

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Madagascar Monthly Briefing August 2026

Madagascar summary 17 August 2026

The United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU) conduct a week-long mission to Madagascar to discuss the political transition. Transitional president Michaël Randrianirina (2025-present) holds talks with a delegation from Oman to discuss cooperation, including obtaining direct fuel supplies. The Malagasy government declares 24 July a day of national mourning in the wake of a spate of kidnappings and murders, which Randrianirina describes as terrorism.

African Union and United Nations encourage stakeholders to engage in dialogue

During a joint high-level mission to **Madagascar** from 13 to 19 July, the special envoy to the chairperson of the **African Union (AU) Commission, Mohamed Idriss Farah**, and the special representative of the **United Nations** secretary general to the AU, **Parfait Onanga-Anyanga**, held talks with transitional president **Michaël Randrianirina** (2025-present), government members, political leaders, heads of institutions, international partners, religious leaders from the **Fiombonan'ny Fiangonana Kristiana eto Madagasikara (FFKM)** (council of Christian churches), civil society and others. In a statement released following the talks, Farah and Onganga-Anyanga [called](#) discussions with various stakeholders “fruitful and constructive”.

The envoys also noted the willingness expressed to hold an inclusive political dialogue as soon as possible. This dialogue would be aimed at establishing a consensual political framework for institutional reforms that could guarantee transparent, credible and peaceful elections. The envoys [encouraged](#) the participation of all Malagasy political actors and the nation’s key stakeholders in order to “contribute constructively to the efforts aimed at successfully concluding the important process of normalising Malagasy political life”.

The envoys also expressed their concern about the recent security incidents reported in the capital and other parts of the country. Since the beginning of July, **Antananarivo** has been severely shaken by a series of disappearances and murders, predominantly affecting young people (see below). Farah and Onganga-Anyanga called on the relevant authorities to strengthen security for people and property whilst respecting the rule of law and human rights. They also urged the public to use legal channels and refrain from vigilante justice.

Finally, Farah and Onganga-Anyanga reaffirmed their institutions willingness to support the efforts of the Malagasy people towards reconciliation, social cohesion, stability, a gradual return to a consensual institutional order and respect for human rights, whilst respecting national ownership. Madagascar has remained suspended from all bodies of the AU since the political crisis of September 2025, which led to the fall of former president **Andry Rajoelina** (2019 -2025) and Randrianirina’s seizure of power.

Randrianirina meets with a delegation from Oman

Randrianirina [met](#) with a delegation from **Oman**, led by **Oman Investment Authority (OIA)** chairman **Abdulsalam Bin Al Murshidi**, on 21 June at the **State Palace** in Antananarivo to discuss cooperation. The OIA is the sovereign wealth fund of Oman, responsible for managing and growing the state’s financial assets and resources with a view to the country’s economic diversification.

During talks, Randrianirina expressed his desire for commercial cooperation with Oman, particularly regarding direct fuel supplies. With this in mind, discussions centred on a strategic partnership aimed at stabilising and diversifying the country's energy sources.

For his part, Al Murshidi [stated](#) that the OIA is willing to share their experience in renewable energy, including green, solar, wind and hydroelectric power, as well as in other areas such as water management and mining investment. The delegation also expressed a desire to strengthen relations with Madagascar in the tourism, food self-sufficiency and agriculture sectors. Oman is renowned for its trade and export activities and has expertise in the food supply chain. Following the meeting, it was agreed that a joint coordination committee would be set up to oversee this cooperation between Madagascar and Oman.

Since 2012, Oman has been Madagascar's main supplier of refined petroleum products. Deliveries are handled by **OQ Trading** – the Sultanate of Oman's commodities trading arm – which transports the fuel (petrol, diesel) from the port of **Sohar** in Qatar to Madagascar's port of **Toamasina**. The contract between the two parties has been renewed for a period of six months, running from June to November 2026.

This meeting with the Omani authorities could pave the way for a new framework for negotiations, given that the Madagascan government has recently introduced new hydrocarbon legislation. The new law primarily authorises the state to import fuel directly, bypassing traditional market intermediaries. The aim is to negotiate direct supply contracts with producer governments to secure more favourable financial terms. The law is accompanied by a plan to build substantial strategic fuel reserves, which could cover up to 90 days of national consumption. This is intended as a preventive measure against international geopolitical crises, such as the conflict between **Iran** and the **United States (US)**. On 20 July, the council of minister declared a state of energy emergency once again.

