



INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Situational awareness for stakeholders and decision makers.



Report # 21-031

28 May 2021

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1. CURRENT SITUATION

On Sunday, Belarus forced a Ryanair plane that was flying from Athens, Greece to Vilnius, Lithuania to land in Minsk after local air traffic control informed the pilots of a bomb threat. According to Lukashenko's office, the Belarus president personally deployed a MiG-29 fighter jet to escort the plane to Minsk. Once on the ground, authorities found no security threat on board, but Belarusian police entered the plane and arrested a 26-year-old journalist Roman Protasevich. The Lithuanian police said they had opened a criminal investigation, on suspicion of hijacking and kidnapping. Of 126 passengers who took off from Athens, 121 arrived in Vilnius. According to Michael O'Leary, Ryanair's CEO, Belarusian KGB agents were on board the Ryanair plane. O'Leary called the grounding "a case of state-sponsored hijacking" in which "the intent of the authorities was to remove a journalist."



Figure 1. Protests against the presidential election results, Minsk, Belarus, Aug, 2020.

Protasevich is one of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko's most vocal critics. Belarus has accused him of terrorism and provoking riots. Protasevich had been living in Poland since 2019 over fears for his safety and has continued to criticize Lukashenko from abroad. Lukashenko has been in power in Belarus since 1994 and is being accused of manipulating the results of last year's election. Since the election, Lukashenko's administration has cracked down on the opposition, limited access to the internet, shut down independent media outlets, and jailed activists.

Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the leader of the opposition in Belarus said that Lukashenko is 'turning Belarus into the North Korea of Europe'. Tsikhanouskaya has also criticized EU strategy towards Lukashenko saying that it doesn't work. "The previous EU strategy of wait and see towards the Belarusian regime doesn't work," Tsikhanouskaya told MEPs. "The EU approach of gradually elevated pressure against the Lukashenko regime hasn't managed to change its behaviour and only lead to a growing sense of impunity and massive repression. Tsikhanouskaya said she believes Russia is part of the problem when it comes to Belarus and that the bloc should make it clear that any financial deals with the Lukashenko regime cannot be allowed to happen.

EU leaders have agreed a first wave of economic sanctions against Belarus and said there were more to come. The EU "calls on all EU-based carriers to avoid overflight of Belarus" and will "ban overflight of EU airspace by Belarusian airlines and prevent access to EU airports of flights operated by such airlines", leaders said in a joint statement after meeting in Brussels on Monday. The EU will look at hitting Belarus's big potash exports as well as its oil and financial sectors with new sanctions. "The hijacking of the plane and the detention of the two passengers is completely unacceptable, and we will start discussing implementation of the sectorial and economic sanctions," EU foreign policy chief told reporters in Lisbon. Leaders also demanded "the immediate release of Raman Pratasevich and Sofia Sapega".

A statement released by US President Biden after the event, condemned the act and welcomed the news that the EU has called for targeted economic sanctions and other measures, and have asked his team to develop appropriate options to hold accountable those responsible.

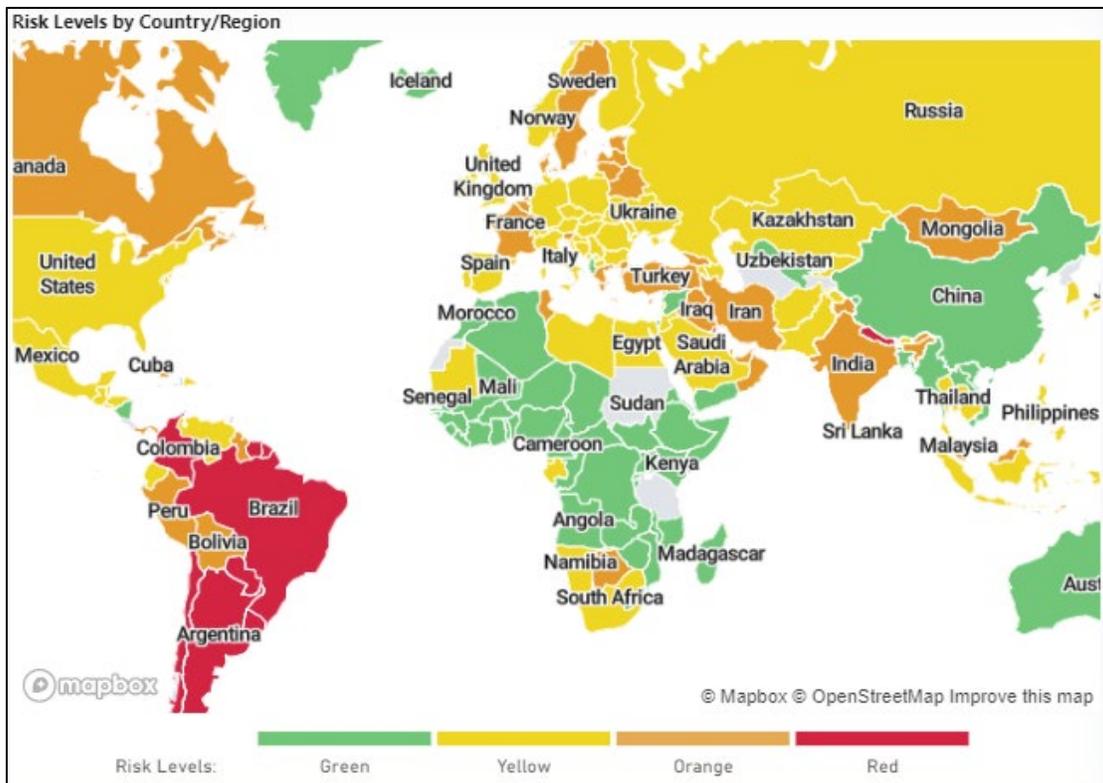
The Canadian government is also looking at further sanctions against Belarus just as the autocratic regime announced that it is closing its embassy in Ottawa. "The behaviour of the Belarus regime is outrageous, illegal and completely unacceptable. This was a clear attack on democracy and on the freedom of the press. We condemn it and call for his immediate release," Trudeau said at his Tuesday morning media briefing. "We also condemn this kind of dangerous interference in civil aviation. Canada has existing sanctions in place against Belarus and we'll be examining further options."

Russia described the uproar in the U.S. and Europe as "shocking" and accused the West of having double standards. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told journalists that Belarus had treated the incident with an "absolutely reasonable approach." "A representative of the Belarusian foreign ministry... stressed the readiness of the Belarusian authorities to act on the issue in a transparent manner and to follow all international rules," Lavrov said during a press conference following a meeting with his Greek counterpart.

