



**Security  
OVERVIEW**

# **BUENOS AIRES**

December 2024



# CONTENTS

## 1. Situational Analysis

## 2. Crime Analysis

- 2.1 Theft from persons
- 2.2 Theft in different modalities
- 2.3 Land piracy
- 2.4 Homicides
- 2.5 Extortion, threats and kidnapping

## 3. Risk Generating Factors

- 3.1 Micro-trafficking and criminal groups
- 3.2 Social Unrest

## 4. Risk Level

## 5. Foresight Design

## 6. Recommendations





“

The Security Overview – Buenos Aires 2024 aims to conduct a statistical analysis of the city's security situation to build prospective scenarios of the security landscape in the short and medium term.

”

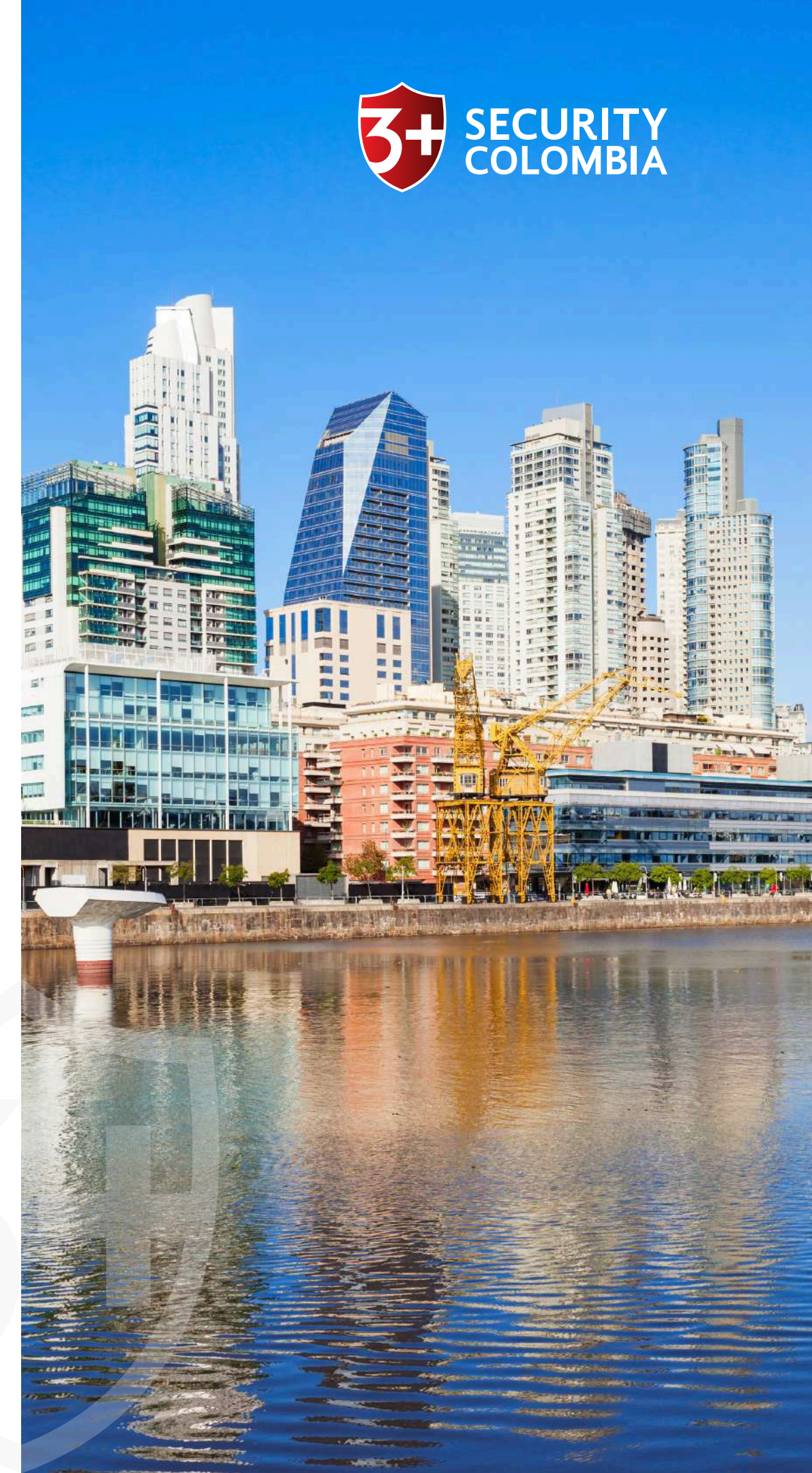




# 1. Situational Analysis

The security situation in the city of Buenos Aires in 2024 presents a complex panorama, marked by an increase in certain crimes and a challenging socioeconomic context. In the area of violent crime, 91 intentional homicides were recorded in 2023, representing an increase of 2.3% over the previous year. In addition, femicides doubled from 6 to 12 cases. This increase in violence reflects a worrying trend that continues in 2024. On the other hand, property crimes have seen a significant increase, with a 15% increase in reported robberies in 2023, reaching a total of 64,938 complaints (I-Ciudad, 2024). Carjackings, in particular, increased by 20%, indicating an escalation in property-related crime. This criminal context is influenced by the country's economic situation, where recession and rising unemployment have contributed to increased social despair. This could be fueling the increase in violent and property crime, as the lack of resources to implement effective crime prevention strategies has become a critical factor aggravating the situation (TyC, 2024).

Against this backdrop, the local government has begun to implement new strategies to address these problems. Road safety awareness campaigns have been launched and technological tools such as heat maps are being used to identify critical areas where crime is concentrated. However, these measures are still insufficient in the face of the magnitude of the problem. In addition to ordinary crime, Buenos Aires faces challenges related to drug trafficking and related violence. The city has become a strategic point for drug trafficking from neighboring countries, which has intensified fights between criminal gangs. This not only affects public safety, but also increases the perception of insecurity among citizens (Infobae, 2024).





