

**S-RM**  XL CATLIN

# Rio 2016

Special Olympics Edition

**GLOBAL SECURITY INSIGHT**

# Editorial

**T**he Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, in August and September respectively, are expected to attract over half a million visitors to the city. S-RM's office in Rio de Janeiro welcomes these visitors as they participate in what is sure to be a celebrated moment in Brazilian history.

2016 to date has already been a memorable year. In response to widespread corruption, Brazilians took to the streets in March in unprecedented numbers to demand a more accountable government. While a change in political leadership has been achieved, this event has been accompanied by a severe economic downturn in the country along with credit ratings downgrades. Coupled with the outbreak of the Zika virus and the arrest of the country's first Islamic State sympathisers in July, the year has been marked by significant national change.

It is against this backdrop that the Olympics and Paralympics will take place. While visitors to the country are not expected to be impacted by most of these developments, concerns around the safety of athletes and spectators nevertheless remain.

S-RM and XL Catlin's Special Edition on Rio 2016 seeks to inform visitors of these issues. Through our articles, we hope readers will be able to gain a better understanding of what constitutes the most significant risks during their travels to Rio de Janeiro, whether terrorism, crime, civil unrest or health-related.



Emil de Carvalho,  
Executive Director

# Contents

## **Navigating the Hype:**

### **Terrorism and the Rio Olympics**

Lloyd Belton assesses the threat posed by Islamic State to the Olympics, with a particular focus on the likelihood of a lone actor attack

4

## **“Welcome to Hell”?**

### **Assessing Rio's Crime Threats**

Lloyd Belton analyses the significant rise in Rio's crime rates in 2016, the measures authorities are implementing to reduce the risk, as well as the threat posed to travellers during the Olympics

6

## **Mayhem or Merriment:**

### **Civil Unrest During the Games**

Stephanie Bergeman investigates the drivers of unrest in Brazil and whether Rio is likely to be impacted by disruptive protests during the Games

8

## **Going Viral:**

### **Zika Transmission at Rio 2016**

Sunette Klopper outlines the likelihood of Zika Virus transmission in Rio during the Olympics, amid concerns over a possible health crisis

10

## **Practical Advice**

S-RM offers travellers security, travel and health advice for the Games

12

## **Map**

High-Risk Areas in Rio de Janeiro

13

# Navigating the Hype: Terrorism and the Rio Olympics:

With little evidence to suggest that Islamic State has the capacity to stage a coordinated attack against the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Brazilian authorities have focused counter-terrorism preparations on the lone-actor threat, **writes Lloyd Belton**

An estimated 500,000 foreign fans, 10,500 athletes from 207 countries, and four million Brazilian nationals are expected to attend the Olympics and Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro in August and September. Of the half a million fans attending the Games, a fifth will travel from the US with many British and French fans making the trip across the Atlantic as well. Given the high-profile nature of both events, the Olympics and Paralympics remain obvious targets for Islamist militant groups like Islamic State (IS). The group has already demonstrated the capacity to stage high-impact attacks in Western Europe and North America this year, whilst the recent arrest of IS sympathisers in Brazil in July has added to growing fears that Rio is next. In response to this threat, Brazilian authorities have deployed approximately 87,000 security personnel across the city, staged daily counter-terrorism drills and have increased cooperation with international intelligence partners. Yet, despite the hype, there is little evidence to suggest that IS or its affiliates have the capacity to stage an organised or coordinated attack in Brazil. However, in the wake of the Orlando and Nice attacks, authorities remain concerned about the threat posed by lone-actors.

Brazil and wider Latin America are largely considered isolated from the threat of Islamist militancy. Brazil itself is not involved in the war against IS in Syria or Iraq and has generally remained neutral on Middle Eastern affairs, reducing the motivation for reprisal attacks. In addition, the absence of a significant local Muslim population somewhat hinders domestic radicalisation and the emergence of

a home-grown threat. To date, only one Brazilian national is believed to have joined IS. In contrast,

approximately 1,700 French and 800 UK nationals are currently fighting for IS in Iraq and Syria. However, although the threat of terrorism in Brazil is seemingly low, the Olympics arguably present a unique opportunity for a group like IS. While IS may have a negligible support base in the country, Olympic organisers and some foreign governments are still concerned about the possibility of a lone-actor attack over the duration of the games. As such, Rio's counter-terrorism capabilities and preparations have come under increasing scrutiny.

