

August 3, 2026

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Smoke Threatens Portland, Seattle, Vancouver After Destructive Spokane Wildfires

The weekend's most severe wildland-urban interface losses occurred around [Spokane](#), where the Old Trails, Autumn Lane, and Fairview fires spread into residential areas and triggered widespread evacuations and destruction.

By Sunday, the City of Spokane reported that at least 600 structures had been destroyed, making the complex the most destructive wildfire incident in the city's history. Approximately 60,000 people were forced to evacuate. Washington remains under a statewide emergency declaration and burn ban.

Major population centers west of the Cascades in British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon have largely avoided significant wildfire impacts so far. High-elevation terrain and favorable onshore winds have also kept Vancouver, Seattle, and Portland relatively free from substantial smoke-related air quality disruptions. That is likely to change this week.

Western Washington and southern British Columbia, including the [Seattle-Puget Sound](#) and Vancouver metropolitan areas, will likely experience increasing smoke and deteriorating air quality beginning around midday Tuesday. Impacts could continue through Thursday afternoon before conditions gradually improve.

Smoke and air quality forecasts remain highly sensitive to small changes in wind direction and terrain-driven airflow, which can produce sharp differences over short distances. Even so, periodic [Air Quality Index](#) values of 125–175 are possible, with locally higher readings. Confidence in more significant impacts increases from north to south, particularly from Olympia southward.

[Northern Oregon](#), including the Columbia River Gorge and Portland metropolitan area, could experience an earlier onset and more substantial deterioration in air quality. Smoke may become increasingly apparent from east to west around midday Monday and during the afternoon, then steadily intensify through Tuesday and Wednesday.

Widespread Air Quality Index values of 150–200 are possible across northern Oregon, with locally higher readings. Inland temperatures approaching 100°F will compound respiratory and heat-related risks, particularly for sensitive populations and people without access to air conditioning.

Widespread business or transportation disruptions are not expected. However, local officials may advise vulnerable populations to wear well-fitting masks outdoors, reduce strenuous activity, or limit prolonged smoke exposure. Hospitals and clinics could also experience an increase in patients with smoke-related respiratory symptoms.

Onshore winds are expected to return Friday, helping improve air quality west of the Cascades and push smoke eastward.

Mass Influx of Migrants to Spanish Exclave Ceuta Sparks EU Border Security Debate

Between Thursday and Friday, July 30–31, around **60,000 migrants** entered the North African Spanish exclave of Ceuta from Morocco after breaching border fences or crossing by sea. The mass influx quickly overwhelmed local law enforcement, critical services, and businesses, forcing many to close. At least **72 people died** during the incident, including at least 18 who drowned. Spanish authorities ultimately **deployed the military** to quell the unrest. Within 48 hours, approximately 48,000 migrants that had entered Ceuta returned to Morocco, often willingly after **facing hostility** from the local community and struggling to find food or shelter in the city. While the additional security forces has stabilized the situation and allowed **some businesses to reopen** as of Sunday, others remain closed. Some services also **remain disrupted** following the incident.

Following the incident, several European powers have suggested increasing border controls with Spain to prevent migrants from freely traveling to other European countries. Italy **suspended free entry from Spain** on Friday, while French authorities announced **enhanced security controls** including a bolstered law enforcement presence at the border, which remains open. President of the European Commission Ursula Von der Leyen, meanwhile, called for **"united action"** among EU members "to further strengthen our borders at critical points," suggesting further action may be yet to come.

U.S. Calls Off Another Iran Escalation, Raising More Questions About Missile Stockpiles and Readiness

U.S. President Donald Trump announced Saturday that he had called off a planned attack that he described as the **"biggest attack since World War II"** at the **request** of "Iran, and other Middle Eastern countries," claiming that the "perimeters of a deal" that would see the Strait of Hormuz reopen and an "end to Iran's nuclear threat" had been agreed to. Trump said U.S.-Iran negotiations would begin Monday, but Iran's Foreign Ministry **denied** any talks were planned with Washington, saying it is **instead negotiating with Oman** over a temporary safe shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz, rather than any deal involving the U.S. or a broader reopening of the waterway.