# 2. Crime Analysis

## High-Impact Crimes in Buenos Aires 2022-2023

Based on figures provided by the Ministerio de Seguridad, it is evident that in 2023, two high-impact crimes experienced an increase.

| CRIME STATISTICS IN BUENOS AIRES | 2022          | 2023          | VARIATION % 2022 vs 2023 |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Homicides                        | 89            | 91            | 2%                       |
| Theft From Persons               | 111576        | 128419        | 15%                      |
| Crimes Against Property          | 28760         | 25570         | -11%                     |
| Crimes Against Freedom           | 1801          | 1331          | -26%                     |
| Threats                          | 9899          | 8365          | -15%                     |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>152125</b> | <b>163776</b> | <b>8%</b>                |

**Resource:** Own elaboration with information from the Ministerio de Seguridad.

**Note:** Figures subject to change based on updating processes of the source.

Increase:



2%

homicides



15%

theft from persons



## 2.1 Theft from Persons

One of the areas most affected by this is the intersection between Pueyrredón and Corrientes in the downtown area of the Argentine capital. In this intersection 426 incidents were recorded between January and September 2024. Other hot spots in the city include the Obelisco, Constitución, Retiro and Plaza de Mayo, as all of these places tend to have a high flow of people due to the abundant commerce, thus giving criminals the opportunity to carry out their actions ([MinutoUno](#), 2024).

In recent times, authorities have noticed that violence in robberies has increased, and also that most of these acts are carried out with table-style knives, since they are easier to transport and to retain by police officers ([Perfil](#), 2024).

In 2023, there  
were

**128,419**

cases of theft from  
individuals, representing a

**15%** ↑

increase compared to the  
same period in 2022.