2. GLOBAL

2.1 COVID UPDATE

Country/Region	United States	Country/Region	Canada
Daily new cases per 100k people (7d moving avg.)	7.6	Daily new cases per 100k people (7d moving avg.)	10.4
Risk level	Yellow	Risk level	Orange
Total cases	33,244,557	Total cases	1,365,516
Total deaths	593,912	Total deaths	25,324



#	Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Population	1 Case every X ppl	1 Death every X ppl	New Cases/1M pop	New Deaths/1M pop	Active Cases/1M pop
	World	169,932,715	+315,908	3,531,408	+6,850	14,502,390	93,568						
1	USA	34,002,444	+2,764	607,780	+54	5,692,372	6,561	332,754,370	10	547	8	0.2	17,107
2	India	27,718,520	+170,815	322,364	+3,543	2,227,540	8,944	1,392,234,846	50	4,319	123	3	1,600
3	Brazil	16,342,162		456,753		1,099,117	8,318	213,922,560	13	468			5,138
4	Iran	2,886,111	+10,253	79,568	+184	396,291	4,383	84,961,178	29	1,068	121	2	4,664
5	Argentina	3,663,215		76,135		367,606	6,802	45,569,700	12	599			8,067
6	Russia	5,044,459	+9,252	120,406	+404	262,819	2,300	145,991,019	29	1,212	63	3	1,800
7	Mexico	2,405,722	+3,000	222,657	+425	261,555	4,798	130,153,617	54	585	23	3	2,010
8	Italy	4,209,707	+3,738	125,919	+126	246,270	1,142	60,381,433	14	480	62	2	4,079
9	France	5,635,629		109,165		242,200	3,206	65,403,993	12	599			3,703
10	Spain	3,663,176		79,888		167,009	1,468	46,771,146	13	585			3,571
11	Poland	2,870,595	+946	73,557	+117	162,327	805	37,809,132	13	514	25	3	4,293
12	Netherlands	1,641,318	+3,852	17,607	+15	159,980	516	17,169,122	10	975	224	0.9	9,318
13	Peru	1,942,054		68,816		152,573	2,672	33,385,362	17	485			4,570
14	Honduras	235,599	+676	6,259	+19	145,117	520	10,046,340	43	1,605	67	2	14,445
15	Colombia	3,319,193		86,693		131,110	6,582	51,371,659	15	593			2,552



Case to Fatality Ratios

2.2 COVID-19 World News

- [Wuhan Lab Staff Sought Hospital Care Before COVID-19 Outbreak Disclosed](#)
- [Japan doctors union warns games could lead to 'Tokyo Olympic' virus strain](#)

Japan on Friday extended a state of emergency in Tokyo and other areas by about three weeks to June 20 as the COVID-19 pandemic shows no signs of easing less than two months before the Summer Olympics open. The state of emergency in the capital and eight other prefectures had been scheduled to end on May 31, but strains on the medical system remain severe. Worries about variants of the novel coronavirus and a slow vaccination drive have prompted urgent calls from doctors, some high-profile business executives, and hundreds of thousands of citizens to cancel the Olympic Games, due to start on July 23.

- [South African Covid-19 Cases Rise 17%, Positivity Rate Climbs](#)
- [Coronavirus variant could push back England's reopening, PM Johnson warns](#)
- [Brazil nears 450,000 COVID-19 deaths, says Health Ministry](#)
- [EU leaders agree to donate 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines](#)

EU leaders agreed Tuesday to donate at least 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to poorer nations by the end of the year as supplies steadily rise across Europe. Leaders also called "for work to be stepped up to ensure global equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines" and reiterated their support for the UN-backed COVAX program. COVAX aims to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 shots for low-and middle-income countries.

- [Africa needs at least 20 million Covid vaccine doses in the next six weeks, WHO says](#)
- [Greece ready to use COVID-19 pass before July to save summer, PM says](#)
- [EU expects to get more than a billion COVID-19 shots by September](#)

The European Union expects to have received more than a billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of September from four drug makers. EU expects to receive 413 million doses in the second quarter, and another 529 million in the third. So far, it received 106 million in the first quarter. The estimates take into account only vaccines from Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca and Moderna.

2.3 Global Awareness

- [Up to 40 bodies, mostly women, found buried on ex-cop's property in El Salvador](#)
- [EU locks out Belarus from international aviation](#)
- [Anti-Netanyahu protesters blame PM for Gaza escalation](#)
- [Shell ordered to reduce emissions by 45% by 2030 in landmark ruling](#)

Multinational oil company Royal Dutch Shell has been ordered in court to slash its carbon emissions in order to protect the environment from climate change. Donald Pols, director of Friends of the Earth Netherlands (FOE NL) which coordinated the case, called it a "monumental victory". "The judge has left no room for doubt: Shell is causing dangerous climate change and must stop its destructive behaviour now," he said in a statement. Royal Dutch Shell (RDS) said it "fully expect[ed] to appeal today's disappointing court decision".

- [Saudi Arabia plans to plant 10 billion trees in the desert](#)
- [Australian court finds government has duty to protect young people from climate crisis](#)
- [Syria's Assad wins 4th term with 95% of vote](#)
- [International study finds unprecedented amounts of mercury in Pacific Ocean](#)

- [Man stabs policewoman in western France, dies after shoot-out - police](#)

A man stabbed and badly wounded a policewoman in the town of La Chapelle-sur-Erdre in western France on Friday, and he later died following a shoot-out with officers, the national gendarmerie force said. The assailant was cornered after a manhunt that involved two police helicopters and more than 200 officers, it said. A source close to the investigation told Reuters the suspect had been released from jail in March following a conviction for violence. He was reported by prison staff to have been radicalised in jail, the source added.

2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism

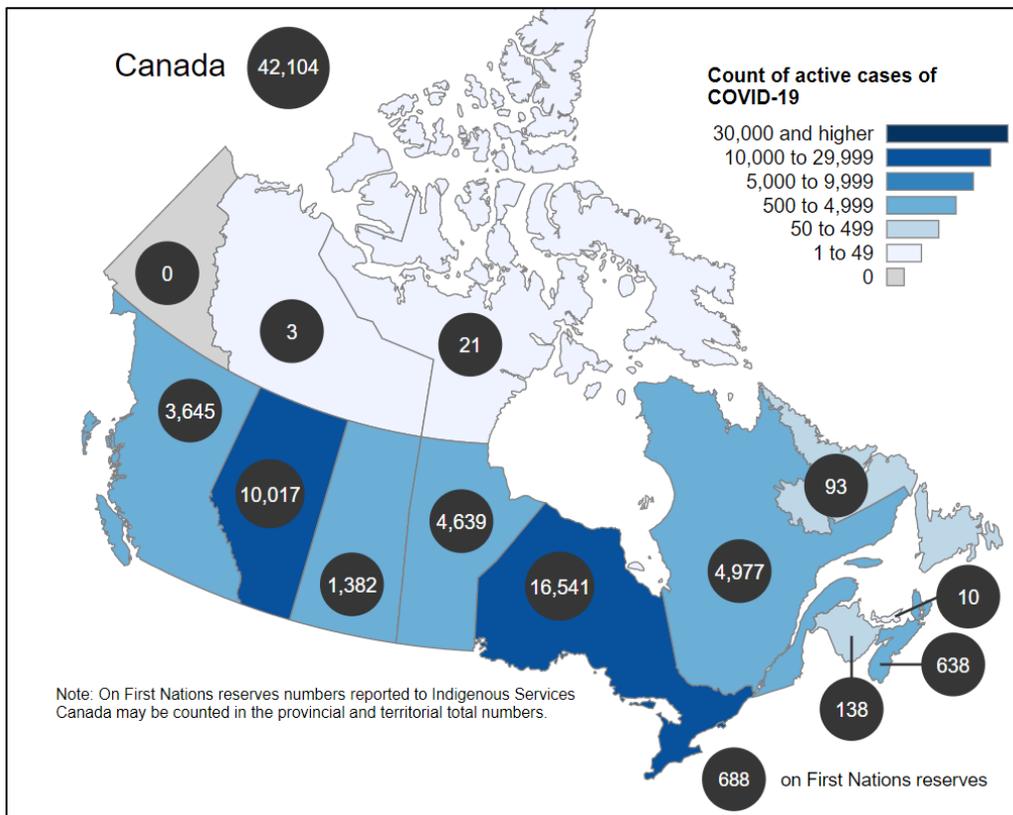
- [Colombia's protests rumble on into their second month](#)
- [US demands immediate release of American journalist in Myanmar](#)
- [US condemns violent security crackdown on Iraqi protesters](#)

The United States is outraged that peaceful Iraqi demonstrators demanding reform met threats and “brutal violence”, State Department spokesman Ned Price said on Thursday. One demonstrator was shot dead and dozens injured during violence at a rally in Baghdad two days ago when thousands gathered to demand accountability from Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi for the murders of prominent Iraqi activists and protesters.

