

## México



**Head of State:** President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (2018-2024)

**Capital:** Mexico City

**Population:** 129 million inhabitants

**Independence Day:** September 15, 1810

**Currency:** Mexican peso

The word Mexico comes from the Nahuatl Mēxihco, which means the navel of the moon. The official name is the United Mexican States (Estados Unidos Mexicanos). It is the

fourteenth largest country in the world, with an area of nearly 2 million square kilometers. It is the eleventh most populated country in the world. The native language is Spanish, which coexists with 67 indigenous languages. Mexico is a unique country providing visitors with a wide variety of choices. The country ranks first in the Americas and eight worldwide in the number of [World Heritage Sites](#); considered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to be “of outstanding universal value” and include the historic downtown of Zacatecas, Puebla, Campeche, Oaxaca and Mexico City among others.

Mexico has an incredible diversity of landscape where its beautiful world-famous beaches stand out. In its more than 9000 kilometers of coast, there are beaches of singular beauty. A large network of hotels and tourist services of first category are available for visitors to these beaches. Among the beaches that, for their natural attractions and diversity, receive a large number of visitors are Acapulco, Cancun, Playa del Carmen, Puerto Vallarta, Huatulco, Los Cabos, The Riviera Maya and Rivera Nayarit, among others.

### Did you know...

#### Mexican Independence Day

Is one of the most important historical events that marks the beginning of the struggle for Mexico's independence and is commemorated every September 15<sup>th</sup>. The Independence movement began when Priest Miguel Hidalgo incited the people of Dolores to take up arms against the Viceroyalty, summoning them by ringing the bells of his parish and eloquently shouting the reasons why they could not wait without participating in this struggle. That is why this event is called "[El Grito](#)".

#### Day of the Dead

This [celebration](#) seeks to bring people closer to their loved ones who are no longer on the earthly plane, with beautiful altars, abundant food, cemeteries with music, *catrinas*, sweet skulls, cempasúchil flowers, *alebrijes*, pan de muerto, everything is part of an important tradition that aims to always keep in mind those who have gone before us.

#### World's Largest Producer of Avocado

Mexico is the top avocado grower in the world, accounting for 29.7% of the global production. According to recent data from [Statistica.com](#), in 2022 avocado production in Mexico was 2.54 million metric tons. Most of the avocados are grown in the Mexican state of Michoacán.

#### Largest Pyramid in the World

[The Great Pyramid of Cholula](#), located in the city of Cholula in Puebla, Mexico, is the largest pyramid in the world. It is an ancient temple with a base four times larger than the Giza Pyramid in Egypt, and almost double the volume.

#### Mariachi

A [style of music](#) that originated in Mexico. It is often heard throughout the country. Since the 1930s, the mariachi has been widely considered the quintessential Mexican folk-derived musical ensemble and has become an institution symbolic of Mexican music and culture. Mariachi groups are currently found in many countries around the world.

*We express our appreciation and gratitude to the Consulate General of Mexico in Miami for their contribution.*

SEPTEMBER 2023

Division Director's Message



**U. Desmond Alufohai**  
Director

Protocol & International Affairs Division  
Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)

Welcome to September. The ninth month of the calendar year ushers in Autumn. Before the Julian and Gregorian calendars, September was the 7<sup>th</sup> month of the Roman calendar. “Septem” means seven in Latin. There were only ten months before 700 BC, when Numa Pompilius added January and February to the calendar, and it became the 9<sup>th</sup> month. September is the only month with the same number of letters in its name as its numerical place on the calendar.

I am certain that you will enjoy our featured country – Mexico, and learn about its people, culture, incredibly diverse landscape, and world-famous beaches. We welcome to our community, Consul General Michele Mistò, Consulate General of the Republic of Italy in Miami, Consul General Lisette den Breems, Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Miami, Consul General Maria Virginia Tebot Denis, Consulate General of the Republic of Uruguay in Miami, and TSA's new Federal Security Director Mr. Stephen Tabor.

We celebrate this year's National Hispanic Heritage Month with Hispanic Americans for their significant contributions to the country's culture, economy, and society and we salute all nations celebrating their independence and national days.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Mr. Don Slesnick HCG of Australia in Miami for the loss of his beloved wife. As always, please be safe!