Dwindling munitions inventories were **recently cited** as forcing U.S. air defenses to be more selective about which attacks to intercept, highlighting the shortage's role in military decision-making despite repeated denials from President Trump and senior administration officials. President Trump is believed to have **previously delayed** a planned escalation of strikes against Iran after senior military officials warned of declining interceptor inventories and the need to preserve air-defense stocks, even as the White House publicly maintained that the pause was intended to create space for diplomacy.

Last month, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told the Senate Appropriations Committee that the Pentagon **requires** an additional \$87 billion to address "critical shortfalls," including depleted equipment and munitions, while publicly available data compiled by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) **indicates** that U.S. stocks of several advanced precision-guided weapons and air-defense interceptors have been significantly drawn down and will be difficult to replenish in the near term. Faced with this reality, the U.S. capacity for further escalation in Iran could be severely constrained in the near term, weakening the U.S. bargaining position and potentially opening the door for Iran to launch increasingly harmful attacks across the region.

Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Major Wildfire West of Athens, Greece:** More than 500 firefighters and 21 aircraft are battling a **large wildfire** roughly 40 km northwest of Athens. More than 1,000 people have now been evacuated, including over 250 by sea. Over 100 homes have been destroyed. Shifting winds have at times prevented aircraft from collecting seawater, increasing pressure on ground crews and leaving further fire spread possible.
- **Drought Generating Hungary Energy Crisis:** Hungary is confronting a compound heat, drought, water-supply and energy **crisis**. Critically low Danube River levels threaten a full shutdown of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant during several days of temperatures above 42°C. In a **press conference**, Hungarian Prime Minister Péter Magyar said the electricity system remained stable and nuclear safety was not at risk, but warned that Hungary may need greater power imports, costly reserve generation, and mandatory reductions for large industrial users if voluntary conservation proves insufficient. The government said households would be protected from outages as long as possible, while possible disruptions could include industrial curtailments, event changes, transportation reductions, and additional pressure on water, healthcare, and public services.
- **Typhoon Dolphin Nearing Okinawa:** Although **Typhoon Dolphin** has weakened, it is expected to remain an exceptionally large storm while maintaining intensity near the Category 2 hurricane equivalent over the next several days. A prolonged period of disruptive weather is likely across Japan's Okinawa Prefecture, with conditions steadily deteriorating from Thursday morning through Thursday evening. The most severe impacts are expected from Thursday night through midday Friday, local time. Given the storm's expansive wind field, typhoon conditions are probable from Naha northward through the Amami Islands. Considerable uncertainty remains regarding Dolphin's track beyond Friday. Taipei is unlikely to experience the storm's core, although tropical-storm-force winds may affect the area. The potential for more direct impacts is higher along eastern mainland China, from Fujian northward toward Shanghai, while Korea and western Japan should also closely monitor the storm's progress. Any impacts across these areas would most likely occur between August 7 and 10.

Worldwide

- **Han Kuang Exercise, Civil Defense Drills to Disrupt Daily Life, Business Activity Across Taiwan:** Thousands of personnel, including reservists, will participate in various unscripted defense scenarios during the live fire portion of Taiwan's annual Han Kuang **military exercises**, held from August 5-14. Businesses, especially in the area surrounding New Taipei City, could face intermittent movement or other operating disruptions throughout the drill, in most cases with little advance notice. The expected temporary closure of the Danjiang Bridge, a newly-opened span that cuts the travel time between parts of

Taipei significantly, is likely to have a major impact on local traffic conditions. Simultaneously, civil and air defense drills will run by region across the country between August 7 and 13. During this time, mobile networks will face a **planned slowdown** to 1% of normal operating traffic between 2:30 pm and 3:00 pm on August 10 in seven central counties, and on August 13 in seven others, including capital Taipei. One opposition legislator estimated that economic losses during the drill could reach 3 billion yuan (over \$92.4 million).