- [Protests in Oman over economy, jobs continue for third day](#)

3. CANADA

3.1 COVID UPDATE



Prov. ↕	Total Confirmed ↕	Total Deaths ↕	Total Recovered ↕	Total Active ↕
Total	1,372,766 (↑1,693)	25,428 (↑17)	1,306,559 (↑3,004)	40,673 (-1328)
BC	143,264	1,690	137,929	3,543
ON	528,453 (↑1,273)	8,711 (↑14)	504,304 (↑2,362)	15,438 (-1103)
QC	369,318 (↑419)	11,118 (↑3)	353,442 (↑635)	4,758 (-219)
AB	225,937	2,199	213,721	10,017
MB	49,651	1,042	43,970	4,639
NB	2,172	43	1,991	138
SK	46,163	534	44,247	1,382
PEI	200	0	187	13
NL	1,279	6	1,180	89
NS	5,457	79	4,740	638
YT	84	2	82	0
NT	127	0	124	3
NU	648 (↑1)	4	629 (↑7)	15 (-6)

Prov. ↕	Total Test ↕	Total Waiting	Total Hosp	Total ICU
Total	34,949,772 (+71,331)	-	-	-
BC	2,741,667	-	286	88
ON	15,144,303 (+40,866)	16,002 (-7066)	1023 (-49)	645 (-5)
QC	9,477,108 (+30,328)	-	385 (-9)	91 (-5)
AB	4,501,525	-	538	150
MB	757,719	-	251	51
NB	329,398	-	8	3
SK	851,638	-	127	27
PEI	155,809	-	-	-
NL	144,395	-	5	0
NS	798,067	-	63	21
YT	9,265	17	-	-
NT	23,148	32	0	0
NU	15,730 (+137)	437	0	0

Vaccination Doses Administered in Canada

Prov. 	Today 	x / 1M
Total	22,610,734 (↑ 263,979)	596,671 (59.67%)
BC	3,032,811	593,399 (59.34 %)
ON	8,690,473 (↑ 159,775)	590,713 (59.07 %)
QC	5,306,336 (↑ 104,204)	621,520 (62.15 %)
AB	2,615,747	592,717 (59.27 %)
MB	793,748	576,216 (57.62 %)
NB	440,338	564,541 (56.45 %)
SK	679,274	574,844 (57.48 %)
PEI	87,861	555,527 (55.55 %)
NL	286,021	548,600 (54.86 %)
NS	542,196	554,701 (55.47 %)
YT	52,535	1,278,908 (127.89 %)
NT	52,237	1,163,304 (116.33 %)
NU	31,157	796,915 (79.69 %)

Source: <https://www.covid-19canada.com>

3.2 COVID-19 Canada News

- [Soldier who called on troops to refuse vaccine distribution faces mutiny related charge](#)
A soldier who called on his fellow military personnel to refuse helping with the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines has been charged with an offence related to mutiny. Officer Cadet Ladislav Kenderesi was charged with one count of “endeavoring to persuade another person to join in a mutiny,” an offence under the National Defence Act. Kenderesi was also charged with one count of behaving in a scandalous manner unbecoming of an officer. He called on military personnel not to be involved in government plans to distribute the vaccine. “I’m asking military, right now serving, truck drivers, medical, engineers, whatever you are, do not take this unlawful order (for) the distribution of this vaccine,” Kenderesi said at the rally. A video of his speech was posted on YouTube.
- [Western University students will be required to get COVID vaccine to live in residence this fall](#)
- [Moderna confirms 2M COVID-19 vaccine doses coming by mid-June: Anand](#)
- [Federal advisory panel recommends end to hotel quarantine in Canada](#)
- [White House dismisses report that U.S. wants border with Canada reopened next month](#)

A media report Wednesday out of Point Roberts, Wash., a border community hit hard by the restrictions, cited anonymous sources with U.S. Customs and Border Protection as saying the closure would end by June 22. Press secretary Jen Psaki said she was not aware that any decisions had been made about the border beyond last week's news that the restrictions, which have been in place since March 2020, would be extended to June 21.

- ['We need Manitobans to stay home': new rules for businesses, gatherings coming to Manitoba](#)
- [Feds say Canada poised to 'ramp up' second COVID-19 doses starting in June](#)
- [B.C. cuts interval between 1st and 2nd COVID-19 vaccine doses to 8 weeks for 'most people](#)

3.3 Canada Awareness

- [Bank of Canada seen cutting bond purchases further as lockdowns ease](#)
Bank of Canada is likely to cut its bond-buying program again this year, possibly as soon as July, as provinces ease curbs to contain the coronavirus pandemic and inflation pressures build, analysts said. In April, the BoC became the first major central bank to cut back on pandemic-era money-printing stimulus programs and signaled it could begin raising its key interest rate from the current floor of 0.25% in the second half of next year. Canadian inflation rose in April at the fastest annual pace in a decade, moving above the top of the BoC's target range of 1% to 3%.
- [Belarus closing Canadian embassy as PM Trudeau condemns regime](#)
- [Arrests on Vancouver Island over old-growth logging blockades tally 22 on Saturday](#)
- [Iran shot down plane full of Canadians intentionally in act of terrorism, Ontario judge rules](#)
Ontario's Superior Court of Justice has ruled that the shooting down of Flight PS752 by Iran was an intentional act of terrorism. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) shot down the Ukraine International Airlines flight with two surface-to-air missiles shortly after takeoff in Tehran on Jan. 8, 2020, killing all 176 passengers onboard. There were 138 passengers onboard with ties to Canada, including 55 Canadian citizens and 30 permanent residents.
"The plaintiffs have established that the shooting down of Flight 752 by the defendants was an act of terrorism and constitutes 'terrorist activity'..." Justice Edward Belobaba wrote in his decision issued Thursday.
"I find on a balance of probabilities that the missile attacks on Flight 752 were intentional and directly caused the deaths of all onboard."
- [PM issues formal apology to Italian Canadians interned during Second World War](#)
- [CRTC backtracks on wholesale internet rates, reverts to 2016 levels](#)
- [Canada Post says 950,000 customers exposed in data breach](#)
- [\\$1M Regina fentanyl bust is city's biggest ever, police say](#)

3.4 Canada – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism



welund

During the week of 20-27 May 2021, the majority of activity in Canada noted by Welund focused on the government sector (52%), followed by forestry (12%). Protests made up the majority of actions (32%), followed by webinars (10%).

Activist opposition to extractive resource projects increased this week, highlighted by the enforcement of injunctions against forestry blockades and various anti-Trans Mountain pipeline (TMX) actions in British Columbia. These actions have led to multiple arrests and calls for additional future campaigns.

