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Top Stories

Typhoon Tapah Makes Landfall in South China

Tapah made <u>landfall</u> as a minimal typhoon west-southwest of Macao on Monday morning and is forecast to produce torrential rain and widespread transportation disruptions before weakening inland. The <u>U.S. Joint Typhoon Warning Center</u> has issued its final advisory, while the <u>China Meteorological Administration</u> continues to warn of heavy rain and flooding risks as Tapah's remnants move into Guangxi province (<u>radar</u>).

In Hong Kong, conditions improved by late Monday, with warning signals lowered after gusty winds downed at least 162 trees. Air travel was heavily disrupted, including more than 100 flight cancellations and nine diversions, although airport operations are gradually resuming. Shenzhen saw limited effects, with outer rain bands causing 669 flight delays and 57 cancellations at Bao'an International Airport over the last two days. Storm impacts have since shifted westward. In Guangdong province, more than 41,000 residents were evacuated, major bridges and expressways were temporarily closed, and several rail services were suspended before resuming late in the day.

Heavy rainfall across central and eastern Guangxi and western Guangdong is ongoing. Localized rainfall totals of up to 250-280 mm are expected through Tuesday. Rainstorm, river flooding, landslide, and waterlogging warnings remain in effect, highlighting the risk of potentially life-threatening impacts such as flash flooding, evacuations, and scattered power outages, especially over the next 24 hours.

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France Prepares for "Block Everything" Movement This Wednesday

France is preparing for potential violence and widespread blockades on Wednesday due to calls to "Block Everything" (Bloquons Tout) to protest over a <u>variety of social issues</u>. French Minister of the Interior Bruno Retailleau has <u>instructed</u> law enforcement to remove blockades and respond swiftly to acts of vandalism during the "Block Everything" movement's day of action. The "Block Everything" movement has called on supporters to block critical infrastructure, including airports and power plants, on Wednesday, beginning as early as 7 am. Strikes are also expected to impact the <u>SNCF rail network</u>, <u>hospitals</u>, <u>and educational institutions</u> on Wednesday despite a lack of unified union support. CGT is the only major union <u>participating</u> in both Wednesday's mobilization and the nationwide strike organized by France's eight most powerful unions on September 18.

French government officials are "expecting potential violence" on Wednesday, but not <u>large gatherings</u>. Turnout at demonstrations is expected to vary widely, with French intelligence officials <u>estimating</u> 100,000 participants nationwide in total. French authorities <u>expect</u> 40 procession-like demonstrations nationwide, including in major cities like Paris, Marseille, and Toulouse, though a social media account associated with the movement said that there are more than 550 assembly points and blockades planned for that day.

The blockades, demonstrations, and strikes come amid a political crisis, with lawmakers having just voted today to oust Prime Minister François Bayrou. French President Emmanuel Macron is **expected** to name a new prime minister before the larger unions' planned action next week. For more details on the demonstrations and strikes being organized in France, see AlertMedia's **Situation Report**.

U.S. Strike on Venezuelan Drug Boat Signals Western Hemisphere Defense Focus

On September 2, U.S. forces conducted a **targeted** strike against a Venezuelan vessel in international waters of the southern Caribbean, killing at least 11 people. The administration alleges that the boat belonged to the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua and was engaged in narcotics trafficking. In comments on the strike, Trump **claimed** that Tren de Aragua was controlled by Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, accusations that Venezuela has denied.

The operation follows other Trump administration efforts to raise pressure on Maduro, most notably through a substantial and growing **naval buildup** in the region. The U.S. has also offered a \$50 million

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bounty for Maduro's arrest. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth **indicated** that further operations would follow, although he did not elaborate on what form they might take. Alongside the operation and military buildup, a new draft National Defense Strategy **outlined** a shift in priorities toward the protection of the U.S. and Western Hemisphere security and away from a focus on great power competition with China and Russia. Notably, the strategy emphasizes enhanced border security and counter-narcotics operations.

What remains to be seen is how extensively the Trump administration—which has **directed** the Pentagon to target foreign drug cartels—will pursue these groups in other countries. The already-poor relationship between the U.S. and Venezuela likely makes increasingly direct interventions like the September 2 strike more palatable than a similar approach with other countries also considered to be hosting criminal organizations, such as Colombia or Mexico.

