



INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Situational awareness for stakeholders and decision makers.



Report # 21-030

21 May 2021

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1. CURRENT SITUATION

In the last weeks report, we wrote about the escalation of the Israel – Palestine conflict. To date, at least 243 people, including more than 100 women and children, were killed in Gaza, according to its health ministry. Israel has said it killed at least 225 militants during the fighting. Hamas has not given casualty figures for fighters. The Israeli military says more than 4,300 rockets were fired towards its territory by militants and that it struck more than 1,000 militant targets in Gaza.

The news of a ceasefire came after the Israeli Political Security Cabinet said on Thursday night it had "unanimously accepted the recommendation" for a ceasefire. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned against any further attacks, saying: "If Hamas thinks we will tolerate a drizzle of rockets, it is wrong." He vowed to respond with "a new level of force" against any aggression anywhere in Israel.

Netanyahu faced criticism from some in Israel who said he had halted the conflict too soon. The mayors of Sderot and Ashkelon - two of the Israeli towns hardest hit by rockets from Gaza - were among those to voice their disappointment, saying Hamas should have been eliminated. A Hamas official told the Associated Press news agency the ceasefire announced by Israel amounted to a "victory" for the Palestinian people. The ceasefire began early on Friday, ending 11 days of fighting.

On Monday prior to the decision of the Israeli Political Security Cabinet, Israel has thanked the US for blocking a United Nation's Security Council statement calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and stressing the need to protect children and other civilians. A statement drafted by Norway, China and Tunisia expressed grave concern regarding the crisis related to Gaza and the loss of civilian lives and casualties, and called for de-escalation of the situation, cessation of violence and respect for international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians, especially children. It emphasized that civilian and humanitarian facilities, including those of the UN, must be respected and protected, called on all parties to act consistently with this principle and stressed the need for immediate provision of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza. The statement welcomed all efforts to de-escalate and to reach a ceasefire agreement, including from regional states and the Middle East Quartet, and urged all actors to support these efforts.

President Joe Biden said the ceasefire had brought a "genuine opportunity" for progress, and commended Netanyahu in a phone call after the agreement was announced. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken plans to visit the region in the coming days "to discuss recovery efforts and working together to build better futures for Israelis and Palestinians," the State Department said.

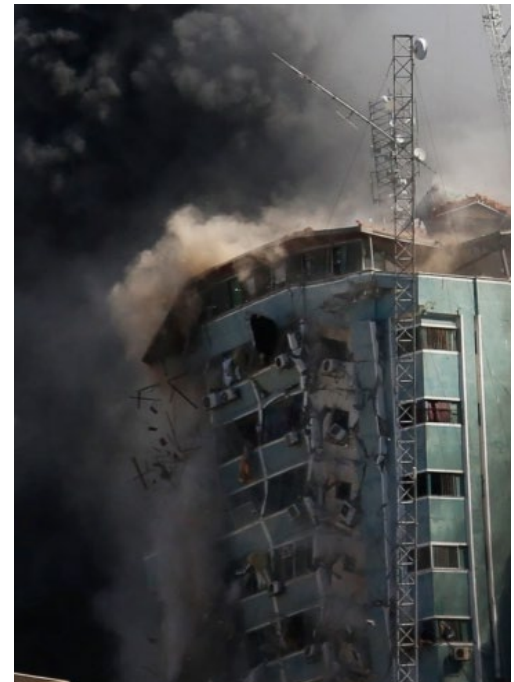


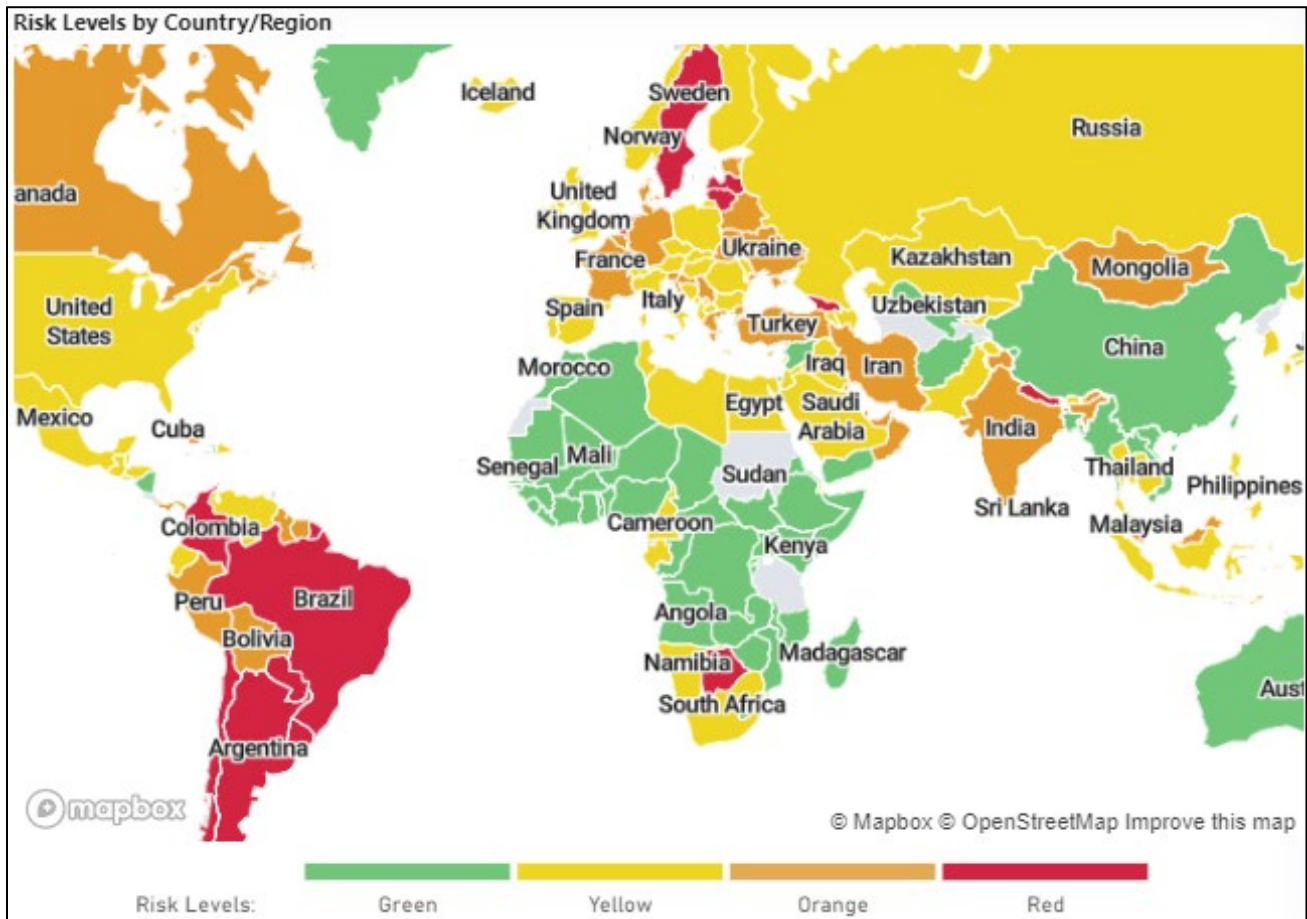
Figure 1 Associated Press building collapsing after an Israel airstrike

Biden is facing criticism at home for the approved \$735 million weapons sale to Israel. Democratic U.S. lawmakers on Wednesday introduced a resolution seeking to block a \$735 million sale of precision-guided weapons to Israel. Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Mark Pocan and Rashida Tlaib were lead sponsors of the measure, which has at least six other co-sponsors including some of the most left-leaning Democrats in the House. "At a time when so many, including President Biden, support a ceasefire, we should not be sending 'direct attack' weaponry to Prime Minister Netanyahu to prolong this violence," Ocasio-Cortez said in a statement.