Government declares national mourning as crime increases

Randrianirina [confirmed](#) on 22 July that 24 July would be declared a day of national mourning, with the presidential decree reading that the holiday is *"in memory of the victims of kidnappings and murders orchestrated with the aim of destabilising the Malagasy state"*. Since the beginning of July, Madagascar's capital city, Antananarivo, has been plagued by a spate of child abductions and murders. In recent days, this phenomenon has spread to other regions and now affects adults too. The week of 10 August, two people were found dead in Antananarivo and Fianarantsoa, just days after their families reported them missing on social media.

Also on 22 July, **Narindra Rakotoniaina**, the chief prosecutor at the **Tribunal de Première Instance d'Antananarivo** (court of first instance), [announced](#) in a press statement that around ten cases relating to the abduction of children and adults in Antananarivo had been filed with the court since the beginning of July. She further revealed that no fewer than eight of the victims were minors. She confirmed that 16 individuals had appeared before the public prosecutor's office and 11 had been remanded in custody at the **Antanimora** and **Tsiafahy** prisons.

In a [separate](#) press conference organised by several government members on 22 July, authorities announced that 200 missing people's cases had been recorded so far. Seventy-five people have been found, six of whom were found dead, and 19 others are still missing. The government announced the establishment of an operational centre to combat abductions, as well as offering rewards for information that could help advance the investigations.

Against this backdrop of social tensions and insecurity, the authorities continue to put forward the theory of destabilisation. On 8 July, Randrianirina [offered](#) his condolences to the bereaved families and described this series of abductions and murders as *"terrorism"*.

Planner

17 Aug 2026 **Durban (South Africa)** Transitional president **Michaël Randrianirina** will attend the 46th **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** summit

Chronology

17 Aug 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. Transitional president **Michaël Randrianirina** confirms that either a referendum or a constitutional election will be held in July 2027;

13 Aug 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. At the **Moris-Mada Business Connect Summit, Mauritius'** labour minister **Muhammad Reza Cassam Uteem** announces plans to increase the recruitment of Malagasy workers to address Mauritius's aging workforce and labour shortages in key sectors;

12 Aug 2026 **Toamasina (Madagascar)** *REAL TV*. A delegation led by transitional president **Michaël Randrianirina** receives first shipment of 64,000 cubic metres of fuel, transported by the tanker **Sunda One** from **Nigeria** and intended to supply state-owned electricity and water company, **JIRAMA**;

11 Aug 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. Madagascar and **Chad** are seeking to strengthen bilateral and economic cooperation, with transitional president **Michaël Randrianirina's** visit to N'Djamena focusing on professional ties, skills exchange and greater use of the Malagasy diaspora's expertise;

11 Aug 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. The **Groupement Pétrolier de Madagascar (GPM)** (Madagascar petroleum group) warns of a risk of disruption to fuel supplies on the domestic market following the government's requisition of storage capacity at the **Toamasina** terminal;

11 Aug 2026 **Tsimbazaza (Madagascar)** *Anadolu Agency*. **Assemblée Nationale** (national assembly) speaker **Siteny Randrianasoloniaiko** denies rumours of his possible removal from office and the dissolution of parliament;

10 Aug 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *Africanews*. The **Haute Cour Constitutionnelle (HCC)** (high constitutional court) approves a law allowing the state to reclaim land that remains registered to foreigners from the colonial era, exempting land used by foreign diplomatic and consular missions and properties that had already been transferred to Malagasy citizens before 26 June 1960;

7 Aug 2026 **Washington DC (United States)** *2424.MG*. The **United States (US) International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)** announces it will provide \$4.84m in project development funding for the **Harena Rare Earths plc**, rare earth mine in Madagascar;

7 Aug 2026 **Iavoloha (Madagascar)** *Presidency of Madagascar*. As part of the political dialogue that has been taking place over the past few weeks, Transitional president **Michaël Randrianirina** holds talks with **Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante (CENI)** (independent national electoral commission) president **Rakotonarivo Thierry**, and **Assemblée Nationale** (national assembly) speaker **Siteny Randrianasoloniaiko**;

