



September 16, 2025

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Top Stories

France Braces for Major Day of Union-Led Strikes, Demonstrations on Thursday

Widespread disruptions to a range of sectors, including education, energy, pharmacies, public transportation, and rail, can be expected on Thursday, September 18, due to a general strike called for by France's eight major unions. The inter-union (CFDT, CGT, FO, CFE-CGC, CFTC, UNSA, FSU, and Solidaires) is also organizing demonstrations in major cities on the same day. France's outgoing transport minister Philippe Tabarot warned that this Thursday would be "[much stronger](#)" in terms of the number of strikes compared to last Wednesday, when some unions staged actions to coincide with the "Block Everything" movement.

While most industries will see a unified mobilization this week, aviation is expected to be slightly spared, even as others across the transportation sector are expected to be significantly impacted. The main air traffic controller union, SNCTA, is postponing its strike action until October 7-9 to allow a new government to form before negotiations over salaries and other issues can take place. Some flight disruptions may still occur due to strike actions by members of other unions. The [French Civil Aviation Authority \(DGAC\)](#) will announce recommendations on flight schedule cuts before Thursday.

Thursday's strikes will come on the heels of last week's "Block Everything" movement, which saw [between 200,000 and 250,000](#) participants nationwide, nearly 600 demonstrations, and several instances of clashes with police. Attendance at demonstrations dipped over the weekend, and no major roads or sites remain blocked despite concerns early last week that blockades could persist indefinitely.

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For more details on the demonstrations and strikes being organized in France this week and the impacts of the “Block Everything” movement, see AlertMedia’s [Situation Report](#).

Zapad War Games and Russian Drone Incursions Into Poland, Romania Spark Security Response

U.S. officials were reportedly given [open access](#) to observe Belarus and Russia’s joint [Zapad 2025 war games](#), which began Friday and are set to end tomorrow, and [include](#) about 13,000 troops deployed to an area close to both the Polish and Lithuanian borders. The games followed a series of developments on September 10-11 that saw at least 16 [Russian drones](#) enter Polish airspace, a NATO effort to down the drones, restrictions on Poland’s [eastern airspace](#) and [border](#), and other security precautions. Polish authorities considered the incident a deliberate provocation and warned that the war games could be meant to prepare soldiers for a future operation to take control of the [Suwalki Gap](#), a strip of Polish and Lithuanian land separating the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad from Belarus. On September 13, another Russian drone entered NATO airspace, leading Romania to [summon](#) the Russian ambassador for an explanation.

Poland remains in a defensive posture and has since announced further security operations amid the drills, [including](#) scrambling jets, temporarily closing the Lublin Airport, and other measures. Other countries threatened by the exercises, including [Latvia](#) and [Lithuania](#), have also announced security measures such as airspace closures and other restrictions, some of which have been in place for weeks and will last well beyond the end of the Zapad exercises. The scale of the disruptions driven by the drills is indicative of NATO countries’ broader concerns about potential Russian aggression toward other European countries. Russian and Belarusian officials could seek to conduct further drills or drone incursions, whether to antagonize Western officials or to prod at NATO defenses.

U.S. Sneaking Through Peak Hurricane Season Without Major Threats

The [National Hurricane Center](#) continues to monitor a tropical wave over the central Atlantic with a high likelihood of developing into a tropical storm within the next seven days. Forecast models are in strong agreement that this system will become the next named storm, and possibly the next hurricane, of the 2025 season. While there is a low-end risk to Bermuda in the extended outlook, the system is expected to remain mostly over open waters before curving north and northeast.

Another feature, not yet highlighted by the National Hurricane Center as of this publication, is a subtropical disturbance generating disorganized showers and thunderstorms along coastal North

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Carolina and southeast Virginia ([satellite](#)). Although unlikely to strengthen or acquire tropical characteristics, it will still bring widespread showers and gusty winds. Some of these showers could be heavy, impacting areas from coastal North Carolina northward into the Delmarva Peninsula through Thursday. Localized rainfall totals may exceed 2 to 4 inches over several days, leading to isolated flooding.

