

April 13, 2026

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### Top Stories

#### **Fate of Iran Ceasefire Uncertain as Islamabad Talks Fail, Israeli Strikes in Lebanon Continue**

**Peace talks** held in Islamabad between Tehran and Washington failed after 21 hours of negotiations on April 11. American officials are said to have elected against extending discussions for another day. The U.S. delegation, led by Vice President JD Vance, claimed that while the discussions had been productive, Iran's nuclear program had emerged as the key sticking point that ultimately could not be surpassed. However, their Iranian counterparts believe that the talks may have set the stage for further progress, despite reservations over the sincerity of American commitments on issues such as sanctions relief.

Despite the optimism for future dealmaking, however, President Donald Trump **announced** via his Truth Social platform that the U.S. Navy will blockade the Strait of Hormuz in response to the failure of peace talks. Later, a **U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) statement** announced a blockade of "vessels of all nations entering or departing Iranian ports and coastal areas" effective Monday at 10 am (Washington local time), explicitly noting that other vessels "transiting the Strait of Hormuz to and from non-Iranian ports" will be allowed safe passage.

The plan could indicate a significant walking back of Trump's earlier threats to blockade the entire waterway, but nonetheless threatens further impacts to global energy flows, especially if it impacts vessels routed toward Iranian waters to avoid potential naval mines in deeper waters. The status of the ceasefire, originally scheduled to last until April 22, **remains unclear**, with Iran's threat to **retaliate**

**against Gulf ports** if the U.S. follows through on the blockade likely to trigger a return to open conflict. **Israeli officials** say operations in Lebanon **will also continue** even as leaders of both countries are expected to meet in the U.S. for their own **peace talks**, raising further questions about the future of the ceasefire.

## Super Typhoon Sinlaku Threatens Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands

**Super Typhoon Sinlaku** has rapidly intensified and is approaching Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. As of Monday evening, Sinlaku is a Category 5 equivalent system, with a **well-defined eye**. The storm is undergoing structural changes, including the development of a secondary eyewall, but is expected to maintain extreme intensity as it tracks northwest. Current projections indicate a direct landfall near Tinian by Tuesday, placing Rota, Tinian, and Saipan at the greatest risk. Given the projected track and intensity, impacts could rival or exceed those seen during **Typhoon Mawar (2023)**, making this a potentially historic event for the region.

Conditions are already deteriorating across the region, with increasing winds, rain, early **power disruptions**, and **flight disruptions** reported on Guam, where authorities have issued **Typhoon Watches and Warnings**, the **highest readiness level**, and instructed residents to shelter in place. More than 2,600 people have moved into designated shelters. **Emergency resources** are being staged across the Northern Mariana Islands ahead of landfall.

Sinlaku is forecast to bring 200-300 mm (8-12 inches) of rainfall, with locally higher totals exceeding 350 mm (14 inches), significantly increasing the risk of flash flooding. Wind gusts are forecast to reach 240-280 km/h (150-175 mph), with gusts of around 320 km/h (200 mph) possible near the eyewall, potentially leading to widespread structural damage, downed trees, and prolonged power outages. Dangerous coastal conditions, including large waves and storm surge, are also expected. Impacts are expected to escalate rapidly through Tuesday as the core of the storm approaches.

## Business Activity, Critical Services Reopen in Ireland Following Demonstrations Over Fuel Prices

Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin **announced** a €505 million fuel tax cut package to ease rising gas prices and appease demonstrators who blocked major roadways and key fuel infrastructure last week. The unrest, which began on April 7 with **slow-moving vehicle convoys** across Ireland, escalated into blockades at the country's main refinery and ports, leading to fuel shortages and traffic disruptions. While organizers with the "People Of Ireland Against Fuel Prices" movement have called on their supporters to "stand down," recovery of fuel supplies is expected to take several days. In a post on social media Sunday night, the group asked that "all protestors and Gardai go home," and claimed victory in pushing the government to address fuel prices and tax concerns. Despite organizers declaring an end to the demonstrations, isolated protests were reported on Monday, though significantly **lower levels of disruption** were reported.