Climate and Natural Hazards

- Hurricane Kiko to Track North of Hawaii: Hurricane Kiko, located over the open Central Pacific
 Ocean as of Monday, is expected to weaken over the next several days as it tracks westnorthwestward over cooler waters and into a region with higher vertical wind shear. Kiko will
 weaken from a hurricane into a tropical storm as it passes north of Hawaii on Tuesday and
 Wednesday. With the threat of direct impacts lessening, the main risks for Hawaii will be rough
 seas and coastal flooding in vulnerable locations.
- Caribbean Lesser Antilles Tropical Threat Flounders: A central Atlantic disturbance that the
 <u>National Hurricane Center</u> had given a high chance of development last week has since
 dissipated. There are no active areas of interest within the Gulf, Caribbean, or Atlantic.
- River Flooding Continues in Northern Pakistan: Severe flooding has been reported along the
 Ravi, Sutlej, and Chenab Rivers dating back to the end of August. As of Sunday, over <u>four million</u>
 <u>people have been affected</u>, and over two million have evacuated to safer locations. The death
 toll from floods in Punjab has risen to <u>56</u>. Scattered heavy rain is possible across Punjab early this
 week.
- Southern Pakistan Threatened by Next Round of Extreme Rain: A strong monsoon weather disturbance arriving from the east is expected to bring upwards of 200–250 mm (8–10 in) of rain to southern Pakistan between September 8-10, with some areas possibly exceeding 300 mm (12 in). The heaviest rainfall will threaten areas near Hyderabad and Karachi, creating a high risk of severe urban flooding, landslides, and potential evacuations in vulnerable areas. Isolated power outages have already been reported in Karachi, and flooding along the Malir River has been

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reported. At the time of this publication, all Karachi schools were expected to remain <u>open</u> on Tuesday, despite conflicting reports on social media, with officials noting that any future adjustments will be made depending on the conditions. All unnecessary travel should be <u>restricted</u>, according to local media, citing the mayor of Karachi.

- Next European Storm Brewing Over Eastern Spain and Italy: As of this writing, red-level rainfall warnings are in effect across parts of Catalonia, Spain. By late Monday night into Tuesday, the system's main impacts are expected to shift from mainland Spain toward the Balearic Islands, where heavy rain and strong winds may accompany a developing low-pressure system over the western Mediterranean Sea. From late Tuesday into Wednesday, widespread showers and thunderstorms capable of producing localized flash flooding, landslides, and damaging wind gusts are forecast to move into central and northern Italy.
- Cooler Temperatures Forecast in Western U.S.: A dip in the jet stream will force a cool air mass to overspread the Western U.S. this week. California, Nevada, and Oregon will experience the largest difference in temperatures, with highs expected to fall to 5-15°F below normal for this time of year. The region, which has been dealing with significant wildfires, will likely observe a downturn in activity, especially in areas across northern California and Oregon that receive showers during the week.

Worldwide

- Social Media Platform Bans Lead to Deadly Unrest in Nepal: <u>Demonstrations</u> against the Nepalese government's <u>move to ban</u> various social media platforms for failing to register with authorities left at least 19 dead on Monday, September 8. Capital Kathmandu has been the focal point after thousands of demonstrators <u>encroached</u> on a restricted area near Parliament. Demonstrators denounced the social media ban, calling it an attempt to stifle speech and communications, limit information access, and engage in other corrupt practices. The unrest and move to block social media platforms comes amid similar efforts by other governments to increase oversight of social media.
- Plans for Future National Guard Deployment, ICE Operations in Chicago Still Unclear: U.S.
 President Donald Trump's plans regarding a potential deployment of the National Guard to
 Chicago remain unclear, with Trump appearing to walk back earlier statements regarding
 federal intervention. Officials in locations perceived as targets for the administration, including
 Chicago and Boston, are developing legal strategies for responding to potential future National
 Guard deployments. Fears of immigration enforcement operations prompted the
 postponement of Chicago's El Grito Festival, which had been scheduled for September 13 and 14

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ahead of Mexican Independence Day on September 16. Any potential military deployment risks inspiring **protests** and potential unrest, both in Chicago and elsewhere. Over the weekend, thousands took part in a **peaceful march** through downtown Chicago.