Beyond these systems, no immediate concerns are present across the Gulf, Caribbean, or Atlantic for the next week. Tropical activity has slowed significantly since early September, and the season is increasingly likely to end below average. Still, forecasters caution that tropical threats often persist through at least mid-October, with hurricane season officially ending on November 30.

Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Upcoming Rain Event a Mixed Bag for Southern California:** Currently, 76% of California is experiencing [abnormally dry conditions](#), and nearly 40% of the state is in drought, with Southern California bearing the brunt, and the state's wet season is not set to begin until November. Remnants of [Tropical Storm Mario](#) in the eastern Pacific could boost the chances of scattered showers and [thunderstorms](#) across California from Thursday through Saturday, September 18–20. However, most areas will likely see only minimal rainfall, with localized flooding risks confined mainly to vulnerable burn scar regions in Southern California. The bigger concern is the potential for increased dry thunderstorm activity during this period, which could spark new wildfires. Forecast confidence remains low regarding the extent and intensity of these impacts, but the situation warrants close monitoring, particularly in wildfire-prone areas.
- **Southwest Europe Heat Wave and Wildfire Threats Persist:** Despite the peak of summer heat waves having likely passed, the risks of extreme heat and wildfire activity in southwest Europe are far from over. Spain has suffered its [worst wildfire season on record](#) since systematic tracking began in 2006, with more than 38,000 hectares already scorched. From Tuesday through Friday, another surge of unusually high temperatures will grip the region. Central Spain is expected to see some of the hottest conditions. Daily highs could approach 34–37°C, nearing record levels for mid-September. Afternoons will often bring humidity levels below 20%, and occasional gusty winds will further heighten the danger of new fire ignitions and rapid spread.
- **West Pacific and South China Sea Remain Most Active Tropical Regions:** As of early Monday, the [U.S. Joint Typhoon Warning Center](#) has identified two disturbances of interest, located on opposite sides of the Philippines. Forecast guidance suggests that one of these systems could consolidate into a weak tropical depression or named storm in the South China Sea, with a

potential track toward Hong Kong and/or southern mainland China between September 18–20. Of greater concern, medium-range models are increasingly signaling the development of a third system in the West Pacific. This disturbance carries a higher likelihood of intensifying into a stronger tropical storm or typhoon. Current projections place its potential impacts near northern Luzon (Philippines) and southern Taiwan between September 21 and 23. Beyond that, the system could pose additional risks to areas along the northern South China Sea between September 23–26, though forecast confidence remains low at this extended lead time.

- **Northern Pakistan Flood Situation Shows Significant Improvement:** According to river gauge data from the Pakistan Meteorological Department, water levels near and north of Multan have returned to normal. Elevated levels are now limited to the Indus River in southern Sindh province. In Punjab, many displaced families from flood-affected areas are beginning to [return to their homes](#).

Worldwide

- **Killing of U.S. Political Activist Charlie Kirk Inspires Vigils, Demonstrations, and Threats:** The September 10 killing of American political activist Charlie Kirk during a speaking engagement at Utah Valley University has inspired a wave of [vigils](#) across the United States and [abroad](#), some of which have grown [violent](#). While much is still unknown about the shooter's motive—at this point, it does not appear to fit neatly into the traditional political binary—experts are cautioning that current attempts to [attribute](#) the shooting to a particular “side,” coupled with other recent high-profile killings, including that of UnitedHealth CEO Brian Thompson, could [lead](#) to a “cycle of tit-for-tat violence.” Kirk's killing was followed by a string of hoax bomb threats targeting [historically Black colleges and universities](#) and the Democratic National Committee's Washington, D.C. [headquarters](#), although authorities have not named suspects or motives in either instance. The situation and discourse around it could also lead to [heightened tensions within the workplace](#), with several people already having been [fired](#) for social media posts made following the killing.
- **Countries Forging New Trade Ties Without U.S. Amid Tariffs:** Faced with new U.S. tariffs and what some observers consider the [erosion of global trade](#) connections, countries around the world are forging new trade relationships that better serve their needs. Important U.S. allies like South Korea are [exploring opportunities](#) to join regional trade agreements that could connect their economies with new export markets through free trade deals and other incentives, while India's “Act East Policy,” originally a [framework](#) for engaging with ASEAN states, has taken on new importance in the face of 50% U.S. tariffs, leading to new regional [cooperation initiatives](#).