7 Aug 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. The council of ministers agrees to nationalise the state-owned electricity and water company, **JIRAMA**, and impose a new 15-day energy state of emergency;

6 Aug 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. Madagascar's government says negotiations with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** are continuing after the IMF postponed the disbursement of \$183m in budget support, stressing that the only major disagreement is the government's suspension of the automatic fuel price adjustment mechanism;

3 Aug 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *Haute Cour Constitutionnelle*. The **Haute Cour Constitutionnelle (HCC)** (high constitutional court) approves the law on the oil downstream sector, which grants the **State Procurement of Madagascar (SPM)**, as a state-owned body, the right to import hydrocarbons directly;

3 Aug 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. **United States**-headquartered **S&P Global Ratings** reaffirms Madagascar's B- sovereign credit rating, citing a stabilising economy with GDP growth projected at 3.1% in 2026 and around 4% from 2027–2029, supported by reconstruction, agriculture, mining and continued international backing;

1 Aug 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *REAL TV*. The national youth consultation at the **Ivato International Conference Centre**, which received attendance of numerous participants from the country's 24 regions, officially closes;

31 Jul 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *TVM*. Transitional president **Michaël Randrianirina** officially launches the \$28m **Fly Over** project in **Anosizato**, funded by the **Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa**), a flagship project of former president **Andry Rajoelina**'s regime;

30 Jul 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *VERITE HEBDO*. The **European Union** launches the **Tous (tes) redevables** programme, an initiative targeting local authorities in several regions with the aim of strengthening their management capacities and improving their services;

30 Jul 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *2424.MG*. Transitional president **Michaël Randrianirina** meets with Egyptian investors at the headquarters of the **General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI)** as part of an official visit to Egypt;

29 Jul 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Presidency of Madagascar*. Transitional president **Michaël Randrianirina** meets Egypt's President **Abdel Fattah El-Sissi** in Egypt, signing cooperation agreements in several sectors, including drinking water, new technologies and higher education;

27 Jul 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *L'Express*. **China** and Madagascar reaffirm their military partnership, with both countries pledging to expand cooperation in defence training, experience sharing and technical support to strengthen the capabilities of the **Malagasy Armed Forces**;

27 Jul 2026 **Iavoloha (Madagascar)** *Presidency of Madagascar*. A meeting between transitional president **Michaël Randrianirina** and the two former presidents, **Marc Ravalomanana** and **Hery Rajaonarimampianina**, takes place at the **State Palace**;

24 Jul 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *TVM*. The country observes a day of national mourning following a presidential decree in memory of the victims of kidnappings and murders in several regions of the island, which transitional president **Michaël Randrianirina** has described as destabilisation and terrorism;

23 Jul 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *UN Madagascar*. Government and the **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** officially launch the **Programme for Country Partnership Madagascar 2026–2030**, which aims to strengthen the strategic framework for industrial development;

21 Jul 2026 **Anosy (Madagascar)** *TVM*. The **Cour Suprême d'Antananarivo** (supreme court) celebrates its 65th anniversary;

20 Jul 2026 **Tsimbazaza (Madagascar)** *National Assembly*. The special committee chaired by member of parliament (MP) **Pety Rakotoniaina** and comprising 15 MPs presents an initial report on the parliamentary inquiry they are conducting into the national water and electricity company, **Jiro sy Rano Malagasy (JIRAMA)**;

20 Jul 2026 **Antananarivo (Madagascar)** *REAL TV*. Transitional president **Michaël Randrianirina** issues a one-week ultimatum to **Énergie Électrique (ENELC)** to properly restore the electricity supply to **Antsiranana**, **Toamasina** and **Mahajanga**;

19 Jul 2026 **Maevatanana (Madagascar)** *Mine.mg*. Mines ministry reports the arrest of three **Chinese** nationals and seized equipment used for illegal gold mining in **Marotaolana (Betsiboka Region)**;

17 Jul 2026 **Iavoloha (Madagascar) Presidency of Madagascar**. The Malagasy government has signed a cooperation agreement with two **Chinese** companies, **Jinyuan Holding International Co. Ltd** and **Suzhou Fuchang Space Technology Co. Ltd**, for satellite networks.

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