- Heightened Security, Demonstrations Expected Next Week During Trump's U.K. Visit: King Charles III and Queen Camilla plan to host U.S. President Donald Trump at Windsor Castle from September 17-19 for Trump's "unprecedented" second state visit. Civil society groups are planning demonstrations in both London and Windsor on Wednesday, September 17, that could attract thousands of participants. Trump's invitation followed trade negotiations between the U.S. and U.K. that resulted in a non-binding agreement in May. While the second state visit invitation—an offer never before extended to a U.S. president—seems to demonstrate the continued health of the two countries' "special relationship," the transactional nature of the Trump administration could see the U.S. attempt to exert further pressure on the U.K. in future disputes. For additional information on Trump's pending visit, read AlertMedia's Situation Report.
- Guyana's Ruling Party Secures Second Term: Guyanese President Irfaan Ali of the People's
 Progressive Party (PPP) <u>claimed</u> victory following the oil-rich country's September 1 election. The
 PPP also managed to secure a majority in Parliament, based on preliminary results, although the
 opposing party and runner- up in the election, We Invest in Nationhood (WIN), claimed election
 fraud. WIN leader, businessman Azruddin Mohamed, is under U.S. sanctions related to gold
 smuggling and corruption. The PPP's victory likely indicates future policy stability in the country,
 with Ali's administration vowing to invest oil revenues into infrastructure <u>focused</u> on
 transportation, electrification, and social programs, as Guyana looks to increase public
 investment and capitalize on its status as the <u>world's fastest-growing economy</u>.
- Organized Crime and Terrorism Worsening Across West Africa: Weak security and regulatory environments across West Africa are providing both rebel groups and foreign criminal enterprises with growing opportunities to entrench themselves in the region, increasing the threat to local communities and business activity. Islamist groups seeking to take advantage of weak governmental authority in countries like Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger have launched attacks increasingly close to major cities, killing at least 10,000 people across the region every year since 2023. At the same time, criminal organizations seeking to capitalize on rising demand for cocaine in Europe have become established in various West African ports, thanks in part to the lack of international cooperation among law enforcement agencies when faced with some of "the most sophisticated organized crime groups in the world."

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Cyber and Regulatory

- Growing Number of Companies Impacted by Major Salesloft Drift Breach: Several companies, including Cloudflare, Palo Alto Networks, and Zscaler, are the <u>latest</u> in the growing list of known victims of the recent breach of third-party Al chatbot Salesloft Drift. The attackers, tracked as UNC6395, <u>exploited</u> OAuth tokens tied to the Salesloft Drift integration with Salesforce to steal credentials ranging from Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Snowflake keys to corporate passwords, impacting the Salesforce environments of an estimated 700 companies. Google confirmed that some Workspace email accounts were compromised and warned that all Drift-connected tokens should be considered potentially compromised. The groups ShinyHunters, LAPSUS\$, and Scattered Spider <u>claimed</u> responsibility for the attack and escalated their threats, demanding that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Google halt their investigations.
- APT28 Targets Companies in NATO Countries: Russian state-sponsored group APT28 (Fancy Bear) has deployed a new Microsoft Outlook backdoor, dubbed NotDoor, in attacks against companies across multiple sectors in NATO member states. The attack demonstrates how attackers can repurpose trusted business tools into stealthy espionage platforms. NotDoor is a VBA macro, a small program built into Office apps like Excel, Outlook, and Word that typically automates tasks such as formatting spreadsheets or sending emails. While vital for workflows, macros can also read/write files, interact with other programs, and execute system commands—capabilities attackers exploit to steal or install malware. NotDoor is triggered by specific strings of text in incoming Outlook emails, delivered via sideloading of OneDrive.exe, and hidden through obfuscation and altered settings. The campaign's future depends on defenders' ability to detect abuse of legitimate macros and services.
- Google Avoids Breakup Amid \$800 Million in Penalties: Google avoided a forced breakup in a key U.S. antitrust <u>case</u>, but still must make concessions to satisfy regulators. U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta ruled Google does not have to sell its dominant Chrome web browser, but ordered the company to share search data with rivals and end exclusive distribution contracts. The finding comes as France's CNIL fined the company €325 million for inserting Gmail ads and trackers without consent, while a U.S. court imposed a \$425 million fine for collecting data despite users' privacy settings. The penalties add to billions in past fines for advertising abuses and pending cases over Google's ad-tech monopoly. Still- evolving privacy rules threaten further challenges, underscoring the intensifying <u>scrutiny</u> and persistent regulatory pressure targeting Big Tech enterprises.