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While the government's fuel-cost measures aim to stabilize prices and prevent further economic disruption, critics argue it does not do enough to address deeper cost-of-living concerns. The government faces a **no confidence** vote on Tuesday. Last week's protests have heightened tensions between **law enforcement** and those who participated in demonstrations, and Commissioner of An Garda Síochána **stated** that threats against Gardai (police) "will be fully investigated." The Irish Army was **put on standby** after police reportedly requested their aid in removing blockades.

The unrest in Ireland inspired similar demonstration activity in **Norway** and the United Kingdom, with fuel protests possible across **Northern Ireland** on Tuesday. In the Philippines, transportation group Manibela **called** for its third multi-day nationwide strike over rising fuel prices. The fuel support demonstrations in Ireland may inspire wider unrest as countries across the globe grapple with economic fallout from the Middle East conflict.

## Climate and Natural Hazards

- **U.S. Severe Storm Pattern Continues Across Multiple Regions:** A multi-day stretch of active weather will bring rounds of severe thunderstorms from the Southern Plains into the Midwest and Great Lakes through midweek. The **Storm Prediction Center** has introduced an Enhanced Risk (Level 3 of 5) for parts of the region for both today and tomorrow, signaling potential for widely scattered damaging winds, hail, and isolated tornadoes. **Today**, severe storms are expected across the Upper Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes, while more isolated activity continues across Texas and Oklahoma. By **tomorrow**, the threat expands from eastern Iowa into southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, along with additional storms across the Southern Plains. On **Wednesday**, storms will continue shifting east with ongoing risks for large hail and strong winds.
- **Remnants of Maila Drift Toward Queensland After Deadly Impacts: Tropical Cyclone Maila** brought significant impacts across parts of the southwest Pacific earlier in its lifecycle, with at least **11 fatalities** reported in Papua New Guinea due to flooding and landslides, along with infrastructure damage and disrupted communities. As of Monday, the system has weakened considerably and is now dissipating over the Solomon Sea. It is expected to drift westward toward northeastern Australia, nearing the Cape York Peninsula by mid-week. While the threat of high-end impacts has decreased, scattered showers and locally heavy rain may still lead to isolated flooding, especially in low-lying or saturated areas. A **Flood Watch** remains in place for parts of northern Queensland. Gusty winds may linger, but widespread damaging winds and coastal hazards are no longer expected.
- **Dominican Republic Hit by Heavy Rain, Flooding:** President Luis Abinader has declared a **regional state of emergency** for Puerto Plata, Espaillat, Valverde, Santiago, Santo Domingo, and the National District following severe damage caused by heavy rains. In response, the Ministry of Labor of the Dominican Republic urged employers in affected and alert areas to adopt **flexible**

**schedules and remote work** to reduce risks from flooding and landslides. Much of the country remains under alerts for **additional heavy rain** through tomorrow.

- **Severe Storms and Flooding Threat Continue Across Northern Argentina:** An active stretch of weather continues across northern Argentina. As of today, the heaviest rain has shifted into Paraguay, but conditions are expected to worsen again through tomorrow as a more significant round of storms develops. **Yellow to Orange level warnings** are in place and may be upgraded. This next phase will bring widespread heavy rainfall near the Paraguay border, with storms repeatedly impacting the same areas. Rainfall totals of 100-200 mm (4-8 in) are expected, with isolated amounts up to 250 mm (10 in). This will increase the risk of life-threatening flash flooding, landslides, and major travel disruptions. Conditions should improve by mid to late week, though scattered storms may continue.
- **2026 Atlantic Hurricane Outlook: Colorado State University** expects the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season to be slightly below normal, mainly because climate conditions are likely to shift from weak La Niña to El Niño during the peak months. El Niño typically increases wind shear, which makes it harder for storms to form and strengthen. Forecasters predict 13 named storms, 6 hurricanes, and 2 major hurricanes, just under the long-term averages of 14, 7, and 3. While warmer Atlantic waters could boost activity, they are not as warm as in prior El Niño years that produced more storms. Meanwhile, the Pacific is likely to see above-normal hurricane and typhoon activity due to El Niño.