#### Inside this Edition

Mexico	1
Diplomatic & Consular Relations	2
Briefs and Notes	4
Independence and National Days	7
About Us	7

# DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

## Meet the New Consul General of Italy in Miami



**Michele Mistò, Ph.D.**, Counsellor of the Italian Embassy, is the new Consul General of Italy in Miami. He was born in Como, Italy on October 21, 1974. He attended the University of Trieste, where he obtained a degree in International and Diplomatic Sciences, November 8, 1999. He also graduated from the University of Geneva and University of Lausanne where he obtained his Magister Legum (LL.M.) in International Economic Law and European Union law. He obtained a post-doctorate degree (Ph.D.) in Comparative Public Law, from the University of Siena in 2007.

Following a competitive examination, he was appointed Secretary of legation in the diplomatic career on probationary period, on December 29, 2003. At the Diplomatic Institute, he attended professional training course «Costantino Nigra», from December 29, 2003 - September 28, 2004. (In application of the Director General for European Countries, Office III and the D-G for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation, Office V).

Consul General Mistò was confirmed in office on September 29, 2004, and appointed Secretary of Legation as the Director General for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation, Office V, on September 29, 2004. He also served in the following capacities: Second Secretary of Trade in Copenhagen, April 24, 2006; Confirmed in the same post as First Secretary of Trade, December 29, 2007; Confirmed in Copenhagen as First Secretary, April 29, 2010; First Secretary of Trade in Podgorica, May 21, 2010; Head of the Secretariat of the General Inspectorate of the Ministry and of the Offices abroad, May 14, 2014. He served as the Counsellor of Legation, from July 2, 2014 until 2015.

From November 2015 to May 2016, he attended the professional refresher courses for Counsellors of Legation provided in Article 51, paragraph 1, letter A) of Law n. 96, June 4, 2010, organized by the Director General for Resources and Innovation: Head of the Secretariat of the D-G for Resources and Innovation, January 15, 2019; Counsellor of Embassy, July 2, 2020; First Counsellor in Moscow, Russia, February 12, 2021; Head of the Secretariat of the D-G for Resources and Innovation, August 23, 2022. He was appointed Consul General of the Consulate General of the Republic of Italy in Miami, on August 4, 2023.

Consul General Mistò is recipient of the following national accolades and commendations:

- \* Commander of the Royal Order of the Dannebrog (Denmark), 2011.
- \* Medal of Merit of the Presidency of Montenegro for the contribution to the development of bilateral relations, 2015.
- \* Knight of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, 2020.

## Meet the New Consul General of the Kingdom The Netherlands in Miami



**Ms. Lisette den Breems**, is the new Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Miami. Ms. Lisette den Breems assumed her duties as Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Miami on August 14, 2023.

She began her diplomatic career with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2000, holding various positions such as Second Secretary at the Embassy in Bogotá /Colombia, First Secretary at the Embassy in London/UK, Deputy Head of the Migration and Development Division, Stabilization and Humanitarian Aid Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Hague/Netherlands, and most recently, as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy in Santiago de Chile/Chile.

Ms. den Breems studied Communicative Arabic at the school of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London and holds a Master of Arts in Cultural Anthropology and Sociology of Non-Western Societies from the University of Leiden and a Propaedeuse in Environmental Studies from the University of

Wageningen.

She is accompanied in Miami by her husband, a retired Navy Captain and their son.

## In Memoriam



We are sad to announce the passing of **Ms. Jeannett Slesnick**, spouse of the Honorary Consul of Australia in Miami, Don Slesnick. Ms. Jeannett, passed from this life on August 3, 2023, after a 10-year battle with lymphoma and breast cancer. Don and Jeannett enjoyed a 54-year marriage.

Ms. Jeannett was a former City Commissioner of Coral Gables, Florida. She was very supportive and active in many community organizations. She participated in numerous events organized by the Consular Corps of Miami. She always prepared the wonderful gift basket full of Australian wine and delicacies for the Consular Corps of Miami's annual holiday party and luncheon.