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- U.S. Revokes Waiver Allowing TSMC to Ship Chipmaking Supplies to Facility in China: The
 U.S. revoked Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC)'s validated end user (VEU)
 status, effective December 31. The move terminates TSMC's fast-track export privilege to ship
 essential U.S. chipmaking equipment to its Nanjing, China, facility without individual licenses,
 forcing the company to submit applications for each export. The move is part of broader efforts
 to tighten export controls and curb China's semiconductor technology advancements and follows
 similar authorization revocations targeting Samsung and SK Hynix in August. Though TSMC's
 Nanjing site accounts for only a small share of the company's global operations, the shift raises
 uncertainty and could delay shipments from suppliers, including Applied Materials Inc., ASML
 Holding NV, Tokyo Electron, and KLA Corp.
- Japan to Overhaul Immigration Policies, Prompting Protests: Japan is gearing up for a strategic overhaul of its immigration framework amid a rise in the number of foreign residents, which is expected to exceed 10% of the national population by 2070. A report by Justice Minister Keisuke Suzuki outlines several objectives—the main one being to prevent "social division or political turmoil"—and proposes capping admissions of foreign nationals and other measures. Additionally, the government plans to launch a task force to conduct community surveys on the impact of the growing number of foreigners, currently under 3% of the population, on future policy decisions. The report, which follows a series of anti-immigration demonstrations in August and recent electoral gains by the Japanese nationalist Sanseito Party, prompted protests by immigrant rights advocates in Tokyo.

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- Red Sea Cable Cuts Disrupt Regional Internet and Microsoft Azure Access: Undersea cable
 cuts in the Red Sea disrupted internet access across parts of Asia and the Middle East over the
 weekend, though the cause of the cuts remains unclear. Microsoft reported disruptions to its
 Azure cloud services that caused increased latency for traffic routed through the Middle East. The
 incident comes amid concerns that Yemen's Houthi rebels could target the cables as part of their
 campaign linked to the Gaza conflict, though the group has previously denied responsibility.
 Regardless, continued Houthi threats to target ships in the region could complicate repair efforts.
 Undersea cables form a critical part of global internet infrastructure, alongside satellites and
 land-based networks. While providers can reroute traffic to maintain connectivity, users may still
 experience slower service.
- China-Russia Gas Deal Could Upend Industry: A new <u>30-year deal</u> that will see Russia and China join forces on a new gas project threatens to force a realignment of global energy flows by





the early 2030s, potentially impacting investment considerations in the sector. The two sides signed a "legally binding 'memorandum of construction after years of stalled negotiations, according to Russian state gas firm Gazprom, with talks going forward expected to focus on the financing of the project. When completed, the deal could see gas supplies previously earmarked for European markets <u>redirected</u> toward China, alleviating China's reliance on imports from the U.S. and its allies, and threatening to create significant supply and demand mismatches for the European, Asian, and Middle Eastern markets.

- Rift With U.S. Could Push India Closer to China, Russia: Recent Trump administration efforts
 to raise pressure on India could <a href="https://harm.nih.google.com/harm.nih.g
- Hotter, Drier Weather and Intensifying Rainy Periods are Driving Down Tea Yields: Climate change is having a growing impact on the \$10 billion-per-year global tea industry. Rising temperatures, long dry periods, and "sudden, intense rains" are creating conditions that allow pests to flourish, stunt growth, and make harvesting more physically demanding, ultimately decreasing yields. The impact felt by tea plantations in India alone, which supplies 12% of the global market, led to a roughly 20% price increase for some teas this year, following decades of growth averaging below 5%. With similar challenges impacting harvests in other important teaproducing regions, further price increases and supply chain challenges can be expected.
- Pro-Palestine Activists Intensify Campaign Against Shipping Companies: The No Harbour for Genocide campaign, a global effort in support of a "people's embargo" of shipping firms seen as supporting Israel's ongoing war in Gaza, has identified 36 vessels accused of supplying fuel or arms to Israel. The list includes notable firms such as Maersk, whose ships reportedly transport supplies bound for Israeli settlements under a U.S.-orchestrated program. The public naming and shaming of these vessels is likely to lead demonstrators to increasingly target associated port calls, potentially posing a broader risk to the global shipping firms tied to these vessels. The risk comes on top of those posed by Houthi militants, who have continued their campaign targeting vessels with alleged Israeli ties.