## 2.2 Theft in different modalities

Due to the increase in online commerce since the pandemic, the so-called “highway robbers” have found it more lucrative to target vehicles dedicated to the delivery of products purchased over the Internet. This is because they are more vulnerable to criminal gangs, and because in the so-called express robbery modality it is relatively easy to take the goods and leave the place quickly. The Buenos Aires neighborhoods of Palermo and Recoleta have been the main scenarios for this type of actions ([Perfil](#), 2024).





## 2.3 Land piracy

According to a report by the Mesa Interempresarial de Piratería de Camiones (MIPC) in the period between 2023 and 2024, 4,476 incidents of land piracy have been registered in Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires (CABA), doubling the previous period and reaching the record in the last 16 years. According to this report, vehicles engaged in minor cargo have been significantly affected in recent times, due to the boom in online commerce. It was also revealed that 60% of land piracy incidents in Argentina occurred in the province of Buenos Aires, while around 20% occur in CABA.

The southern neighborhoods of the city of Buenos Aires such as Villa Soldati, Nueva Pompeya and Parque Patricios are the most affected by this criminal dynamic due to their high influx of cargo transporters. In addition, the sector most affected by this crime is that of foodstuffs, with 38% of all cargo thefts ([Perfil, 2024](#)).



**4,476**

incidents of land piracy





## 2.4 Homicides



Homicides  
2023:

**91**

Variation  
2022 vs. 2023:

**2%**

Historically, the Argentine capital has been characterized as one of the safest metropolises on the continent; however, in recent years there has been a greater presence of criminal gangs dedicated to drug trafficking, which has exacerbated the problem in vulnerable areas of the city and its periphery. The southern area of the city is the most affected by the scourge of homicides with 42 cases in 2023 in communes 1 and 4, which contain the neighborhoods of Retiro, San Nicolás, Constitución, La Boca and Barracas. In addition to this, three urbanizations have been identified in the limits of CABA where most of the homicides found by the authorities are clustered; these are villas 31, 1-11-14, 21-24 and 20. Criminal gangs dedicated to drug trafficking take advantage of this type of sectors since vulnerable populations typically live in them, and taking advantage of this condition they commit criminal acts ([Minuto Uno](#), 2024).