The November 2015 coordinated attacks across Paris, and particularly against the Stade de France, marked a watershed moment in Brazil's counter-terrorism preparations and prompted a review and overhaul of its capabilities. These attacks were also soon followed by IS's first direct threat against Brazil when Maxime Hauchard, a French IS fighter, warned that Brazil would be the group's next target. In response, the Brazilian government scrambled to reassure the world that it was ready to address any terrorism threat. In reality, its counter-terrorism preparations and capabilities at the time were arguably weak relative to some European and North American governments. In particular, doubts were raised about the capabilities of Brazil's intelligence agency, the Agência Brasileira de Inteligência (ABIN), which has historically been underfinanced.

The Olympics security contingent has since adopted a twin approach to addressing the terrorism threat at the Games, focusing on both the quantity and quality of its intelligence services. Authorities have deployed an estimated 87,000 personnel, including 65,000 police officers and 22,000 soldiers to Rio – the largest in Olympic history – whilst simultaneously emphasising training, awareness, and response. Over 10,000 police officers and special force marines deployed in the city have received special training on how to identify and respond to terrorist threats, including biological terrorist attacks. Moreover, since early July, police and soldiers have carried out numerous counter-



Examples of information pamphlets distributed to local residents on how to identify suspicious individuals, objects and cars.



Image: commons.wikimedia.org

terrorism drills across the city, including at train stations, stadiums, and airports. Alongside this, authorities have focused on awareness campaigns, distributing information pamphlets to local residents on how to identify suspicious individuals, objects, and cars. Hotel, bar, and restaurant owners have also been given exclusive access to a mobile app that will allow them to report suspicious activity directly to police.

International cooperation on intelligence has also become a key component of Rio's security preparations. In April 2016, Olympic authorities inaugurated the Integrated Anti-Terrorism Centre (CIANT) based in Brasília. This multinational intelligence body comprises representatives from over 100 countries participating in joint counter-terrorism monitoring and response operations alongside the ABIN. In addition, over 250 foreign police and intelligence officers from 55 countries, including the US, the UK and France, will provide assistance to Brazilian security forces in Rio for the duration of the Games. Together, CIANT and the Brazilian Ministry of Defence will oversee 28 smaller counter-terrorism command posts distributed across Rio.

With greater international cooperation on intelligence, ABIN's counter-terrorism monitoring capabilities have improved significantly over the past half year alone. The 21 July arrest of 11 individuals suspected of being part of a domestic IS cell is indicative of this, as Brazilian security forces responded swiftly to US-led intelligence. The suspects have since been accused of posting messages sympathetic to IS online and of planning an attack against the Olympics.

Although this marked the first high-profile security operation against IS sympathisers in the country, and produced immediate shockwaves within the domestic and international media, Brazilian authorities were quick to downplay the actual threat. Brazil's Justice Minister described the so-called 'cell' of IS sympathisers as "disorganised" and "amateur", noting that none of them had ever actually met. Preparations for an attack against the Games had also not proceeded beyond online discussions. Brazilian authorities nevertheless continue to emphasise that the terrorism threat is "minimal", but have promised that every lead will be "investigated exhaustively." According to government reports, more than 100 people are currently being monitored in Brazil on suspicion of IS sympathy.

Although weaknesses remain in Brazil's security apparatus, authorities appear to have addressed a number of intelligence gaps. However, while these measures are likely to mitigate the risk of a coordinated attack, lone-actor attacks are extremely difficult to predict and prevent. Already, supporters of IS have encouraged sympathisers to carry out knife attacks against Israeli and US civilians whilst other suggestions have included the poisoning of food and drinks of spectators. More sophisticated appeals have suggested the use of explosive-laden drones to carry out attacks. 'Soft spots', such as bars, restaurants, beaches, and other tourist sites in Rio therefore remain the most vulnerable during the Games, as the sheer number of security personnel at stadiums, airports, and other Olympic venues largely reduces the likelihood of an attack against these sites.

