



April 20, 2026

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Northern Michigan and Northeast Wisconsin Still Grappling with Historic River Floods

Officials report ongoing, near-historic flooding across portions of northern Michigan and northeast Wisconsin, with water levels remaining elevated despite some rivers beginning to recede. The Wolf River has crested and is gradually falling; however, significant flooding persists, and evacuations remain in place in some communities, including Shiogton, where residents may be unable to return home for up to a week as infrastructure is assessed. Many local roads remain closed or impassable across Waupaca and Outagamie counties, and safety checks are ongoing in parts of Newaygo County.

In northern Michigan, additional rainfall has caused renewed rises at the **Cheboygan Lock and Dam Complex**, with water levels nearing the top of the structure. Officials continue active water management efforts at Tower, Kleber, and Alverno dams, including increased flow releases, sandbagging, debris removal, and sealing of sinkholes to prevent seepage. Residents near the Alverno Dam and downstream areas remain under heightened alert, with prior **Level 2 ("Set") evacuation** readiness indicating a high likelihood of evacuation if conditions worsen.

Flood warnings and advisories remain in effect across much of the region. Officials warn that fast-moving debris is present in waterways due to widespread flooding, creating dangerous conditions. Travel disruptions, road closures, and localized infrastructure impacts are ongoing, and residents are urged to

avoid flooded areas, riverbanks, and closed roadways. Recovery efforts are beginning in some locations, but additional rainfall and saturated ground may prolong flooding concerns in the coming days.

Iran Ceasefire Heading Toward Expiry With Talks Uncertain and Significant Differences Remaining Between Tehran, Washington

With the ceasefire between Iran and the United States scheduled to expire at midnight GMT on April 21-22, observers are growing increasingly concerned that a return to open conflict may be imminent. Iranian officials announced **another closure** of the Strait of Hormuz, as well as their intent not to participate in another round of talks, **in response to** the continued U.S. blockade of its ports. Negotiators from either side are also said to remain **far apart** on critical issues, including Iran's **nuclear program** and **rearmament** following the conflict, issues that could prove intractable.

Despite the concerning statements and actions, U.S. President Trump continues to **express optimism** that both sides understand the importance of this round of talks and that the regime will come to the table. Additionally, Israeli and Lebanese officials are **expected to meet** in Washington on Thursday for further peace talks of their own, which could produce progress on the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah that has previously proven an **obstacle** to the overall peace process.

Against this backdrop, **experts question** whether a consistent near-term reopening of the Strait of Hormuz is even possible at this point, warning that markets are failing to account for the scale and duration of the present disruption. Even if the strait were to reopen in the near term, damage to everything from oil fields to port facilities, the mining of the strait, and shipowners' general hesitation to risk their crews and vessels' safety are expected to weigh on the global energy industry **regardless**, with the recovery time likely to grow longer if conflict resumes and there is further damage to such sites.

New Zealand Hit by Severe Flooding, Local Emergency Declarations

A slow-moving low-pressure system off the west coast of New Zealand is bringing widespread heavy rain, strong winds, and flooding impacts across both north and south islands. Nationwide, scattered heavy rain and gusty winds will continue through Wednesday. Flooding is likely, particularly in areas that have already received recent heavy rainfall. The New Zealand MetService has issued **Level 1 and 2 (of 3) rain warnings** across multiple regions. **Wellington**, hit by major flooding in recent days, remains under a Red Warning.

Additional rainfall of 50-100 mm (2-4 in) is expected across lower North Island, including Wellington, with localized totals up to 150 mm (6 in). Elsewhere, lesser rain amounts, 25-50 mm (1-2 in), is forecast, which may still lead to flooding in low-lying and urban areas. Wind gusts up to 110 km/h (70 mph) are expected in coastal areas with gusts up to 80 km/h (50 mph) elsewhere. Weather conditions are expected to gradually improve during the second half of the week.

Artificial Intelligence and Data Center Industries Face Growing Violence in United States

The rapid rise of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) industry and U.S. firms' expedient incorporation of the technology into core business operations is driving a nationwide movement against the sector that is growing in **mainstream popularity**. However, it is also giving rise to an increasingly extreme fringe. The growth of these fringe movements has led to physical threats against data centers, the corporations and investors behind them, and **corporate leaders** or **politicians** who advocate for these projects, such as OpenAI chief executive **Sam Altman**.