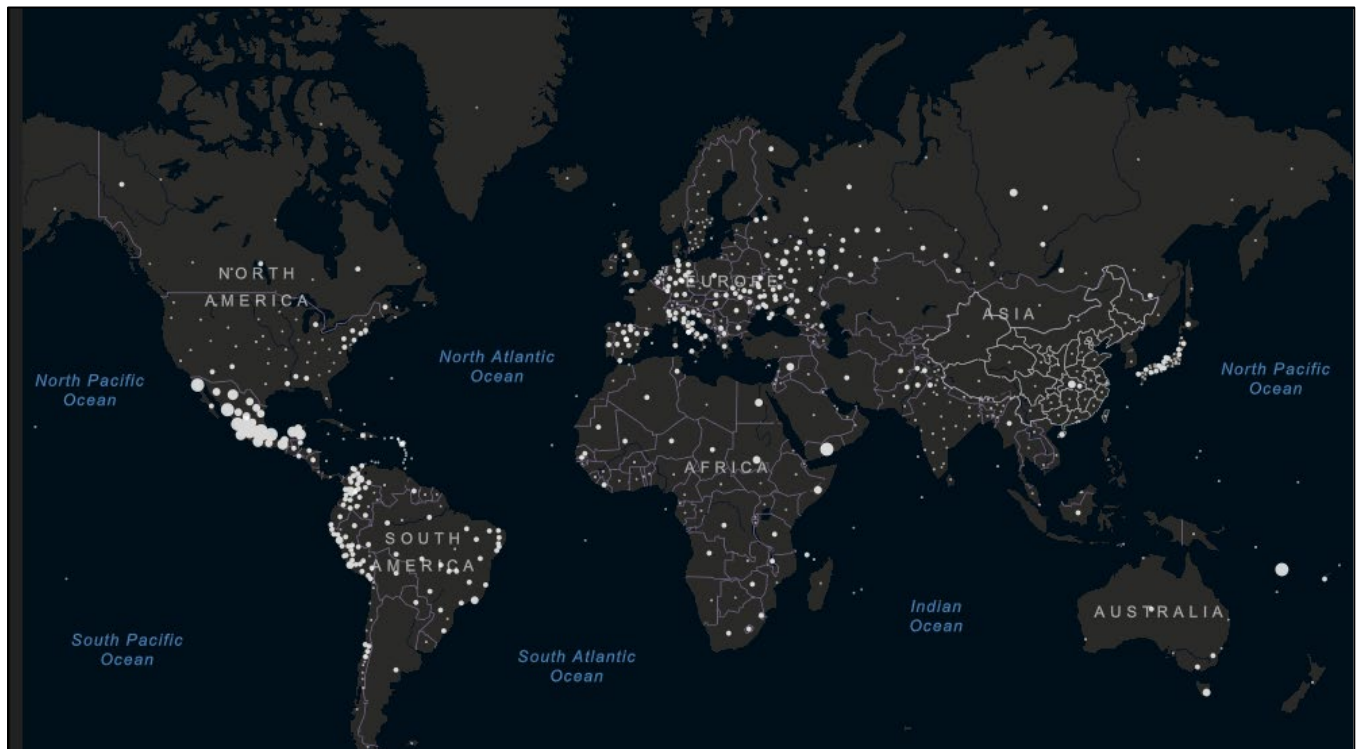
2. GLOBAL

2.1 COVID UPDATE

Country/Region	Canada	Country/Region	United States
Daily new cases per 100k people (7d moving avg.)	14.6	Daily new cases per 100k people (7d moving avg.)	9.4
Risk level	Orange	Risk level	Yellow
Total cases	1,338,141	Total cases	33,053,453
Total deaths	25,018	Total deaths	587,512



#	Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
	World	165,842,741	+655,047	3,444,434	+13,019	146,525,681	15,872,626	99,237	21,276	441.9			
1	USA	33,833,181	+30,214	602,616	+659	27,358,651	5,871,914	7,563	101,687	1,811	470,118,034	1,412,965	332,717,317
2	India	26,030,674	+259,269	291,365	+4,209	22,705,901	3,033,408	8,944	18,701	209	322,356,187	231,582	1,391,975,564
3	Brazil	15,898,558	+83,367	444,391	+2,527	14,385,962	1,068,205	8,318	74,329	2,078	47,073,060	220,077	213,893,706
4	Iran	2,804,632	+12,428	77,994	+229	2,290,613	436,025	5,081	33,019	918	18,551,061	218,400	84,940,617
5	Argentina	3,447,044	+35,884	72,699	+434	3,035,134	339,211	5,951	75,656	1,596	12,824,848	281,483	45,561,776
6	Italy	4,178,261	+5,741	124,810	+164	3,753,965	299,486	1,544	69,196	2,067	63,822,748	1,056,963	60,383,127
7	France	5,568,551	+15,415	108,314	+133	5,162,757	297,480	3,769	85,144	1,656	81,438,270	1,245,210	65,401,238
8	Russia	4,974,908	+9,232	117,361	+396	4,591,770	265,777	2,300	34,077	804	134,600,000	921,982	145,989,826
9	Mexico	2,387,512	+2,000	220,850	+104	1,907,538	259,124	4,798	18,347	1,697	6,886,170	52,919	130,127,725
10	Ukraine	2,170,398	+5,165	48,899	+203	1,916,194	205,305	177	49,893	1,124	9,943,891	228,590	43,500,913
11	Netherlands	1,615,500	+4,632	17,506	+18	1,400,284	197,710	620	94,097	1,020	13,524,699	787,767	17,168,399
12	Spain	3,631,661	+5,733	79,601	+33	3,356,272	195,788	1,690	77,648	1,702	48,928,535	1,046,134	46,770,801
13	Germany	3,638,504	+10,727	87,639	+234	3,358,000	192,865	3,708	43,305	1,043	58,093,759	691,421	84,020,788
14	Poland	2,861,352	+2,087	72,500	+250	2,614,020	174,832	1,309	75,677	1,917	15,390,803	407,057	37,809,922
15	Honduras	229,211	+924	6,051	+32	83,123	140,037	536	22,822	602	687,858	68,489	10,043,325



2.2 COVID-19 World News

- ['Vaccines are satanic': Bolivia battles fake news in inoculation drive](#)
- [123,000 death certificates issued in last 71 days in Indian state of Gujarat. Government registered only 4218 Covid deaths](#)
- [Brazil's former health minister shields Bolsonaro in COVID-19 inquiry](#)

Former Health Minister Eduardo Pazuello denied on Wednesday that Brazil's far-right President Jair Bolsonaro had overturned his efforts to buy the COVID-19 vaccine made by China's Sinovac Biotech. Last year, Bolsonaro disparaged the shot due to its "origins" and publicly clashed with Sao Paulo Governor Joao Doria, a political rival responsible for the partnership making finished doses of the Chinese vaccine at the Butantan medical center. Ideologically motivated attacks on China by Bolsonaro and members of his inner circle have soured diplomatic relations despite the Asian nation's role as top trade partner. Production of both the Sinovac vaccine and the AstraZeneca shot, finished in Brazil with Chinese ingredients, has sputtered in recent months due to delayed shipments from China.
- [UK daily COVID cases highest in a month, variant rising sharply](#)
- [Supply bottleneck, financial challenges fuel delays in Africa's COVID-19 vaccine rollout](#)
- [Brazil Covid cases rise by 75,445 in last 24 hours; death toll up by 2,513](#)
- [Kenya seeks alternatives to AZ COVID vaccine after delays](#)
- [Singapore 'Davos' canceled amid Asia's COVID resurgence](#)

The World Economic Forum has canceled the special annual meeting set for Singapore in August, scrapping the planned in-person gathering due to the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic, the group said Monday. The event, which was scheduled for Aug. 17 to 20 in the city-state, would have been the first WEF annual meeting in Asia. The cancellation comes as many Asian economies face a resurgence of the virus, including the fast-spreading Indian variants. The local coronavirus situation in Singapore also has worsened in recent days, leading to a monthlong period of heightened restrictions that began Sunday.