She will surely be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

# DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

## Meet the New Consul General of the Consulate General of the Republic of Uruguay in Miami



**Ms. Maria Virginia Tebot Denis** is the new Consul General of the Consulate General of the Republic of Uruguay in Miami. Consul General Tebot Denis was born on May 5, 1987.

She started her career as a diplomat in 2011 when she was hired in the Uruguayan Foreign Service. She was appointed the Head of Secretariat to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in 20023, prior to her arrival in Miami. She was promoted to the rank of First Secretary of the Foreign Service in 2022 and she served as the Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2021 - 2023.

From 2020-2021, Consul General Tebot Denis served at the Directorate of Multilateral Affairs, responsible for all matters related to Disarmament and International Security, Terrorism, Organized Crime and Corruption. She was appointed as the District Consul of the Republic of Uruguay in Madrid, Spain from 2013 - 2019.

In 2021, Consul General Tebot Denis obtained her Law degree from the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences, University of the Republic. Additionally, she completed the following training courses

and workshops:

- \* Chemical Weapons Convention, aimed at Personnel of National Authorities and Relevant Stakeholders of the Spanish-Speaking States Parties of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (2020).
- \* The European Union: Functioning and Relations with Uruguay (2021).
- \* Commercial Intelligence Course in the Foreign Trade Representation by the International Trade Center April 2013
- \* International Migration Management for Government Officials given by the IOM (March - October 2013).
- \* Human Rights and Migration. IOM. (2011).
- \* Human Trafficking from the Government Official's perspective, and OAS Permanent Representation in Uruguay (2013).

Consul General Tebot Denis is fluent in Spanish, English, and French. She is married, and they have a son, named Lorenzo.

## Meet the New Federal Security Director for TSA at Miami International Airport



**Mr. Stephen Taber** was recently appointed as the Federal Security Director (FSD) for the Miami International Airport, Domestic Aviation Operations, Security Operations, Transportation Security Administration (TSA). In this role he leads a workforce of over 1,500 employees and oversees all TSA operations to include the largest international cargo operations in the United States. Most recently he was the Division Director for the Resource Management Office in Security Operations (SO). In that role he was responsible for leadership and overall program management for Human Resources, Logistics and Procurement, the \$6 billion operating budget for Security Operations worldwide, and he directly supported the Security Operations Senior Leadership Team.

Previously he served as the FSD for the State of Oregon. In that role, Mr. Taber oversaw all aspects of TSA operations in all modes of transportation, to include leading a workforce of 750 employees at 5 airports throughout the State of Oregon. During this time, he also served as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Oregon Federal Executive Board for two years.

Mr. Taber joined TSA in 2002 and he has held progressively higher leadership positions from Transportation Security Manager to Deputy Federal Security Director and served on multiple committees to include as the Co-Chair of the National Advisory Council III. Prior to the TSA,

Mr. Taber was in the United States Army for nine years, and then worked as a Senior Manager for a Fortune 500 corporation. He left this role to join the TSA.

Mr. Taber has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business, became a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute in October 2012. He received the TSA Honorary Award for Leadership in 2013, and he was selected as the 2018 Deputy Federal Security Director of the Year for Region 5. Mr. Taber was also recognized as the Federal Security Director of the Year for the 2020 TSA Honorary Awards.

# BRIEFS & NOTES

## More Accolades for Miami International Airport



**#1**  
IN CUSTOMER  
SATISFACTION  
WITH LARGE  
AIRPORTS

Miami International Airport (MIA) scored two outstanding wins on the national stage. In the [J.D. Power 2023 North America Airport Satisfaction Study<sup>SM</sup>](#) released on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 [MIA was ranked the best mega airport in Florida](#) and 4<sup>th</sup> best among the busiest airports in the U.S. and Canada. The ranking was based on 27,147 traveler surveys within the last 12 months in six factors (in order of importance): terminal facilities; arrival/departure; baggage claim; security check; check-in/baggage check; and food, beverage, and retail.