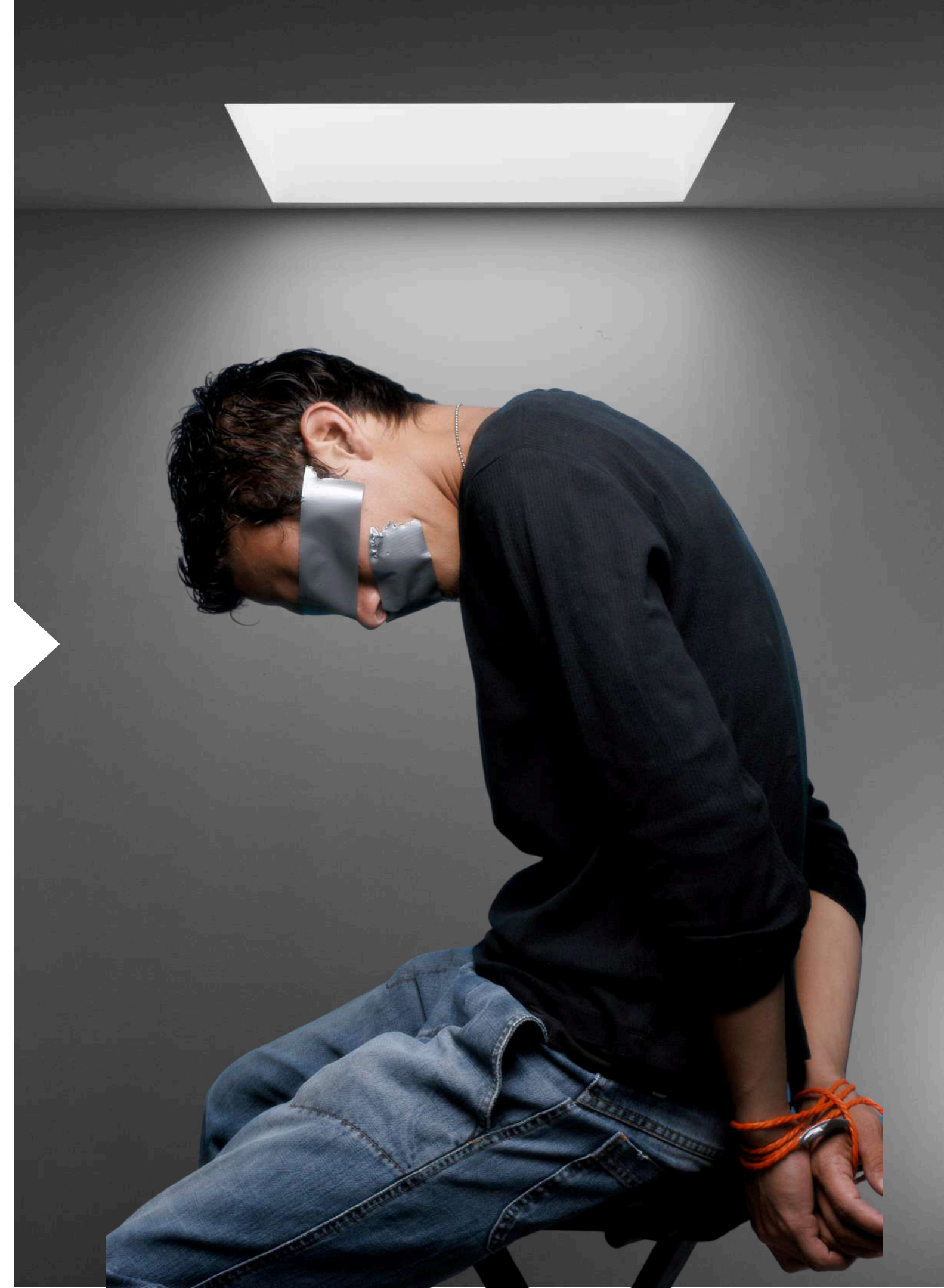




## 2.5 Extortion, threats and kidnapping

The PFA managed to capture three Chinese citizens belonging to the Chinese mafia who were in charge of extorting Chinese merchants through intimidation and the use of force in Lanús, La Matanza and Marcos Paz ([Ministerio de Seguridad, 2024](#)).

Similarly, express kidnappings have been seen on a regular basis in the city, as it is a quick way for criminals to get money. Gangs specializing in this practice study their victims to know when to hold them, and who has the right profile to be able to make them pay for their ransom. On August 24, a clothing merchant was followed by a gang of kidnappers, and just before reaching the private neighborhood where he lives, he was approached and held in the suspects' vehicle. The merchant remained kidnapped until the family paid a total of US\$10,000, 1,200,000 pesos plus jewelry ([La Nación, 2024](#)).