## Worldwide

- **NATO Alliance Faces Potential Existential Threat Over Iran War:** At least one former American ambassador to the alliance **warns** that rising tensions between NATO and the Trump administration over the U.S. war effort against Iran threaten the military alliance with its greatest institutional crisis ever. Some member states have gone as far as to refuse to allow the U.S. to launch military operations or route supplies for the conflict through their territories, leading the Trump administration to criticize the organization as a **“paper tiger”** and raising questions about the strength of the alliance. Trump used these incidents to justify claims that the organization “wasn't there when we needed them, and they won't be there if we need them again,” raising fears that the U.S. could **pull funding or material support** from the organization in response. European leaders, meanwhile, have also expressed concern that NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte's statements in support of Trump are also not reflective of their values, introducing further uncertainty into the organization's future.
- **Vietnamese Communist Party Chief, Former Security Official Takes Office as President:** **Recent moves** by Communist Party leader To Lam to concentrate power could discourage further investment in Vietnam, which has attracted a growing number of global firms due to its combination of low costs of production and investments in critical infrastructure. Lam was installed as president by peers in January after temporarily serving in that capacity in 2024. Lam has also previously served in several **security roles**, where he was involved in the **“blazing**

**furnace**” anti-corruption campaign that punished or purged thousands of bureaucrats (including political opponents). That campaign gave some investors pause over the **threat to local operations**. Lam’s consolidation of power raises the risk of similar consequences, threatening Vietnam’s appeal as an alternative to China or other Asian manufacturing destinations.

- **Viktor Orbán Ousted in Hungarian Election; Bulgaria Requests EU Assistance Against Election Interference:** Péter Magyar is set to become Hungary’s new prime minister after his Tisza party won a clear majority in Sunday’s elections, which saw **record voter turnout** and the end of **Viktor Orbán’s 16-year rule**. The election was a referendum on Orbán’s “**illiberal democracy**,” with Magyar demanding Orbán’s “puppets” immediately leave office and promising supporters that Hungary will be a “**strong ally of the EU and NATO**.” Meanwhile, Bulgarians will vote for the eighth time in five years on Sunday after mass demonstrations over corruption and economic strain prompted **snap parliamentary elections**. The Progressive Bulgaria coalition, launched by former President Rumen Radev—who faces criticism for **opposing military aid for Ukraine**—is **polling** ahead of the ruling GERB-led coalition but is not expected to garner a majority of votes. Authorities have cracked down on alleged election manipulation, **detaining** over 200 people for vote-buying and coercion and **requesting** the EU’s help in fending off foreign interference.
- **State Department Authorizes Voluntary Departures as Nigeria’s Security Situation Worsens:** The U.S. State Department added five additional states—Plateau, Jigawa, Kwara, Niger, and Taraba—to its “**Do Not Travel**” category and authorized the voluntary departure of non-emergency U.S. embassy employees and their families from Embassy Abuja due to a “deteriorating security situation” in the country. Earlier this month, a coalition of civil society groups issued a **statement** warning that the country faced a potential collapse due to the lack of trust in governmental institutions, insecurity, and inequality. While the Minister of Information and National Orientation **dismissed** this statement, the country has seen persistent and growing security threats, including a series of **attacks** over Easter in northern Nigeria and **reports** that over 200 people were killed in an airstrike by the Nigerian military that struck a market in Yobe state over the weekend. The growing security crisis is proving a drag on the nation’s economy, with one official saying that some have been “**cut off from all economic activity**.”
- **Expanded U.S.–Mexico Crackdown Delivers Arrests of Cartel Figures Amid Stability Concerns:** The United States has **reported** nearly 100 arrests of members of criminal organizations designated as terrorist groups, including 26 Mexican cartel leaders linked to the Sinaloa Cartel, CJNG, and La Nueva Familia Michoacana. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the operations form part of a “historic arrest” effort conducted in coordination with Mexican authorities, alongside more than 50 extraditions in 2025 involving figures such as Rafael Caro Quintero and Los Chapitos-linked suspects. Erick Valencia Salazar, co-founder of the CJNG, **entered** a guilty plea, admitting to conspiring to distribute cocaine into the United States. At the same time, Mexico **deployed** 500 Army and National Guard troops to Ciudad Juárez and Cuahtémoc to strengthen security operations with local police. Officials say the strategy targets cartel leadership, though analysts warn it may drive fragmentation and continued violence.