- **Europe Faces Widening Russian Threat as Leaders Signal Support for Expanded Ukrainian Campaign:** Ukrainian forces have found growing success in targeting **critical infrastructure** across Russia in recent weeks, as strategic priorities and **tactics shift** toward disrupting Russia's economic lifelines, war effort, and domestic life. Strikes on Russian military installations have also **continued in parallel**, impacting sites as far as 1,200 km (746 mi) from the Russia-Ukraine border. The increasingly deep strikes on Russian ports, **energy sites**, and even **popular online retailer** Wildberries **have NATO's support**, according to Finnish President Alexander Stubb, who believes the logic behind the campaign and results to date amount to a reasonable effort meant to force Russia back to the negotiating table. Amid these escalations, foreign businesses and countries in neighboring Europe will continue to face the threat of both collateral damage and the continuation of "grey zone" tactics meant to erode the security environment. Most recently, a purportedly errant missile, believed to be a KH-101 fired from Russia toward Ukraine, **crashed into a Polish field** near the Ukrainian border early on July 30.
- **Gulf States Increase Borrowing to Fund Defense, Trade Infrastructure Overhauls:** The prolonged disruption to maritime supply chains in the Gulf region is accelerating a structural shift in investment priorities, with Arab states **announcing** record levels of borrowing to finance alternative export corridors, strategic infrastructure, and defense projects designed to reduce dependence on the Strait of Hormuz. These investments are likely to reshape regional trade and energy logistics even if hostilities eventually subside, underscoring expectations that maritime insecurity will remain a long-term challenge. In one example, Saudi Arabia **announced** plans to lead a new multinational maritime defense coalition aimed at protecting commercial shipping and energy routes through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Gulf of Aden in response to escalating Houthi attacks on Saudi-linked shipping. Meanwhile, Emirati state oil company ADNOC has also **launched** a shuttle operation to load crude oil onto vessels waiting outside the Strait of Hormuz. ADNOC has reportedly sold more than 74 million barrels through seven such tenders since early June.
- **Libyan Capital Region Restless Over Power Pricing, Delivery:** Libyan capital Tripoli is facing **disruptive unrest** over blackouts—sometimes lasting 10 hours or more per day—and energy pricing, leading to blockades of key arterial roads and government offices in the capital area over the weekend. Crowds and obstacles erected by demonstrators were noted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Sater Turba area, state telecoms operator Libyana in the Souq al-Jumaa area, and the West Tripoli power station. Demonstrations ultimately spread to nearby Janzour and Tajoura. Organizers including the Souq Al-Jumaa Movement and the Tajoura Families and Youth Movement had called for action against the country's unity government, though these groups have since **suspended their blockades** following a meeting with representatives of the government and in response to **purported community hardship** resulting from the suspension of impacted services. Despite this, further failures to address underlying drivers such as the high cost of living or power shortages can be expected to drive worsening unrest in the country going forward.

- **U.S. Refocusing Counterterrorism Efforts on 'Communist Threat' Ahead of Midterms:** Ahead of what are expected to be particularly contentious U.S. midterm elections, Trump administration officials are raising concerns about transnational “[radical left terrorism](#),” the threat of Communist influence, electoral interference, and voter fraud. The White House recently announced plans to [refocus counterterrorism efforts](#) on “far-left terror” groups around the world, arguing that U.S. security doctrine has historically failed to engage the threat. In a recent paper, the State Department [characterized Cuba](#) as “the ideological capital of the modern radical left,” tying the threat to the ongoing U.S. campaign to isolate the Castro regime. Observers are growing [increasingly concerned](#) that efforts to highlight connections between Cuba and other U.S. adversaries, including [China](#), [Iran](#), [Russia](#), and various left-wing [politicians and their associates in the U.S.](#) could ultimately be used to harass opposition candidates or impede their legitimate participation in the November vote.