The growing (and increasingly bipartisan) pushback against data centers and other AI-related infrastructure projects is an important **warning to investors**. Companies like Amazon, Google, and other Big Tech majors could face difficulties in advancing projects in the U.S. due to changing regulations or disruptive demonstration activity, and in some cases may even be threatened with violence.

Public dissatisfaction with the impacts of the AI boom could also prove **politically costly** for officials continuing to support these projects during election season. This pressure has **already led** some investors to scale back, postpone, or altogether abandon planned projects, with similar decisions likely to occur **increasingly frequently** if the threat of violence grows more severe.

Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Japan 7.4 Magnitude Earthquake Prompts Tsunami-Related Evacuations:** A powerful **7.4 magnitude earthquake** struck off the coast of Sanriku, Japan, prompting **tsunami warnings** that have been down-graded to advisories across northern regions, including Hokkaido, Aomori, and Iwate. At the height of the event, evacuation orders were issued for approximately 82,000 households, impacting over 170,000 people. Tsunami activity was detected offshore, though no widespread structural damage or critical infrastructure impacts have been reported. A small number of injuries have been confirmed. Aftershocks remain possible in the coming days, which could pose additional hazards as recovery efforts continue. Japanese authorities also issued a **precautionary advisory** noting the probability of a magnitude 8-class earthquake in the broader offshore region has temporarily increased to around 1% over the next week, up from typical background levels near 0.1%. Officials emphasized that this is not a prediction, but a reminder for residents and businesses to remain prepared.
- **South Africa Under High Flood Risk This Week:** AlertMedia meteorologists anticipate a multi-day period of active weather across South Africa and surrounding countries, particularly Tuesday through Friday, as a stalled weather boundary supports repeated rounds of thunderstorms. Some storms may become severe, producing damaging winds, hail, and intense rainfall. Flash flooding is expected to be the primary hazard, particularly in low-lying and urban areas, with cities such as Maputo, Pretoria, Polokwane, and Gaborone at increased risk. Impacts may include

road closures, infrastructure damage, and localized evacuations. **Warnings** are in effect and conditions are expected to gradually improve by late week. This threat comes on the heels of severe weather that has already impacted various parts of the country, including **Cape Town**.

- **Severe Thunderstorms and Flooding Risk Continue Across Central and Northern Argentina:** Scattered thunderstorms and periods of heavy rain are ongoing across central and northern Argentina, with additional rounds expected through Tuesday. **Yellow to Orange level warnings** are in place and may be upgraded. Multiple waves of storms will increase the risk for flash flooding, damaging winds, and isolated hail, particularly across provinces such as Chaco, Formosa, Corrientes, and northern Santa Fe. Travel disruptions and localized power outages are likely during peak storm activity. Conditions may remain unsettled into Tuesday before gradually improving overnight into Wednesday.

Worldwide

- **Peru Election Delays Spark Political Tensions, Uncertainty:** Calls are mounting to **remove** Piero Corvetto, head of Peru's electoral authority, as delays and logistical issues slow the counting of votes from the April 12 presidential election. With over 93% of ballots counted, Keiko Fujimori leads, while Roberto Sanchez and Rafael Lopez Aliaga remain in a tight race for second place ahead of a June runoff. Allegations of **fraud** have intensified political tensions, though EU observers report no evidence of irregularities. Delays stem partly from contested ballots requiring review. The election has raised investor **concerns**, highlighting Peru's ongoing political instability despite relatively **steady** economic performance.
- **Rare School Shootings in Türkiye Sparks Demonstrations by Teachers, New Security Measures:** **School shootings** over consecutive days in Türkiye have resulted in at least nine deaths and dozens of injuries. School shootings are rare in Türkiye and prompted a coalition of teachers' unions to **announce** a two-day nationwide strike last week, while the Youth Union of Türkiye (TGB) called for student-led demonstrations nationwide over the weekend. Turkish gun laws are **strict**, and gun owners must be over the age of 21 and licensed. Authorities have also moved to **constrain** public discourse around the shootings, detaining at least 162 people who have posted controversial content online, while imposing restrictions on over 1,100 social media accounts. An expert in teen psychology interviewed by the BBC **noted** that violence within schools has been on the rise recently and that copycat attacks are possible. While schools reopened today, authorities have **imposed** strict new rules around campus access and student behavior.
- **Increasingly Aggressive Chinese Navy Could Suggest Further Escalation in Pacific:** China's navy regularly conducts patrols in contested territory, near Taiwan, or under **other antagonistic circum-stances**. Recently, however, these have included increasingly provocative actions, ranging from **live fire drills** to **offshore airspace disruptions**. Now, with Chinese authorities deploying vessels and **preventing entry** to the disputed Scarborough Shoal, international observers are concerned that the aggressive maneuvers could be preparations for more direct

