

Weekly Global Intelligence Outlook – 3 November

SUMMARY

The Risk Intelligence Center (RIC) Weekly Intelligence Outlook provides an overview of significant developments in the global security and threat landscape in the next week, to raise awareness of potential threats and flashpoints of risk, to support security decision-making. Items of intelligence interest featured in this INTREP have been selected based on their severity and ability to influence the security and threat landscape.

- **GLOBAL: APEC Economic Leaders' Week set to begin**
- **AMEA: Gaza-Israel conflict reaches one-month anniversary**
- **AMERICAS: US President to host Latin American leaders in economic summit**
- **EUROPE: Türkiye to vote on Sweden's NATO ratification amid heightened terror threat**

GLOBAL

APEC Economic Leaders' Week set to begin: Leaders from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum will meet in California, US, on 11 November ahead of the 30th APEC summit set to start on 14 November under the theme *“Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All”*. The 21-member summit is used as a platform by the US to grow the interdependence of the Asia-Pacific region through advancing economic policies and promoting free, fair, and open trade and investment, advancing sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

This year's final summit declaration is set to be strained over divisions between members regarding conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, alongside growing China-US tensions. Despite increasing hostilities, US President Joe Biden will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the summit marking a significant development in diplomatic relations.



Comment: Organizations in the US are likely to be impacted by traffic advisories and restrictions placed in preparation for the summit, alongside increased security measures which are likely to impact the supply chains of local organizations. The possibility remains that activist groups may seek to protest the summit, however, large destructive protests present the potential for clashes between protestors and authorities.

While constructive discussions are expected to take place, ongoing rivalries between China and the US, differing economic goals as China seeks greater Western independence, along opposing positions on recent conflicts are indicating tensions are likely to present challenges that could hinder cooperation between nations. **End.**

AMEA

Gaza-Israel conflict reaches one-month anniversary: Pro-Palestinian protests are highly likely to increase globally ahead of the one-month anniversary since the escalation of the Gaza-Israel conflict on Tuesday (7 Nov). The conflict escalated when Hamas launched an unprecedented attack on southern Israel resulting in Israel retaliating largely through airstrikes in the Gaza Strip. Pro-Palestinian protests were first carried out on 13 October, during a Global Day of Action called *“Friday of Al-Aqsa Flood”* triggered by a call by former Hamas chief, Khaled Mashaal, as well as other Arab leaders and clerics who had requested global support for Palestine.

Pro-Palestinian protests have taken place in dozens of countries globally since, with hundreds of thousands of protesters fueled by mass civilian casualties in the Gaza Strip such as in the bombing of the Al-Ahli-al-Arabi Hospital on 17 October and St Porphyrius Greek Orthodox Church on 20 October. Although the protests have been largely peaceful, there have been some clashes between security forces and protesters, as well as bans or restrictions on pro-Palestinian protests in many European countries.



Comment: It is highly likely that pro-Palestinian protests will increase in the immediate term, with the one-month anniversary of the conflict likely acting as a flashpoint for increased protests and direct actions, which are likely to target organizations with links to Israel as well as government entities. Boycotts of Israeli products and organizations have increasingly emerged following the renewed conflict, and this will likely persist alongside the conflict, likely causing operational and supply chain disruption.

Currently, a long-term forecast of the conflict remains unclear, however, it is almost certain that as the conflict unfolds, international pressure on Israel to agree on a ceasefire will mount as the number of civilian casualties in Gaza increases. It is likely Palestinian authorities or pro-Palestinian groups will call for additional rallies in support of the Palestinian people triggered by the anniversaries, as well as by any significant updates in the conflict or a sharp increase in civilian casualties. Western governments will likely continue increasing security and putting further regulations on pro-Palestinian protests looking to avert unrest and subdue the increase in hate crimes. **End.**

US President to host Latin American leaders in economic summit: US President Joe Biden will host 11 leaders from South American nations in the inaugural Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity (APEP) Leaders' Summit today (3 Nov). APEP is designed to deepen economic engagement in the region, with the US set to reaffirm its commitment to cooperation on economic growth and addressing the high levels of migration. Senior officials are expected to establish separate tracks targeting regional economic concerns at the APEP meeting, as part of an initiative to narrow the framework's focus after months of high-level consultations.



AMERICAS

Comment: While the summit is likely to result in renewed agreements for inclusive and sustainable economic growth and reveals a commitment from the participating nations to address economic uncertainty and irregular migration, it could generate diplomatic tensions due to the differing approaches likely being discussed. It is possible disagreement on irregular migration could result in new barriers to regional and international trade if a nation perceives its interests are being violated.

President Biden is likely to seek improved relations with his South American counterparts to counter China's growing influence in the region. The geopolitical tensions between China and the US have increased as a result of China's expanding foothold in the region, having recently improved its diplomatic relations with Colombia. South America is a region of high strategic importance for the US and competition over trade and influence is likely to persist with their geopolitical rival.

Additionally, the easing of Venezuelan oil sanctions signals the US intent to improve bilateral relations and spark trade in the region. Migration continues to be a divisive and politicized topic in the hemisphere and is likely to be focused upon in the lead-up to the upcoming Presidential elections in Mexico and the US next year. **End.**

Türkiye to vote on Sweden's NATO ratification amid heightened terror threat: The ratification of Sweden's accession to NATO is expected to be voted on in the Turkish Grand National Assembly in the coming weeks after Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan submitted the bill in line with the commitment made to NATO In July. Efforts toward Sweden's NATO accession continue throughout extensive periods of heightened security concerns in the country due to threats associated with antisemitism, the far-right, Quran burnings, and terrorism.

Quran-burning incidents have remained consistent in cities across Sweden since January 2023, with recent incidents including threat actors carrying Israeli flags as part of far-right / Islamophobic sentiments due to the ongoing Gaza-Israel conflict. Quran burnings have also been linked to recent acts of terrorism within Europe, such as the shooting in Brussels on 16 October where two Swedish nationals were killed in a targeted attack.



Comment: Sweden's accession to NATO is likely to have potentially significant economic benefits such as allowing more trade and investment opportunities through accessing markets of NATO member countries and would boost Sweden's economy through investment into its defense industry. Its membership will bring improved maritime security along the Baltic Sea, making the entire coastline NATO territory and improving defenses against Russia. However, it would likely increase threats towards Sweden by threat actors opposing Western nations. Terror attacks are highly likely to have a significant negative effect on organizations and individuals and would result in heightened security measures in the immediate aftermath of an attack, which will likely have a disruptive impact on travel, infrastructure, and the economy.

Sweden's accession to NATO is unlikely to be ratified before the end of 2023, as Hungary announced on 24 October it would not hold a vote to ratify Sweden's bid due to comments made by the political opposition in Sweden over the purported poor condition of democracy in Hungary and is likely to continue blocking a vote. Polarizing stances between Sweden and Türkiye over the Gaza-Israel conflict are likely to delay or disrupt the vote regarding its membership. **End.**

EUROPE

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