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Health

- **Divergent Vaccine Policies Causing Confusion Across U.S.:** As the United States begins rolling out updated COVID-19 boosters, vaccine policy across the United States is becoming increasingly **muddled**, with implications for public health and insurance premiums. Florida **announced** that it would be pushing to end all vaccine mandates for school students, a move that requires legislative action, although the Department of Health can remove requirements for some vaccines absent lawmakers' approval. Meanwhile, other states are taking steps to ensure vaccine access as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) undergoes a shift in leadership. California, Washington, and Oregon said that they would **form an alliance** and issue their own vaccine recommendations. Other states are considering similar moves and are **taking steps** to **ensure** access to COVID-19 boosters.
- PAHO Warns of Spread of Antibiotic-Resistant Pertussis: The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) <u>called</u> for increased vaccination and surveillance due to the spread of antibiotic-resistant strains of pertussis, also known as whooping cough. Treatment for *Bordetella pertussis* typically calls for the use of macrolide antibiotics such as azithromycin, but since 2024, antibiotic-resistant strains have proliferated, potentially spurred on by the overuse of certain antibiotics during the COVID-19 pandemic. Officials have detected these strains in Brazil, Mexico, Peru, and the U.S. The rise comes as cases of pertussis increase globally and vaccine uptake drops.
- Officials Confirm New Ebola Outbreak in Congo's Kasai Province: Health officials in the
 Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) confirmed a new outbreak of the Zaire strain of Ebola,
 centered in Kasai province. At least 28 suspected cases have been recorded and 15 deaths, with
 case numbers expected to grow amid ongoing transmission. The World Health Organization
 (WHO) said that a stockpile of treatments, along with 2,000 doses of Ervebo Ebola vaccine, is in
 Kinshasa and will be deployed to the affected area. This marks the DRC's 16th Ebola outbreak
 since 1976.
- WHO, WMO Release Report on Protecting Workers From Heat Stress: The WHO and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) <u>issued a new report</u> highlighting the dangers for workers posed by rising temperatures, particularly those in sectors such as agriculture, construction, and fisheries. A <u>similar report assembled</u> by the International Labour Organization found that heat exposure causes around 22 million occupational injuries and 19,000 deaths annually. While workers in Africa and the Middle East are the most exposed, Europe and Central Asia are

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experiencing the fastest-changing working conditions. The WHO and WMO's report calls for governments, health authorities, and employers to develop tailored plans to mitigate heat risks, focusing especially on protecting middle-aged and older employees and those with chronic health issues or lower fitness levels.

• Other Stories the Global Intelligence Team Is Monitoring: The CDC is tracking 15 likely outbreaks of rabies in the U.S. Six deaths have been reported over the past 12 months, the most in years, and veterinarians have noticed a worrying rise in vaccine hesitancy among pet owners. In other outbreak- related news, Iowa officials are investigating a Legionnaires' disease cluster in Marshalltown that has sickened at least 21 people. The outbreak in the Midwest comes as officials declare an official end to a separate outbreak in New York City's Harlem that killed seven. Outside the U.S., the WHO said that mpox no longer represents an international health emergency, although an advisory group to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention assesses that the disease remains a continental emergency.