“Despite the hype, there is little evidence to suggest that Islamic State or its affiliates have the capacity to stage an organised or coordinated attack in Brazil.”

## “Welcome to Hell”? Assessing Rio’s Crime Threats

2016 has seen a significant rise in violent crime ahead of the Olympics. However, street crime and express kidnappings remain the predominant threats to foreign nationals amid a heightened security force presence in Rio, **writes Lloyd Belton**

**A**mid an increase in violent crime and a deepening economic crisis, Brazilian officials will secure Rio de Janeiro during the Olympics with the deployment of 87,000 soldiers and police. This deployment is likely to include the temporary occupation of several of Rio’s large favela neighbourhoods to fend off organised criminal violence during the Games. Although levels of violent crime have already decreased as a result of these measures, visitors and athletes remain at risk of express kidnappings and opportunistic street crime.

Rio state authorities warned in June that they would not be able to guarantee security at the Olympics in light of several security budget cuts due to a worsening economic crisis. Although local authorities have since been given an economic lifeline via a USD850 million federal government emergency loan, there is still widespread concern that foreign tourists and athletes will not be safe. Indeed, with shootouts between police and organised crime groups occurring almost daily in the months prior to the Games, Rio is undoubtedly experiencing one of its worst security crises in recent years. The problem has only been compounded by ongoing police strikes in the city over pay disputes. Posters held up by disgruntled police officers at Rio’s airports with the greeting “Welcome to Hell”, have incited further fear.

Since the start of 2016, there has been a significant spike in violent crime in the city. Homicides have increased by 15 percent since January, with almost 2,000 murders reported. These deaths predominantly relate to turf wars between organised crime groups, as well as shootouts between police officers and criminals. Whilst incidents typically occur in the city’s hilltop favelas, violent crime often spills over into wealthier neighbourhoods, as well as areas frequented by tourists and athletes. A number of street shootouts between organised crime groups and police have occurred in the vicinity of Olympic venues, airports, metro stations, and iconic tourist sites. Armed

muggings have also increased in 2016; so far, Spanish and Australian athletes have been mugged in broad daylight in Rio’s southern neighbourhoods, considered some of the city’s safest.

Despite the city’s ongoing security crisis, a temporary lull in violent crime is expected during the Olympics. With the deployment of a large security force contingent during the Games, there has already been a notable decrease in violent crime in the city. Organised crime groups have reportedly receded into the city’s favelas, where foreign tourists and athletes are unlikely to travel. However, street crime, typically perpetrated by common criminals and small criminal gangs, is likely to remain a persistent and widespread threat during the Games. Foreigners, particularly those demonstrating poor situational awareness or openly displaying valuables, are likely to be targeted in bag-snatching, pickpocketing, or opportunistic mugging incidents.

Visitors also remain at risk of express kidnappings in the city. This type of kidnapping continues to occur regularly in Rio, targeting businesspeople, athletes, politicians and tourists alike, even in the city’s wealthy neighbourhoods, such as Barra da Tijuca. Small criminal gangs are the most common perpetrators. However, corrupt police officers have also been known to target unsuspecting foreign nationals. For example, in late July, a New Zealand athlete was express kidnapped on the outskirts of the city by corrupt police officers who briefly detained him and forced him to withdraw large amounts of cash at two ATMs.

To combat crime, the Rio government will rely on the sheer number of soldiers and police officers deployed in the city. This should keep larger and more violent organised crime groups at bay in their favela strongholds, at least temporarily. However, foreign nationals should remain vigilant and alert to the persistent threat of street crime and express kidnapping in the city.

Despite the city’s ongoing security crisis, a temporary lull in violent crime is expected during the Olympics.”