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While these new ties do not directly threaten U.S. trade relations with partner economies, they could serve to reduce U.S. influence in global trade amid the continued evolution of the international system to account for [declining U.S. engagement](#).

- **Nepalese Revolt Brings Down Government; Interim Prime Minister Dissolves Parliament:** In under a week, Nepal's [Gen Z movement](#) channeled frustrations over corruption and a [social media ban](#) into a nationwide protest movement that [toppled the government; met with the military](#) to support the formation of an interim government; held an [election online](#); and chose former Supreme Court Chief Justice [Sushila Karki](#) as interim Prime Minister. While the unrest—which has [claimed](#) at least 72 lives and left more than 2,100 injured—has largely subsided, concerns remain over the legality of Karki's appointment, as well as her [swift move](#) to dissolve parliament and call for elections, with a target date of March 5, 2026.
- **Israel Raises Possibility of Future Operations Following Qatar Strike:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's [refusal to rule out](#) further strikes targeting Hamas operatives in other countries is reinforcing fears that further attacks could impact population centers across the Middle East. While the [September 9 operation](#) in Doha [ultimately materialized](#) as a missile strike reported to have killed five non-senior Hamas operatives and a Qatari security officer, other methods, including [ground operations](#) and [sabotage](#), have been attributed to Israel in recent years. The strike has been criticized by both [Arab states](#) and the [Trump administration](#), and a [reported](#) plot "to assassinate Hamas leaders in Cairo" drew a threat of retaliation from Egypt, suggesting that further such operations will be increasingly likely to cause a broader international incident.
- **Brazil's Bolsonaro Sentenced for Coup Plot, Potentially Deepening Political Instability and Challenging U.S. Relations:** Last week, Brazil's Supreme Court [convicted](#) former President Jair Bolsonaro of leading a coup plot following his 2022 election loss to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Bolsonaro [received](#) a 27-year sentence for planning to assassinate Lula and other officials via the "[Green and Yellow Dagger](#)" scheme, and for inciting the Brasília [riots](#) in 2023. The decision, which took place amid U.S. tariffs of 50% on Brazilian imports, will likely [further strain relations](#) with Washington. The [lack of unanimity](#) in the verdict (one justice of the five-member panel dissented), a likely appeal to the full Supreme Court, and [efforts](#) to grant Bolsonaro amnesty indicate that political [polarization](#) and [demonstration activity](#) will continue at least through Brazil's 2026 presidential elections.

Cyber and Regulatory

- **Finds Cybersecurity Training Mostly Ineffective:** A UC San Diego Health [study](#) found that cybersecurity training has [little](#) measurable impact on reducing phishing susceptibility within organizations, raising concerns about the value of mandatory awareness programs. Nearly 20,000 employees were tested across 10 simulated phishing attacks, and failure rates were the same regardless of when the training was taken. Employees who received training performed only 1.7% better than those with none, a difference partly explained by low engagement with training modules, many of which were ignored or quickly closed. An interactive Q&A showed a 19% improvement only among employees who completed it, though participation was limited. Given that phishing remains one of the most common and costly vulnerabilities for companies, the study suggests that traditional training modules may not fully reflect real-world threats, and that employees' preexisting awareness of common phishing attacks reduces the visible impact of training in practice.
- **MIT Study Reveals Minimal Payoff Amid Massive AI Spend:** An MIT study [found](#) that 95% of enterprise AI initiatives deliver no measurable return, casting doubt on whether significant AI spending is worth the investment. Researchers analyzed 300 projects representing \$30-40 billion in GenAI spending and found limited real-world impact. Companies that purchased AI tools generally outperformed those building internal pilots. Failures often stem from AI systems producing convincing but incorrect answers, while [successes](#) were noted with tools that admit uncertainty, fit into existing workflows, and learn from feedback. Despite these findings, AI initiatives could require years to show measurable ROI, and evaluating after only a few months could underestimate the long-term value of such projects.
- **Telegram Groups Offering Violence-as-a-Service in the Netherlands:** Several Dutch groups active on Telegram are reportedly offering physical attacks such as bombings and shootings [as a service](#) for as little as €1,000. Individuals active in public Telegram groups with titles such as "ATM Bombers and Ram Raiders," some of which have been active for years, were readily available to journalists investigating the situation. The National Police Corps noted that while Telegram "has started taking a tougher stance against crime on the platform," officials have been flagging challenges with these groups to the platform for years, claiming that "nothing was done." The country saw at least 1,500 bombings targeting homes and businesses during 2024, with 2025 figures on track to break that record.
- **Albania Appoints AI to Fight Corruption:** Albania has [introduced](#) an AI bot named "Diella" to oversee public procurement. Originally launched as an e-government assistant, Diella will function as a virtual cabinet member tasked with managing and awarding government contracts