Palestine-Israel campaigns also continued with a series of marches, rallies, and car caravan actions in various cities across Canada. The actions caused disruptions through high-traffic areas, downtown cores, and, in some cases, at the offices of foreign diplomats.

While anti-lockdown protesting continues, a combination of campaign fatigue, the announcement of reopening plans, and increasing enforcement against anti-lockdown protesters have largely constrained activity over the past week.

Protests:

RCMP injunction enforcement against the Fairy Creek forestry blockade in BC resulted in multiple arrests, which included Stand.earth Program Director Tzeporah Berman. To date, 47 activists have been arrested, with more expected as opposition against old growth forest logging at the blockade site continues.

On 25 May, anti-TMX activists executed a direct action against construction vehicles in Burnaby. Members of Extinction Rebellion Vancouver posing as 'dog walkers' congested a pedestrian crosswalk near the gates to the construction site preventing vehicle traffic. This was the second time in as many weeks that activists from the group blocked vehicle traffic using 'non-violent civil disobedience'. In preparation for further actions to oppose the pipeline project, climate groups have started to mobilize community support with organizing webinars.

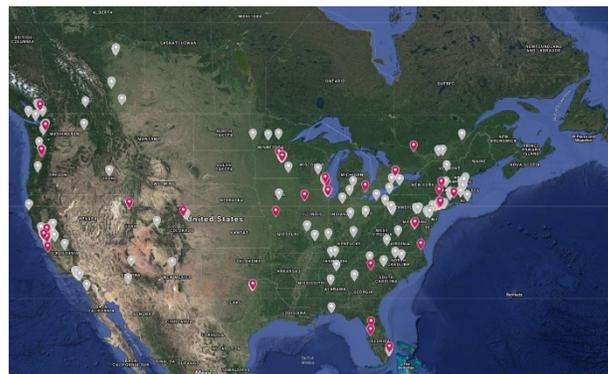


Figure 2: Past and upcoming protest activity as noted by Welund between 20 May-3 June 2021

The ongoing Palestine-Israel conflict continues to fuel solidarity protests across the country. On 22 May multiple pro-Palestine and pro-Israel protests, marches, and car caravans were held as part of a national day of action. In addition to the political campaigns, anti-war activists also held protests against Consulate General offices, embassies, and the production facilities for defence contractors to oppose the shipment of military equipment to Israel.

On 22 May, Indigenous campaigners in Quebec held a car caravan protest to oppose a housing development known as 'The Pines' near Oka. Over 100 vehicles participated in the event, which culminated at the construction site. The group demanded a moratorium on the project and for an end to any sales of Indigenous territory to land development companies.

Outlook:

Extinction Rebellion has organized a protest on 12 June and a hunger strike on 13 June in solidarity with the Fairy Creek blockade. The group stated that additional actions could be planned if the enforcement by the RCMP continues.

Anti-TMX campaigners have planned a week of action on 14-21 June targeting insurance providers for the pipeline project. Liberty Mutual, Chubb, and AIG were listed among its targets. They suggested that activists would be participating in a variety of in-person and online actions, details still to be released.

Pro-Palestine supporters will hold another large solidarity protest in Montreal on 30 May to coincide with a call to action for the upcoming weekend across Canada and the US.

Additional upcoming campaigns of interest include a third global 'White Lives Matter' event on 5 June and a third 'Worldwide Rally for Freedom' anti-lockdown protest on 24 July.

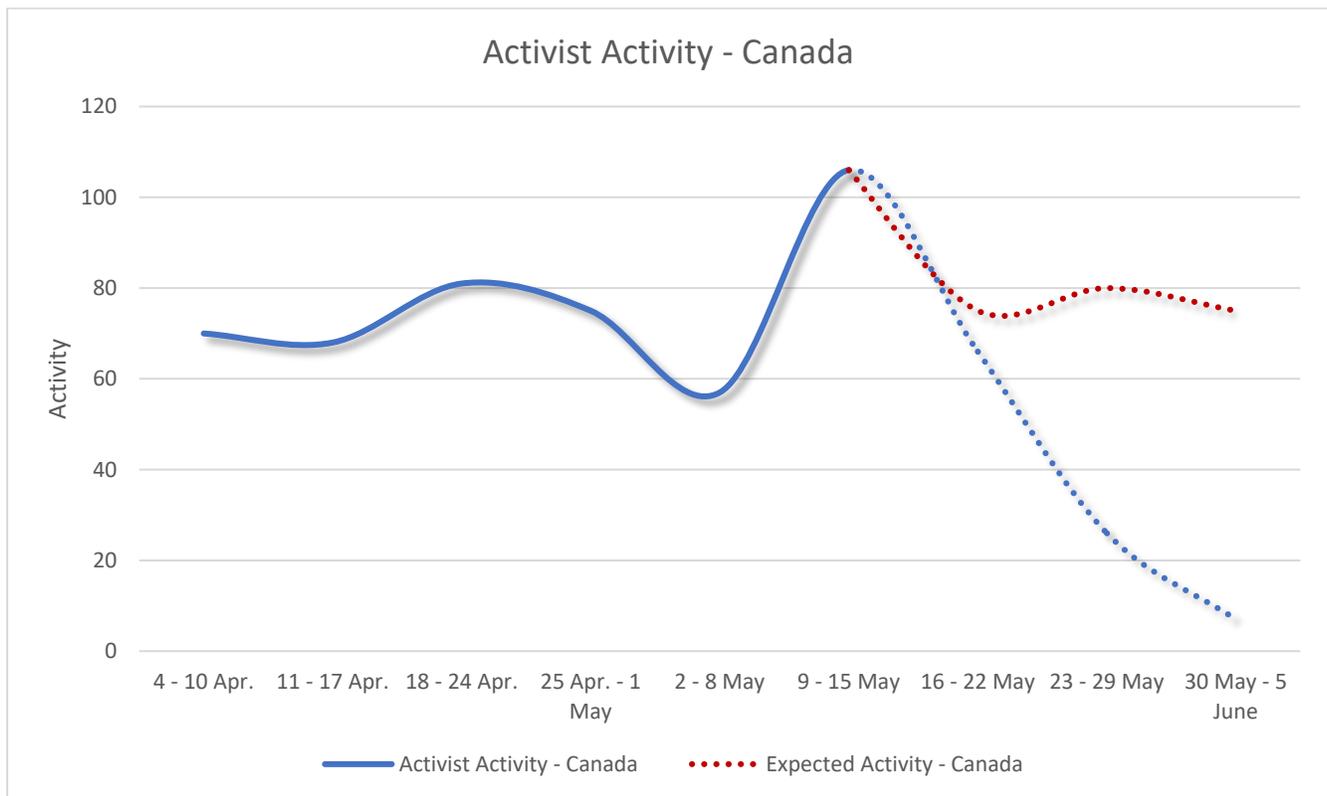


Figure 3 Total activist activity in Canada as noted by Welund.