2.3 Global Awareness

- [First ships dock at Kenya's Lamu deep water port](#)

The first ships docked at Kenya's deep water Lamu Port on Thursday as the country looks to open a new transport corridor linking its vast northern region and neighbouring nations to the sea. The Lamu Port, which is being built by China Communications Construction Company will cost \$3 billion to complete over several years. It will compete with ports in Djibouti and Sudan and Kenya's main port of Mombasa. A commissioning ceremony for the first berth was held by Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta on Thursday. Two more berths will be completed by the end of this year, completing the first phase. Kenya is also building several roads from Lamu towards its borders with Ethiopia and South Sudan. It also plans to eventually build a railway network and a crude oil pipeline to Lamu.
- [Morocco blames Spain for spat, says weather caused migrant crisis](#)
- [Pro-Palestine Italian port workers refuse to load arms shipment destined for Israel](#)
- [We will pursue you for life, CCP warns wanted activists abroad](#)

- [South African government calls for Israel to be investigated by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity](#)
- [Teenage suicide sparks deadly uprising in southwest Colombia](#)

The suicide of a 17-year-old girl who accused police of sexual abuse sparked an uprising in southwest Colombia that left at least one person dead, 35 injured and the local police jail destroyed. On her Instagram account, the girl had decried how she had been sexually harassed after being detained by members of the loathed riot police unit ESMAD on Wednesday. The commander of the police in southwest Colombia, General Ricardo Alarcon, told media that the dead girl's claims were "fake news" despite evidence indicating the opposite. The girl's last word on social media, the hashtag "#UribeParacoHPTA," went trending in Colombia. The hashtag referred to the alleged ties between former President Alvaro Uribe and far-right death squads that are currently being investigated.
- [The Suez Canal will be widened by 131 feet to avoid a repeat of the Ever Given chaos, authorities say](#)
- [Thousands of Peruvian indigenous people living near major mining projects face a health crisis after testing positive for high levels of metals and toxic substances](#)
- [Twenty firms produce 55% of world's plastic waste, report reveals](#)
- [Long working hours are a killer, WHO study shows "Drawing on data from 194 countries - said that working 55 hours or more a week is associated with a 35% higher risk of stroke](#)

Working long hours is killing hundreds of thousands of people a year in a worsening trend that may accelerate further due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Health Organization said on Monday. In the first global study of the loss of life associated with longer working hours, the paper in the journal Environment International showed that 745,000 people died from stroke and heart disease associated with long working hours in 2016, increase of nearly 30% from 2000. The study covered the period 2000-2016, and so did not include the COVID-19 pandemic, but WHO officials said the surge in remote working and the global economic slowdown resulting from the coronavirus emergency may have increased the risks. "The pandemic is accelerating developments that could feed the trend towards increased working time," the WHO said, estimating that at least 9% of people work long hours.

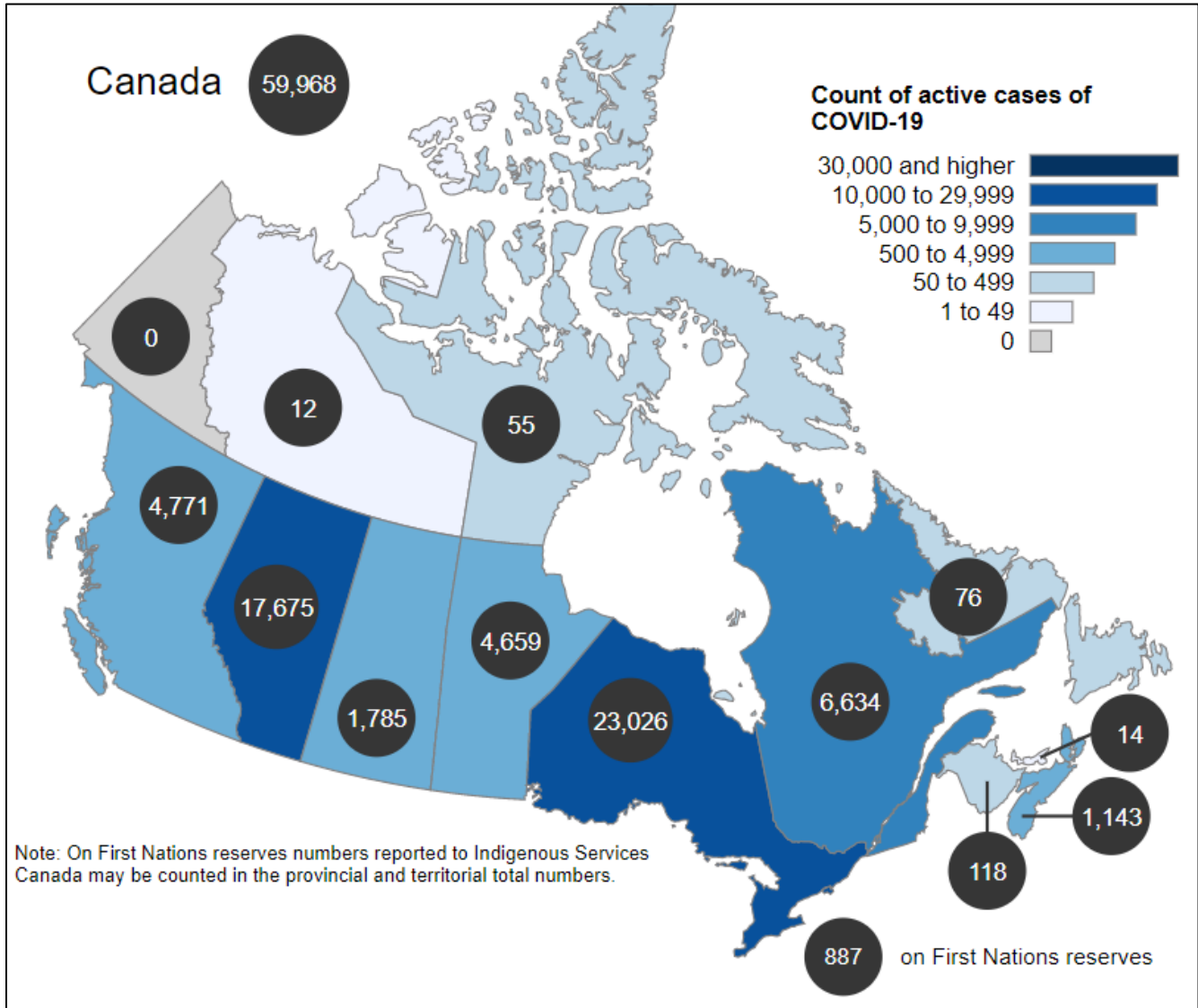
2.4 Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism

- [Israel and Hamas agree Gaza truce, to be monitored by Egypt](#)
- [Palestinian Head of internal medicine of main hospital, Dr Ayman Abu al-Ouf, killed along with 12 members of his extended family](#)
- [At Miss Universe pageant, Myanmar's contestant urges the world to speak out against the military junta, pleads "our people are dying"](#)

"Our people are dying and being shot by the military every day," she said in a video message for the competition. More than 800 people have been killed by Myanmar's security forces since a wave of protests broke out across the country after the military seized power in a coup in February, an activist group said. Myanmar has been in turmoil since the army ousted Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government and detained her and officials of her National League for Democracy party.