# 3. Risk Generating Factors

## 3.1 Micro-trafficking and criminal groups

### Distribution of the main criminal gangs in Buenos Aires

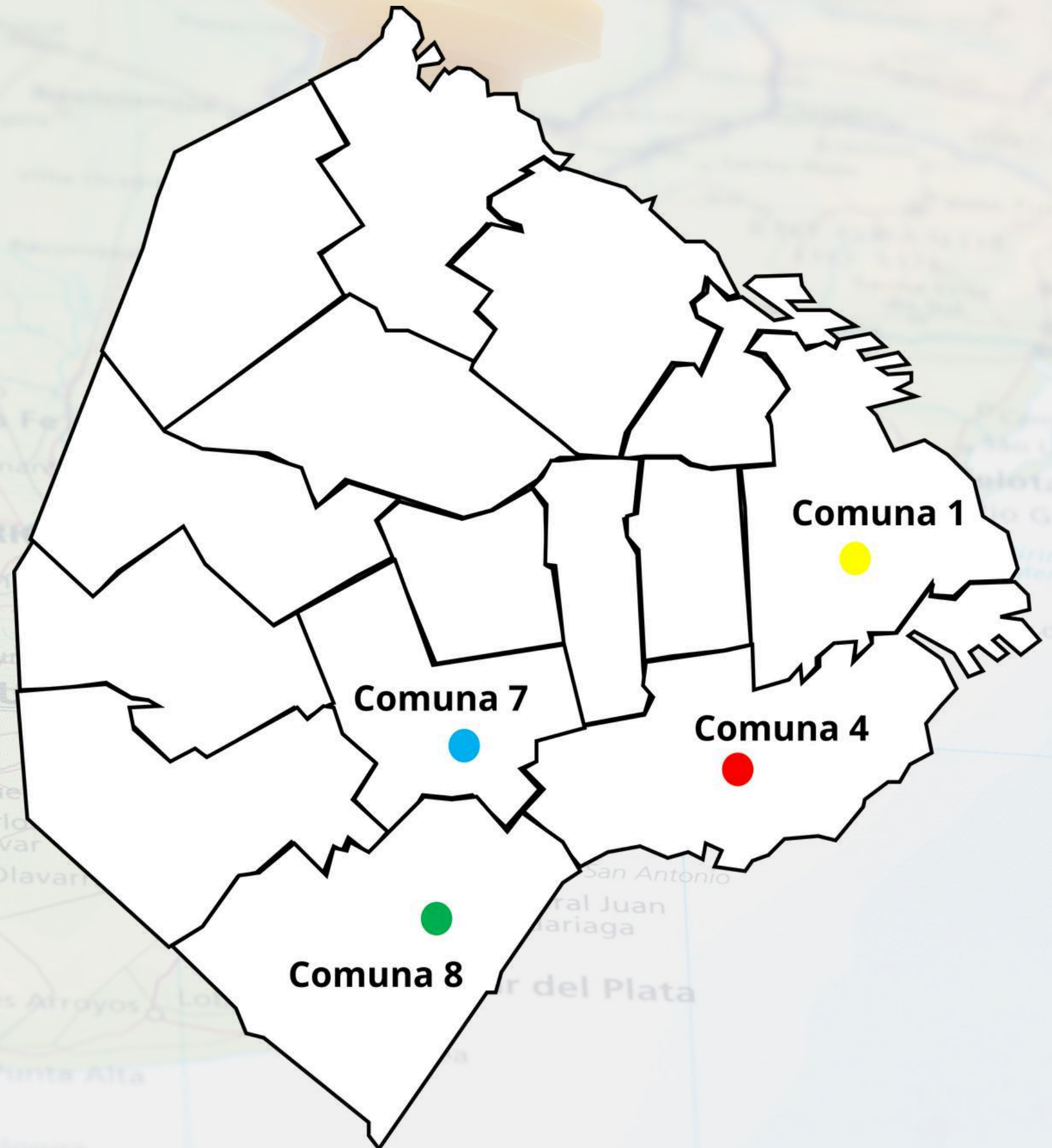
In 2024, the gang phenomenon in Buenos Aires is manifesting itself through an alarming increase in violence and criminal activity, especially in the context of drug trafficking. Gangs such as Los Peruanos de la Villa 1-11-14 and Los Mini Gardelitos have intensified their operations, engaging in complex crimes ranging from micro-trafficking to violent robberies in the periphery of CABA, while within the city some gangs engaged in these crimes are Los Carasucia, Los Gaticas or Los Pibes Chorros ([El País, 2024](#)). This increase in violence is evident in the homicide statistics in El Área Metropolitana de Buenos Aires (AMBA) which contains CABA as well as other neighboring municipalities, increasing by 14.8% compared to the previous year, reaching a total of 822 murders in 2023. Most of these crimes are perpetrated with firearms, indicating an increasing dangerousness among criminals and greater impunity in their actions. Moreover, violence is not limited to confrontations between gangs; it also affects the civilian population, who live in constant fear of being victims of robberies or assaults ([Infobae, 2024](#)).