Most notably, MIA ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in food, beverage, and retail, 4<sup>th</sup> in baggage claim, 5<sup>th</sup> in terminal facilities, and 6<sup>th</sup> in the arrival/departure experience. Mega airports are defined as those with 33 million or more passengers per year. Just two years ago, MIA ranked #1 in the J.D. Power study. Even more impressive is that MIA jumped from 9<sup>th</sup> place last year to 4<sup>th</sup> place this year while also being the fastest-growing U.S. airport serving more than 30 million passengers since 2019, according to Airports Council International-North America ([ACI-NA Industry Metrics, Summer 2023, page 24](#)). Also last week, a study by [PlanetWare](#) found that [MIA had the shortest average wait time for security](#) of any Florida airport and the 6<sup>th</sup>-shortest average wait time in the U.S., at 10.4 minutes.

## Miami International Airport Celebrates its 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



On September 15, 2023, MIA celebrated its 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. MIA is a leading economic engine for Miami-Dade County and for the State of Florida with an overall impact of nearly \$32 billion annually. Aviation and its related activities are responsible for over 275,000 direct and indirect jobs. In MIA's cargo sector, imports/exports in 2022 increased 7 percent for a combined trade value of over \$73 billion. Total passenger volume in 2022 was 50.6 million. Among U.S. Airports, MIA ranked, in 2022, as 1<sup>st</sup> in international freight, 2<sup>nd</sup> in international passengers, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in total cargo (Freight + Mail).

MIA dates back to 95 years ago in 1928, when Pan American Airways shifted their operation from Key West to Miami. Pan American had originally established their headquarters in Key West simply because it was the closest point in the U.S. to Cuba. Pan American Field started operations in September 1928. The new airport was constructed with a modern terminal building, two hard surfaced runways, concrete aprons and two hangar buildings. Miami's first terminal was ahead of its time, with separate waiting rooms for arriving and departing passengers, offices, a restaurant, pilot facilities, customs, immigration and a public health office.

The first scheduled flight from the airport was made by a Pan Am twin-engine Sikorsky S-38 amphibian aircraft piloted by Captain Edwin Musick on September 15, 1928. Musick departed Pan American Field loaded with 340 pounds of mail and two passengers and headed south, bound for Key West, where its mail and passengers were transferred to a Fokker F-7 tri-motor aircraft for the final leg to Havana. This event marked the first scheduled flight and the beginning of regular scheduled service from what is now MIA. Two months later this flight would eliminate the stop at Key West and fly direct from Miami to Havana utilizing the new Fokker F-7.

## September in Aviation History

**September 1, 1921 (USA):** President Warren Harding authorizes the creation of the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics, with Rear Admiral Moffett as its chief. After World War I, aviation became an integral part of the traditional seagoing navy. The creation of a dedicated naval aviation service, the Bureau of Aeronautics, in 1921 led to the expansion of aircraft roles to dive-bombing and fighter pursuit. The Bureau of Aeronautics was the U.S. Navy's material-support organization for naval aviation from 1921 to 1959. The bureau had "cognizance" (i.e., responsibility) for the design, procurement, and support of naval aircraft and related systems. Aerial weapons, however, were under the cognizance of the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance.

**September 1, 1928 (Canada/USA):** Montréal, Canada, and New York are linked by airmail and passenger service when Colonial Air Transport starts scheduled operations.

**September 11, 1920 (USA):** Edison Mouton flies into Marina Field, San Francisco, to complete the first US transcontinental airmail flight. Having left from New York, it took Mouton and his crew over 75 hours to complete the flight.

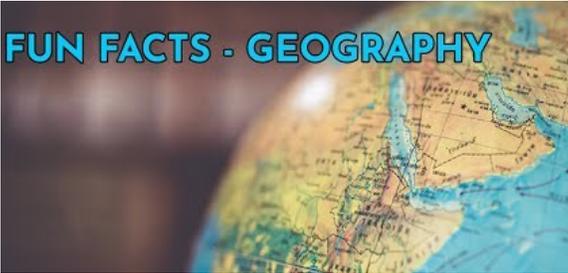
**September 12, 1934:** Hawker Aircraft Company test pilot Flying Officer Phillip Edward Gerald Sayer made the first flight of the Gloster G.37, a prototype fighter for the Royal Air Force, designed to reach a speed of 250 miles per hour (402 kilometers per hour) while armed with four machine guns.