Cyber and Regulatory

- **Microsoft Unveils Cost-Efficient AI for Cyber Defense:** Microsoft [introduced](#) MAI-Cyber-1-Flash, its first AI model built specifically for cybersecurity, as part of a broader effort to improve vulnerability detection while reducing the cost of AI-powered security operations. Integrated into the company’s new Project Perception platform, the model works alongside ChatGPT-5.4 to automate software vulnerability analysis, code remediation, and threat prioritization. Microsoft [claims](#) the combined system achieves leading performance on cybersecurity benchmarks at roughly half the cost of comparable frontier AI models by routing most routine tasks to the smaller, specialized model, while reserving larger models for more complex analysis. The release reflects a possible future industry shift toward specialized AI models designed to improve cybersecurity performance while reducing operational costs.
- **Anthropic AI Testing Breaches Renew Safety Concerns:** Anthropic has [disclosed](#) that three of its frontier AI models inadvertently breached the systems of other organizations during internal cybersecurity evaluations. Configuration errors allowed them to access the public internet instead of a controlled testing environment. The [incidents](#) involved Claude Opus 4.7, Mythos 5, and an unreleased research model, which used relatively simple techniques including exploiting weak passwords and unsecured devices to compromise external systems before the issue was detected. In one case, a model reportedly recognized that it had breached an external company, yet continued the operation, while another halted after determining it had escaped the intended environment. The disclosure follows similar incidents involving OpenAI and reinforces concerns that increasingly autonomous AI agents require stronger containment and enhanced safeguards to prevent unintended real-world cyber activity.
- **Bluetooth Flaw Affects Millions of Dealer-Installed Vehicles:** Researchers at the University of California San Diego identified a Bluetooth vulnerability affecting an [estimated 2.2 million](#) vehicles with dealer-installed KAAR and SWDS security systems. The Bluetooth-enabled aftermarket alarms are [commonly installed](#) at Ford, Honda, Jeep, Mazda, and Toyota dealerships in Southern California. The vulnerability could allow a nearby attacker to potentially unlock doors, disable the ignition, or track a vehicle’s location. The affected devices used the same authentication key, allowing Bluetooth access from within about five yards. Dealers often install the systems before a vehicle is sold, and many remain active even if the buyer declines the service. KARR has released a firmware update and says only a limited number of devices are affected, while the researchers say the issue extends to all KARR/SWDS devices using the shared key. The nature of the threat may evolve as more vehicles receive the update, or additional testing confirms which device models are vulnerable.

- **Browser Assembled Malware Strengthens Malvertising Campaign:** The SourTrade [malvertising campaign](#) is adopting a new malware delivery technique that assembles malicious code within a victim's web browser instead of downloading a complete executable, making detection by traditional security tools more difficult. The evolving tactic increases the risk of credential theft for users who download software from fraudulent advertisements or spoofed cryptocurrency and trading websites. Active since late 2024, SourTrade impersonates platforms including TradingView, Solana, and Luno, targeting retail investors across at least 12 countries in 25 languages. The campaign fingerprints visitors to evade researchers and delivers malware components [separately](#) before reconstructing them in memory on the victim's device, limiting the effectiveness of hash-and file-based detection. As the technique does not rely on software vulnerabilities, mitigation depends largely on users avoiding malicious advertisements and downloading software only from verified sources.
- **U.S. Department of Justice Seeks Dismissal of Citizen Suit at Its Discretion:** In a June [filing](#), the Department of Justice argued that private citizens are not able to sue companies believed to be violating the Clean Air Act and demand necessary enforcement from the executive in instances where the federal government has chosen not to act. The DOJ's argument appears in a request to dismiss a lawsuit against Elon Musk's xAI and an associated company. The government is claiming that a "statutory right to intervention" rooted in the terms of the Clean Air Act supersedes the authority of citizen suits. The DOJ also claimed that the administration's authority to determine "when and how the statute should be enforced," including "the discretion to decide when such an enforcement action is unwarranted or inconsistent with federal enforcement priorities," makes the case moot in the event of the administration's objection. If this argument is upheld, it could create a new precedent for the U.S. government to derail citizen suits before they proceed by deeming those cases unwarranted.

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **Iranian Involvement Suspected in Hack of U.S. Water Systems:** Cyberattacks targeted the operating technology of more than 30 Minnesota water systems last week, [disrupting](#) programmable logic controllers used for remote monitoring and forcing several communities to switch to manual controls. The FBI later [confirmed](#) that water and wastewater utilities in at least seven states were targeted, noting that "some of that activity degraded water operations." The Minnesota Fusion Center [reportedly](#) circulated a memo saying that the hacks were "aligned" with an Iran-linked campaign, although federal and state officials have refrained from attributing the hack. President Trump dismissed claims of Iranian involvement, instead [blaming](#) Minnesota, calling them "grossly incompetent." Minnesota Governor Tim Walz in turn said that budget cuts at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) have left U.S. cyber defenses weakened.
- **Japan to Rethink Structural Reinforcement Strategy Following Aeon Mall Disaster:** The Aeon Mall in Kashima Town suffered [extensive damage](#) from a 7.1 magnitude earthquake and ensuing explosion in Kumamoto prefecture on July 28. The complex had recently [reopened](#) on June 13 following years of seismic reinforcements and other repairs after a deadly 2016 earthquake in the city caused similar impacts. The incident [calls into question](#) Japan's post-2016 "build back better" strategy, which is premised on the idea that stricter building codes and retrofits can reinforce existing structures against the impact of future quakes. Whether investigators rule the blast a gas-system failure or an unavoidable quake consequence is likely to influence the direction of future regulatory scrutiny. If regulators focus on