The authorities have implemented various strategies to combat this phenomenon, such as Plan Bandera, which seeks to dismantle criminal networks and reduce violence in the most affected neighborhoods. However, the infiltration of drug trafficking into government and police institutions complicates these efforts. Criminal gangs have developed sophisticated organizational structures that allow them to operate with relative freedom and adapt quickly to the actions of the security forces. Despite attempts to restore order, the struggle between gangs for control of drug trafficking continues to generate a climate of fear and insecurity among citizens. This conflict is not only limited to the peripheries; its violence has begun to spill over into the city center, posing a significant challenge for public security and requiring a comprehensive response that addresses both the symptoms and underlying causes of the problem. The situation calls for a multidimensional approach that includes social prevention, institutional strengthening and collaboration between different levels of government to achieve a lasting impact in reducing organized crime ([Página 12, 2024](#)).



# Distribution of the main criminal gangs in Buenos Aires

- Los Carasucia
- Los Gaticas
- Valenzuela
- Los Pibes Chorros





## 3.2 Social unrest



The social protest in Argentina has historically been a useful tool for different sectors of society to express their dissatisfaction with situations or decisions they consider unfavorable. For this reason, since the return to democracy in 1983, Argentina has been regarded as a leading country in terms of freedom of expression and protest. At various times when the Argentine economy has not been favorable for the population, people have organized to raise their voices against this situation, sometimes resulting in violence, as in the case of the so-called "Corralito." With the arrival of President Javier Milei and his controversial economic measures, sectors such as students, teachers, political opposition, and unions have mobilized to counteract these measures, which they believe do not improve the economic situation. For example, in October, different associations of students and teachers organized a march to Congress in support of the University Financing Law, as it was expected that the executive, led by President Milei, would veto it for not aligning with his policy of public spending cuts ([France 24, 2024](#)).