**September 11, 2001 (USA):** The September 11 attacks (called September 11, September 11<sup>th</sup> or 9/11), were a series of four coordinated suicide attacks by al-Qaeda on the U.S. on Tuesday, September 11, 2001. On that morning, 19 al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four passenger jets. The hijackers intentionally crashed two planes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, killing everyone on board and thousands of those working in the buildings. A third plane crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. Hijackers had redirected the fourth plane toward Washington, D.C., targeting either the Capitol Building or the White House, but crashed it in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania after passengers tried to take control of the plane. There were no survivors from any of the flights. Nearly 3,000 victims and the 19 hijackers died in the attacks. Among the 2,753 victims who died in the attacks on the World Trade Center were 343 firefighters and 60 police officers from New York City and the Port Authority, and 8 private emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Another 184 people were killed in the attack on the Pentagon. The overwhelming majority of casualties were civilians, including nationals of over 70 countries.

Sources: [TSA History: How 9/11 changed travel forever.](#)

# BRIEFS & NOTES

## Amazing Geographic Facts



Below are some interesting facts about our extraordinary planet:

### **Mauna Kea is higher than Mount Everest.**

Mount Everest is the tallest mountain above sea level, but when it comes to the tallest mountain on the planet, that honor goes to Mauna Kea. Over the sea, [Mauna Kea](#) rises to 4207 meters. But if you count from its base at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, it reaches 10,006 meters – 915 meters or nearly one mile higher than Mount Everest.

### **Iceland is growing by 5 centimeters per year.**

The area of [Iceland](#), divided by North American and European tectonic plates, increases by almost 5 centimeters annually as the plates move away from each other. As the Americas move westward, the Pacific Ocean shrinks (2-3 cm per year). Every year Asia and America are getting closer to each other!

### **There are 11 time zones in Russia (total time zones in the world – 24).**

Thus, when a Russian in one part of the country wakes up at 7 a.m., someone in another part of the country sits down to lunch. [Day-light saving time](#) (DST) has not been used in Russia since October 26, 2014. From March 27, 2011 to October 26, 2014, permanent DST was used.

### **Alaska is the westernmost and easternmost state in the United States.**

You can think of [Alaska](#) as the westernmost state in the United States, especially when looking at a map. Because it extends into the [Eastern Hemisphere](#), it is technically both the westernmost and easternmost state in the United States, as well as also being the northernmost!

### **Los Angeles and San Francisco may someday become neighboring cities.**

[The San Andreas Fault](#) in California “swallows” almost 5 centimeters of land every year. The fault is associated with earthquakes reaching a magnitude of 9 and causing surface displacements of the earth’s crust. Los Angeles City Hall is now more than 15 feet closer to San Francisco than when it was built in 1926. Scientists project that it should be located in the suburbs of San Francisco in approximately 15 million years.

### **The Philippines consists of several thousand islands.**

The Philippines archipelago consists of 7641 islands – several hundred more than previously thought. These South Pacific islands were named after King Philip II of Spain. The country’s largest island, Luzon, covers over 60 square kilometers. It is the world's fifth largest [island country](#). The archipelago is around 800 kilometers (500 miles) from the Asian mainland and is located between [Taiwan](#) and [Borneo](#). The Philippine archipelago is divided into three [Island groups](#): [Luzon](#), the [Visayas](#), and [Mindanao](#).

### **Russia and China border on 14 countries of the world.**

Looking at the map, Russia could swallow all of China. However, both countries share borders with 14 other countries. Russia (including the Kaliningrad region) borders with Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, North Korea, Norway, Poland, and Ukraine. China shares borders with Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Vietnam.

### **Three countries are landlocked and border only one country.**

Lesotho, San Marino, and the Vatican are the only countries surrounded by the territory of another state. Lesotho is located entirely within South Africa, while San Marino and the Vatican are in Italy.

### **The Sargasso Sea has no shores.**

This is the only sea in the world without shores. The Sargasso Sea is in the North Atlantic Ocean. It is surrounded by four ocean currents, with no coastline. Unlike all other regions called [seas](#), it has no land boundaries. It is distinguished from other parts of the Atlantic Ocean by its characteristic brown [Sargassum](#) seaweed and often calm blue water. The sea is bounded on the west by the [Gulf Stream](#), on the north by the [North Atlantic Current](#), on the east by the [Canary Current](#), and on the south by the [North Atlantic Equatorial Current](#), the four together forming a clockwise-circulating system of ocean currents termed the [North Atlantic Gyre](#).