3. CANADA

3.1 COVID UPDATE



Prov. ↕	Total Confirmed ↕	Total Deaths ↕	Total Recovered ↕	Total Active ↕
Total	1,350,088 (↑2,643)	25,147 (↑36)	1,265,818 (↑3,452)	58,984 (-845)
BC	140,953	1,661	134,521	4,636
ON	518,980 (↑1,890)	8,579 (↑27)	488,201 (↑2,689)	22,200 (-826)
QC	366,394 (↑752)	11,075 (↑9)	348,694 (↑752)	6,625 (-9)
AB	222,279	2,162	202,442	17,675
MB	46,916	1,019	41,238	4,659
NB	2,098	43	1,937	118
SK	45,128	522	42,821	1,785
PEI	199	0	185	14
NL	1,216	6	1,134	72
NS	5,065	74	3,848	1,143
YT	84	2	82	0
NT	126	0	114	12
NU	637 (↑1)	4	588 (↑11)	45 (-10)

Prov. ↕	Total Test ↕	Total Waiting ↕	Total Hosp ↕	Total ICU ↕
Total	34,377,126 (+70,660)	-	-	-
BC	2,696,258	-	331	113
ON	14,938,913 (+37,126)	19,891 (-751)	1265 (-55)	715 (-6)
QC	9,307,214 (+33,373)	-	437 (-23)	106 (-1)
AB	4,450,645	-	665	177
MB	735,315	-	232	56
NB	319,871	-	7	3
SK	833,697	-	138	26
PEI	152,545	-	-	-
NL	140,572	-	2	0
NS	755,180	-	87	20
YT	9,200	20	-	-
NT	22,735	38	0	0
NU	14,981 (+161)	437	0	0

Vaccination doses administered in Canada

It might not be accurate since some data are not available.

Prov.	Today	x / 1M
Total	20,110,028 (↑ 269,037)	530,680 (53.07%)
BC	2,687,360	525,808 (52.58%)
ON	7,735,148 (↑ 158,524)	525,778 (52.58%)
QC	4,747,192 (↑ 110,513)	556,029 (55.6%)
AB	2,312,821	524,075 (52.41%)
MB	692,301	502,572 (50.26%)
NB	385,958	494,822 (49.48%)
SK	620,236	524,883 (52.49%)
PEI	78,817	498,343 (49.83%)
NL	253,790	486,780 (48.68%)
NS	463,526	474,216 (47.42%)
YT	51,534	1,254,540 (125.45%)
NT	51,320	1,142,883 (114.29%)
NU	30,025	767,962 (76.8%)

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

3.2 COVID-19 Canada News

- [Ontario prepares to reopen after punishing third COVID-19 wave](#)
- [Canadians who cross border for vaccine must quarantine on return, Ottawa says](#)
 Canadians looking to drive across the border to the United States for the sole purpose of getting a COVID-19 vaccine are not exempt from mandatory quarantine upon their return. In a statement late Wednesday, the Public Health Agency of Canada said quarantine exemptions now in place are not intended for those travelling abroad to get vaccinated against the coronavirus disease. The statement attempts to clarify reports earlier this week that the vaccine may be considered an essential medical service and that Canadians crossing the border could be exempt from the 14-day quarantine when they return
- [Calgary pastor arrested after breaking pandemic gathering rules for months](#)
- [RCMP to increase travel road checks on four B.C. highways this long weekend](#)
- [B.C. women are getting vaccinated at higher rates than men](#)
- [Plan to restart B.C.'s economy as COVID restrictions ease comes Tuesday: minister](#)
- [Golf, tennis, other outdoor sports to open across Ontario as part of 3-step reopening plan](#)
- [Provincial health officer says B.C. youth do not need parent's consent to get vaccine shot](#)
- [With Moderna shipments uncertain, Ottawa lowers expectations on vaccine deliveries](#)
 With uncertainty about vaccine maker Moderna's upcoming shipments, the government is revising projections on how many doses will be in Canada before the end of June.

The government now expects as few as 40 million doses of vaccines could be in Canada before the end of June, down from the 48 million it was expecting. The Liberals have widely used the 48 million figure to promote their vaccination effort. Pfizer has committed to deliver two million doses every week in May and 2.4 million doses every week in June and has been consistent in its deliveries so far. The government also expects another million AstraZeneca doses in June.

3.3 Canada Awareness

- [Canada's new immigration path for Hong Kongers attract strong interest](#)
- [Infectious-disease scientists at Canada's high-security lab collaborated with China](#)

Seven scientists in the special pathogens unit at the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) in Winnipeg and Chinese military researchers have conducted experiments and co-authored six studies on infectious diseases such as Ebola, Lassa fever and Rift Valley fever. The publication dates of the studies range from early 2016 to early 2020. One of the Chinese researchers, Feihu Yan, from the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) Academy of Military Medical Sciences, worked for a period at the Winnipeg lab, a Level 4 facility equipped to handle some of the world's deadliest diseases. **Andy Ellis, former CSIS assistant director of operations, said it is "madness" for the Public Health Agency of Canada to be co-operating with the PLA,** which in recent years has ramped up its recruitment of scientists and invested heavily in medical research as part of its strategy to modernize its military.

- ['We don't have time': scientists urge B.C. to immediately defer logging in key old-growth forests amid arrests](#)
- [Man who fired at RCMP officers on rural property should get 10 years, Crown argues](#)
- [Justice minister defends finding that Bill C-10 doesn't pose free speech concern](#)
- [Charges dropped in mansion gaming bust, defence alleges cops planted evidence, stole watches](#)

Months after police unveiled a massive bust at an alleged illegal casino at a sprawling mansion north of Toronto, charges have been withdrawn against a central figure in the case — with his lawyers now alleging that police planted evidence and stole watches worth hundreds of thousands of dollars from his bedroom. According to police, the Crown withdrew all charges against Wei earlier this month, and he has entered into a common law peace bond — an order to keep the peace and be of good behaviour with certain conditions — for a two-year period.

3.4 Canada – Political Extremism, Civil Unrest and Activism



welund

During the week of 13-20 May 2021, the majority of activity in Canada noted by Welund focused on the government sector (73%), followed by oil and gas (6%). Protests made up the majority of activity (54%), followed by critical commentary (13%).

Anti-lockdown campaigns and Palestine-Israel protests were the primary focus for activist groups over the past week. As a result, there was a noticeable increase in in-person protesting, which has been constrained in the preceding weeks by rising covid-19 cases and public health restrictions. Anti-Trans Mountain pipeline expansion

(TMX) and anti-forestry activism also increased over the past week as court proceedings started for well-known activists and law enforcement began enforcing injunctions against activist blockades.

Protests:

Over the weekend of 15-16 May, multiple large-scale protests were held across Canada, which were primarily focused on anti-lockdown activism and the Palestine-Israel conflict.

On 15 May, anti-lockdown campaign groups held their second 'Worldwide Demonstration for Freedom' to oppose covid-19 restrictions. Marches, car caravans, and protests were held in most major cities across the country including in Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary, and Ottawa.

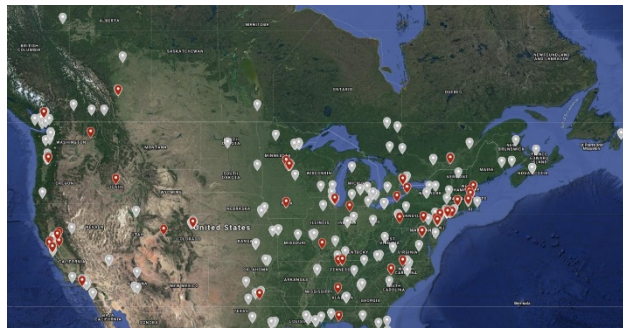


Figure 2: Past and upcoming protest activity as noted by Welund between 13-26 May 2021

Pro-Palestine and pro-Israel solidarity rallies were also held over the weekend amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Marches, car caravans, and rallies were held in major cities across Canada. Actions were held in busy downtown areas, at government buildings, and at the offices for the Consulate General of Israel. Some of the largest of these rallies were held in Toronto and Montreal. In both cities, small subgroups of protesters from both the pro-Palestine and pro-Israel factions engaged in verbal and violent confrontations, vandalism, and acts of general civil disobedience. Other rallies in Winnipeg and Halifax also experienced some confrontation between protest groups, however police were able to prevent any escalation to violence.

