

[EXTRACT]

## Look before you leap: 2012 global security hotspots revealed

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Risk analysis from a global security specialist suggests that 2012 is likely to witness ongoing civil unrest, political instability and change, and increased danger of terrorist activity.

Organised on a region-by-region basis, red24's *Threat Forecast* aims to help clients prepare for potentially disruptive and dangerous developments, such as those linked to the ongoing effects of last year's Arab Spring, which caught many off guard, and Europe's ongoing sovereign debt crisis. It notes that both of these will continue to have "significant global implications" in 2012.

Across Africa, last spring's rebellions are likely to inspire growing opposition to authoritarian regimes, with Equatorial Guinea, Angola and Uganda particularly vulnerable, buoyed by high unemployment and rising income inequalities following increased commodity prices.

For the north as a whole, the instability following 2011's actions is likely to persist, as popular dissatisfaction with the pace of reform fuels opposition movements. The outlook for Nigeria is particularly bleak, according to red24, with a civil war or military coup possible, and Nigeria taking the number four spot in the top ten threat areas for kidnap for ransom, extortion and piracy, with the threat now extending beyond the Delta region.

For Europe, the sovereign debt crisis and associated austerity programmes will generate unrest throughout 2012, and are likely to fuel an increase in extremism. The London 2012 Olympics could also become a focus for a variety of security threats, including from anti-capitalist, Islamist militants and dissident Republicans. In Russia, the growing reform movement and rising nationalism will be the background to the presidential elections, which Vladimir Putin looks set to win.

"In 2011, the world witnessed extraordinary global developments," say the report's authors. "It was a year that underlined the value of accurate political and security analysis, forecasting and security assistance, a year that highlighted the critical nature of security planning and travel security arrangements."

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Source: Re:Locate Magazine website (2 February 2012)

<http://www.relocatemagazine.com/international-assignments/international-assignment-news-main/3692-look-before-you-leap-2012-global-security-hotspots-revealed>