to combat corruption. Corruption in tenders has long hindered Albania's EU accession prospects, which Prime Minister Edi Rama hopes to achieve by 2030. Rama described Diella as the first "virtual cabinet member," immune to bribes, threats, and political influence. It remains unclear how Diella's role will be defined under Albanian and EU law, and concern persists that corruption could simply be blamed on Diella regardless of the AI's actual performance.

- **U.S. Proposes Outsourcing Tax on Foreign Workers:** The U.S. is escalating its scrutiny of foreign labor, with lawmakers set to debate a [proposed](#) 25% outsourcing tax (HIRE Act) and an [amendment](#) probing potential H-1B visa abuses. Both could reshape IT and STEM hiring by raising costs for overseas workers and tightening visa requirements. India's \$283 billion IT sector, reliant on U.S. giants like Apple and Citigroup, faces delays or contract negotiations if the outsourcing tax passes. The visa reviews come amid claims of a STEM talent shortage in the country and could boost domestic salaries and opportunities at the expense of increased demand for qualified job seekers. Meanwhile, critics argue that these measures risk harming American firms' global competitiveness and may trigger legal pushback. Congressional negotiations, corporate lobbying, and U.S. economic conditions could also dilute or derail these proposals before they take effect.

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **Postal Volume to U.S. Falls More Than 80%, Prompting U.N.-led Technical Solution:** The Universal Postal Union, the United Nations' "specialized agency for global postal cooperation," is working with postal services around the world to institute a [technical solution](#) aimed at resolving concerns about duties following the end of the U.S. *de minimis* tax exemption on August 29. The policy change, spurred by the Trump administration's [concerns](#) about the exemption's potential for abuse, led postal traffic to the U.S. to fall by over 80% on August 29 compared to figures recorded a week earlier. At least 88 postal services have suspended deliveries to the U.S. amid confusion surrounding the collection of customs dues.
- **Revised U.S. Job Figures Paint 'Much Weaker Portrait' of Hiring, Raising Pressure on Federal Reserve to Cut Rates:** [Revised U.S. jobs figures](#) for the year ending March 2025 show that the economy gained at least 900,000 fewer jobs during that period than original counts suggested, with the leisure and hospitality industry, professional and business services sector, and retailers together accounting for about half of the downward correction. Alongside worrying growth rates in recent monthly hiring data—with the economy adding only 22,000 jobs in August 2025 and actually [losing](#) jobs in June 2025—the numbers create "a much weaker portrait of the job market

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than initially thought," according to observers. The latest revision is expected to increase pressure on the Federal Reserve to cut the key rate.