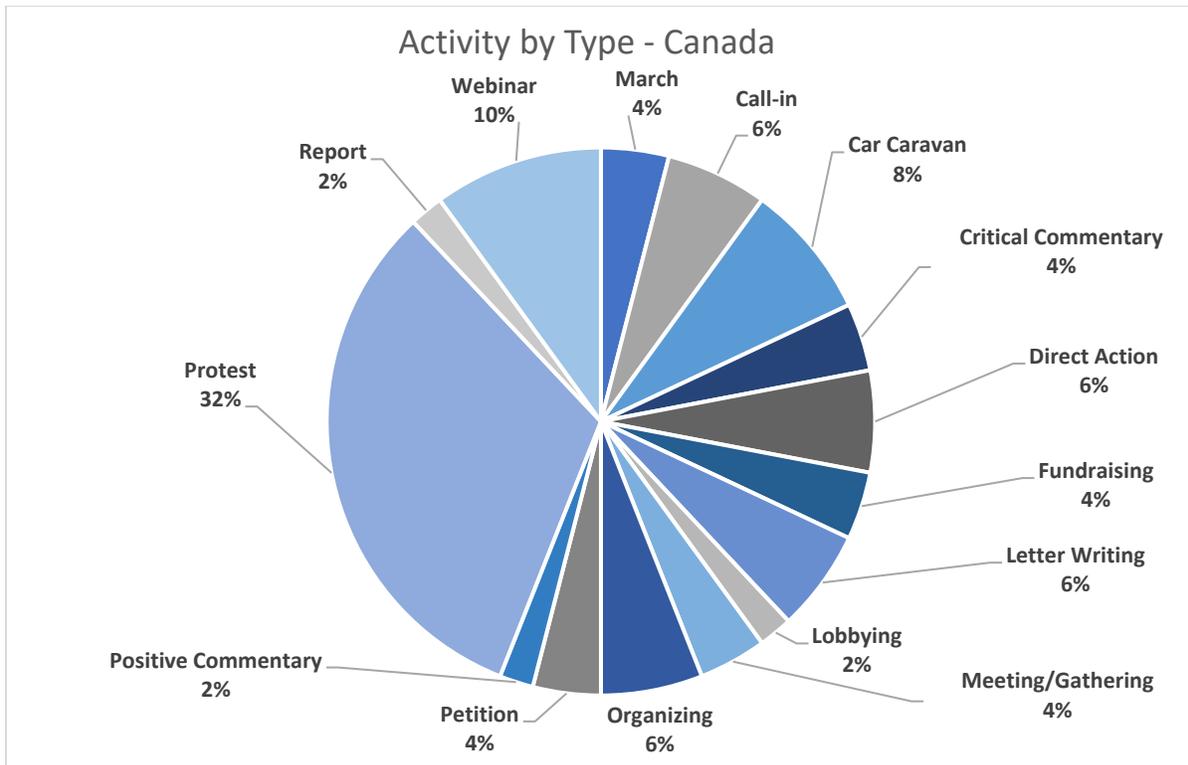


Figure 4 Activist activity in Canada by type as noted by Welund

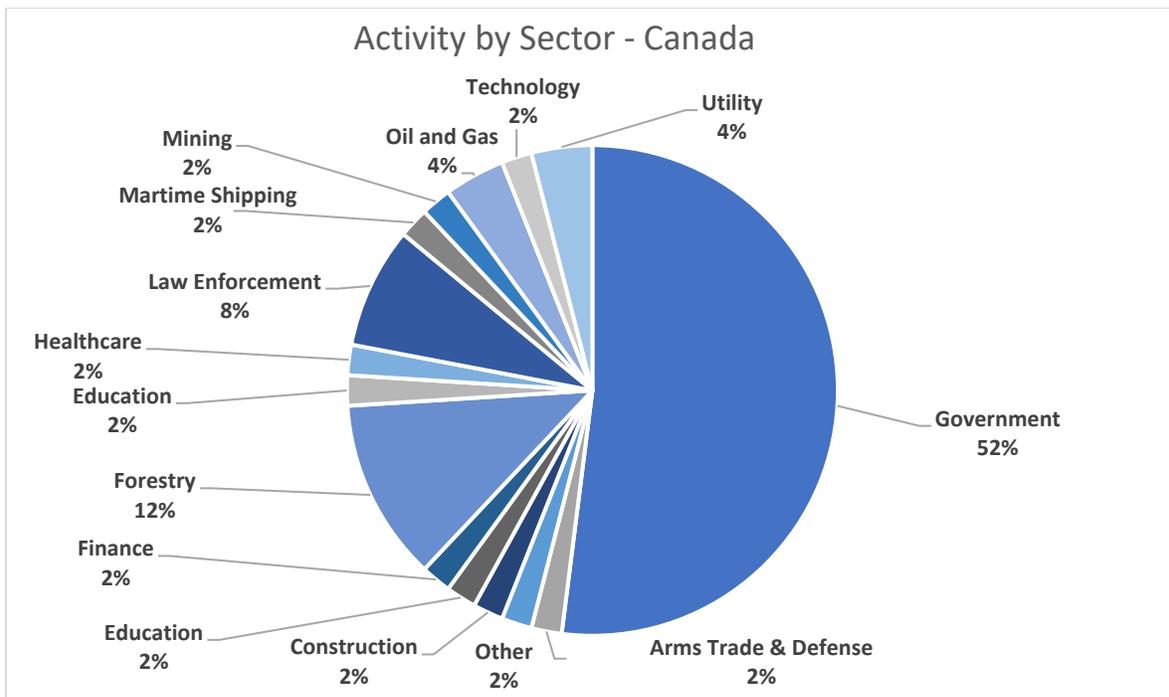
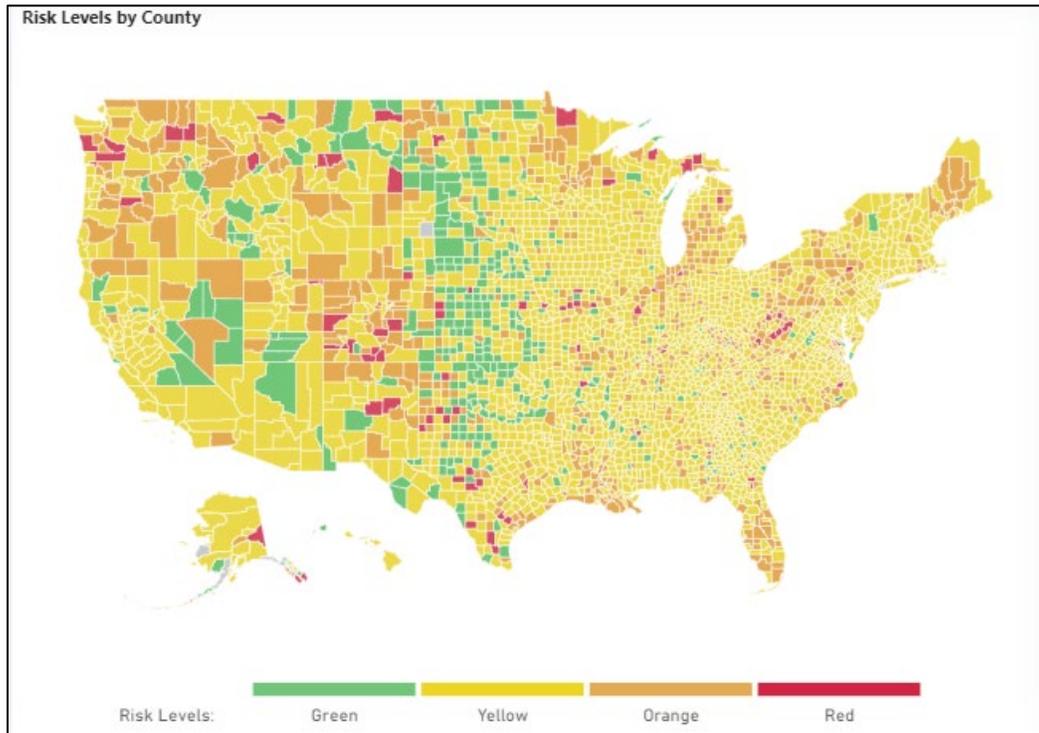


Figure 5 Activist activity in Canada by sector as noted by Welund.

