



# World Cup 2026 – Rolling Risk Brief 6

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## Executive Snapshot

### Key Shift Since Last Brief:

- Friendly matches have begun, starting with Croatia vs Belgium on 2 June, which went smoothly. France clashes with the Ivory Coast on 4 June, and 6 June is filled with fixtures between Portugal and Chile, the US and Germany, England and New Zealand, and Brazil and Egypt. Security will be heightened at all fixtures.
- Protests scheduled for June 11 and other key dates related to the World Cup in Mexico City are ongoing, with no signs of a negotiated settlement. One week before the inauguration day, Mexican authorities have acknowledged that protests by CNTE teachers, transport union workers, farmers, and search groups are likely to occur, potentially affecting access to venues such as Banorte Stadium and the Zocalo Fan Fest, both located in Mexico City.
- The ceasefire between the US and Iran remains intact, despite Israeli actions in Lebanon and minor clashes between the US and Iran which are complicating negotiations. A permanent end to the conflict has not yet been reached and large-scale fighting could renew with little notice.
- Ebola-related entry restrictions have been implemented for Mexico and Canada. Individuals who have visited Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, or South Sudan are prohibited from entering these countries if they have visited these locations within the past 21 days.

### Highest Attention Cities (Next 14 Days):

- **Mexico City** – All eyes will be on Mexico City for the tournament's opening match, where hosts Mexico will compete against South Africa in the afternoon on 11 June. The match will take place against the backdrop of ongoing CNTE teachers protests and a perception that public works and related preparations are being rushed to completion.
- **Guadalajara** – Guadalajara will host the second match of the tournament, when South Korea squares off against Czechia in the evening of 11 June.
- **Los Angeles** – LA will host the first US match of the tournament on 12 June. The LAPD is reportedly orchestrating one of its largest deployments of personnel in decades. Residents in nearby Garden Grove are returning to their homes following a chemical leak that lasted from 21-26 May and prompted evacuations.





## Analyst View

Following Paris Saint-Germain's UEFA Champions League victory, celebrations across Paris and other French cities escalated into widespread disorder, resulting in hundreds of arrests, injuries to police officers and civilians, property damage, and significant disruption to transportation and public spaces. Notably, the most serious incidents occurred away from the stadium environment, concentrating instead in city centers, entertainment districts, and key gathering locations.

While the circumstances surrounding the World Cup differ in several important respects, the events in France reinforce a key finding of the World Cup Risk Outlook: the most significant operational impacts associated with major sporting events are often concentrated beyond the venue perimeter. Unlike the largely celebratory and single-city dynamics observed in Paris, the World Cup will involve multiple host cities, international fan movements, heightened political sensitivities, ongoing protest activity, and varying security environments across three countries. The French experience nonetheless serves as a useful reminder that crowd behavior, transportation networks, public gathering spaces, and post-match celebrations can generate disruption independently of traditional security threats and should remain an important component of tournament planning and monitoring.

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## What's Changed (Since Last Issue)

### New Developments

- US Director of Homeland Security (DHS) Markwayne Mullin is publicly pushing for the withdrawal of Customs & Border Protection (CBP) agents from so-called sanctuary cities. This would mean that international flights would be unable to disembark passengers for processing in affected cities, some of which are hosts for the World Cup. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy and FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford have expressed opposition to the plan.
- Civil unrest has begun regularly occurring in Newark (New Jersey state) outside of an immigration detention facility. Authorities have utilized tear gas to disperse demonstrators on multiple occasions. Newark is approximately 10 miles (16 km) from East Rutherford (New Jersey), which hosts a World Cup stadium.
- Protests by the CNTE have escalated in Mexico City. On June 1, the teachers attempted to reach the Zocalo as part of their national strike, but faced strong measures, including tear gas. Reports also indicated the use of rubber bullets.

### De-escalations / Stabilising Factors

- CNTE teachers have begun negotiations with Mexican authorities to address their complaints. If these negotiations are successful, protests may decrease ahead of 11 June.