Tangentially, anti-war groups also executed campaigns in relation to the Palestine-Israel conflict. In Ottawa, campaigners posted flyers on a sign belonging to defence contractor General Dynamics to demand the company end all defence contracts and weapons shipments to Israel and the Middle East. Other groups called on the Canadian federal government to enact a moratorium on all military supply contracts and to work with International organizations to assist with the negotiation of a 'cease fire' between Palestine and Israel.

Anti-TMX activists with Extinction Rebellion Vancouver blocked construction vehicles in Burnaby, causing delays along the construction line. Additionally, campaigners criticized the sentencing of activist Earle Peach, and were present to support prominent anti-TMX activists Kanahus and Mayuk Manuel during sentencing for their roles in direct actions against the pipeline.

Seven anti-forestry protesters were also arrested at the Fairy Creek Blockade after RCMP started its enforcement of an injunction obtained by Teal Jones.

Outlook:

On 22 May, pro-Palestine and pro-Israel campaign organizers have scheduled additional protests, rallies, car caravans, and marches in major cities across Canada. It is likely that these events will receive similar support as the actions from the week prior.

On 14-21 June, anti-TMX campaigners will hold a 'week of action' against the pipeline project and its insurance providers. In preparation for the event, organizers shared a toolkit that listed potential targets including Liberty Mutual, Chubb, and AIG. Organizers added that the week of action will likely include a mix of online and in-person

actions. This and other anti-fossil fuel campaigns will also likely see an increase in activity after a report by the International Energy Agency called for a 'halt' to any further expansion of the fossil fuel sector.

On 5 June, the 'White Lives Matter' (WLM) movement will hold a third global 'day of action'. Organizers welcomed the 8 May event as a success after the planned rallies experienced little opposition from anti-fascist groups and law enforcement.

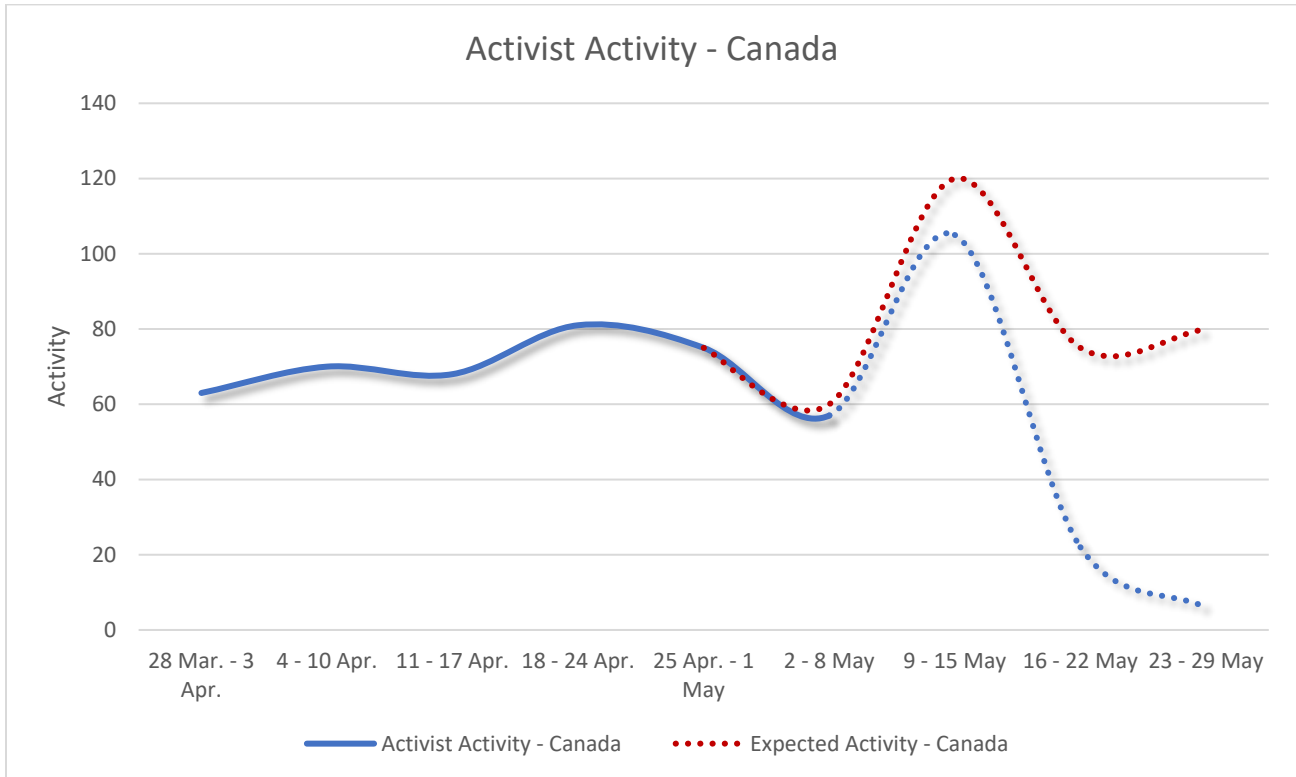


Figure 3 Total activist activity in Canada as noted by Welund.