**Organised crime groups have reportedly receded into the city’s favelas, where foreign tourists and athletes are unlikely to travel.**

Image: commons.wikimedia.org

## Mayhem or Merriment: Civil Unrest During the Games

Over the last three years, Brazilians have weathered sporadic protests that have shifted in focus and composition, leaving the future of Brazil's social fabric uncertain. Will Rio 2016 see a re-emergence of unrest or a general dormancy of social tensions as experienced during the 2014 World Cup,

**Stephanie Bergeman investigates**

**P**rotest movements and labour unrest have emerged as part of a new civil discourse in Brazil aimed at challenging the government on numerous social and political issues. This discourse has its roots in the protest movements of 2013, which saw tens of thousands take to the streets to demonstrate a broader dissatisfaction with poor social services, high taxes, government corruption and wasteful public spending.

These grievances re-emerged in 2014 in time for the FIFA World Cup, as protests over the same issues, in addition to perceived corruption within FIFA, were held across 100 cities leading up to the event. Hundreds of protesters attempted to block roads near official venues in host cities at the time leading to violent confrontations with the police. Some host cities were also impacted by labour strikes in key areas of the public sector, including transportation. However, the number of demonstrations fell significantly in the first week of the World Cup over alleged fears of potential violence as a result of excessive force employed by police and increasing public interest in the tournament. As another major sporting event approaches, questions are being raised as to whether the Olympic Games will be impacted by mass demonstrations.

Anti-corruption protests have re-emerged in Brazil since 2015 with Brazilians taking to the streets to shake up the political elite. Protesters initially organised to fight institutionalised corruption in the country, a theme that received unprecedented attention after the widely publicised Lava Jato investigation.

This operation exposed corruption schemes implicating members of former president Dilma Rousseff's Workers' Party, coalition partners, and executives in the hydrocarbons and construction industries. These tensions culminated in the largest protest in Brazil's history when over one million Brazilians called for Dilma's impeachment in March 2016. While Dilma has since been suspended, the country's interim president, Michel Temer, remains unpopular and has ignited further protests. Smaller 'pro-democracy' protests have therefore developed to fight Temer's succession to power, with many calling Dilma's suspension a coup. However, such protests have failed to attract the numbers witnessed earlier in the year, arguably because the immediate needs of the impeachment protestors have been met with the ousting of Dilma.

It is therefore unlikely that significant protests will occur during Rio 2016. The city is likely to benefit from the public's largely positive perception of the Olympics relative to FIFA as well as from an increased security presence, which may deter demonstrators from organising any gatherings. However, small protests are likely to develop in the city centre and around official venues. These are expected to be organised by supporters of Dilma and her party who may call for Temer to step down or to make way for new general elections. However, they are unlikely to draw significant support. Unless relevant corruption allegations are made against senior members of the interim government over the duration of the Games, protests are unlikely to draw large crowds resulting in minimal disruption to Olympic and Paralympic attendees.

The city is likely to benefit from the public's largely positive perception of the International Olympic Committee as well as from an increased security presence."



Image: commons.wikimedia.org

## Going Viral: Zika Transmission at Rio 2016

Despite fears cited by international media and several prominent athletes, most concerns surrounding Zika virus transmission at the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro are largely unfounded, **writes Sunette Klopper**

In the build-up to Rio 2016, Brazil's efforts to control the ongoing Zika virus outbreak have become the focus of many high-profile debates over the safety of athletes and tourists alike. It is easy to understand why people are nervous. Individuals travel from all over the world to attend an event as prestigious as the Olympics, where they will be clustered together in confined spaces for extended periods of time, likely share food, drinks, and accommodation, and indulge in risky sexual behaviour. Half a million people descending en masse to a single location is a public health challenge under any circumstances. However adding the mosquito-borne Zika virus, whose potential health complications have been the focus of numerous international media reports, has made many people and athletes question the wisdom of going forward with the Olympics at all. Several renowned tennis and golf players have even withdrawn their participation in the 2016 Olympics, citing their concern over the Zika virus outbreak in Brazil.