## Cyber and Regulatory

- **Stablecoin Regulation Grows as Swiss Banks Explore Use:** The FDIC advanced a **proposed framework** regulating stablecoin issuance and tokenized deposits under the GENIUS Act, signaling tighter U.S. oversight that could shape how banks and firms participate in digital asset markets. The move reflects broader efforts to address rising growth in stablecoin use and as regulators seek to balance innovation with financial stability. The proposal requires 1:1 reserve backing, monthly disclosures, and audits, while prohibiting interest payments and claims of FDIC insurance. The rule also sets capital, liquidity, and redemption standards. Meanwhile, six Swiss banks plan a **2026 "sandbox"** to test a Swiss franc stablecoin, reflecting global experimentation in digital currencies.
- **Russia Expands Surveillance, Internet Censorship in VPN Crackdown:** Russia is intensifying internet controls by **blocking** VPNs, restricting platforms, and imposing mobile outages, raising concerns about growing censorship and surveillance. Authorities have blocked over 400 VPNs and curtailed services like Telegram and WhatsApp while promoting state-controlled alternatives in a move that could further isolate citizens and disrupt daily life in the country. Since the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, censorship laws and security powers have expanded significantly, with officials **citing** drone threats to justify disruptions. Recent blackouts in Moscow and St Petersburg cut access to mobile internet for weeks, limiting communication and activity while allowing only government-approved services. Widespread VPN workarounds and public backlash could complicate enforcement, while evolving security threats may prompt even stricter or more unpredictable restrictions.
- **Germany Warns of Russian Cyber Espionage Exploiting Router Vulnerabilities:** Germany's domestic intelligence agency **warned** that Russian-linked APT28 hackers are exploiting routers for cyber espionage, highlighting ongoing risks to government and critical infrastructure networks. The development underscores how widely used commercial devices remain vulnerable points of entry for state-backed operations. APT28 compromised thousands of routers globally, including around 30 devices in Germany, with confirmed breaches requiring device replacement. The group, tied to Russia's GRU, has previously targeted Germany's parliament, political parties, and aviation systems. The U.S. recently **banned** imports of new foreign-made routers over espionage risks and **restricted** foreign drones while exempting select low risk models. Risk levels should shift further if additional vulnerabilities are discovered or if exemptions are expanded.
- **Breach of Chinese Supercomputing Center Highlights Critical Cybersecurity Risks:** A hacker group identifying themselves as "FlamingChina" claim they **stole** more than 10 petabytes of highly sensitive data, including military research, missile schematics, and advanced simulations used by defense institutions from the National Supercomputing Center (NSCC) in Tianjin. The attackers allegedly exploited a VPN vulnerability with a botnet and extracted the data over six months to avoid detection. Cyber experts say the leaked samples appear credible and reflect the wide range of projects handled by such government facilities, which support thousands of

Chinese government and research clients. The breach highlights serious vulnerabilities in China's critical cyber infrastructure and raises global concerns about the protection of sensitive technological data.

- **Romania's Infrastructure Targeted by Persistent Cyber Campaigns:** Romania is **experiencing** over 10,000 daily cyberattacks on government systems, underscoring its exposure as an EU and NATO member supporting Ukraine and its relevance within an intensifying global cyber threat environment. Officials link many incidents to Russia-aligned actors, alongside ransomware campaigns affecting infrastructure, such as water and energy, with activity often coinciding with political developments. Authorities also reported disinformation efforts aimed at undermining public trust, reflecting a broader hybrid threat landscape. Globally, similar tactics are emerging, with **Iran-linked** actors targeting industrial control systems such as **PLCs** in critical infrastructure, prompting **active monitoring** of power grids in the U.S. and warnings of operational disruption risks. While responsibility is not always clear, the scale or impact of these attacks could change depending on geopolitical tensions, security improvements, or developments in ongoing conflicts.

## Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **New U.S. Government System Unable to Disburse Around a Third of Tariff Refunds in Initial Round:** The U.S. government's new web-based portal for processing claims for payees following a Supreme Court ruling against most Trump administration tariffs will be **unable to service around a third** of the roughly 53 million imports eligible to receive money back at launch. In a **court filing**, Trump administration officials describe the expected capabilities of the claim portal, but stopped short of suggesting when the remaining refunds might be processed. The announcement is likely to drive further uncertainty among the global business community. This is especially true in the U.S., where many businesses are said to be struggling to such an extent that they are attempting to use tariff refund claims as **collateral** to secure loan funding. It is expected that the U.S. will be required to pay out around \$166 billion in refunds, though how much of this funding will materialize (or when) remains unclear.
- **Iran War Threatening Global Supplies of Aluminum, Other Non-Fuel Exports from Gulf Region: Reports** from Iranian state media highlighting Israeli and U.S. strikes targeting industrial sites across the country could signal coming shortages of industrial inputs and other products in countries that trade with Tehran. Meanwhile, Iranian retaliatory attacks against U.S.-aligned industrial sites, such as the Middle East's largest **aluminum smelters**, could impose similar hardships on countries reliant on Gulf partners for similar exports. Observers have repeatedly flagged concerns that damage to critical infrastructure supporting fossil fuel industries, from refineries to ports, will likely have lasting global consequences, but supply chains could face similar upheavals if the flow of petrochemicals and other resources from the region stops as well.
- **Heightened Costs, Reduced Planting and Yields Threaten Food Prices Globally; Developing Countries Especially At-Risk:** The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warns that the

continuation of the Iran conflict could also **reduce** crop planting and yields due to the rising cost of fertilizers. At the same time, **shortages** of petrochemicals that are key for packaging, processing, and food logistics are disrupting manufacturing supply chains across Asia, affecting everything from food production to retail distribution. Global institutions **warn** that these combined shocks are increasing food insecurity, particularly in import-dependent and low-income countries. In **Malaysia**, authorities have warned of supply disruptions and limited energy reserves, with food prices projected to rise by as much as 50%. In **Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Egypt**, and elsewhere, fuel shortages, price hikes, and rising inflation have also reduced purchasing power, raising the risk of a broader cost-of-living crisis. Developing economies, where food and fuel make up a large share of household spending, are **particularly vulnerable**.

- **Panamanian Authorities Announce Weight Limit on Canal Bridge, Plan Further Infrastructure Inspections:** Commercial vehicles crossing Panama's Bridge of the Americas will be **limited to 10 tons or less** following an **April 6 explosion** near one end and a subsequent inspection of the bridge's structural integrity. The incident last week forced the closure of the bridge for nearly 24 hours, disrupting commercial and passenger traffic across one of just three bridges over the Panama Canal, an important node of inter-American over-the-road transport for up to 80,000 daily users. While the bridge did not display any visible indicators of structural damage following the incident, the new restrictions have been issued out of an abundance of caution and to allow for closer inspection in the coming days. Overweight vehicles will instead be forced to use the Centenario Bridge instead, an order which could increase traffic pressure on the alternative route.
- **Theft of Copper from Energy Infrastructure Becomes Billion-Dollar Problem in Chile Since 2020:** An investigation into criminal organizations' theft, reprocessing, and export of copper has uncovered the true scale of these operations, with as much as \$917 million in copper **stolen by criminal groups** from power lines and other critical infrastructure across the country in the past five years. Authorities found that these organizations had developed complex value chains around the stolen copper, often obtained through smash-and-grab type operations that authorities struggle to respond to in time, especially in rural areas. These groups are able to process the copper into new forms and export internationally, highlighting how **deeply ingrained** criminal organizations have become in manufacturing and logistics operations across **the Americas**.

## Health

- **HHS Broadens Qualifications for Vaccine Panel Following March 16 Ruling:** In a recent update to the **charter** for the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the Department of Health and Human Services **expanded** the qualifications for members and included language around vaccine safety concerns and side effects. The changes come after an earlier effort to overhaul the panel was **halted** by a federal judge. Critics say that the revised charter includes

language often used by vaccine critics and will likely make the inclusion of additional allies of HHS Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr possible and more able to withstand legal challenges. While the administration has said that the changes are part of “routine statutory requirements,” the president of the Infectious Diseases Society of America has **called** it an effort to “further dismantle U.S. vaccine infrastructure.”