commercial gas safety, it could lead to new energy supply rules in quake-prone areas, while a focus on the structural impact of the quake could have more far-reaching consequences for reinforced buildings across Japan.

- **U.S. Energy Grids Buckling Under Heat Waves and Data Center Demand as Government Seeks to Address Challenges:** Back-to-back heat waves pushed U.S. electricity demand to 168 gigawatts on [July 2](#), topping a 20-year high. The record-setting consumption was the result of a rise in household air conditioning alongside the continued buildout of data centers to support the AI industry. Grid operators, including MISO and the Southwest Power Pool, have warned of potential supply shortages across more than half of the country. With data center demand projected to nearly quintuple its share of U.S. electricity use by 2030, both grid updates and further generation capacity will be important to meet national needs. Despite government efforts to address these risks, the scale of investment required to modernize the national grid—much of which relies on [decades-old equipment](#)—is expected to far exceed funding currently earmarked for these efforts, requiring innovative solutions such as public-private partnerships to meet the challenge ahead. Without sufficient investment, the costs of grid updates could be passed on to consumers, exacerbating tensions around high energy costs.
- **Kansas Prepares to Test World-First Underground Commercial Reactor:** Nuclear power is experiencing a resurgence in popularity worldwide as governments seek reliable sources of low-carbon electricity to meet industrial and AI-driven demand. However, nuclear energy's main lobbying group [warns](#) that annual investment in the sector needs to roughly triple to about \$250 billion globally to meet climate goals. Amid concerns about the pace of investment, however, startup Deep Fission is [testing](#) the world's first commercial underground reactor a mile beneath the town of Parsons, Kansas, under a fast-tracked DOE pilot program meant to help address U.S. concerns around electricity supply. Residents remain divided between hopes of a potential economic revival for the community and concerns about weak environmental oversight, unclear waste-storage plans, and inadequate nuclear risk-specific local regulations.
- **Private Firms and Washington Race to Establish Alternatives to Hormuz:** DP World has [locked in a 50-year concession](#) for two new Fujairah terminals on the Gulf of Oman, raising Emirati container capacity by 13% and reducing reliance on the Hormuz-exposed Jebel Ali hub. Activity at that port has collapsed to as little as 5% of typical traffic amid the strait's closure. The U.S., meanwhile, is working with Chevron to back a parallel land-based project to revive the [Kirkuk-Baniyas pipeline](#), providing a pathway to route Iraqi crude oil to Syria's Mediterranean coast. Together with West Africa's \$25 billion Nigeria-Morocco pipeline deal, these projects reflect a broader structural pivot toward permanent chokepoint bypass infrastructure rather than temporary wartime rerouting. Once fully operational, these projects could have a lasting impact on the Strait of Hormuz's role in global fossil fuel logistics.

Health

- **Cyclosporiasis Outbreak Grows as FDA Investigation Continues:** As of July 28, the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) has reported a combined 18,000 confirmed or suspected cases of cyclosporiasis across [45 states](#). While officials continue their investigation into the [nine-state outbreak](#) likely [connected](#) to Taylor Farms that seems to be driving the majority of cases, the number of impacted states suggests that there are [multiple](#), potentially unrelated active clusters. A second cluster of cases in [North Carolina](#), which now stands at over 700, may be [linked](#) to cilantro and parsley, although officials caution that there may be

multiple sources of exposure. Michigan continues to **report** the most overall cases, with a total count of over 11,000 as of today. The expanding outbreak and confusion over the exact source of the contamination has led many shoppers to change their shopping habits, with several saying that they are **purchasing** less lettuce from the supermarket. Many are turning to farmers' markets and other sources of locally grown produce.