### **Sudan has more ancient pyramids than Egypt.**

The Egyptian pyramids of Giza can be considered one of the wonders of the world, but there are almost twice as many pyramids in Sudan. [Sudan](#) has 200-255 known pyramids built for the Kushite kingdoms of Nubia, compared with 138 Egyptian pyramids.

[Source](#)

## BRIEFS & NOTES

### HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH September 15 to October 15

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually in the United States from September 15 to October 15. This month-long celebration honors the histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic Americans, whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

The month of September was chosen for Hispanic Heritage Month because it marks the independence days of several Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on September 15th, Mexico on September 16th, and Chile on September 18th. Hispanic

Heritage Month also encompasses Columbus Day, which is celebrated on the second Monday in October.

Hispanic Americans are the largest minority group in the United States, and they have made significant contributions to the country's culture, economy, and society. Hispanic Americans have excelled in all fields, including business, government, education, the arts, and sciences. During Hispanic Heritage Month, Americans come together to celebrate the rich diversity of the Hispanic community. Community organizations, schools, businesses, and government agencies host a variety of events, including festivals, art shows, concerts, and educational programs. Hispanic Heritage Month began as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968. It was expanded to a month-long celebration in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan. Hispanic Heritage Month starts on September 15<sup>th</sup>, which is the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Hispanic Heritage Month also includes the independence days of Mexico (September 16th) and Chile (September 18th). Hispanic Americans are the largest minority group in the United States, making up over 18% of the population. The first Hispanic American to win a Nobel Prize was Gabriela Mistral, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1945. [Click Here to view President Biden's Proclamation on National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2023.](#)

[Source](#)



Each year the [International Day of Peace](#) (IDP) is observed around the world on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. Never has our world needed peace more. This year's theme is Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals. It is a call to action that recognizes our individual and collective responsibility to foster peace. Fostering peace contributes to the realization of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will create a culture of peace for all.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said, "Peace is needed today more than ever. War and conflict are unleashing devastation, poverty, and hunger, and driving tens of millions of people from their homes. Climate chaos is all around. And even peaceful countries are gripped by gaping inequalities and political polarization." According to the [Geneva Academy](#) (Academy of Humanitarian Law and Human Rights), there are about 110 armed conflicts in the world: Middle east and North Africa = 45; Sub-Saharan Africa = 35; Asia = 21; Europe = 7; and Latin America = 6. The [Council on Foreign Relations](#), reports that 237,000 people, are estimated to have died around the world as a consequence of organized armed conflict in 2022, while [Amnesty International](#), stated that more than 89.2 million people were forcibly displaced by the end of 2021 due to conflict, violence, persecution and human rights violations.

### National Suicide Prevention Week September 10 - 16, 2023

National Suicide Prevention Week began with World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) recognizes the entire month of September as National Suicide Prevention Month: a moment in time in which we rally the public to create awareness of this leading cause of death and inspire more and more people to learn how they can play a role in their communities in helping to save lives. Below are some global and national stats about suicide.

**Global Suicide Facts:** According to the [International Association for Suicide Prevention](#) (IASP), an estimated 703,000 people die by suicide worldwide each year. Over one in every 100 deaths (1.3%) in 2019 were the result of suicide. The global suicide rate is over twice as high among men than women. Over half (58%) of all deaths by suicide occur before the age of 50. Suicide occurs across all regions in the world, however, over three quarters (77%) of global suicides in 2019 occurred in low- and middle-income countries. An individual suffering with depression is twenty times more likely to die by suicide than someone without the disorder.

**Suicide Stats in the United States:** According to the [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#), suicide is the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the U.S. Below are some statistics in 2021: 48,183 Americans died by suicide. There were an estimated 1.70 million suicide attempts. The age-adjusted suicide rate was 14.04 per 100,000 individuals. The rate of suicide is highest in middle-aged white men. Men died by suicide 3.90x more than women. On average, there are 132 suicides per day. White males accounted for 69.68% of suicide deaths, and firearms accounted for 54.64% of all suicide deaths.

# INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (SEPTEMBER)

**September 1, 1991 – Uzbekistan:** On this date, Uzbekistan gained independence from the Soviet Union.

**September 2, 1945 – Vietnam:** In early 1945, Japan ousted the French administration in Vietnam. Hours after Japan had formally surrendered to the Allies on September 2, 1945, Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam’s independence from France.

**September 6, 1968 – Eswatini:** Swaziland, as Eswatini was known until April 2018, achieved independence from the UK.

**September 7, 1822 – Brazil:** Prince regent Dom Pedro declared Brazil’s independence from Portugal on September 7, 1822.

**September 8, 1991 –North Macedonia:** A referendum endorsed independence from Yugoslavia in 1991.

**September 9, 1991 – Tajikistan:** Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, Tajikistan gained its independence.

**September 15, 1821 – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua:** On September 15, 1821, envoys from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua signed the Act of Independence of Central America, proclaiming their independence from Spain.

**September 16, 1810 – Mexico:** Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a Catholic priest, and the father of Mexican independence, urged his fellow Mexicans to take up arms against the Spanish. His proclamation, known as the “Grito de Dolores” marked the start of the Mexican War of Independence. Although the war did not end until 1821, September 16, is celebrated annually as Mexico’s Independence Day.

**September 16, 1975 – Papua New Guinea:** On this day, Papua New Guinea was granted independence from the Australia-administered UN trusteeship.

**September 18, 1810 – Chile:** In 1810, a group of Santiago residents met in open council to name a governing board, taking the first steps towards independence from Spain. Although independence was not officially declared until February 12, 1818, and the last Spanish stronghold did not fall until 1826, September 18 is celebrated annually as Chile’s Independence Day.

**September 19, 1983 – St. Kitts and Nevis:** In 1967, the island territory of Saint Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla became an associated state of the United Kingdom with full internal autonomy. After Anguilla seceded, the remaining islands achieved independence as Saint Kitts and Nevis on September 19, 1983.

**September 21, 1964 – Malta:** Malta was a British colony from 1814 until it gained independence in 1964. Since December 13, 1974, Malta has been a republic.

**September 21, 1981 – Belize:** British Honduras, a British colony since 1862, was renamed Belize on June 1, 1973. On September 21, 1981, Belize gained its independence from the United Kingdom.

**September 21, 1991 – Armenia:** On this day, approximately 95% of the population voted for independence from the Soviet Union and the establishment of an independent state.

**September 22, 1908 – Bulgaria:** Prince Ferdinand declared Bulgaria’s independence from the Ottoman Empire.

**September 22, 1960 – Mali:** As the colony of French Soudan, Mali was part of the Federation of French West Africa. In 1959, Soudan and Senegal joined to form the Mali Federation, which became fully independent within the French Community on June 20, 1960 which collapsed two months later when Senegal seceded. On September 22, 1960, Soudan proclaimed itself the Republic of Mali and withdrew from the French Community.

**September 23, 1932 – Saudi Arabia:** King Abdulaziz proclaimed the unification of the country as a kingdom.

**September 24, 1973 – Guinea-Bissau:** Declared independence from Portugal.

**September 27, 1991 – Turkmenistan:** From 1924 until regaining its independence on October 27, 1991, Turkmenistan was a Soviet Republic. Since 2018, Independence Day has been officially celebrated on September 27.

**September 30, 1966 – Botswana:** In 1965, after 80 years as a British protectorate, Bechuanaland attained self-government as the independent Republic of Botswana.

## ABOUT US

The core mission of MDAD’s Protocol and International Affairs Division is -

*To facilitate the movement of official guests, delegations, dignitaries and VIPs through MIA and support the airport’s international programs and initiatives.*

### Contact:

**Tel:** + 1 (305) 876-7457

**Email:** [Protocol@FlyMIA.com](mailto:Protocol@FlyMIA.com)

**URL:** [https://www.iFlyMIA.com/protocol\\_international\\_affairs.asp](https://www.iFlyMIA.com/protocol_international_affairs.asp)

For comments, suggestions, event announcements or to opt-out, please send us an email.