- **U.S. Immigration Raids to Continue Targeting Businesses as South Korean President Flags Skills Gap:** United States' immigration officials will target [other businesses](#) with enhanced enforcement actions following a September 4 raid on a Hyundai facility in Georgia that resulted in around 475 arrests and the [detention](#) of over 300 Korean workers. South Korean President Lee Jae Myung warned that such raids could threaten billions in foreign investment if Korean companies continue to face difficulties accessing a sufficiently skilled workforce in the U.S., whether due to visa troubles or a lack of available American workers with the requisite training. In an attempt to address the shortage, U.S. authorities ultimately offered some workers detained in the Georgia raid the [opportunity to stay](#) and train Americans, though their treatment during the operation is expected to limit interest in the offer.
- **Taiwan to Increase Funding for Latin American Infrastructure, Training Projects:** Taiwan's Latin American allies will benefit from a more than US\$30 million [increase in spending](#) in the region thanks to an expansion of the Allies Prosperity Project, a program that seeks to increase cooperation between Taiwan and its allies, and to counter [growing Chinese interest](#) in the region. In addition to investments in infrastructure, professional training, and technical cooperation, the increased allocation in next year's budget will also fund public relations campaigns, expert forums, and other opportunities to increase engagement between Taiwanese and Latin American professionals. Taiwanese officials hope the program will "improve understanding of [Taiwan's] policies and development model, promote a positive image," and support the country's efforts to "deepen substantive ties with allies and like-minded countries."
- **New Delhi to Reduce Taxes on Everything from Toothpaste to Cars in Effort to Boost Consumption of Goods Made in India:** India's plans to [cut taxes](#) on a wide variety of products by 10% or more could have a significant impact on consumption trends in the country, helping to offset the impact of steep new U.S. tariffs on Indian exports. Officials hope the tax cuts will trigger rising consumption of Indian-made goods amid a broader Modi administration effort to increase the country's economic [self-reliance](#), an increasingly important goal when faced with the unclear future of U.S.-India trade relations. Indian exports to the U.S. continue to face a 50% tariff, with no sign of future relief as U.S. officials [call on the G7](#) to impose tariffs on India and China to punish them for continued purchases of Russian oil.

Health

- **Trump Orders HHS to Limit Drug Advertisements:** U.S. President Donald Trump signed a [memorandum](#) instructing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to require pharmaceutical companies to increase the risk information they are required to share in drug advertisements. The [rule](#) would effectively [force](#) companies to stop advertising their products via television ads, depriving drugmakers of a primary outlet and undermining a significant source of advertising revenue for media companies. Previous attempts to curtail direct-to-consumer drug advertising have been scuttled on First Amendment grounds. The restrictions, a core element of Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr's "Make America Healthy Again" initiative, follow the announcement of a [key report](#) on childhood health, although the final version appears to offer few specific recommendations for government action.
- **U.S. Considers Executive Order Targeting Chinese Drug Industry:** The United States is considering severe restrictions on medicines from China, according to a draft executive order seen by [The New York Times](#). If enacted, the order would have significant impacts on the availability of a wide array of medications, from generics to experimental treatments. While the quantities of drug ingredients that flow through China's supply chain to the U.S. are [poorly understood](#), a potential executive order would be far more consequential for the U.S. biotechnology sector, which is struggling to keep pace with its Chinese counterpart.
- **France Orders Hospitals to Prepare for 'Major Engagement' in the Coming Months:** The French government has [reportedly](#) instructed hospitals to prepare for a "major engagement" by 2026. The advisory—which, despite being originally revealed by satirical publication "Le Canard enchaîné", appears legitimate—also asks facilities to be ready to treat several thousand soldiers over a period of 10 to 180 days. French authorities have described the letter as part of general preparedness plans for situations that may stress the healthcare system. The French government is also [preparing](#) to distribute "survival manuals" to households with instructions on how to weather a range of "imminent threats," including armed conflict.
- **Ebola Cases in Congo Rise, Threaten to Jump to Angola:** Vaccination against the Ebola virus has [begun](#) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) Kasai province as the number of suspected cases has [increased](#) to 68, with 16 fatalities. The new cases show that the virus has likely spread to additional health districts within Kasai province, potentially as a result of people traveling to attend the funerals of some of the first fatalities from the outbreak. The new suspected cases, more than double the number reported initially, are also raising concerns that

the virus could spread to neighboring countries, with [Angola](#) in particular considered at-risk. Authorities are focusing their efforts on increased surveillance and cross-border preparedness.

- **Botswana Declares Public Health Emergency:** Botswana [declared](#) a public health emergency due to a shortage of essential medicines and equipment. To alleviate the situation, Botswana President Duma Boko said that the military would oversee and improve the country's medical supply chain. A leading diamond producer, Botswana has seen its public coffers steadily diminish as the international diamond market declines. Compounding the situation are U.S. cuts to foreign aid, which Botswana was heavily reliant on to respond to HIV. During the emergency period, the Ministry of Health suspended referrals for non-urgent medical conditions and elective surgeries, including organ transplants. As the global economy faces headwinds, countries that are similarly dependent on export sales and foreign aid may face similar challenges.

