

## Summary

Abductions targeting foreign nationals, NGO workers, and Chadians have become a pressing issue throughout the entire country, in the form of kidnapping-for-ransom and terrorist-related. In addition, the probability of protest remains high due to an unstable political situation. A protest has already been announced for May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 by the Socialist Party Without Borders (PSF). The growing food insecurity can also aggravate social unrest.

## Recent events and developments

On March 28, 2023, the U.S. embassy in N'Djamena issued a warning for an increased risk of kidnapping in Chad. This follows recent cases targeting Westerners. In November 2022, a kidnapping was attempted on a French national travelling from central Guera to Am-Timan in the South-East. A month earlier, a French-Australian national was abducted near Biltine in the North-East and freed two days later by security forces in the North, near the Libyan border. In addition, the terrorist group Boko Haram has reportedly targeted NGO workers in the Lac region to kidnap for ransom. Chadian nationals are also being kidnapped, especially in N'Djamena, Lac region, and the area south of the Sahel. On the other hand, in February 2023, U.S. intelligence shared that Chadian rebels, in cooperation with the Wagner group, could be plotting to destabilize the Chadian government. Additionally, the political disagreements that led to the severe protests of 20 October, where hundreds of people died, have not yet been resolved. This is underscored by the announcement of a protest on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 by the PSF.

## Impact assessment

The current trend suggests that the targeting of Western nationals for kidnapping can happen at any location in Chad, including N'Djamena. This makes unnecessary movement, especially after dark, of high risk. Most common types of abductions include basic opportunistic kidnap-for-ransom and terrorist-related kidnapping. Besides, protests remain likely in the coming months due to the ongoing political instability. These might become violent in areas where protesters and Chadian security forces clash. Foreigners can also become collateral targets if caught up in those areas. At the same time, protests organized by the PSF and affiliates include a campaign against foreign interference in Chad. In the current unstable political situation, the catastrophic food insecurity caused by recent severe weather conditions can also exacerbate social unrest and foster radicalization. In case of protests or armed conflict, heightened security presence is expected, disrupting traffic.

## Advice from Forth Global

- Make sure all employees travelling to Chad undertake a three-day HEAT training prior to deployment.
- Monitor local news and liaise with local contacts to be informed of relevant developments.
- If protests were to take place, make sure that employees in Chad avoid all demonstrations due to the likelihood of violence erupting.

## Customized advice

Please contact us for specific advice:

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