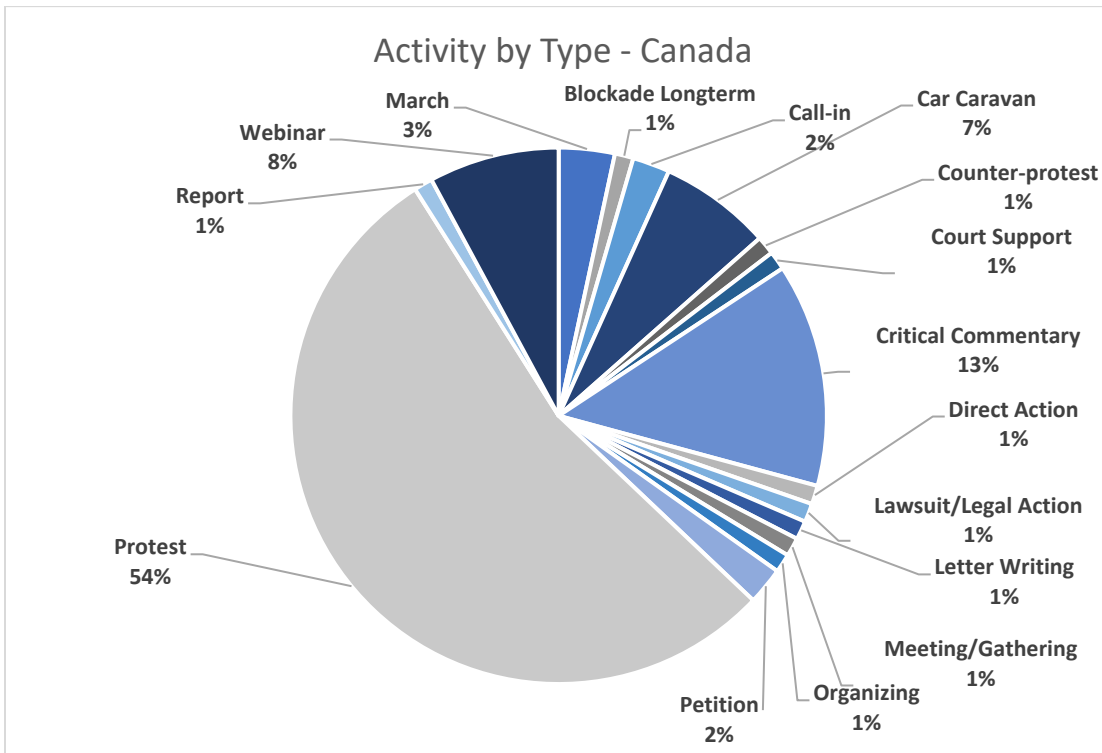


Figure 4 Activist activity in Canada by type as noted by Welund

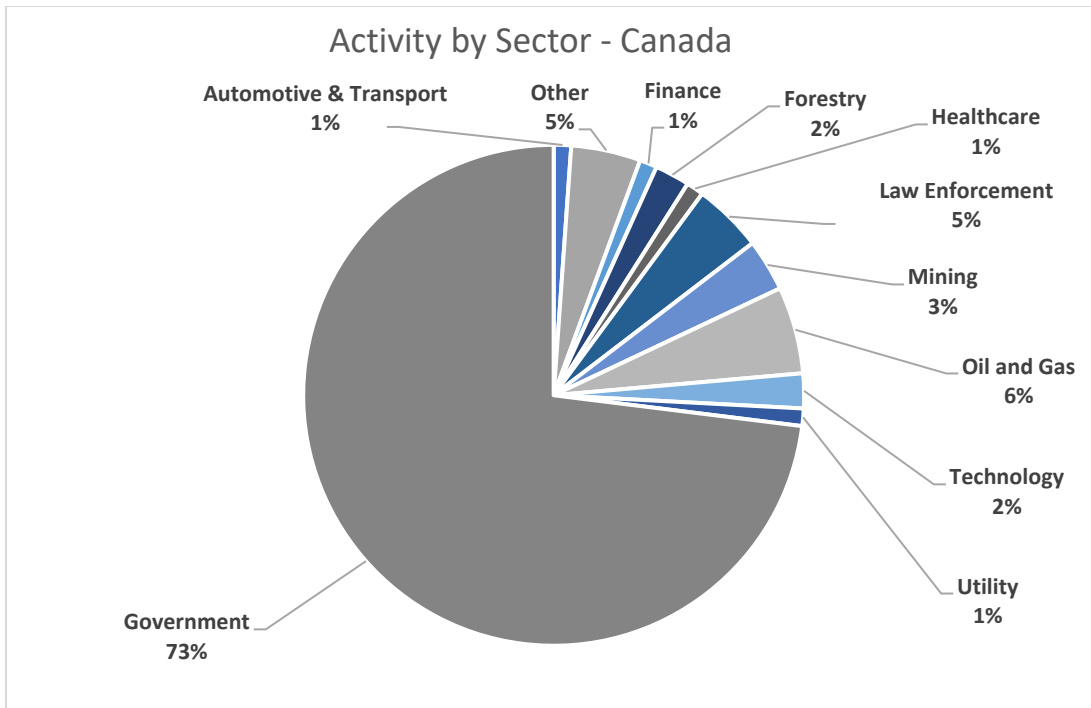
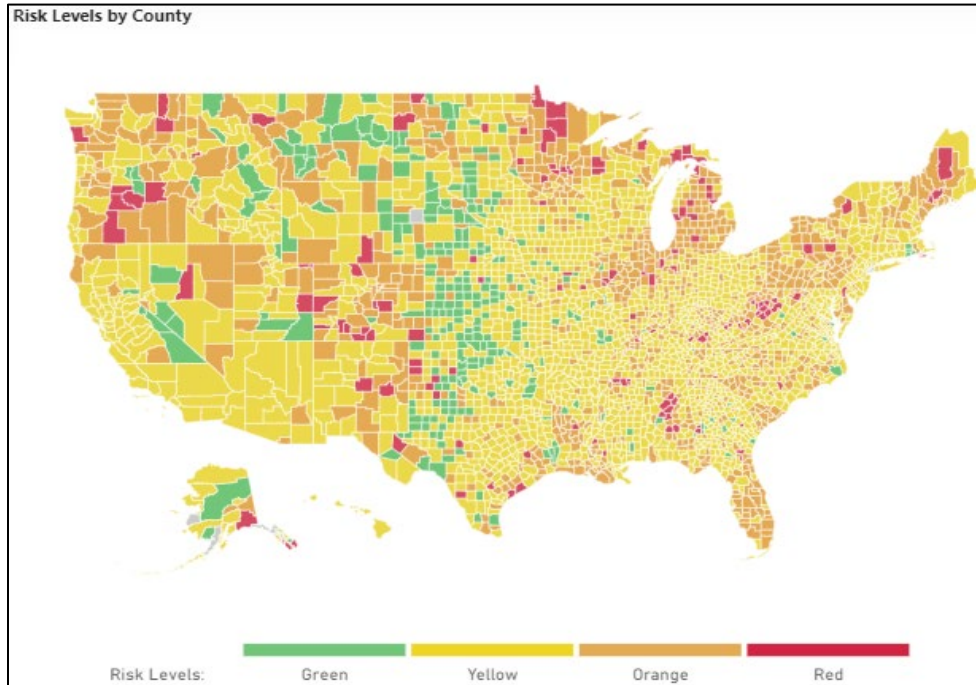


Figure 5 Activist activity in Canada by sector as noted by Welund.

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	33,833,181	+30,214	602,616	+659	27,358,651	5,871,914	102,214	1,821	470,118,034	1,420,285	
1	California	3,774,535	+1,676	62,813	+53	2,016,952	1,694,770	95,528	1,590	63,712,268	1,612,470	39,512,223
2	Virginia	671,916	+591	11,068	+20	55,739	605,109	78,720	1,297	9,641,350	1,129,556	8,535,519
3	New York	2,141,529	+1,806	53,341	+9	1,638,064	450,124	110,084	2,742	54,489,759	2,801,017	19,453,561
4	Maryland	457,084	+319	8,959	+2	10,574	437,551	75,605	1,482	10,179,040	1,683,688	6,045,680
5	Kentucky	454,609	+565	6,693	+15	52,401	395,515	101,755	1,498	6,523,276	1,460,106	4,467,673
6	Florida	2,302,489	+2,893	36,357	+70	1,907,722	358,410	107,204	1,693	28,796,839	1,340,776	21,477,737
7	Washington	428,323	+951	5,749	+16	209,794	212,780	56,248	755	6,882,431	903,812	7,614,893
8	Michigan	983,970	+1,570	20,013	+82	755,119	208,838	98,526	2,004	14,124,497	1,414,309	9,986,857
9	Rhode Island	150,948	+84	2,703		9,189	139,056	142,490	2,552	4,215,868	3,979,633	1,059,361
10	New Jersey	1,012,757	+561	26,053	+23	852,702	134,002	114,021	2,933	14,034,868	1,580,113	8,882,190
11	Georgia	1,118,308	+833	20,591	+22	975,702	122,015	105,328	1,939	9,161,397	862,864	10,617,423
12	Colorado	535,316	+952	6,618	+26	412,709	115,989	92,957	1,149	3,015,716	523,677	5,758,736
13	Idaho	190,900	+188	2,080	+6	110,338	78,482	106,823	1,164	1,325,479	741,707	1,787,065
14	Texas	2,939,816	+1,716	51,345	+44	2,813,211	75,260	101,387	1,771	29,658,508	1,022,852	28,995,881
15	Illinois	1,371,884	+1,542	24,913	+49	1,272,090	74,881	108,263	1,966	24,051,654	1,898,042	12,671,821

4.2 COVID-19 USA News

- [U.S. reports fewer than 30,000 cases for five straight days, with the nation averaging 1.8 million daily vaccinations](#)
- [Oregonians can go maskless outside, must show proof of vaccination to forgo masks indoors, state says](#)
- [Fauci says public is 'misinterpreting' latest CDC mask guidance](#)

Dr. Anthony Fauci on Wednesday said many Americans are "misinterpreting" the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest guidance advising that fully vaccinated people no longer needed to wear masks in most cases. Fauci told the news organization's co-founder Mike Allen the new federal guidance was "an assurance to those who are vaccinated that they can feel safe, be they outdoors or indoors." "I think people are misinterpreting, thinking that this is a removal of a mask mandate for everyone. It's not," Fauci said.