4. USA

4.1 COVID UPDATE



#	USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
	USA Total	33,999,680	+24,393	607,726	+630	27,701,879	5,690,075	102,717	1,836	477,148,649	1,441,525	
1	California	3,786,604	+1,540	63,161	+48	2,024,029	1,699,414	95,834	1,599	64,950,020	1,643,796	39,512,223
2	Virginia	674,439	+357	11,152	+9	55,946	607,341	79,016	1,307	9,764,222	1,143,952	8,535,519
3	Maryland	459,095	+217	9,037		10,628	439,430	75,938	1,495	10,329,805	1,708,626	6,045,680
4	New York	2,150,604	+1,302	53,529	+20	1,688,951	408,124	110,551	2,752	55,433,388	2,849,524	19,453,561
5	Kentucky	457,482	+420	6,748	+4	52,702	398,032	102,398	1,510	6,602,172	1,477,765	4,467,673
6	Florida	2,318,480	+2,338	36,733	+86	1,939,437	342,310	107,948	1,710	29,236,391	1,361,242	21,477,737
7	Washington	436,124	+1,495	5,814	+18	212,224	218,086	57,273	764	7,118,345	934,793	7,614,893
8	Michigan	990,638	+636	20,301	+62	791,206	179,131	99,194	2,033	14,297,254	1,431,607	9,986,857
9	Rhode Island	151,691	+111	2,708		9,258	139,725	143,191	2,556	4,286,004	4,045,839	1,059,361
10	Colorado	540,924	+832	6,704	+14	420,126	114,094	93,931	1,164	3,044,179	528,619	5,758,736
11	New Jersey	1,015,368	+394	26,173	+14	883,619	105,576	114,315	2,947	14,343,086	1,614,814	8,882,190
12	Georgia	1,122,166	+694	20,774	+39	995,882	105,510	105,691	1,957	9,255,439	871,722	10,617,423
13	Idaho	191,877	+139	2,090	+2	111,169	78,618	107,370	1,170	1,338,312	748,888	1,787,065
14	Texas	2,952,050	+1,831	51,623	+51	2,831,174	69,253	101,809	1,780	30,114,439	1,038,576	28,995,881
15	Illinois	1,379,279	+891	25,101	+44	1,291,567	62,611	108,846	1,981	24,434,225	1,928,233	12,671,821

4.2 COVID-19 USA News

- [U.S. says it is confident Taiwan can control COVID, in talks on vaccines](#)

- [U.S. FDA to allow Baltimore plant to resume J&J COVID-19 shot production](#)

The FDA had halted production of J&J's vaccine at the plant, run by Emergent BioSolutions Inc, in April after an inspection flagged numerous serious quality control and sanitary issues. The regulator is now expected to give the plant an emergency use authorization to produce COVID-19 vaccine as early as Friday, the Journal said, citing U.S. officials. As part of that arrangement to get the plant online, the United States government and J&J have tentatively agreed that about 60 million doses of J&J vaccines made at the Baltimore plant now will be cleared for use either in the United States or other countries, according to the report.

- [Canada supports U.S. efforts to seek origins of COVID-19 -PM Trudeau](#)
- [California launches largest US Covid vaccine lottery yet with \\$1.5m prize](#)
- [U.S. Covid cases down more than 50% since start of May as country averages 1.7 million daily vaccine shots](#)
- [With nearly half of the state vaccinated, Hawaii governor drops mask mandate outdoors](#)
- [Hundreds of PPP loans went to fake farms in absurd places](#)
- [Ohio Vaccinations Jumped 33% After Vax-a-Million News](#)

The number of people in Ohio age 16 and older who received their initial COVID-19 vaccine jumped 33% in the week after the state announced its million-dollar incentive lottery, though an analysis shows vaccination rates lag well behind what they were in March and most of April. The first winner of Ohio's first \$1 million Vax-a-Million vaccination incentive prize was driving to her family's home in suburban Cleveland when she received a call about the good news — from Gov. Mike DeWine. “A whirlwind,” Bugenske, 22, said Thursday morning during a news conference. “It absolutely has not processed yet. I am still digesting it — and I like to say that it feels like this is happening to a different person. I cannot believe it.” Bugenske is a mechanical engineer working for GE Aviation in suburban Cincinnati and has no plans to quit her job.

4.3 USA Awareness

- [Biden's defense budget seeks greater China deterrence and nuclear funding](#)
- [Matt Gaetz says he will run for presidency in 2024 if Trump does not](#)
- [Elizabeth Warren Wants To Bar Lawmakers From Trading Stocks](#)
- [Biden Wants to Hire 87,000 Additional IRS Agents to Go After Wealthy Tax Dodgers](#)

Biden administration is proposing hiring 87,000 new workers for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), effectively doubling the agency's size, as part of a plan to beef up enforcement efforts and find billions of dollars in tax revenues that go uncollected each year. The hiring would be part of President Joe Biden's overall \$80 billion spending plan to increase enforcement efforts at the IRS. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) hailed the idea of increasing IRS enforcement earlier this week, noting that enforcement efforts over the past 10 years of staffing decreases at the agency have led to less frequent audits for the wealthy with more frequent audits for marginalized communities.

- [Ted Cruz roundly criticized after sharing Russian propaganda](#)
- [A petition to expel Marjorie Taylor Greene from the House has been signed by over 100,000 people after she compared mask mandates to the Holocaust](#)
- [Proposed New York law would ban fired police officers from getting hired](#)

- [Prosecutor in Trump criminal probe convenes grand jury](#)
Manhattan's district attorney has convened a grand jury that is expected to decide whether to indict Donald Trump, which indicates he feels he has evidence of a crime by the former president or someone close to him or by his company, the Washington Post reported on Tuesday. "The panel was convened recently and will sit three days a week for six months," the Post said, citing two unnamed people familiar with the development. Trump, who left office in January, has denied any wrongdoing.
- [U.S. seizes \\$90,000 from man who sold footage of U.S. Capitol riot](#)
- [Chicago Police Board Rejects Firing Officer Accused of Making False Statements in Hospital Patient Beating](#)
- [DC attorney general sues Amazon on antitrust grounds, alleges it illegally raises prices](#)

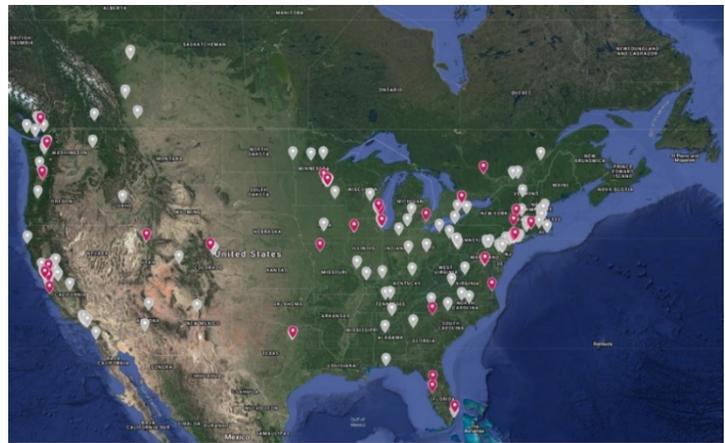
4.4 USA – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism (Provided by Welund)



During the week of 20-27 May, the majority of activist activity in the US noted by Welund took place in the government sector (75%), followed by oil and gas (7%) and technology (6%). Protests made up most activity (57%), followed by meetings/gatherings (16%), and marches (8%).

