

## Summary

Recent acts of violence in Uganda, marked by a series of concerning attacks, bombing attempts, and subsequent red alerts from foreign governments, highlight a growing terrorist threat. A suspected member of the ADF (Allied Democratic Forces) committed a fatal attack on a foreign couple in Queen Elizabeth National Park, while President Museveni announced the foiling of an ADF bomb plot. Further arrests in Uganda and attacks in neighboring DRC near Uganda's western borders, underscore the escalating risk, with public spaces being prime targets.

## Recent events and developments

A series of insecurity events in Uganda, and subsequent red alerts from the UK and US governments, underscore a growing terrorist threat in the country. On October 17, a suspected member of the Islamic-State-affiliated ADF killed a foreign couple alongside their local guide and burned their car in Queen Elizabeth National Park, southwest Uganda. Moreover, on October 13, another attack involving an ambush of a civilian vehicle by the ADF, was recorded at the Katojo junction near the DRC border, just north of Queen Elizabeth Park, leaving two casualties. Two days later, President Museveni announced the successful thwarting of an ADF bomb plot aimed at churches in Butambala district, about 60km west of Kampala. Furthermore, on September 3, Ugandan police detained a man attempting to enter a church with an IED in Kampala. Simultaneously, authorities were actively pursuing three other individuals suspected of being sent on similar bombing missions across Uganda. Two days later, Ugandan police reported the arrest of five more individuals on the same charges in Kampala. Lastly, warnings against potential retaliatory attacks by the ADF amidst the ongoing Uganda-DRC joint military operations in neighboring DRC were issued.

## Impact assessment

The recent increase in terrorist attacks in Uganda presents significant risks for travelers. Despite efforts by Ugandan and Congolese forces to fight the ADF in DRC, their position seems to have strengthened rather than weakened. In the past month, massacres were carried by the ADF against civilians in different towns in eastern DRC, near the borders with Uganda, killing more than 50 people. Considering the ADF's recent attacks in Western Uganda, and the proximity of the aforementioned massacres to the attacks' locations, an increase in terrorist activity around the borders in southwestern Uganda is very thinkable. Still, the ADF has demonstrated its capability to stage attacks in various regions across the country, extending its reach beyond its remote areas to include the capital. This was the case in late 2021, when ADF suicide bombers orchestrated a series of bombings in Kampala. These events resulted in seven civilian deaths and numerous injured. Public spaces, including busy restaurants, squares, churches, national parks, popular tourist hotspots, and other significant gathering spots, stand as the primary targets for terrorist attacks.

## Advice from Forth Global

- Travelers should avoid crowded areas and public spaces and remain vigilant of their surroundings.
- Monitor local news and liaise with local contacts to be informed of relevant developments. Inform staff to not discuss plans and routes publicly.
- Ensure that emergency plans and security protocols are established, and that employees are well-informed about emergency contact numbers, and the relevant procedures in the event of a terrorist attack.

## Customized advice

Please contact us for specific advice:

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