efforts by Beijing to claim disputed territories as its own, or to escalate its pressure campaign against Taiwan. Concern over increasingly provocative Chinese navy activity has driven Taiwanese authorities to prepare exercises simulating a **potential future Chinese blockade**.

- **Indian Opposition Parties Defeat Effort to Redraw Parliamentary Constituencies:** A united opposition effort **defeated** a bid to begin a controversial delimitation effort after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) tethered it to other legislation that would have implemented reservations for women in parliament. The **bill** would have allowed for the redrawing of parliamentary constituencies, which have been frozen since the 1970s, using population data from the 2011 census. Opposition parties, especially those with power centers in the wealthier but less-populated southern states, **argued** this would shift seats toward northern states, where the BJP has greater influence. Any further efforts towards delimitation are likely to trigger demonstrations, especially in southern states like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The attempt to tie the implementation of the popular reservations for women to the delimitation exercise has already **sparked protests**.
- **German Fundraising Effort to Support 'Urgent Projects' as Sudan Conflict Enters Fourth Year:** Over U.S. \$1.5 billion was raised at a **German conference** seeking to address urgent development and aid needs in Sudan. The event came as the country marked the third anniversary of an ongoing military conflict between the military and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which may have **killed hundreds of thousands** and **displaced** at least 13 million people to-date. The war is often considered one of the world's most intractable and neglected humanitarian disasters. The **high civilian casualties** raise the risk that regional powers such as **Egypt** and the **United Arab Emirates** could face heightened scrutiny for their purported involvement, potentially impacting their appeal as investment destinations—however, this has yet to prove a significant threat.

Cyber and Regulatory

- **Korea-Linked Hackers Exploit Social and Hiring Platforms:** North Korea-linked hackers are **reportedly** using deceptive social media and job platforms to infiltrate global companies. The strategy raises concerns about data theft and relies on everyday day online interactions, making them harder to detect and difficult to recognize. The APT37 group builds trust through **fake** Facebook profiles, **shifts** conversations to messaging apps like Telegram, and tricks targets into downloading malware to gain access to sensitive systems. Stolen data is then routed through legitimate websites and cloud services to avoid detection. Separately, the hackers use fake identities and AI-generated job applications on free-lance and coding platforms to bypass hiring checks and gain internal access at a larger scale. Despite ongoing challenges in cyber attribution, countermeasures by social media platforms could quickly disrupt these tactics.
- **U.S. Agencies Warn of Iran-Linked Cyber Activity Targeting Infrastructure.** Iran-linked cyber actors are **targeting** U.S. energy and water infrastructure, disrupting operational technology systems and raising concerns about public safety and infrastructure reliability. Several U.S.

agencies issued a **joint advisory** on Tuesday warning that the attacks can impact energy operations, water treatment, and broader infrastructure resilience. Hackers have exploited programmable logic controllers (PLCs), causing system disruptions, equipment issues, and financial losses across multiple sectors. The activity **mirrors** campaigns by Iran-associated groups like **CyberAv3ngers**, which previously infiltrated water utilities and deployed disruptive malware. Officials note the water sector remains a high-value target, with past incidents including sensor tampering and interface disruptions. This reflects a broader global trend, such those seen recently in Romania, where similar cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure highlight the expanding landscape.