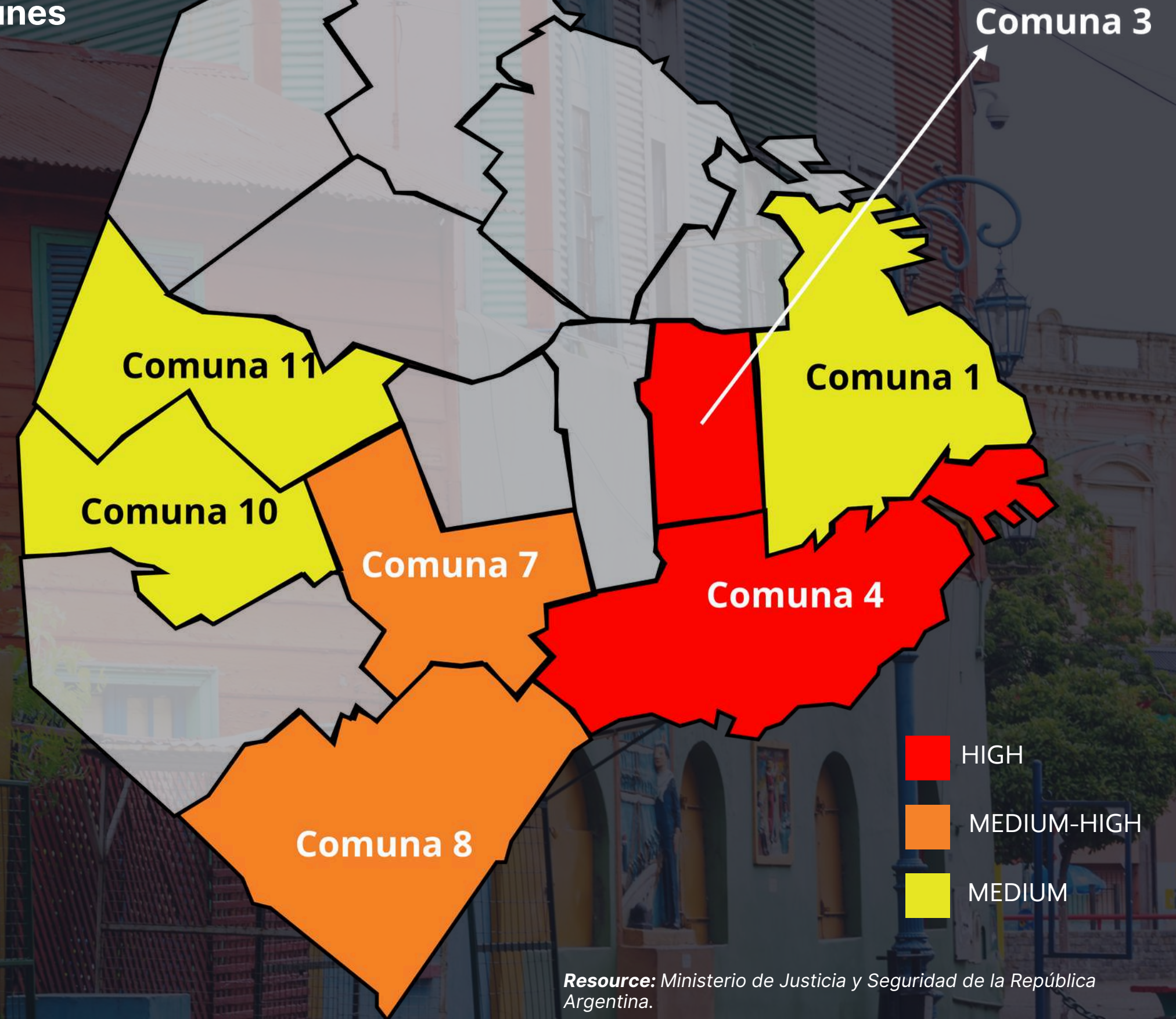


# 4. Risk Level

## Risk Analysis

The risk level analysis aims to identify areas where, according to institutional statistics, there is a higher likelihood of scenarios of violence and the occurrence of high-impact crimes. In the case of the Security Overview-Buenos Aires, the characterization will be carried out based on security and crime statistics from the Criminal Statistics Report by the Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad. The analysis will then highlight the most problematic areas of the city using two indicators: homicide cases and the presence of organized criminal groups.

Map of Buenos Aires Risk Level by communes






Resource: Ministerio de Justicia y Seguridad de la República Argentina.





## Analysis of the dynamics of risks in Buenos Aires so that companies can carry out evaluations in their operations (qualification based on ISO 31000 and quantitative risk analysis)

| Risk  | Main factors that generate risk   | Consequences   | Implications for private companies  | Risk Level                |
|---|---|--|---|---------------------------|
|  <p><b>Deterioration in the security situation</b></p>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployment.</li> <li>• Influence of the phenomenon of microtrafficking on common and organized crime by developing microtrafficking networks</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizen distrust</li> <li>• Decrease in local and foreign investment in the city</li> <li>• Affectation of small and medium-sized merchants.</li> <li>• Increase in complaints of extortion and threats</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible effects on the supply or value chain due to the permeability of crime.</li> <li>• Breach of services or commitments.</li> <li>• Leaks of personnel with intentions of harm to companies.</li> <li>• Fear of market expansion due to criminal networks.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Medium-High</b></p> |
|  <p><b>Impact on the economic and financial system</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corruption in the public and private sector</li> <li>• Increase in poverty and inequality</li> <li>• Increase in informality in the economy</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease in foreign investment in the city.</li> <li>• Low salaries.</li> <li>• Labor informality.</li> <li>• Limitation and inappropriate use of public space.</li> <li>• Low company generation</li> </ul>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in demand for services and products.</li> <li>• Decrease in income.</li> <li>• Increase in costs due to phenomena such as inflation.</li> <li>• Limitation of operational capabilities.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>High</b></p>        |
|  <p><b>Social Unrest</b></p>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissatisfied communities</li> <li>• Failure to comply with agreements established between citizens and the government.</li> <li>• Insufficient government management and absence of public resources.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government destabilization.</li> <li>• Interruption of economic activities.</li> <li>• Increase in public spending.</li> <li>• Possible increase in violence.</li> <li>• Resurgence of social conflicts.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial losses.</li> <li>• Affects in the supply chain.</li> <li>• Unfavorable business climate.</li> <li>• Loss of business opportunities</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Medium</b></p>      |