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

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- **Activists Target NYC Climate Events; Billionaire March and Climate Defiance Actions**
Planned: Disruptions are anticipated near several key venues in New York City from September 20-28, as Climate Defiance calls for demonstrations over alleged climate inaction and corporate greenwashing. The group is mobilizing supporters to confront fossil fuel executives and policymakers, with plans to disrupt high-profile panels and networking events to demand a complete phase-out of fossil fuels. While specific times and locations had not been announced at the time of this writing, likely gathering points include Environmental Defense Fund events. Separately, one of the largest climate demonstrations, organized under the banner “Make Billionaires Pay,” will take place in Manhattan on Saturday, September 20, along Park Avenue between East 46th and East 49th streets at 12 pm, with participants calling for billionaires to bear the costs of climate action. Both sets of demonstrations are planned to coincide with [Climate Week NYC](#), as well as the [High-level Week](#) of the United Nations General Assembly.
- **UNGA Also Sparks Climate Demonstrations Across Europe:** Multiple notable demonstrations over climate issues are planned for this Saturday, September 20, across Europe. The surge in climate and social justice activism aligns with demonstrations taking place in the United States during High-level Week of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Fourteen cities across Portugal have announced mobilizations this Saturday, and the climate activist group Fridays for Future is calling for nationwide demonstrations in Germany. In London, a coalition under the slogan Make Them Pay is organizing a rally at Portland Place at noon. Additional actions are likely to be announced in the coming days.
- **Looming LIRR Strike Delayed, Likely Until May 2026:** The Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) faced [potential](#) strike action from midnight on Thursday, 18 September, [until](#) union leaders requested a [Presidential Emergency Board](#)—, a form of federal government intervention that is expected to delay the strike until May 2026. The strike [threatened to impact](#) 250,000 to 300,000 riders per day, forcing Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials to organize a contingency plan that relied on limited shuttle service to Queens subway stations during peak hours. Five key unions, including locomotive engineers, had authorized walkouts amid stalled contract negotiations. While some unions accepted a proposed 9.5% wage increase over three years, others are holding out for better terms, and the strike could still threaten significant disruptions if and when it comes to pass.
- **Ancient Dominican Order to Rally in Dajabón Backing Mayor Facing Alleged Threats:** On Sunday, September 21, the Ancient Dominican Order will [hold](#) a march in Dajabón’s Central Park at 1 pm to support Mayor Santiago Riverón. Riverón is reportedly receiving threats from some

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individuals in the Haitian community due to actions that have affected cross-border economic activities, including authorizing operations targeting undocumented migrants, citing national security concerns. This follows reports of arrests of undocumented Haitians in Montecristi and growing national concerns about immigration, blackouts, and government financial issues. A previous demonstration organized by the Ancient Dominican Order in [Bávaro](#) resulted in clashes. The National Police and Army used tear gas to disperse the crowd, and the group's leader was detained and removed from the scene.

- **Maharashtra State Government Imposes Demonstration Restrictions in South Mumbai:** A new law limiting demonstrations in South Mumbai to Azad Maidan has prompted [criticism](#), with lawmakers calling for major gatherings to be relocated to prevent disruptions for people living and working in the high-traffic area. Activists have also [condemned](#) the law, saying it imposes undue barriers on those seeking to voice dissent and opposition. In addition to limiting protests to Azad Maidan, demonstrations are now prohibited after 6 pm, and attendance is capped at 5,000 people. Earlier this month, Mumbai Police [ordered](#) Maratha activist Manoj Jarange to leave Azad Maidan after his multi-day sit-in at the site drew 40,000 demonstrators and led to widespread traffic disruptions.

Upcoming Events

- September 15-20: Parliamentary Elections (Syria)
- September 16: General Elections (Malawi)
- 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 3: National Foundation Day (South Korea)
- October 6: Chuseok (South Korea)
- October 12: Dia de la Raza (Colombia)
- October 13: Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day (United States)
- October 1-2: Yom Kippur (Global)
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- October 13: Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day (United States)