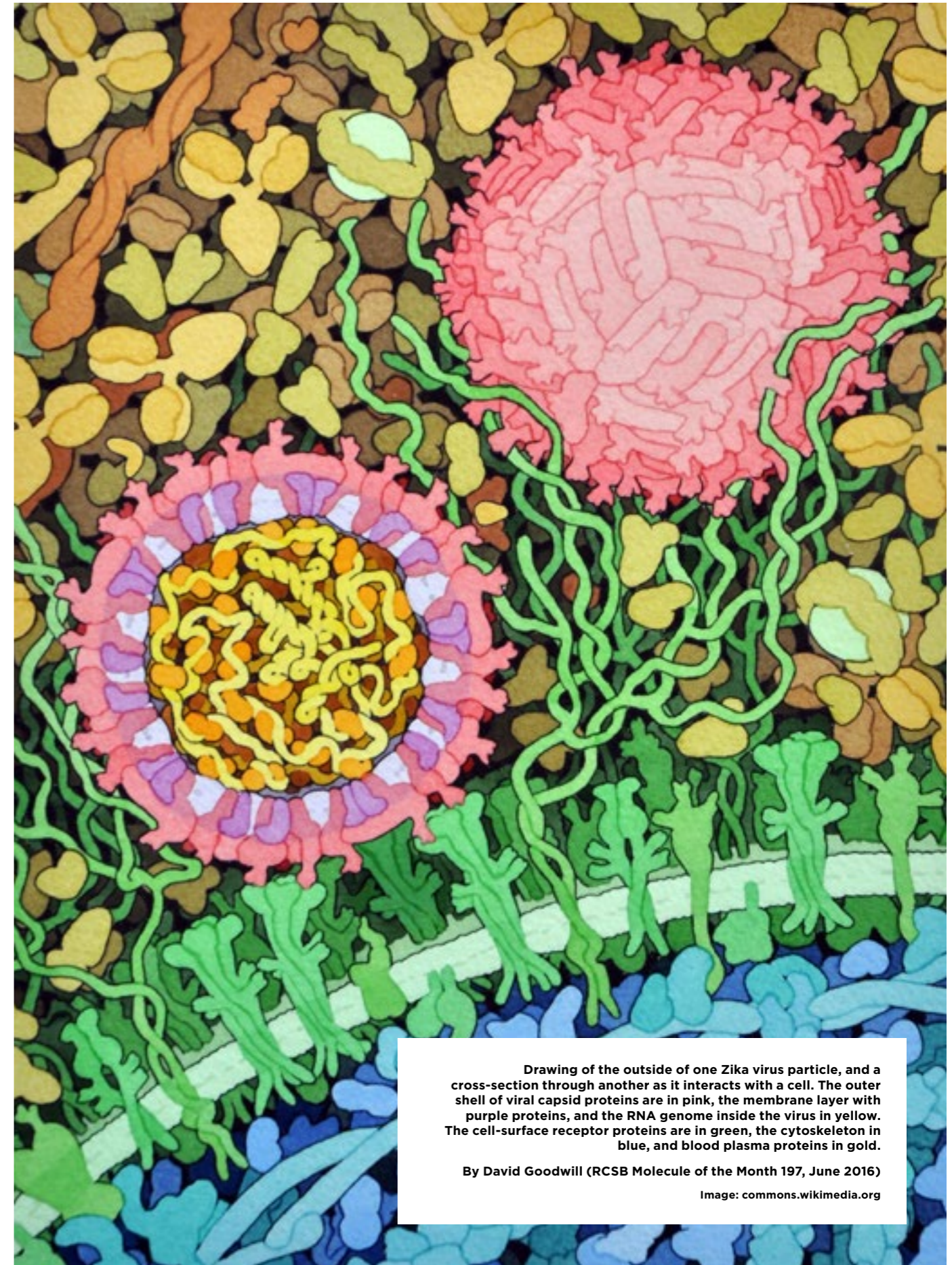
However, the risk of contracting the virus is low. For individuals who are not pregnant or trying to conceive, concerns over the Zika virus are largely unfounded. A number of public health experts and organisations, including the World Health Organisation and both the European and US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, have released statements indicating that the risk of catching the virus while traveling to Rio is very low. There are a number of factors mitigating the risk of Zika virus transmission during the Olympics. Firstly, the games will take place during Brazil's winter, when the cooler, drier air is significantly less hospitable to mosquitos. In addition, the highest number of reported Zika virus cases have occurred in Brazil's Amazonas,

Mato Grosso, Tocantins and Bahia states, the nearest of which is approximately 1,000km north of Rio de Janeiro. Tourists and athletes visiting Brazil for the Olympics will also likely be spending most of their time in air-conditioned accommodation and insecticide-treated Olympic venues, where Zika virus-carrying mosquitos are highly unlikely to come near.