- [Employees at plant that ruined millions of J&J Covid vaccine doses failed to shower, change clothes](#)
- [Latin America poised to benefit as U.S. raises exports of COVID-19 shots](#)
- [Big gaps in vaccine rates across the US worry health experts](#)
- [New York reopens. Mask mandate is lifted for vaccinated people](#)
- [Texas Governor Resists CDC Guidelines, Bans Mask Mandates In Schools](#)

Gov. Greg Abbott announced Tuesday that public schools can no longer require masks on their campuses starting June 5. The decision was part of a new executive order that bans government entities in Texas — like cities and counties — from mandating masks in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. Abbott's move is the latest among similar state bans on local mask mandates, following orders from Republican governors this month in Florida and South Carolina.

- [European Union set to allow U.S. travelers as Covid restrictions lift](#)

4.3 USA Awareness

- [Biden, South Korea's Moon to discuss North Korea, China - White House](#)
- [U.S. Commerce chief holding meetings on chips shortage](#)
- [U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said Thursday she held meetings with three dozen senior industry leaders on a semiconductor chip shortage and said the United States could help boost transparency in the market. Asked if there was any action the Biden administration could take to address short-term auto production issues, Raimondo suggested it could help with demand forecasting and address a "lack of transparency" around the chips market and various sector needs.](#)
- [Oatly shares surge in U.S. market debut, valuing oatmilk maker at \\$13 bln](#)
- [Robinhood to allow users to buy into IPOs, ahead of its own market debut](#)
- [U.S. seeks to have cryptocurrency transfers above \\$10k reported to IRS - Treasury](#)
- [U.S. approves release of oldest Guantanamo prisoner — a 73-year-old man from Pakistan](#)
- [Betsy DeVos must testify in student loan forgiveness lawsuit, judge rules](#)

Former Education Secretary Betsy DeVos must testify in a class-action lawsuit about her handling of student loan forgiveness claims, which involved delays in the administration's decision-making and ultimate denial of a significant number of the applications, a federal judge ruled Wednesday. The lawsuit was brought by 160,000 student loan borrowers who claim they were defrauded by for-profit colleges and applied to the

Department of Education for student loan forgiveness. The department, however, implemented a 18-month halt to issuing final decisions, and once it began making them again, denial letters went out at an “alarming rate,” the judge wrote.

- [Ronald Greene: Bodycam footage shows violent arrest of unarmed black man in US who died in custody](#)
- [The death of a 17-year-old Asian American in her Colorado home is now being investigated as a hate crime](#)
- [US jobless claims fall again as some states end federal aid](#)

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



During the week of 13-20 May, the majority of activist activity in the US noted by Welund took place in the government sector (79%), followed by oil and gas (6%) and finance (4%). Protests made up most activity (71%), followed by marches (5%), car caravans (5%) and webinars (4%).

There was a focus on wrapping up activities related to company’s shareholder meetings. Blackrock was a large focus of activist campaigns during the meetings.

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.

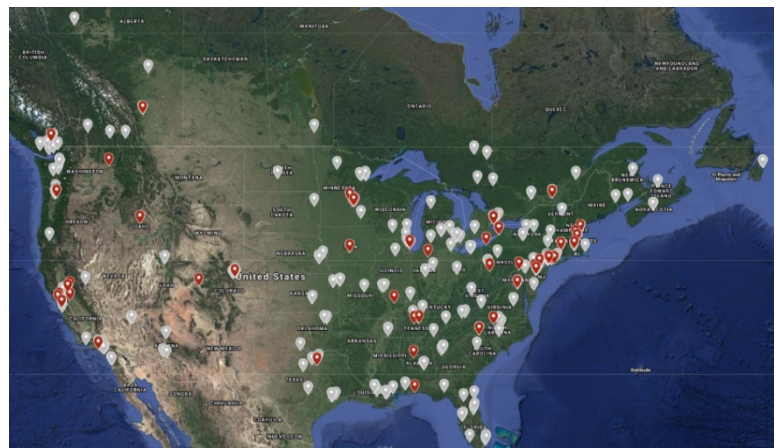
Welund observed an increase in solidarity protests and actions with activists in Colombia.

On 15 May, activists in Seattle held ‘autonomous actions’ in solidarity.

Analysts also noted continued pro-Israel and pro-Palestine protests across the US in relation to the ongoing conflict in the region.

On 18 May, Appalachians Against Pipelines held a direct action protest near Pembroke, Virginia to oppose against the Mountain Valley Pipeline. An activist sat inside a vehicle that was “broken down” on an access road to the MVP.

On 12 and 13 May, there were protests against Line 5 to ‘evict’ Enbridge in Michigan. Anti-Line 5 campaigners gathered at Line 5 transfer sites of the Mackinac Straits to “show solidarity in support of Tribal Leaders and State Officials protecting the Great Lakes” in Mackinaw and St. Ignace. 13 May was the deadline that Governor Whitmer gave Enbridge to shut down its pipelines.



Past (grey) and upcoming (red) protest activity as noted by Welund between 6-19 May.

Outlook:

On 5-8 June, anti-Line 3 campaigners will attend a ‘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 welcoming the what it claimed was the success of its 8 May event.

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

The perceived success of the second event has increased confidence within the WLM movement. The lack of arrests and limited counter-protests has provided organizers with a foundation for successful tactics, techniques, and strategies, to be

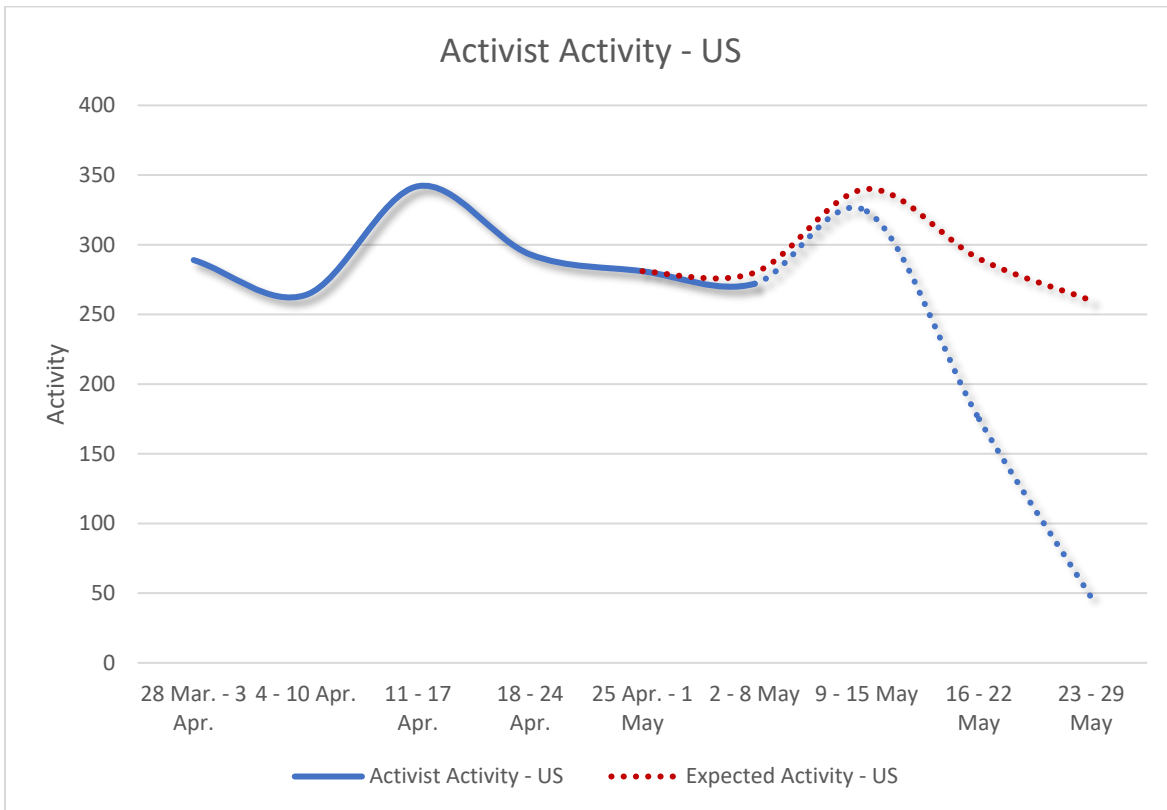


Figure 6 Total activist activity in the US as noted by Welund.

