights, and digital rights groups suggest the treaty could be used to justify or further police surveillance. President Biden and the current

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administration have [voiced](#) support for the convention, though experts are doubtful that Trump's Senate will ratify it.

- **Justice Department Seeks Chrome's Separation From Google:** The U.S. Department of Justice is [calling](#) for Google to sell its web browser, Chrome, arguing that the dominant search engine has suppressed competition over the past decade. Following U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta's August [ruling](#) that Google is a monopoly, regulators have proposed numerous punishments, including restrictions to prevent Android from favoring Chrome. Although court filings have not yet [recommended](#) the sale of Google's smartphone operating system, the option was left available if misconduct continues. Court hearings about the punishments are scheduled to convene in April 2025.
- **Major Financial Software Company Investigating Data Breach:** Finastra, a financial software company that counts most of the world's major banks as clients, [said](#) that it was investigating a breach of its internal file-transfer platform detected on November 7 and first occurred on October 31. The news came after journalist Brian Krebs [reported](#) that a hacker claimed to be selling files belonging to one of Finastra's largest customers. According to a [disclosure](#) from the company obtained by Krebs, the hack was the result of stolen credentials, not a vulnerability, and Finastra is working to evaluate the full extent of the breach.
- **FCC Preparing New Rules Around Submarine Cables Following Assumed Attacks:** Following several [high-profile instances](#) of submarine cables being damaged or tampered with, including two in the [Baltic Sea](#) that has led the Danish Navy to stop a [Chinese-registered vessel](#), the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) [voted](#) to launch a "major, comprehensive review and update of licensing rules for submarine cables." It will be the first such effort since 2001. Among the changes under consideration are a shortening of the 25-year license term, a three-year periodic reporting requirement, and updates to the application requirements to ensure that the agency has targeted information regarding the "ownership, control and use of a subsea cable system."
- **Researchers Identify Several New Cyber Tactics, Vulnerabilities:** Security researchers at Palo Alto Networks [warned](#) that malicious hackers have compromised the websites of potentially thousands of organizations after discovering two new zero-day vulnerabilities in PAN-OS. This operating system runs in almost all of the company's next-generation firewalls. Meanwhile, security firm [Defiant](#) said that over four million WordPress sites are susceptible to a complete takeover after discovering a critical authentication bypass vulnerability affecting the Really Simple Security plugin. In addition to exploiting new vulnerabilities, hackers are also experimenting with new tactics, including a [cash-out tactic](#) with NFC relay dubbed "Ghost Tap" by researchers and a

new emphasis on [stealing “remember-me cookies”](#) in order to bypass two-factor authentication, according to the FBI’s Atlanta field office.

## Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **EU-Mercosur Trade Deal Remains Unfinalized After G20 Summit:** World leaders hoping for progress on a trade agreement between the European Union and members of the Mercosur trade bloc left Brazil’s G20 Summit disappointed. More than 20 years in the making, the EU-Mercosur agreement is still facing [pushback](#) from France, Italy, and Poland over fears that the deal would lead to unfair competition in Europe’s agricultural sector. French farmers [took to the streets](#) last week, and Polish farmers [blocked](#) a border crossing with Ukraine over the weekend. Carrefour, a French multinational supermarket company, is facing backlash after its CEO [promised](#) not to sell South American meat in France, prompting calls for a boycott in Brazil, one of the four Mercosur trade bloc member states. Despite the lack of consensus at the G20 summit, which concluded early last week, EU-Mercosur talks are [expected](#) to conclude in early December.
- **Tariffs, Strikes Lead to Uncertain New Year for U.S. Shippers:** U.S. shippers are facing [uncertainty](#) entering 2025 due to potential tariffs from the incoming Trump administration and a looming strike threat by the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) along all major U.S. East and Gulf Coast ports. On the campaign trail, President-elect Donald Trump promised to raise [tariffs](#) on Chinese imports by 60-100%, with 10-20% hikes on goods from other countries. Shippers are [accelerating](#) efforts to front-load inventory ahead of the new duties; however, labor negotiations between the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) and the ILA remain stalled over automation issues, raising the risk of [October’s labor action](#) that could severely impact global supply chains. Short-term freight rate spikes are likely, and long-term impacts, such as higher consumer prices and slower trade, may follow.
- **Hyundai Recalls Over 208,000 Electric Vehicles:** Hyundai and Kia [issued a recall](#) last week for over 208,000 vehicles due to a power loss issue. The recall applies to approximately 63,000 Kia EV6 models between 2022 and 2024, IONIQ 5 and IONIQ 6 electric vehicles, and Genesis GV60, Genesis GV70, and Genesis G80 models. According to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) filing, the recalled vehicles’ integrated charging control unit may stop charging the 12-volt battery if it becomes damaged, resulting in a loss of drive power. Additionally, Hyundai has [recalled](#) approximately 42,000 2025 Hyundai Santa Cruz and Hyundai Tucson vehicles over wiring issues.
- **COP29 Ends With \$300 Billion Climate Pledge:** Negotiators at the 2024 U.N. Climate Change Conference in Baku reached a climate finance agreement on a New Climate Quantified Goal

