

SUMMARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brazil to face a heightened risk of terrorism ahead of and during the Games - Growing attention drawn to the government's capacity to mitigate terrorist threat - Increased likelihood of civil unrest over the coming weeks - Crime remains highest risk affecting foreigners during the Games 	Region	Brazil
		Key Risks	Terrorism, Civil Unrest
		Forecast Horizon	1-2 months
		Targets	Olympic venues, nearby infrastructure
		Risk Rating	21 (Heightened Security Concerns)

Brazil to face increased terrorism risk ahead of and during the Olympics

The focus given to the risk of terrorism in the upcoming 5-21 August Olympic Games and 7-18 September Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro will likely continue to increase. Even if a terrorist attack is not the main security risk to which visitors and athletes will be exposed to, growing attention is being placed on Brazil's capacity to mitigate its likelihood. On 15 July, the government announced it would review its security procedures ahead of the Games, underscoring the changing nature of the threat. The move came in the aftermath of the 14 July terrorist attack in the French city of Nice in which at least 84 people died after being run over by a truck. More checkpoints, barriers and some traffic restrictions could be added to the list of measures, which include the ongoing deployment of 85,000 security-force personnel. Although enhanced security operations and international intelligence sharing are expected to mitigate the risk of a large scale terrorist incident, the risk of a lone-wolf or small cell attack will persist. Crime and the potential for disruptive unrest will, however, remain the main threat throughout the Games.



Although the overall risk of terrorism in Brazil remains low, recent developments indicate that the threat has increased and should not be overlooked at least until the Paralympic Games end on 18 September. Already on 14 April the Brazilian Intelligence Agency (ABIN) stated it had confirmed the authenticity of a threat issued by Islamic State (IS) in November 2015 following the Paris attacks. The threat claimed Brazil was IS' next target. More recently, on 14 July a report was made public in which the French military intelligence stated it had been warned of a planned terror attack against France's Olympic team by a Brazilian Islamist militant. On 18 July reports emerged indicating that a local group identifying itself as Ansar al-Khilafah Brazil had pledged allegiance to IS on a Telegram channel. Should the veracity of the pledge be confirmed, it would become the first to be made from Latin America. The local group is alleged to have already made threats against the Games, while IS channels on Telegram have reportedly been translated into Spanish and Portuguese, increasing the risk of lone-wolf radicalisation through social media. IS has no known presence in Brazil nor there have been any recent terrorist attacks in the country. Nevertheless, its penetration through social media should not be underestimated.

Brazil is moving fast to convince the world that it is doing everything it possibly can to mitigate the Olympics' security risks. Police and soldiers began deploying on 5 July and will start patrolling venues on 24 July. On 19 July, reports indicated Brazilian authorities had rejected at least 11,000 Olympic accreditation requests, with 40 of them belonging to foreigners with alerts issued by international intelligence agencies and 4 of them having verified links with terrorist groups which were not disclosed. Airport security screening has also been stepped up and Rio's air space will be restricted ahead of and during the Games, between 24 July and 22 August and between 7-19 September. Although counter-terrorism measures are of the utmost importance, it should be kept in mind that security concerns do not only stem from the terror threat.

Timeline – recent incidents	
25 July	Police confirmed they were investigating a second group of potential terrorists allegedly trying to make contact with Islamic State (IS)
24 July	Authorities arrested a 12th terrorism suspect in Comodoro, Mato Grosso state.
21 July	Federal police arrested ten Brazilian terrorism suspects who had allegedly pledged allegiance to Islamic State (IS).
19 July	AKE increases security risk rating for Brazil in the lead up to the Olympics

The half a million foreign tourists expected to attend the Games will mostly be exposed to crime and potential civil unrest risks. Brazil's political and economic crises have strongly contributed to a worsened security environment which both Rio's and the federal government will have to continue to address. On 21 June interim President Michel Temer authorised a bailout of US\$849m for Rio de Janeiro state to be used for public security during the Olympics and Paralympics. The move came four days after Rio de Janeiro state declared a 'state of public calamity in financial administration' that according to officials could spark a 'total collapse' in public services. Indeed, on 27 June police officers launched a strike to protest against the late payment of salaries and a lack of basic necessities. Further police and firefighter demonstrations were observed on 4 July at Rio's main airport in which protesters threatened to strike during the Games. The announcement on 12 July of an additional US\$24m to help improve security highlights the government's commitment to avoid such scenario, which cannot be discarded.

The Olympic Games are a well-known opportunity to showcase the host country on the world stage. Brazil has manifold challenges in this respect. On purely a security perspective, foreign visitors will need to remain vigilant to increasing petty and violent crime rates across Rio. The potential for suspended President Dilma Rousseff's impeachment trial to come to an end during or between the Games also adds to the risk of unrest, which could also take the form of police and airport personnel strikes. Security operations and ad-hoc budgetary

provisions will indeed mitigate these risks, which will continue to pose the main threat despite the increased terrorism risk. Soft tourist-attended sites such as beaches, restaurants and hotels will likely remain most at risk, while crowds in the vicinity of Olympic venues and nearby infrastructure might also be targeted. Nevertheless, these areas will remain the focus of Brazil's security efforts which are expected to further mitigate the risks.