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- London Prepares for Rival Demonstrations Connected to "Free Speech Festival": Heightened security, traffic disruptions, and large crowds can be expected on Saturday, September 13, during opposing demonstrations over immigration. Activist Tommy Robinson is calling on supporters to gather at 11 am for a "Free Speech Festival" featuring a march from Blackfriars Station to 10 Downing St. In response, several unions and civil society groups, including Stand Up to Racism and the Public and Commercial Services Union, are organizing an opposing march from Russell Square to Whitehall at noon. Robinson held similar rallies last year that attracted thousands of supporters, as well as counterdemonstrators and a significant police presence. Confrontations among rival group members and police are possible.
- Australia to See Nationwide Demonstrations on Saturday: On Saturday, September 13, most Australian cities will see opposing demonstrations related to issues ranging from immigration to vaccine mandates. Nationalist group Australia Unites Against Government Corruption, comprising groups against vaccine mandates, "radical gender theory" teachings in schools, and other issues, plans to hold a demonstration at Sydney's Harbour Bridge on Saturday. Police have moved to block the action, citing strained resources and anticipated disruptions. Meanwhile, First Nations communities are calling for nationwide actions on Saturday to denounce an attack on the sacred

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Aboriginal burial ground Camp Sovereignty by the National Socialist Network (NSN), a "self-described neo-Nazi" group, which left multiple people injured.

- Gaza Aid Flotilla Reaches Tunisia; Pro-Palestine Activists Disrupt Spanish Cycling Race: A humanitarian aid mission by the Global Sumud Flotilla, which aims to "break Israel's illegal siege on Gaza," arrived in Tunisia on Sunday and is expected to continue towards Gaza in a few days. Multiple prominent activists are aboard participating aid ships, including Greta Thunberg, who was detained by Israeli forces during the last flotilla attempt in June. Pro-Palestine demonstration activity is likely to surge if Israeli forces seize the flotilla's ships. Meanwhile, in Spain, pro-Palestine activists have disrupted the Vuelta cycling race to protest the Israel-Premier Tech team's participation. Several demonstrations are planned tomorrow along the race's route in Poio, Pontevedra, Soutomaior, Baiona, Tui, and Mos, and on Wednesday in O Barco, with demonstration activity likely to continue through the final stage, ending in Madrid on September 14.
- Mexico City Merchants Plan Blockades and Demonstrations Ahead of Mexico's Independence Day: On Saturday, September 14, merchants in Mexico City, organized under the Plural Movement of Public Market Merchants, will stage demonstrations and could establish roadblocks across the capital, just ahead of Mexico's Independence Day. The group has not disclosed specific areas where they plan to demonstrate to avoid police intervention. The demonstrations come in response to the local government's Popular Supply Program, which merchants claim creates unfair competition and harms their businesses. Tensions also rose during a recent Mexico City Congress session, where merchants disrupted discussions over a proposal to halt the supply program, leading to the session's suspension.
- Colombia Faces National Strike by Education Workers: The National Education Workers and Employees Union (SINTRENAL) has announced a series of demonstrations and a strike call across Colombia starting today and lasting through Friday. Demonstrations are planned at 97 territorial education secretariats. Around 30,000 people are expected to demand the resolution of unpaid labor debts, with workers claiming that some are over a decade old. SINTRENAL has warned that failure to address these demands will lead to an indefinite national strike, potentially shutting down more than 7,500 public schools. The union has expressed frustration with the Ministry of Education's inaction under Minister Daniel Rojas and called for direct talks with President Gustavo Petro.

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Upcoming Events

- September 8: Parliamentary Elections (Norway)
- September 9: Opening of UN General Assembly (New York City, NY)
- September 10: Nationwide Demonstrations (France)
- September 14: Legislative Elections (Macau)
- September 15-20: Parliamentary Elections (Syria)
- September 16: General Elections (Malawi)yes
- September 17: U.S. Federal Reserve Announces Next Interest Rate Decision (Global)
- September 18: Mass Strikes, Demonstrations (France)
- September 21: Constitutional Referendum (Guinea)
- September 22-30: UN General Assembly High-Level Week (New York City, NY)
- September 23-24: Rosh Hashana (Global)
- September 27: Legislative Elections (Gabon)
- September 27: General Elections (Seychelles)
- September 28: Parliamentary Elections (Moldova)
- October 1-2: Yom Kippur (Global)
- October 12: Dia de la Raza (Colombia)
- October 13: Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day (United States)