### Key External Factors:

- Canadian authorities have announced measures to safeguard against Ebola, mirroring US actions. Foreign nationals residing in South Sudan, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will not have their visas processed through 29 August. Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and foreign nationals who have been in those countries in the previous 21 days will receive a health assessment and be required to quarantine for 21 days.
- Similarly, on 28 May, Mexico implemented an entry restriction for non-citizens who have been in Uganda, the DRC, or South Sudan within the past 21 days. This measure is temporary and will remain in effect for 60 days. Mexican passport holders are exempt from this restriction.

## Methodology Note

This rolling brief applies the baseline risk and Fan Tension Index (FTI) methodology outlined in the World Cup 2026 Risk Outlook, updated to reflect current conditions and developments.



## Forward Look (Next 14 Days)

### High-Attention Fixtures

- 11 June: Mexico vs South Africa in Mexico City (opening match)
- 12 June: USA vs Paraguay in Los Angeles
- 13 June: Brazil vs Morocco in New Jersey
- 14 June: Iran vs New Zealand in Los Angeles
- 16 June: France vs Senegal in Boston
- 17 June: England vs Croatia in Dallas

### City Pressure Outlook

- **Los Angeles** –The Los Angeles Police Department is preparing to conduct one of its largest deployments in history to secure fan sites, SoFi Stadium, and other areas within the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area for the tournament.
- **Mexico City**– While preparations for the World Cup are nearly complete, protests by the CNTE have disrupted transportation and affected the overall readiness for the event. Sit-in protests in the City Center, near the Zocalo, are expected to continue through the inauguration day on 11 June. The increased security presence of over 10,000 personnel in the area could potentially lead to clashes with protest groups. In recent mobilizations, heavy-handed tactics have been employed, raising concerns for the safety of bystanders and visitors at the Fan Fest location in Mexico City.

### Emerging Watchpoints

- Protests and social mobilizations have begun to emerge in Monterrey, Mexico. Throughout late May, various groups have raised grievances related to infrastructure projects intended for the World Cup, issues surrounding related disruptions, and concerns about fair and equal access to the city. Additionally, search groups for disappeared individuals have also mobilized in recent days. While these protests are not as disruptive as those occurring in Mexico City, the emerging demonstrations in Monterrey could further complicate logistics and transportation within the city.
- Both the 50501 Movement and No Kings organizers are planning demonstrations for later in June in the US. There will be a nationwide No Kings rally on 14 June, coinciding with US President Donald Trump's birthday. The 50501 Movement will be conducting another nationwide rally on 27 June.





## City Spotlight – Toronto

**Current Posture:** Elevated

**Key Pressure Points:**

- Toronto police have been surging in the city and conducting major operations ahead of the commencement of the World Cup.
- In May, police successfully infiltrated and shut down a multi-million-dollar counterfeiting ring that was producing bootleg World Cup merchandise. This was the largest bust of its kind in Canadian history.
- Police have also conducted numerous arrests related to a March rally. Those arrested have been accused of anti-Semitic hate speech and incitement – five total have been arrested so far.

**Implications:**

- Travel and event operations in Toronto remain viable, but organizations should expect increased congestion, occasional demonstrations, and last-minute mobility restrictions near central public spaces and fan zones.
- While no protest campaigns have yet been announced in Canada, the high-profile nature of the games and numerous ongoing controversial geopolitical events mean that civil unrest targeting the World Cup is possible.

## Implications for Organizations

- Monitor developments in Canada that may prompt outbreaks of civil unrest.
- Map flashpoints against operational exposure and be prepared to adjust posture in the event of an escalation. Ensure executive protection teams are prepared ahead of time.
- Executive Movement: in all cases, conduct low-profile movement; secure routing and plan for contingencies.
- Reconfirm that venues for meetings have been assessed for hazards and proximity to potential protest movements.
- Track air quality, staffing constraints, and disruptions amid evolving conditions.



## Reporting Cadence

		<b>Cadence</b>	<b>Coverage Window</b>
05	03 Jun	Weekly	03–10 Jun
06	10 Jun	Weekly	10–17 Jun (tournament start window)