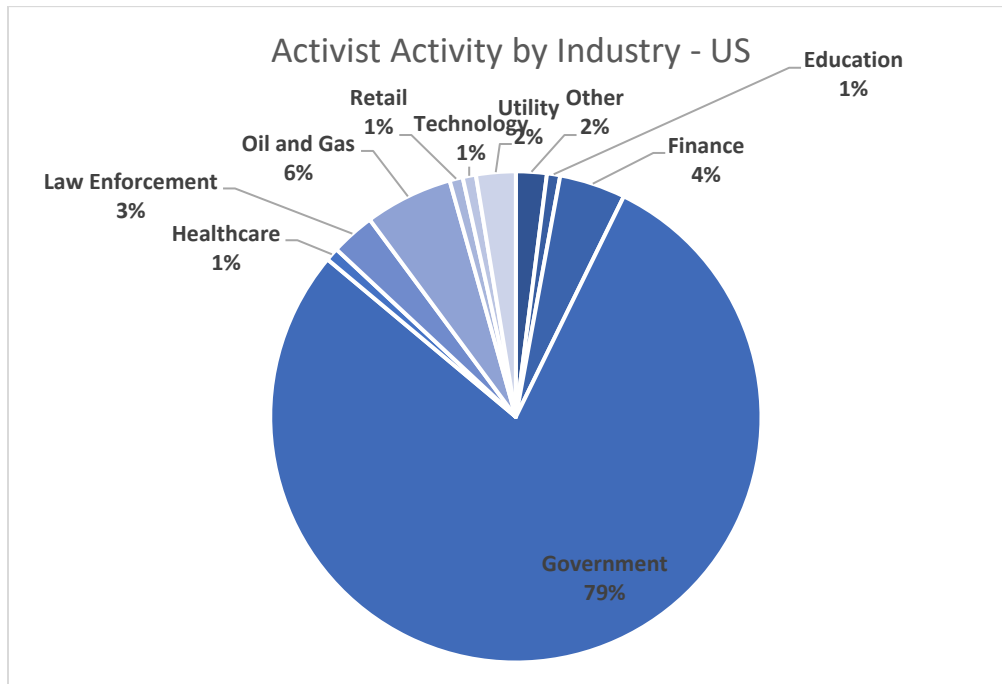


Figure 7 Activist activity in the US by industry as noted by Welund

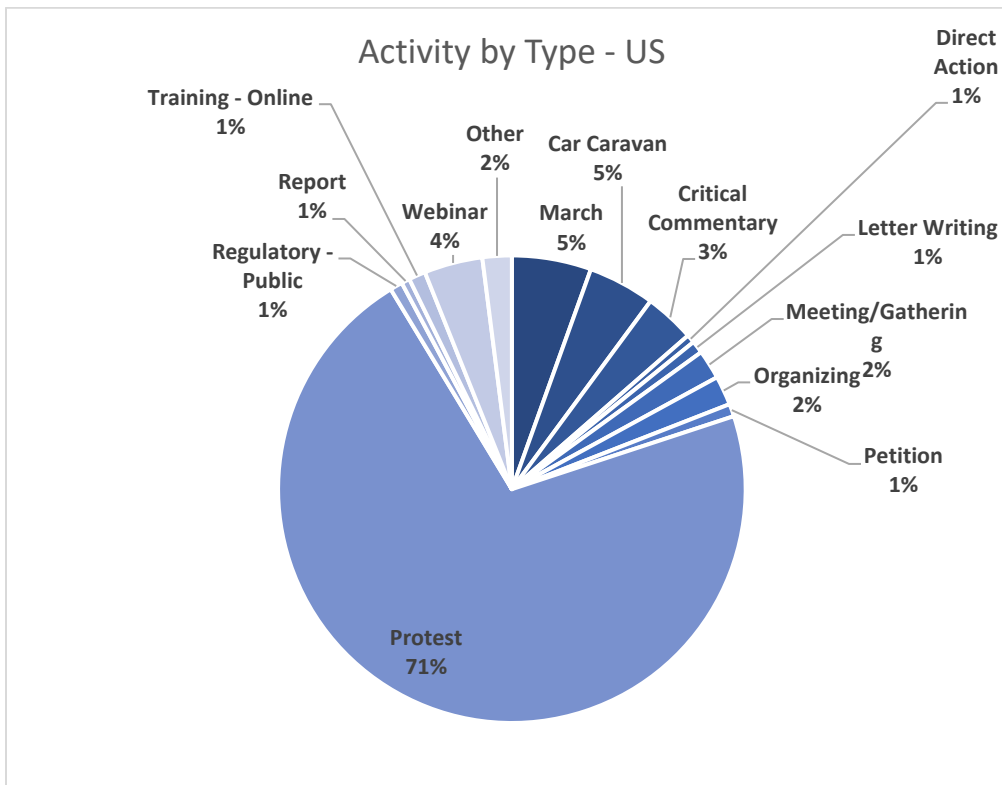


Figure 8 Activist activity in the US by type as noted by Welund.

End of Report

Please submit feedback to:

Scott McGregor, CD, BCom

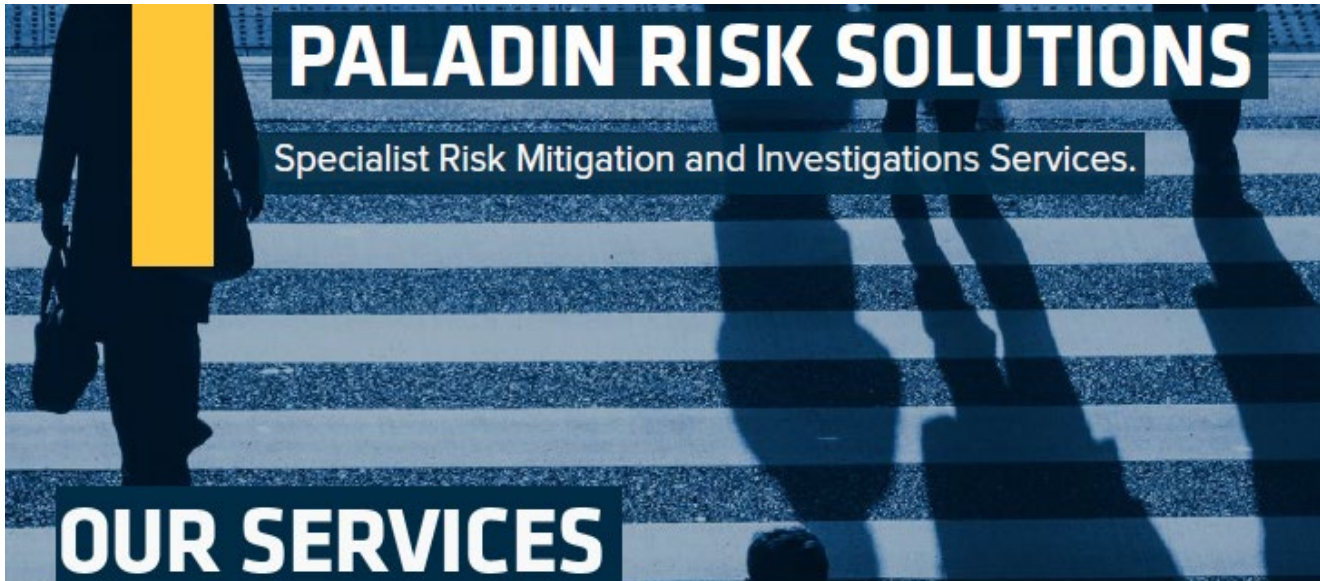
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5. PALADIN RISK SOLUTIONS - SERVICES



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