In an attempt to estimate potential Zika virus transmission at the 2016 Olympics, international researchers modelled potential transmission on that of a 2008 outbreak of Dengue fever, another mosquito-borne disease. Based on this model, researchers noted that the probability of any individual traveller being bitten by the Zika virus-carrying *A. aegypti* mosquito over the three-week course of the 2016 Olympics was approximately three to five percent. This model therefore predicts a best-case scenario of roughly 1.8 Zika virus cases per one million visitors to Rio de Janeiro, or a worst-case scenario of approximately 3.2 cases per 100,000 visitors. Given that Rio de Janeiro is anticipating approximately 500,000 tourists and 10,500 athletes for the Olympic Games, the worst-case scenario predicts about 16 cases of Zika virus transmission for the duration of the Olympics.

While the likelihood of anyone contracting the Zika virus during the Rio de Janeiro Olympics is very low, unborn fetuses remain the most at risk of complications from the virus. Individuals who plan to conceive shortly after the Olympics should also take precautions, and bear in mind that the Zika virus has been shown to be transmitted sexually and can remain viable in bodily fluids for up to 62 days from infection.

A number of public health experts and organisations have released statements indicating that the risk of catching the virus while traveling to Rio is very low.”



Drawing of the outside of one Zika virus particle, and a cross-section through another as it interacts with a cell. The outer shell of viral capsid proteins are in pink, the membrane layer with purple proteins, and the RNA genome inside the virus in yellow. The cell-surface receptor proteins are in green, the cytoskeleton in blue, and blood plasma proteins in gold.

By David Goodwill (RCSB Molecule of the Month 197, June 2016)

Image: commons.wikimedia.org

## Practical advice

Individuals travelling to Rio de Janeiro for the Olympics and Paralympics should take note of the following security, travel and health advice.



### Health

#### Considerations:

Pregnant women are advised to carefully consider travel to Brazil at this time due to the risk of foetal birth defects associated with the Zika virus.

#### Prevention:

Travellers should wear long trousers and long-sleeved shirts where possible, and regularly apply insect repellent according to instructions.

Always use condoms during sex as Zika can reportedly be transmitted sexually.

#### Accommodation:

Seek accommodation with air-conditioning and mosquito-proof window screens.

Sleep under a mosquito net if air-conditioned or mosquito-screened accommodation is not available.



### Security

#### Awareness:

Be aware of your surroundings and personal exposure. Do not leave valuables unattended; keep valuables locked in your hotel safe.

#### Reduce exposure:

Avoid overt signs of wealth by concealing mobile phones and jewellery, as well as dressing down.

Do not travel alone at night.

Review privacy settings on social media websites.

#### Monitoring:

Always monitor local and international media, as well as consulate and embassy websites, for reports on possible terrorist threats and/or protests in the city.

#### Response:

Do not resist in any robbery situation as criminals often do not hesitate to use violence.

Do not offer or pay bribes if you are stopped by police.



### Travel

#### Transport:

Pre-arrange travel routes and drop off and pick up services with reputable transport companies, including to and from the city's airports.

#### Planning ahead:

Prearrange taxi services with reliable cab companies or Uber; avoid hailing taxi cabs on the street.

#### Prevention:

Keep vehicle doors and windows locked at all times; do not leave any valuables exposed while travelling in vehicles.

#### High-risk areas:

Avoid visiting the city's favelas due to elevated levels of violent crime in these areas.