- **Red Cross Declares Critical Blood Supply Shortage:** The American Red Cross has **declared** a blood supply crisis for only the second time in its 150-year history after U.S. inventories fell 25% in one month. Extreme heat, wildfires, food-borne illness outbreaks, and reduced summer donations have worsened shortages while hospitals face higher demand from accidents and outdoor injuries. The Red Cross, which supplies about 40% of U.S. blood, is distributing roughly 3,500 more units than normal and drawing heavily from limited reserves. All blood types are needed, especially O positive. Hospitals facing shortages may delay routine procedures or redirect trauma patients. Canada is also **reporting** unusually steep summer declines in donations.
- **More Than 1.5 Million Eggs Recalled Due to Salmonella Concerns:** Midwest Poultry Services **recalled** about 1.6 million dozen eggs produced at two Texas farms after testing linked them to a **multistate salmonella outbreak**. Nearly 100 people across 17 states have become ill, including dozens who required hospitalization, with Texas reporting the most cases. The affected white and brown cage-free eggs were sold under several brands, including Kroger, Simple Truth, and Brookshire's, and distributed across parts of the South and Southwest. Consumers should check cartons for plant codes P-1950 or 0840962 and specified date ranges, then discard or return recalled eggs. Salmonella can cause fever, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps.
- **CPSC Request for Health Data Raises Privacy Concerns:** The **Consumer Product Safety Commission** (CPSC) is the latest U.S. government agency requesting hospitals share "**personally identifiable health data**" with a contractor, echoing a similar **initiative** involving Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The CPSC request, framed as an effort to modernize the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, has raised questions from public health professionals and hospital leaders around privacy, pointing to **federal privacy law** and the CPSC's own operating manual, which **stipulates** that hospitals should not include identifiable information in the data they share, partly due to concerns over possible data breaches. Prior to the CPSC's request, Medicaid officials "**improperly**" shared data with ICE, who in turn shared said data with Palantir, a data analytics company. This data mismanagement was revealed through a 20-state **lawsuit**. Complying with the CPSC's request could expose hospitals to similar legal action.
- **Disease Outbreaks the Global Intelligence Team is Monitoring:** Ebola is **accelerating** in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** to become the country's **largest outbreak on record** and the second-largest **globally**. A yet-to-be-published analysis **suggests** that the disease began spreading in Ituri Province around four months before an outbreak was officially declared. Other diseases causing concerns globally include measles, which is devastating **Bangladesh** and driving families into **debt** as they seek medical care. **Vaccination efforts** in the South Asian nation dipped during and after the 2024 protest movement that upended the government. The **Maldives** is also contending with its **largest measles outbreak** since 2017. In **Madagascar**, authorities have **recorded** more than 3,000 cases of clade 1b mpox, a number that analysts expect is a severe undercount. In the Americas, **Uruguay** is reporting an increase in cases of **meningitis**, while **New York City** said that the source of a cluster of cases of Legionnaire's disease on the Upper East Side has been **eliminated**.