- **Quantum Threat Timeline Accelerates:** Advances in quantum computing are **continuing** to shorten the timeline for when it may pose a security threat, with implications for cryptocurrencies and broader data security. Researchers assess that advances in quantum hardware and error correction are progressing faster than anticipated, with some projections suggesting that a cryptographically relevant quantum computer could be produced within the next decade. Additionally, Google researchers **assess** that an advanced quantum system could break Bitcoin's elliptic curve encryption in approximately nine minutes, highlighting potential vulnerabilities in blockchain networks. These developments are increasing urgency across industry and government to transition toward quantum-resistant encryption standards.
- **AI Cyber Risk Prompts Urgent Banking Review:** U.S. regulators are elevating concerns over advanced AI-driven cyber threats, as Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell convened an urgent, closed-door meeting with CEOs of large banks to address risks tied to Anthropic's new "Mythos" model. Officials assess that Mythos' ability to autonomously identify and exploit vulnerabilities across major common operating systems and web browsers could enable a new class of cyber-attacks against financial infrastructure. During initial testing, Mythos reportedly uncovered thousands of previously unknown flaws, including vulnerabilities missed by traditional testing methods. In response, Anthropic has restricted access to a limited group of firms and is coordinating with government agencies on the future use and access of Mythos.
- **Increase in Vulnerabilities Prompts NIST to Narrow Scope of CVE Analysis:** The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) **announced** it will narrow the priorities for its National Vulnerability Database (NVD), focusing only on CVEs in CISA's known exploited vulnerabilities catalog, software used by the federal government, and critical software defined under Executive Order 14028. The change is driven by an overwhelming volume of vulnerabilities — CVE submissions surged 263% from 2020 to 2025, with 2026 submissions already running nearly a third higher than last year. CVEs outside the priority criteria will still be listed in NVD but won't be automatically enriched with additional details. NIST will also stop issuing separate CVSS scores for CVEs that are submitted with a severity rating already. Industry experts called the move inevitable, given NIST's backlog and unsustainable pace under the previous system.

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **Worsening Jet Fuel Shortage Threatens Air Travel Worldwide:** European airlines could be forced to suspend operations by the end of May and Air Canada has already begun **suspending routes** to major international airports as **fuel shortages** amid the ongoing Iran conflict show no signs of easing. Countries across the world are struggling with the fallout of the conflict, but jet fuel supply disruptions and cancellations of routes over the Middle East or connecting flights are impacting air travel in Asia and Europe **particularly hard**. Industry experts warn that European reserves could hold as little as **six weeks' worth** of jet fuel, suggesting that airlines could be forced to severely reduce or altogether suspend travel operations by the end of May if fuel production and distribution do not resume before then. The shortages threaten widespread cancellations of scheduled flights, suggesting that a continued shortage could upend global travel.
- **Global Energy Crisis Threatens 'Reshoring' Trend in Southeast Asia:** Investors that had previously shifted supply chains out of China could begin **returning to the country** as the global energy crisis, the potential for future U.S. tariffs, and other challenges threaten supply chains. Many companies shifted their manufacturing reliance away from Chinese suppliers amid the COVID-19 pandemic, animosity between Beijing and Washington, and other threats. Now, however, companies based in countries across Southeast Asia, where many supply chains moved out of China were "reshored," are struggling to meet demand, deadlines, or quoted prices due to their heavy reliance on **imported fossil fuel** energy sources amid the global crisis stemming from the conflict in Iran.
- **China Gearing Up for Tough Talks as Iran Accusations Swirl; Solar Sector Faces Significant Consequences:** Ahead of an **expected meeting** between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump, Chinese authorities are said to be weighing measures, including **restrictions** on solar energy technology exports to the U.S. and **retaliatory tariffs**. The sudden push is believed to be a combination of Beijing's desire to stand firm amid accusations that it is supporting Iran's war effort on the one hand, and to present a **firm front** on trade during the negotiations on the other, with the sudden appointment of a new top negotiator likely a sign that China may shift its tactics in dealings with the U.S. going forward. The solar threat, in particular, could have lasting consequences for Chinese firms in a space that they typically dominate, with further American investment in the domestic solar ecosystem likely to result.
- **Mineral-Exporting States Seek Greater Control Over Lucrative Resources:** Growing government efforts to gain further control over natural resources and their value chains around the world continue to threaten private sector supply chains with increased costs, scarcity, and other potential knock-on impacts. In Brazil, a **new requirement** for foreign mining companies to have the minerals they extract processed locally is likely to raise costs for investors in the country's lucrative mining sector, preventing buyers in China and the U.S. from shipping raw ore out of the country at lower rates to be processed elsewhere. This is likely to support the buildout of value-added processing facilities in the country, at least partly at the expense of mining firms.

Meanwhile, Congolese authorities are taking a different approach, intending instead to establish **strategic stockpiles** of cobalt, coltan, and germanium (three of the country's top critical mineral exports) to gain greater influence over the markets for these resources, which are central to various high-tech manufacturing processes.

