

Streamlining Security Operations Amidst Geopolitical Turmoil

When geostrategic crises erupt, the risks to multinational corporations can be complex and unpredictable. While geopolitical conflict undoubtedly has had major repercussions on the global economy that will trickle down to every business, the full effect of these ramifications on employees, executives and assets later down the line are still unknown.

A **2022 survey by EY** of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) stated “geopolitical tensions as the most critical risk to their future growth strategies.” Threats like geopolitical crises, trade policy, and supply chain disruption increase businesses’ operational risks. They are becoming more of a priority not only for the C-suite but also for corporate security teams.

Whether you have an executive traveling to a foreign country with a high probability of conflict or political unrest near one of your facilities, failure to prepare for global shocks can have drastic consequences for business operations.

In the **2022 Mid-Year Outlook State of Protective Intelligence Report**, 31% of respondents selected increased physical threats and company backlash related to geopolitical, activism and social issues as areas of concern for their physical security program this year. The survey concluded that physical security programs are shifting to a heavier focus on global risk concerns compared to local security issues.

These concerns manifest in many forms, such as a corporation with a distributed workforce being “flagged” in a particular country or an organization’s supply chain lines running through various countries – all with unique governance issues – becoming stretched thin, allowing for more risks to enter.

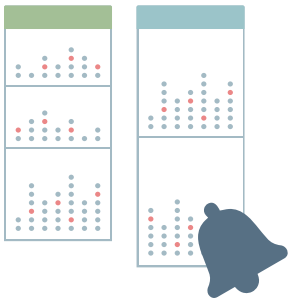
Numerous risks cause security leaders to be tasked with managing multiple priorities of work within an uncertain (and constantly changing) environment. A perpetual state of volatility impacts the ways businesses operate and their ability to plan and mitigate risks. So, how can security teams better anticipate and, therefore, better prepare for potential hazards caused by global events to protect their people, operations, and bottom line?



2022 Mid-Year Outlook State of Protective Intelligence Report

The Importance of Situational Awareness During Global Chaos

With new information pouring in from different angles every day, it's becoming increasingly difficult for security leaders to decide which transnational threats should be prioritized and which can be dealt with later. Situational awareness tools help observe the threat landscape on a global scale and recognize potential risks in real-time – capturing critical signals from multiple sources, including weather, social media, geo risks, human intelligence, and technology systems. By understanding what events are on the horizon and visualizing their proximity to employees, assets, and virtual assets, teams can collaborate and take proactive steps to mitigate the potential impact of a threat.



DETECT

See suspicious activity and critical signals through the noise with real-time curation and alerts



UNDERSTAND

Bring together data, people and processes to develop advanced understanding and gain context to support seamless communication





ACT

Ensure a coordinated response with connected work flows to activate operations and facilitate action

Having a **situational awareness tool** that lives within your risk management platform takes threat detection capabilities to the next level by providing a central source of truth with all your data in one view – which is critical during times of heightened global risk. With these systems in play, your organization can better forecast impending vulnerabilities so you can fill intelligence gaps. This helps businesses avoid supply chain disruptions, comply with sanctions, keep employees in countries with conflict safe, or even help manage reputational risk associated with these crises.

Here are some common objectives that are typical for **corporate security** teams to strive for and how a modern cloud-based platform, like Ontic, can assist in streamlining operational efficiency to protect your organization from employee safety and supply chain concerns during times of global chaos.

 FUTURE STATE OF PROGRAM	 BUSINESS OUTCOMES
One central destination for your entire security program and team collaboration	Increased visibility of potential threats and the ability to assess their severity
Modernized cloud solution to store data, collect research and investigate threats	A holistic picture of the threat landscape and on-going monitoring
Cross-functional collaboration and communication for the security team and across the organization	More actionable signals and timely cross-functional communication
A full picture of the threat landscape tied to actionable workflows for a coordinated response	Greater clarity on how people, information and activities are connected

While having the **right technology** in place is essential, there are a few other tactics corporate protectors can put into practice when mitigating ongoing risks. On a practical level, here are a few suggestions to consider:

6 Practical Considerations For Security Teams



- 01 Understand which risks are key priorities and their requirements
- 02 Ensure collective monitoring exists among “risk groups”
- 03 Utilize the above in table tops/red teaming in conjunction with business continuity
- 04 Don’t assume everyone is on the same page; make opportunities for people involved in risk to talk
- 05 Establish common operating information to create a common operating environment
- 06 Assure everyone understands the threat and their place in managing it: observe, monitor, react, support, or stand by

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