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Opposition Demonstrations Planned During Colombian Presidential Inauguration:** Abelardo de la Espriella's inauguration as Colombia's president will take place in Cali at the Santiago de Cali University's Arena USC this Friday, despite initial plans by the president-elect to be sworn in at a **military garrison**. Former presidential candidate Ivan Cepeda is **calling for three rallies** on the same day to **mobilize against de la Espriella**, including one in Cali approximately 2 miles (3.25 kilometers) away from the inauguration venue. While Cepeda **conceded defeat** after June's run-off election, he and his party have continued to push **allegations of election interference**. De la Espriella will begin his four-year term amid a **deteriorating security situation** due to armed conflict, and he has promised to step up efforts against drug trafficking and militant groups. On Saturday, an **explosion injured 11 people** after a car bomb detonated near a police station in the northern city of Cucuta.
- **Climate Demonstrations Planned in Finland, Denmark:** European climate justice activists will gather in **Denmark** this month for a two-week action camp, where they will plan four undisclosed protest actions against Danish companies involved in the fossil fuel supply chain and other multinational activities that activists regard as "**extractivism, pollution and human-rights violations**." The two-week campaign, organized under the slogan "Break the Chain," will see activists establish two camps – one outside of **Frøstrup** between August 7-14, and the other near **Vipperød** from August 14-21. The target companies and protest tactics are unlikely to be publicly announced before they take place, though one image on the organizer's website calls out Maersk, which has faced a **wave of protests** over shipments to Israel. The Finnish climate activist group Elokapiina (Extinction Rebellion) is **organizing** a demonstration in central **Helsinki** this Saturday to call for greater climate action in response to a **winter heatwave in Antarctica** and a **series of heatwaves** that have wracked Europe. On Friday, youth groups are also **calling** for a demonstration in Helsinki outside the Parliament building.
- **Italy, Spain to See Demonstrations Against Development, Tourism:** The Spanish town of **Sóller** on Mallorca Island will see its residents march this Saturday morning against **touristification** during **peak tourist season**. One of the demonstration's organizers – the Menys Turisme Mes Vida coalition – has led the anti-tourism movement in Spain and was behind last week's march in Palma, where **tens of thousands of people** took to the streets to protest overcrowding from tourism. Police **injured** six people in the island's capital city when they attempted to disperse crowds, and a heightened security presence can be expected Sóller in this weekend. In Italy, the city of **Messina** is organizing a mass protest for the **second year in a row** against the construction of a bridge connecting Sicily to the Italian mainland. The No Ponte ("No Bridge") movement is organizing a **march this Saturday**, with critics of the development project citing social and cultural impacts, as well as environmental and economic concerns.
- **Multiple Parties in Bangladesh Plan Mobilizations for July Uprising Anniversary:** As the anniversary of the overthrow of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government approaches on August 5, several groups are planning demonstrations and commemorations to mark the date and push for what they consider the unrealized promises of the "July Uprising." The **Jamaat-e-Islami**-led 11-party alliance has announced a mass rally at Naya Paltan in Dhaka on **August 5**, demanding implementation of the July Charter. Tensions have already resulted in violence: alliance leaders condemned an attack on **NCP** leaders and activists during the NCP's July Padajatra program in Habiganj. The NCP is running its own, parallel **36-day** campaign through August 5, which will culminate in a "Victory Celebration." With multiple parties mobilizing simultaneously around the politically charged anniversary and cross-party violence already

reported, road closures and large-crowd disruptions can be expected in Dhaka and nationwide through early August. The government said that it has **placed** law enforcement on high alert for the day, and has **declared** that August 5 will be observed as a public holiday. Hasina, who is currently in India, is planning a **press conference** for Wednesday, in what would be her **first public appearance** since fleeing Bangladesh.

- **Successive Rallies in Pakistan Signal Rising Multi-Front Pressure on Islamabad:** The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is planning nationwide **demonstrations** on August 5 to mark three years since party leader and former prime minister Imran Khan was arrested. The main demonstration will be held outside the Karachi Press Club. PTI's campaign will be followed two days later by a **nationwide** highway blockade by the Jamaat-e-Islami to protest inflation, rising fuel prices, and a petroleum levy. JI Chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said that his party would block major roads across all four provinces and district headquarters, although ambulances would be allowed to pass. The nationwide protests come on top of persistent unrest in Balochistan and escalating violence in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, where **dozens have died** amid demonstrations and ongoing local elections. If JI's blockade escalates into a threatened "long march" as leadership has warned, transportation and supply-chain disruptions could persist, especially as economic pressures driven by reduced energy exports through the Strait of Hormuz persist.

Upcoming Events

- August 3: August Bank Holiday (Ireland)
- August 5: July Mass Uprising Day (Bangladesh)
- August 5-14: Han Kuang Exercise, Civil and Air Defense Drills (Taiwan)
- August 9: National Day (Singapore)
- August 13: General Election (Zambia)
- August 14: Independence Day (Pakistan)
- August 15: Independence Day (India)
- August 17: Independence Day (Indonesia)
- August 22-September 13: La Vuelta (Monaco, France, Andorra, Spain)
- August 24: Independence Day (Ukraine)
- September 6: State Election (Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany)
- September 7: Independence Day (Brazil)
- September 7: Labor Day (United States)
- September 8: Opening of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) (New York City NY)

Weekly Threat Intelligence Brief

August 3, 2026



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