- **U.S. Officials Approve Use of Laser Against Drones Operating Near Airports, Bases:**

Following a February incident in which the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) briefly ordered the suspension of flights to and from El Paso International Airport amid an incident involving drone activity near the Mexico-U.S. border, aviation and defense officials announced **plans to operate** a high-energy laser against suspicious drones flying in the area. The system previously attracted controversy over concerns about the threat it could pose to commercial aviation after playing a part in the erroneous downing of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) drone during the El Paso incident. Despite the safety concerns, however, authorities from both the FAA and the Pentagon claim to have found that the system poses no threat to nearby aircraft, suggesting that it could be employed in other cases where suspicious drone activity disrupts nearby airport operations.

Health

- **U.S. Makes Key Changes to Supply Program for HIV, Malaria Medications:** The U.S. is **dismantling** a major global health supply program that distributes HIV and malaria medications, replacing it with a new, less-defined system. The move is part of broader cuts to foreign aid and the restructuring of USAID. Officials argue the existing contractor-led model was inefficient, but health experts warn the abrupt transition lacks a clear implementation plan. Aid organizations and industry groups say the changes risk disrupting supply chains, potentially leading to shortages of life-saving drugs, diagnostics, and prevention tools in vulnerable countries. Efforts to shift responsibilities to partners like the Global Fund face tight timelines, raising concerns about gaps in treatment continuity.
- **Reliance on AI Chatbots for Medical Advice Proves Problematic:** A recent poll found that "about **a third of adults**" in the U.S. turn to AI chatbots for health information; however, a recent study found that across five popular AI chatbots, half of the medical advice given was "deemed **problematic**", not least because the AI delivered its response "confidently," regardless of whether it had the information necessary to do so. Other researchers have flagged that AI has a propensity to give answers the user will **like** or agree with. While validating for some patients, the reliance on AI chatbots could lead to the spread of misleading medical advice and to a degradation in confidence in medical professionals.
- **Poll Shows Growing Levels of Vaccine Skepticism Among Americans:** Vaccine skepticism has become **more mainstream** in the United States, with a growing share of Americans expressing doubts about vaccine safety, according to recent survey data. The shift is not limited to

traditionally skeptical groups; it now spans broader segments of the population and reflects declining trust in public health institutions. While many still support routine immunizations, fewer view vaccines as unequivocally safe or necessary. Researchers link this trend to politicization, misinformation, and lingering distrust following the COVID-19 pandemic. Public health experts warn that normalization of skepticism could reduce vaccination rates, increase vulnerability to preventable diseases, and complicate future outbreak response efforts.

- **FDA Panel to Discuss Broadening Access to Peptides:** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration will **convene** an advisory panel in July to evaluate whether compounding pharmacies should be allowed to produce several previously restricted peptides. These substances, barred in 2023 over concerns about toxicity, impurities, and limited human testing, have grown popular for uses such as injury recovery, inflammation, and weight loss. Regulators caution that most lack sufficient safety and effectiveness data. The review follows support from Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who has advocated expanding access. Industry groups warn that any regulatory shift must be carefully managed to avoid supply and quality issues if restrictions are lifted.
- **Lawsuit Filed After Student Dies in ICU Overseen by 'Telehealth' Doctor:** The family of a student who died August 2024 in an intensive care unit (ICU) **filed** a wrongful death lawsuit. According to a report by the state, the ICU was being overseen by a remote doctor at the time of the student's death. Hospitals often **use telehealth** to address staffing shortages and control costs, with more facilities turning to such solutions during the COVID-19 pandemic. While telehealth has been found to be equally effective as in-person care in some **previous studies** and is an attractive solution in the face of **growing physician shortages** and other **financial challenges**, there is no nationally-agreed upon standard for telehealth programs, which could expose hospitals and practitioners to legal risk.