- **Insecticide Resistant Mosquitoes in South America Pose New Mitigation Challenges:** A recent **study** found a suspected adaptation in the cytochrome p450 genes of the *Anopheles darlingi* mosquito that enable them to metabolize toxic substances faster, threatening future prevention efforts in South America. This finding raises new challenges for mitigation as insecticides are an essential form of combating malaria. According to World Health Organization (WHO) data, insecticide resistance in mosquitoes is a **major cause** of the ongoing spread of malaria in Africa and is “**increasing in intensity**” globally. While over the past eight years Paraguay, Argentina, El Salvador, Belize, and Suriname were all **certified** malaria-free, the disease still claimed 136 lives in the Americas in 2024.
- **DOJ Launches Investigation Into Top Medical Schools for Alleged Racial Bias in Admissions:** The U.S. Department of Justice has **launched** investigations into leading medical schools over alleged racial bias in admissions, putting billions in federal funding at risk. This follows earlier cuts to National Institute of Health grants and could expand significantly with new federal data collection on applicant demographics. The policy shift reinforces “merit-based” admissions, but it comes on heels of a Supreme Court ruling ending affirmative action in 2023 and declining Black and Hispanic enrollment in the ensuing years. Continued investigations into alleged racial bias in admissions may further reduce diversity in the physician pipeline, potentially exacerbating care disparities and affect patient outcomes. The investigations and any fallout stemming from them could lead to financial instability for academic medical centers, constrained research funding, legal exposure, and further potential shifts in admissions criteria that prioritize test scores over holistic evaluation.
- **Conflict in Iran Impacts Global Healthcare Supply Chains:** The conflict in the Middle East continues to have wide-ranging impacts on healthcare, both within Iran and around the world. The World Health Organization has **expressed alarm** at the repeated attacks on Iran’s healthcare infrastructure, including Tehran’s Pasteur Institute, the country’s premier biomedical research hub. Many Gulf airports, especially Dubai, are **critical hubs** in wider pharmaceutical supply chains, and damage to facilities and airspace closures forced many companies to reconfigure supply chains. The conflict has led **BASF Pharma Solutions**, a supplier of many of the chemicals used to produce drugs, to raise prices by up to 20%. Hospitals are also **struggling** with the disruption of helium supplies, which is used as a cooling agent in MRI machines. While some helium companies have said that hospitals would be prioritized in the event of a shortage, continued strain on supplies could lead to MRI machines being taken offline.

- **Other Stories the Global Intelligence Team Is Monitoring: Bangladesh** is the latest country to **battle** a rapidly growing measles outbreak, with more than 100 children dead in less than a month. Officials in the South Asian nation are conducting an emergency vaccination campaign in response. In the Western Hemisphere, **Colombia** is **tracking** rising numbers of Yellow Fever cases, with officials calling for a strengthening of preventative measures in Tolima, Huila, Cauca, and other high-risk areas, while **Guatemala confirmed** its first case of chikungunya in a decade. And **California** is contending with both a rise in **rotavirus cases** in the north, as well as a record number of **flea-borne typhus cases** in Los Angeles County.

## Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Brazil Unions Plan Mass Brasília March as Lula Government Pushes Workweek Reform:** Brazilian labor unions are preparing a large national mobilization, including a march in Brasília on Wednesday, expected to draw about 10,000 workers, while decentralizing International Workers' Day events across the country. The strategy aims to expand grassroots participation and visibility of labor demands. Key issues include reducing the workweek to 40 hours without salary cuts, ending the 6x1 schedule, strengthening collective bargaining, and improving working conditions. The mobilization aligns with **efforts** by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's government to advance legislation mandating shorter working hours ahead of upcoming elections.
- **Truckers Threaten 2026 FIFA World Cup Boycott as Strike Suspended Amid Clashes in Mexico:** Truckers and farmers across Mexico **suspended** their nationwide strike after two days due to escalating violence, clashes with authorities, and safety concerns among protesters. The National Association of Transporters (ANTAC) said it could no longer guarantee participants' safety following **reported** attacks, arrests, and alleged repression in states like Veracruz, Tlaxcala, and Chihuahua. While highway blockades disrupting key freight routes were lifted, core grievances remain unresolved, including cargo theft, extortion, high diesel costs, and poor working conditions. Separately, some union leaders refused government dialogue conditions and warned of escalating actions, including a **potential** boycott of the 2026 World Cup. Organizers indicated demonstrations could resume if authorities fail to address insecurity and sector demands.
- **Portugal's Largest Trade Union Planning National Mobilization Friday in Lisbon:** The General Confederation of the Portuguese Workers (CGTP) is **calling** on workers to gather in the country's capital city this Friday to protest the government's labor reforms. Demonstrators will gather at Saldanha at 2:30 pm before marching to the Assembly of the Republic building. Construction and **architectural** workers **announced** they will strike in conjunction with CGTP's national mobilization call, with work stoppages likely to affect a range of sectors to facilitate workers' participation in the Lisbon march. While the mobilization is expected to be less disruptive than the

nationwide **union-led strike** in December 2025, Friday's action marks a continuation in actions against labor reform.

- **Heightened Pro-Palestine Demonstration Activity Expected on Palestine Prisoners' Day, French Citizens Petition Against "Yadan" Law:** France lawmakers will debate a controversial bill known as the "**Yadan Law**" later this week, with nearly 700,000 people having **signed a petition** to block the legislation. The draft law would **criminalize** calls for the destruction of Israel, and while supporters say the bill is necessary to fight antisemitism, critics **warn** that it will suppress pro-Palestine activism. This week, pro-Palestine activist groups are organizing demonstrations across the globe in conjunction with Palestinian Prisoners' Day, commemorated annually on April 17. Major gatherings are expected on Friday in London (Downing St at 6 pm), Madrid (march to Plaza Jacinto Benavente at 7 pm), and New York City (Consulate General of Israel, 800 2nd Ave at 4 pm). Activists in London continue to push back on the U.K.'s ban on Palestine Action, with police **arresting 500 demonstrators** at a mass sign-holding action on Saturday.
- **Other Stories We're Watching:** In **Slovakia**, Bratislava will see a major demonstration against election rule changes and the government of Prime Minister Fico on Tuesday, with turnout expected to be in the hundreds. In **Albania**, demonstrators calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Edi Rama will **return to Tirana on Friday**, where similar protests have resulted in **clashes with police** in recent months. Meanwhile, law enforcement trade unions in **Spain** are calling for a strike on Saturday, with a march **planned** from Madrid's Puerto del Sol at noon. To the west, the **United Kingdom** will see opposing demonstrations in Manchester on Saturday, with activist groups organizing a counter demonstration against a march **organized** by the Britain First party.

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## Upcoming Events

- April 13-15: Songkran (Thailand)
- April 14: Yom HaShoah (Global)
- April 14: Bengali New Year (Bangladesh)
- April 14: Maha Thingyan (Myanmar)
- April 14: Nepali New Year (Nepal)
- April 17: Palestinian Prisoners' Day (Palestinian Territories)
- April 19: Parliamentary Election (Bulgaria)
- April 21-22: Independence Day (Israel)
- April 22: Earth Day (Global)
- April 23: St George's Day (England, United Kingdom)
- April 23: State Assembly Elections for Tamil Nadu, W Bengal (India)
- April 23-26: National Football League Draft (Pittsburgh, United States)
- April 25: ANZAC Day (Australia and New Zealand)
- April 29: State Assembly Elections for W Bengla (India)
- May 1: Provisional Date to Apply EU-Mercosur Trade Agreement (Global)
- May 1: International Workers' Day/May Day (Global)
- May 5: Cinco de Mayo (Mexico)
- May 8-9: 48th ASEAN Leaders' Summit (Cebu, Philippines)
- May 9: Victory Day (Russia)
- May 12: Parliamentary Elections (Bahamas)
- May 14: Jerusalem Day (Israel)
- May 14-15: U.S. President Trump Visits China (Beijing, China)
- May 15: Nakba Day (Palestinian Territories)
- May 12-16: Eurovision (Vienna, Austria)