**Always carry a list of emergency numbers, as well as a notarised photocopy of your passport.**

**Police: 190, Ambulance: 192, Tourist Police: +55 (21) 3399 7170**

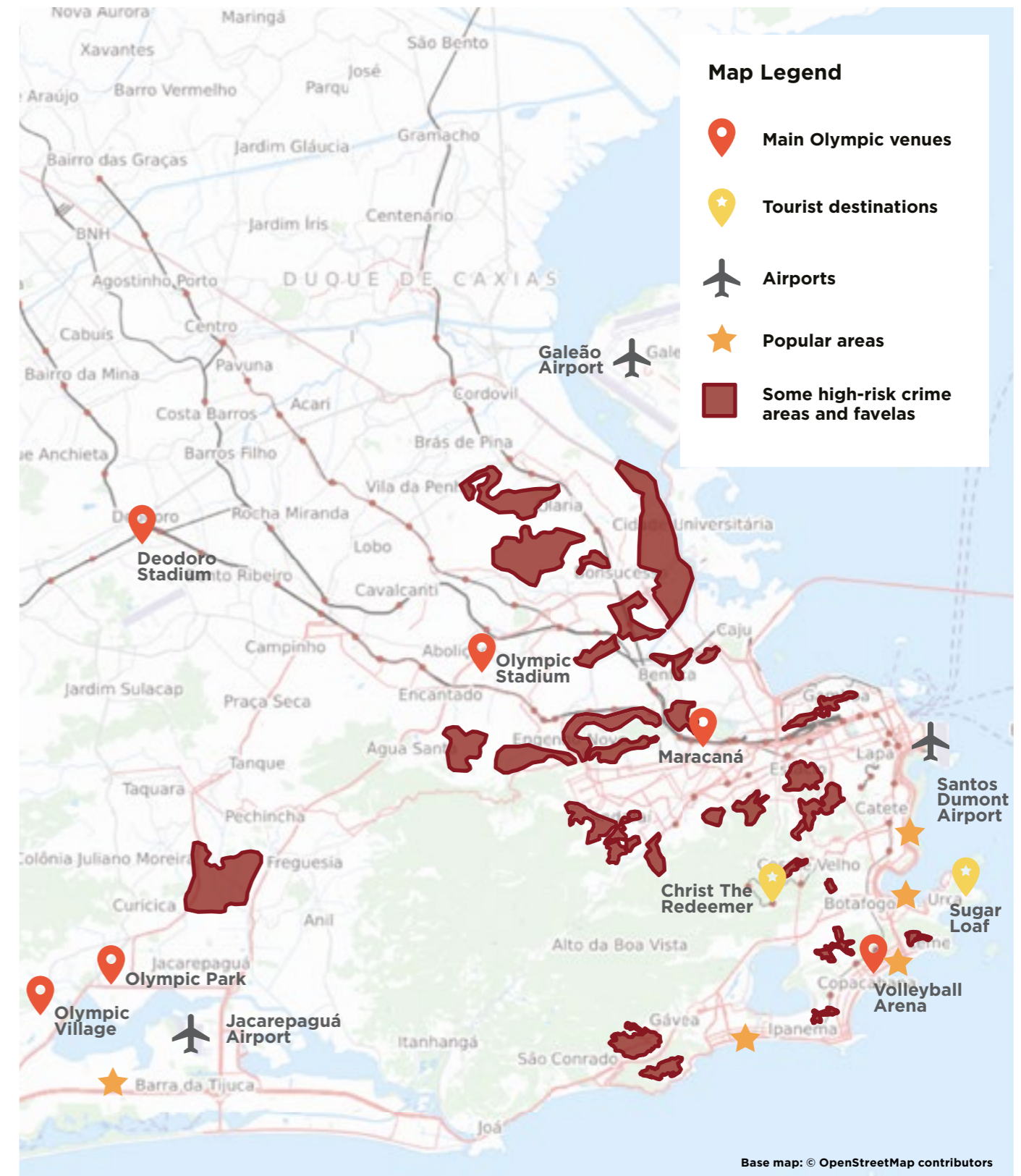
**US Consulate: (+55) (21) 3823 2000**

**UK Consulate: (+55) (21) 2555 9600**

**French Consulate: (+55) (21) 3974 6699**

## High-Risk Areas in Rio de Janeiro

The map below shows favelas and high risk areas as well as popular areas and the main Olympic event venues for Rio 2016



# About



S-RM provides business intelligence, risk management and cyber-security services globally. Our combined offering enables clients to identify and mitigate risks ranging from security, political change and cybercrime to money laundering, fraud and corruption. With a focus on quality and responsiveness, we work closely with businesses, private clients, and governments to protect their assets, people, reputation, information and brand.