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Labor Unrest in Northern India Reflects Dissatisfaction with Wages, Labor Codes:** Noida and Greater Noida **saw large worker mobilizations** and clashes over wages, hours, and dues last week. The demonstrations were prompted by interstate compensation disparities, with wage hikes in Haryana triggering parity demands, leading to unrest across the National Capital industrial belt. The unrest also revealed widespread frustration over newly implemented **Labor Codes**, which have been criticized by workers for their weak enforcement and lack of an assured living wage alongside fears of easier hiring and retrenchment, diluting the bargaining power of workers. **Reforms** aimed at formalization are seen as reducing protections without ensuring wage security. Demonstrations in **Ludhiana** and **Delhi-NCR** highlight that wage increments have lagged behind inflation and the increasing cost of living. While **state governments** have raised minimum

wages in response to the protests, labor group representatives are calling for comprehensive revision of the codes with their involvement.

- **Northern Ireland, Kenya, Philippines Seeing Protests Over Fuel Price Increases:** Demonstrations over high fuel prices spread from Ireland to the United Kingdom last week, resulting in widespread traffic disruptions, particularly in **Northern Ireland**. Various organizing groups are calling for **mobilizations to continue** this Friday, April 24 in Belfast and Larne, and future actions are possible in Ireland next month, with organizers **reportedly** holding meetings over the next two weeks. Meanwhile, the human rights organization Amnesty International Kenya **issued an advisory** ahead of expected demonstrations across Kenya on Tuesday, noting past documented instances of police using excessive force during protests. The #RejectFuelPrices campaign is calling for a **"total shutdown"** of the country on Tuesday, with Nairobi police warning against participation in **"illegal"** protests. In the Philippines, transportation group Manibela **called** for yet another multi-day nationwide strike over rising fuel prices this week.
- **Japan Sees Heightened Political Activism Against Proposed Article 9 Changes:** Since late last month, Japanese civil society and advocacy groups have organized nationwide demonstrations against possible changes to Article 9 of Japan's constitution, which renounces war and prohibits Japan from maintaining military forces. An estimated **36,000 people** demonstrated in Tokyo on Sunday, with organizers calling for demonstrations through the end of April. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi reportedly plans to introduce amendments to the constitution within a year, specifically calling for **changes** to Article 9. The proposed changes come amid the conflict between the U.S. and Iran, motivating Japan to **expand** its military capabilities. The plans have prompted pushback from anti-war groups and an increase in demonstration activity calling for pacifism and an end to the wars in the Middle East.
- **Protests, Strikes Planned for May Day:** Opposition groups to U.S. President Donald Trump have designated May 1 (May Day) as the next nationwide "Day of Action," calling for **demonstrations** across hundreds of U.S. cities that Friday and through the weekend. Organizers including the 50501 **Movement** and Indivisible, are anticipating large turnouts, particularly in major urban centers. Organizers are also calling for a coordinated "no work, no school, no shopping" strike action, encouraging student walkouts and labor-focused protests, increasing the likelihood of localized disruptions. Globally, May Day demonstrations are expected across major cities in Europe, the Americas, and Asia, with large-scale labor rallies and political protests likely to draw significant participation. In the U.S., demonstrations are expected at government sites, public squares, and transit hubs, with marches in several cities. While most events will likely remain peaceful, transport delays, business interruptions, and a heightened security presence are anticipated.
- **Other Stories We're Watching:** Heightened security measures and traffic disruptions are likely in Auckland, **New Zealand** this Saturday during a march by **Destiny Church leader Brian Tamaki**,

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who is organizing a “**Patriots Anzac March**” from Aotea Square to Britomart. Anzac Day, commemorated annually on April 25, is a day of remembrance for members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC); however, Tamaki’s posts condemn “**mass immigration**” and the march is likely to be met with counter demonstrations. In **Italy**, April 25 commemorates the liberation of Italy from Nazi German occupation. Tens of thousands of **people took to the streets** on Liberation Day in 2025. Tensions over Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni’s **attempted judicial overhaul** are likely to compound this year’s organizing efforts. In **South Africa**, opposition politician Julius Malema was **sentenced** to five years in prison last week on firearm-related charges. The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) political party, which Malema founded, held support rallies during his sentencing and may call for mobilizations in the future in response to developments in Malema’s case.

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)
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- April 22: Earth Day (Global)
- April 22: End of current Iran-U.S. ceasefire
- 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)
- 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)
- May 17: Parliamentary Elections (Cape Verde)
- May 18: Victoria Day (Canada)
- May 21-23: Shavuot (Global)
- May 24: Parliamentary Elections (Cyprus)
- May 24-30: Hajj (Saudi Arabia) *Dates may vary*
- May 24: National Assembly Elections (Guinea)