Bold Alliance launched the Pipeline Fighters Hub to provide assistance to local anti-pipeline campaigns. It seeks to raise awareness of campaigns and share skills, resources, and strategies. The Hub was also promoted as a place for media and politicians to stay up to date on anti-pipeline campaigns across North America.

There was a continued focus on shareholder meetings. The increase in activist activity in technology sector this week has been attributed to a focus on Amazon and the company's shareholders, as part of 'Eyes on Amazon' campaign.



Past (grey) and upcoming (red) protest activity as noted by Welund between 20 May- 3 June.

Protests:

As US vaccinations against covid-19 increase and society reopens, Welund's analysts have noted that activists are increasingly returning to in-person actions. Organizers continue to emphasize physical distancing and mask-wearing adaptations to protests. New York, California, and Pennsylvania saw the most protests this week.

Analysts noted continued pro-Israel and pro-Palestine protests across the US in relation to the conflict in the region. There were direct actions against Line 3 this week as construction resumed on the pipeline in Minnesota.

On 24 May, activists with the Giniw Collective locked on to construction equipment at a Line 3 construction site in Crow Wing. On 26 May, activists with Camp Migizi protested at a pipeline construction site near Cloquet.

On 25 May, there were several actions to commemorate the anniversary of the death of George Floyd. The majority of events were peaceful; however, Portland Police declared a riot after members of crowd of over 200

activists gathered near the Multnomah County Justice Center and City Hall began smashing windows, spray painting buildings, and starting fires.

Outlook:

On 29 May, activists will hold a ‘National March for Palestine’ in Washington, DC to demand that President Joe Biden “sanction Israel now.” Hundreds of protesters are expected to participate.

On 5-8 June, anti-Line 3 campaigners will attend the ‘Treaty People Gathering’ in northern Minnesota. Attendees will “gather in Northern Minnesota to put our bodies on the line, to stop construction and tell the world that the days of tar sands pipelines are over.” Activists from across the US are organizing travel to attend the event.

On 5 June, White Lives Matter (WLM) organizers will hold another day of action after claiming a similar event on 8 May was a success.

On 11 June, anarchists will participate in the ‘International Day of Solidarity with All Long-Term Anarchist Prisoners’. The annual event attracts interest from anarchists who engage in letter writing, meetings, protests and occasional vandalism.

Welund expects to see continued Black Lives Matter-related activism related to the anniversary of George Floyd’s death through the weekend and leading up to Derek Chauvin’s sentencing on 25 June.

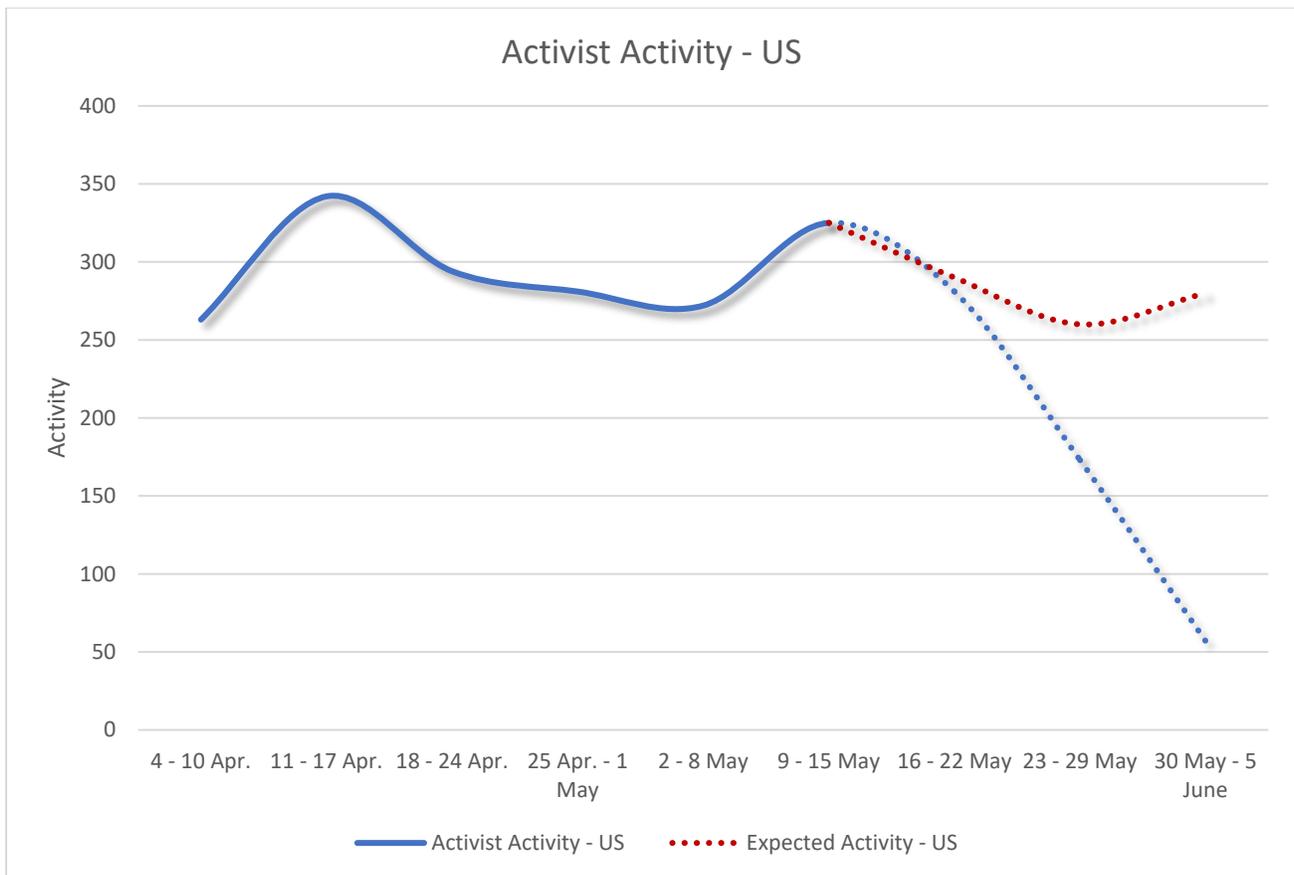


Figure 6 Total activist activity in the US as noted by Welund.