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(NCQG) of \$300 billion. However, the process [drew criticism](#) from developed and developing countries. Independent experts say that the NCQG pledge should be closer to [\\$1.3 trillion](#) per year, and representatives from developing countries condemned the negotiation process in Azerbaijan, with Panama's special envoy for climate [calling](#) the process a "complete failure." The new agreement tripled the amount developed nations pledge in support annually by 2035. However, critics view the figure as insufficient to help more vulnerable developing countries cope with increasingly catastrophic weather events and transition towards cleaner energies.

- **U.S. Indicts Gautam Adani on Bribery Charges:** U.S. authorities have [charged](#) Gautam Adani, Asia's second-richest person with ties to India's government, for orchestrating a \$265 million kickback scheme to secure solar contracts. It is the second major accusation a U.S. entity has leveled at Adani, coming on the heels of a [2023 report](#) from Hindenburg Research that accused the Adani Group of market manipulation. As The Economist points out, the investigation will likely make it [more difficult](#) for Adani Group, which is critical to many of India's efforts around renewables, to secure additional financing, potentially delaying the country's green energy transition. The investigation of Adani, who is rumored to be close to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, may also [strain ties](#) between India and the U.S.

## Health

- **Delhi's Residents Face Adverse Health Effects as Air Quality Woes Continue:** Delhi's air quality [remains](#) in the "very poor" or "severe" categories after [peaking](#) at over 450 on Sunday, November 17, [30-35 times](#) what the World Health Organization (WHO) deems safe. The situation has prompted the implementation of Stage 4 of the city's Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). Restrictions at this stage include limiting the types of vehicles allowed to enter Delhi, changing public and government office hours, and the [mandatory closure of schools](#). During a meeting earlier today, India's Supreme Court [ruled](#) that Stage 4 restrictions would continue in the capital area. However, they did advise the Commission for Air Quality Management to consider allowing schools to reopen. The court also threatened legal action against the Delhi Police Commissioner for failing to enforce vehicle checkpoints.
- **E. Coli and Listeria Outbreaks Lead to Deaths, Illness, and Recalls:** On November 16, Grimmway Farms [recalled](#) bagged organic carrots with best-if-used-by dates from September 11 to November 12 due to an E. coli outbreak that has impacted [18 states](#), with 39 cases and one death reported so far. The recall has impacted [Trader Joe's, Sprouts, Whole Foods, Walmart, Target](#), and other nationwide chains. In a separate [incident](#), Wolverine Packing of Detroit [recalled](#) 167,277 pounds of ground beef from restaurants due to a group of 15 E. coli cases in Minnesota. Labels of recalled products are available [here](#). Finally, Walmart stores were impacted



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by a [voluntary recall](#) of 43,000 units of Great Value-brand Danishes and cinnamon rolls for potentially containing plastic. No hospitalizations were reported related to the consumption of breakfast goods.

- **WHO Authorized Mpox Vaccine for Children:** On November 19, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced it has authorized the [LC16m8 mpox vaccine](#), the first [mpox vaccine for children](#) ages one to 12. This announcement comes after the WHO's Emergency Committee meeting, where it confirmed mpox remains a ["public health emergency"](#) with over 46,000 mpox cases across [14 countries, including the U.S.](#), and concentrated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The DRC, facing a mpox vaccine shortage, has been promised a donation of 3.05 million doses from Japan, the vaccine developer.
- **COVID-19 and RSV Levels Expected to Rise During the Holidays:** Cases of COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are expected to rise during the upcoming holidays, according to the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). These viruses and others are quickly transmitted during the holidays due to "large gatherings, travel, and more time indoors." [Lower vaccination rates](#) for COVID-19, RSV, and the flu could exacerbate the expected increase in spread. Already, the U.S. is seeing [increased emergency room admittance](#) for walking pneumonia, or *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, in children one year of age and younger as well as ages five to 17, according to [CDC data](#). [Pertussis](#) cases are also on the rise.
- **Study Finds Steady Increase in Global Antibiotic Consumption:** Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences published a study by One Health Trust that found global antibiotic consumption rose more than [20% from 2016 through 2023](#). Using data collected on pharmaceutical sales in 67 countries, the study found that antibiotic consumption had increased in "28 lower-middle- and upper-middle-income countries" compared to high-income countries. Medical experts have warned against increased antibiotic consumption in countries without proper ["antimicrobial stewardship programs"](#) (ASPs) to guard against potential antibiotic resistance and misuse. According to the United Nations, [1.3 million people die](#) each year from drug-resistant pathogens.

## Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Italy to See Nationwide Strikes, Demonstrations by Unions From Multiple Sectors:** On Friday, various unions in Italy [plan](#) to hold strikes to demand increased salaries and improvements to the 2025 government budget plan. Around 50,000 unionized workers from private and public sectors, except for railway and medical workers, will participate. The CGIL and UIL unions plan to stage an eight-hour general strike, while aviation unions at Wizz Air Malta and airports in Milan and Venice intend to hold work stoppages throughout the day. In addition to the

strike actions, several prominent unions are organizing related demonstrations across Italy, with actions planned in Bologna, Naples, and Parma, among other cities.

- **No End in Sight for Postal Strike in Canada as Talks Stall:** Canada Post has [reported](#) losses of around \$300 million. At the same time, it grapples with shortages of over eight million parcels as well as customer migration to its competitors due to a nationwide strike by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) that began on November 15. As talks over the weekend [continued to stall](#), there remains no clear indication of when the strike will end. Despite mounting pressure from the public and businesses for the government to intervene, Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon recently [stated](#) that he is not considering “any other solution other than negotiation,” signaling that a government-mandated end to the strike is unlikely in the near future.
- **South Korean Railway Union Threatens Indefinite Strike in December:** The Korean Railway Workers Union (KRWU) [plans](#) to walk off the job indefinitely on December 5 to demand higher wages and additional headcount. KRWU, which envelops the Korea Railroad Corp (Korail), intends to follow through with the strike “if there is no change in the attitudes of the government and their employer.” The strike, if followed through on, would cause widespread disruptions to rail services, including the high-speed KTX, subways, and regular trains. The KRWU initiated a slowdown strike last Monday.
- **Southern Cone Bracing for Upcoming Strikes by Prominent Labor Unions:** The Central Union of Workers (CUT) in Chile is [planning](#) to hold a strike on Thursday to demand wage increases amid deadlocked negotiations between the workers and the government. Additionally, the union plans to hold nationwide demonstrations in conjunction with the strike action, details of which are expected to be released later in the week. Likewise, the State Workers’ Association (ATE) in Argentina [announced](#) that it would hold a 24-hour strike on December 5 to demand higher salaries and to denounce the [Public Evaluation System](#) for state employees. The action is likely to be accompanied by demonstrations, as has been the case for recent strikes carried out by the ATE.
- **Pro-Palestine Groups Organizing Around Black Friday, Day of Solidarity:** Demonstrators are continuing to press their case for a ceasefire in the Middle East, with several protests timed to coincide with the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on November 29. At least one pro-Palestine group has called for a “Global Escalation” on November 27-29, overlapping with the Thanksgiving holiday and Black Friday shopping day in the U.S. On Black Friday, the Palestinian Youth Movement called for a demonstration at Columbus Circle in New York City at 2 pm. In contrast, the U.S. Palestinian Community Network has called for protests outside Apple stores on Friday and Saturday. In the U.K., the Palestine Solidarity Campaign is planning a national march in London on Saturday, November 30.

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- **Other Stories We're Watching:** As the U.S. gears up for the busiest Thanksgiving travel period yet, service workers at the Charlotte Douglas International Airport are taking part in a [24-hour strike](#) today to demand higher wages. In Europe, over 430,000 unionized workers of retail companies in Austria [plan](#) to hold a strike and rallies on Friday and Saturday (November 29 and 30) after salary negotiations with their employers failed. In Germany, Volkswagen's union is [preparing](#) to strike on December 1 amid stalled negotiations. The move comes as the company ramps up its efforts to cut costs by slashing jobs, [asking](#) its employees to take a 10% pay cut, and contemplating closing plants amid a slump in profits.

## Upcoming Events

- November 25-29: Siem Reap-Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free World (Cambodia)
- November 27: General Election (Namibia)
- November 27: Regional Elections (Indonesia)
- November 28: Thanksgiving (United States)
- November 28: Independence Day (Panama)
- November 29: Black Friday (United States)
- November 29: Parliamentary Elections (Ireland)
- November 29: Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (Global)
- November 30: Parliamentary Elections (Iceland)
- November 30: Independence Day (Yemen)
- November 30: Bonifacio Day (Philippines)
- December 1: Legislative Election (Romania)
- December 1: Anniversary of Papuan Declaration of Independence (Indonesia)