S-RM leverages its holistic risk management expertise to provide XL Catlin with a range of information resources and advice to inform their business operations.

XL Catlin is one of the world's leading insurance organisations, focusing exclusively on providing property, casualty, professional and specialty insurance for businesses. Whether you're arranging cover or making a claim with XL Catlin, you'll find their people are empowered to make quick decisions. XL Catlin participates in over 3,000 global programmes and lead approximately 70 percent of these. Across the world, you'll experience the same XL Catlin qualities: underwriting excellence, quick reactions and transparent pricing. A broad international mix with a consistent global approach.

## S-RM's Olympics Support Services

S-RM's Rio-based team can assist clients in Rio in two key areas of bespoke services:

### Security, Support and Response Services:

- Shortlisting, selecting and contracting training and hospitality venues;
- Shortlisting, selecting and contracting accommodation, including luxury private residences;
- Security risk assessments of accommodation and other venues;
- Route planning and journey management for delegations and VIPs in Rio;
- Close protection services;
- Guarding and protection of venues;
- 24h bilingual emergency contact centre;
- 24h emergency response capability in Rio de Janeiro.

### Security and Intelligence Services:

- Security awareness briefings (Pre-departure or upon arrival);
- Bespoke information booklets with security and general tips for guests and staff;
- Reports focused on high-level overviews of political and security risks including kidnap, extortion, civil unrest and other political and crime related risks;
- Dedicated ground-truth intelligence reporting with situational updates on national and local developments, protest movements, criminality, traffic conditions and other factors that may impact client activity;
- In-depth due diligence and investigations of suppliers or local partners according to your needs.

### Support & Past experience

With a full-service office in Rio de Janeiro, S-RM is uniquely placed to assist private clients, Olympic Partners and Sponsors, National Olympic Committees and other organisations planning on visiting Rio for the Games. Our multi-lingual team is intimately familiar with the security, transport and other challenges in Rio de Janeiro.

S-RM staff have supported clients conducting brand activation activities, hospitality programmes and hosting VIPs during major sporting events such as the 2010 FIFA World Cup (South Africa), 2012 Olympic Games (London), 2013 FIFA Confederations Cup (Brazil), 2014 FIFA World Cup (Brazil) and the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

### Contact us

**London**  
1 Swan Lane  
London  
EC4R 3TN  
United Kingdom

+44 20 3763 9595

[www.s-rm.co.uk](http://www.s-rm.co.uk)

**Rio de Janeiro**  
Praia de Botafogo, 228  
Sala 1105, Rio de Janeiro  
RJ 22250-906  
Brazil

+55 21 3031 6030

### Important Notice

S-RM Intelligence and Risk Consulting Ltd. a company registered in England and Wales with company number 5408866 and registered address 2nd Floor, 1 Swan Lane, London, EC4R 3TN. This document was prepared by S-RM. While this information has been prepared in good faith, no representation or warranty, express or implied, is or will be made and no responsibility or liability is or will be accepted by S-RM, or by any of its respective officers, employees or agents in relation to the accuracy or completeness of this document and any such liability is expressly disclaimed. In particular, but without limitation, no representation or warranty is given as to the reasonableness of future suggestions contained in this document.

© S-RM Intelligence and Risk Consulting Ltd. 2016

XL Catlin is the global brand used by XL Group Ltd's insurance subsidiaries. In the US, the insurance companies of XL Group Ltd are: Catlin Indemnity Company, Catlin Insurance Company, Inc., Catlin Specialty Insurance Company, Greenwich Insurance Company, Indian Harbor Insurance Company, XL Insurance America, Inc., XL Insurance Company of New York, Inc., and XL Specialty Insurance Company. Not all of the insurers do business in all jurisdictions nor is coverage available in all jurisdictions. XL Catlin, the XL Catlin logo and MAKE YOUR WORLD GO are trademarks of the XL Group Ltd companies.

The material in this Bulletin was last updated on 29 July 2016