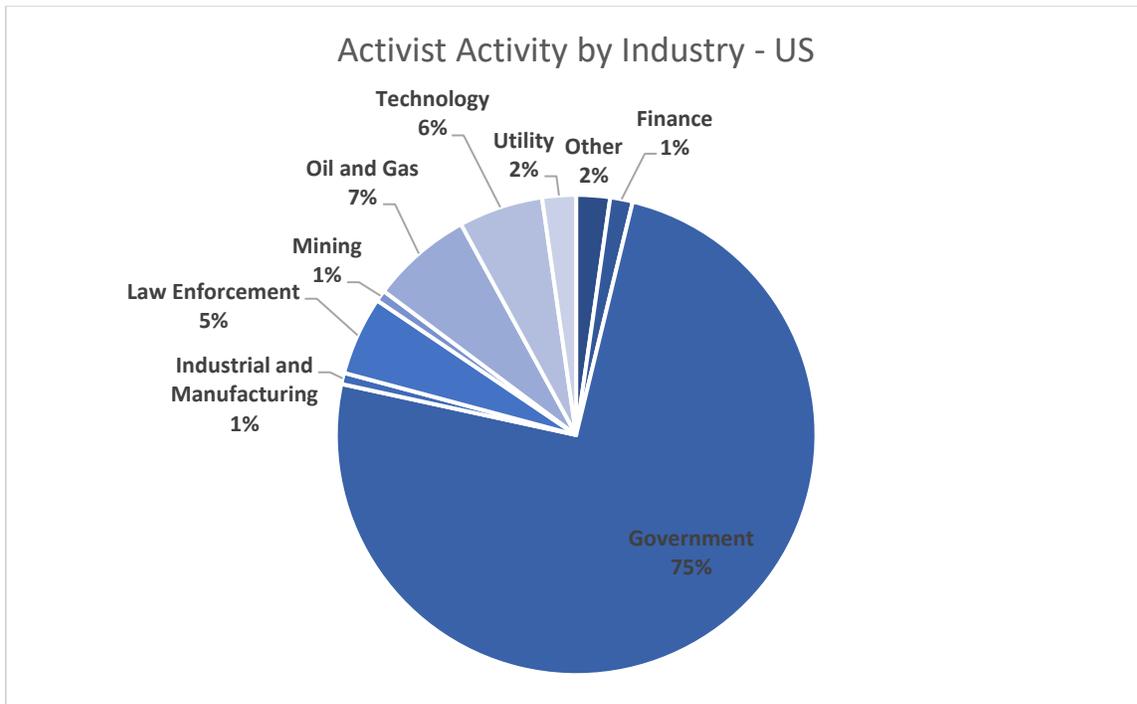


Figure 7 Activist activity in the US by industry as noted by Welund

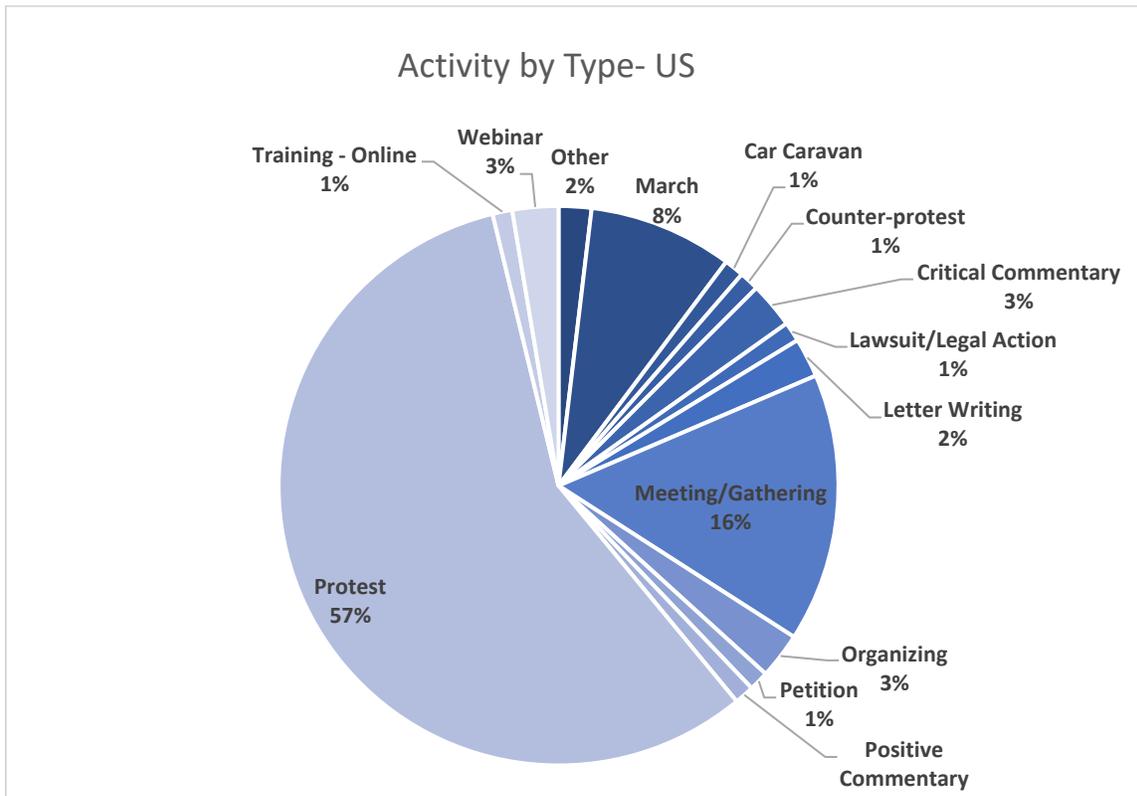


Figure 8 Activist activity in the US by type as noted by Welund.

End of Report

Please submit feedback to:

Scott McGregor, CD, BCom

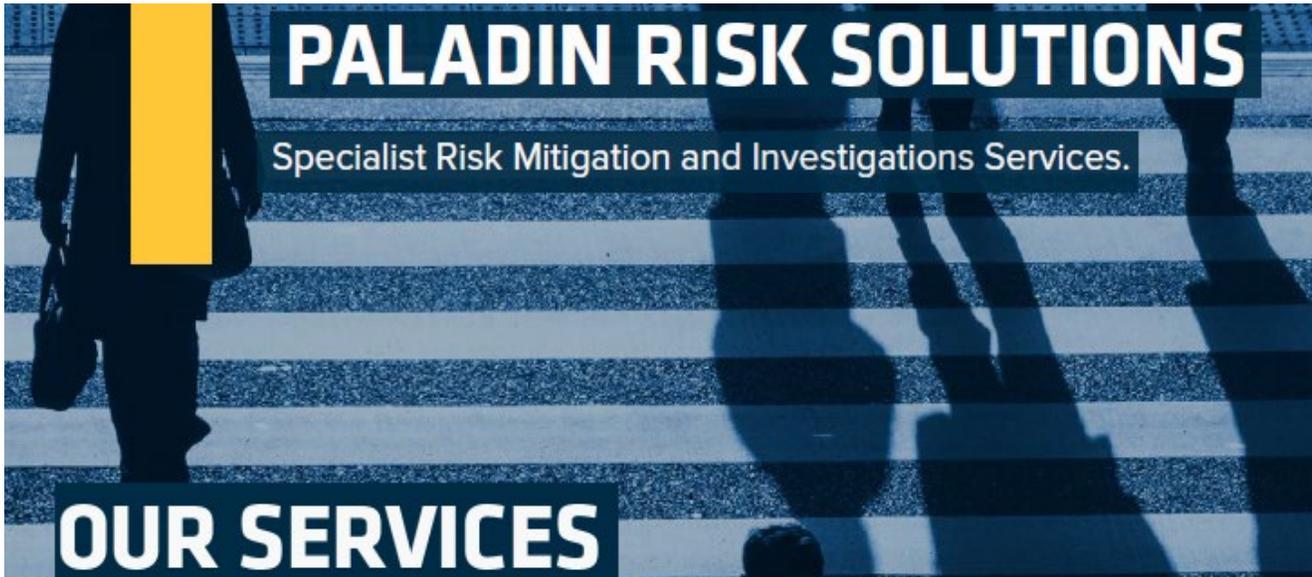
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5. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES



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