

Weekly Intelligence Brief

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Russia Assessed to be Supporting Iranian Airstrike Targeting

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Russia Desk**

Ukrainian intelligence has accused Russia of using satellites to create dozens of imagery surveys across the Middle East in support of Iranian airstrikes. These surveys identify military facilities and infrastructure such as airports and oil fields belonging to the United States (U.S.), Israel, and the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Qatar), among others.

The assessment claimed that there were 24 surveys in 11 Middle

Eastern nations from 21 to 31 MAR. These include nine surveys in Saudi Arabia, two in Turkey, Jordan, Kuwait, and the UAE, as well as one over Israel, Qatar, Iraq, Bahrain, and Diego Garcia, the joint United Kingdom (UK)–U.S. military base in the Indian Ocean. Following these surveys, American and allied military assets were targeted by Iranian strikes using ballistic missiles and drones.

The U.S. space-tracking firm Kayhan Space stated that orbital data indicated Russian satellites were repeatedly over parts of the Gulf region during the assessed time period. One Iranian strike targeted a U.S. E-3 Sentry AWACS aircraft at Prince Sultan Airbase in Saudi

Arabia, and Russian satellites allegedly took images of the location the days before and after the strike. There were also claims that Russian and Iranian hackers were collaborating inside the cyber domain as well.

We can assess with high confidence that it is likely Russia is helping to create target packages for Iranian air strikes through satellite imagery. We can also assess with moderate confidence that it is very likely Russia will continue to assist Iran with imagery intelligence if American strikes resume in the next two weeks.

Religiously Motivated Violence Across Northern Nigeria

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Africa Desk

Over Easter weekend, 03–06 APR, at least 33 people were killed, and hundreds of others kidnapped across northern Nigeria in a series of coordinated attacks on Christian communities.

On 05 APR, suspected Fulani militants launched attacks on Mbalom and Mbasombo in Benue State, killing 26 people. The same day, two churches in Ariko village, Kaduna State, were attacked, killing between five and seven people and

resulting in multiple kidnappings. The Nigerian army claims 31 people have since been rescued. However, this figure is disputed by both the Christian Association of Nigeria and its residents.

On 06 APR, two community watchmen were killed in Pwomol village in Plateau State, with one suspect arrested. The attacks follow the killing of at least 27 people on Palm Sunday (29 MAR) in Angwan Rukuba, a predominantly Christian neighborhood.

In Zamfara State, bandits kidnapped more than 150 people from rural

villages, primarily women and children. As of now, neither Boko Haram nor the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) has taken credit for the killings and kidnappings.

We assess with high confidence that it is likely that violence targeting Christian communities in northern Nigeria will continue to escalate in the near term. We can also assess with moderate confidence that it is likely that if more rebel factions emerge, the likelihood of further destabilization of the Nigerian government will increase.

Mexico Advances to Top 20 for Foreign Investment

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On 09 APR, Mexico climbed six places, from 25th to 19th, in Kearney's 2026 Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index (FDICI), consolidating its position as one of the two fastest-growing markets in the world ranking. The United States (U.S.) and Canada, its two North American trade partners, ranked first and second.

The FDICI conducted by Kearney, a leading global management consulting firm, is an annual survey of global business executives that ranks

markets most likely to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) over the next three years. The 2026 index reflects a global investment environment shaped by intensifying geopolitical tensions, expanding industrial policy, and accelerating technological competition. Gerardo Rocha, managing partner of Kearney Mexico, stated that the improvement can be attributed to a "favorable inertia driven by the reconfiguration of supply chains."

Rocha further stated that Mexico maintains competitive advantages over other nations, although certain challenges must be overcome to convert this confidence into reality.

One of these challenges is technological innovation, where Mexico was found to rank at the bottom of this indicator within the top 25. As such, Mexico is strengthening investment incentives and increasing competitiveness, particularly focused on technological innovation. Though Mexico has challenges when it comes to technological innovation, it continues to prove its prominence in global trade, even with the current geopolitical atmosphere.

We can assess with high confidence that it is likely that Mexico will continue to prove its prominence as a key player in global trade.

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