

## Polaris' Guide to Threats at the Tokyo Summer Olympics

*As the world comes together in the spirit of international competition and cooperation, controversy remains at the forefront.* Local surveys indicate that 80% of Japanese citizens oppose hosting the Olympics – which is still slated to continue, despite warnings that Tokyo's infrastructure is *especially vulnerable to natural disasters like earthquakes and typhoons*. Meanwhile, *major geopolitical tensions and lingering COVID-19 risks* continue to cast shadows over the Games.

These stressors complicate already-significant security risks, as *media, participants, and thousands of planned attendees are forced to navigate these issues and others*. To inform and educate guests on the threats they may face, Polaris has compiled this overview of key risks, historical issues, and potential solutions.

### Preparing for Local, Tokyo-Based Risks



#### TOKYO'S RESPONSE TO THE GAMES

Recent [protests](#) have impacted daily life in Tokyo, as demonstrators clutter major roadways and promote negative, anti-Olympic sentiment. Given the [unpopularity](#) of the Olympics in Tokyo itself, these protests are likely to continue through the duration of the competition. Though the city has implemented traffic [mitigation measures](#) for the 2021 games, including increased public transit capability and distinct lanes for Olympics-related vehicles, these measures may themselves be interrupted by protest activity – potentially leaving your personnel vulnerable to unpredictable delays.

#### CONTINUED THREAT OF COVID-19

While COVID cases in Tokyo have recently decreased – despite continued fears of a potential fourth wave – Japan remains vulnerable to the virus. Only 6.5% of the Japanese population has been vaccinated to-date, and [current projections](#) indicate that the percentage of people inoculated will not reach 70% by the start of the games in late July. The Chairman of the Japan Doctors Union has even expressed fears that the high concentration and heavy traffic of tourists and competitors will increase the [spread of COVID variants](#).

### Navigating Global Threats & Tensions



#### GROWING GEOPOLITICAL THREATS

With only weeks to go until the Tokyo Olympics begin, tensions continue to mount between Japan and China. [Global Times](#) – a tabloid linked to China's Communist Party – has alleged that Japan is “acting hostile toward China,” prompting Chinese naval ships to occupy Japanese waters in an apparent [warning](#). This conflict follows a joint release from the United States and Japan reiterating support for peace in [Taiwan](#), as well as the announcement of criminal charges against a Chinese systems engineer in the alleged [hack](#) of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. Tensions don't begin and end with China, however: Japanese citizens protested [Russia's “unjust”](#) detention of Japanese fishermen following their collision with a Russian vessel, while [North Korea](#) has claimed that recent revisions to Japan's Constitution represent an “open declaration of war against humankind.”

#### POTENTIAL FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

Experts have recently claimed that Tokyo is [especially vulnerable](#) to natural disasters, specifically citing the disastrous effects of [typhoons](#) and [earthquakes](#) on the city's transportation systems and infrastructure.

### Optimizing Your Security Coverage



#### GLOBAL EVENT, LOCAL PROTECTION

As Japan's borders are [currently closed](#) to non-essential tourists and businesspeople – and restrictions are likely to remain throughout the event due to COVID-19 concerns – stakeholders need to navigate the games with local knowhow. Choosing the right local team, however, is often a challenge; your provider should strike the right balance between Tokyo-specific expertise – with insight into local customs, local criminal activity, and local traffic and navigation – and the international intelligence capabilities that capture potential geopolitical threats.

#### EMPHASIS ON REAL-TIME RESPONSE

The threats outlined in this overview may occur suddenly, often striking with limited warning. As such, these risks demand a proactive, preemptive security approach, with comprehensive monitoring for each key threat vector. During coverage for similar high-profile events, Polaris has deployed custom intel monitors, targeted geofences, and expert Boolean searches – all quarterbacked by a dedicated analyst that provides actionable intelligence when needed. For more, please visit us at [www.PolarisRsk.com](#).