## 5. Foresight Design

In 2023, Argentina recorded approximately 4,195 homicides, representing a 4.9% increase compared to the previous year. However, there was a 10.6% decrease in intentional homicides during the first half of 2024. Despite this positive trend, violence remains a critical issue, especially in areas like Rosario, where the homicide rate is alarmingly high due to intense rivalries among criminal gangs fighting for control of the drug trade. In Rosario, over 50% of homicides are related to clashes between criminal groups, reflecting escalating violence that has begun to spread to other urban areas.

Criminal groups in Buenos Aires are diverse and operate on multiple levels. Local gangs are often involved in drug trafficking and street-level drug sales, fighting for territorial control in specific neighborhoods. These gangs consist of members with criminal records and frequently resort to violence to resolve internal and external conflicts. A notable example is the gang known as Los Monos, responsible for numerous violent crimes and revenge killings in Rosario. Additionally, the growing influence of Brazilian gangs has been observed, as they not only engage in drug trafficking but also introduce a more aggressive and organized model of violence. These organizations have started to establish themselves in Buenos Aires, further complicating the criminal landscape.

In the short term, government policies such as the Plan Bandera are expected to continue having a positive impact on reducing homicides. However, the persistent activity of gangs and their ability to adapt to police strategies could limit these positive outcomes. The recent circulation of a threatening video by narco gang members targeting government authorities indicates that these organizations are willing to openly challenge the state. In the medium term, while stabilization or further reductions in homicide rates may be achieved through current interventions, other crimes could continue to rise if underlying causes such as poverty and lack of opportunities are not adequately addressed. The infiltration of drug trafficking into state institutions also poses a significant challenge to governance and public security.

In conclusion, although there are encouraging signs of reduced homicides due to specific interventions, structural challenges related to criminal groups and their increasing violence remain a central concern for security in Buenos Aires. The key to improving this situation lies in a comprehensive strategy addressing both the symptoms and root causes of organized crime.

***Find the full version of this document here:***















**María Alejandra Rivera**  
Political scientist and historian  
Unidad de Análisis Político y  
Seguridad Corporativa (UAPSC)  
3+SC



**Alejandro Cárdenas**  
Political scientist  
Unidad de Análisis Político y  
Seguridad Corporativa (UAPSC)  
3+SC



# 6. Recommendations

-  Always maintain a high level of situational awareness to identify risks or threats stemming from external factors in the areas you frequent.
-  Based on the Risk Level description provided in this document, identify the Communes with a high-risk level to plan security and self-care measures accordingly.
-  If traveling by private vehicle, analyze your route and plan alternative routes to address potential issues on the way.
-  Try to travel during daylight hours.
-  For expatriates or foreign nationals traveling within Buenos Aires, evaluate the possibility of implementing systems to remotely monitor movements from a Command Center.
-  When in crowded spaces such as restaurants, shopping malls, or bars, always stay vigilant about your personal belongings and avoid engaging in conversations with strangers who suddenly ask for favors or try to approach you.
-  Avoid storing detailed or sensitive information about your family or your employer on your mobile phone.
-  Be cautious about the information you share on social media, keeping in mind that less privacy increases exposure to risks such as extortion or kidnapping.
-  If you are the victim of a phone extortion attempt, do not hang up, try to take notes, do not provide your name or ID number, and, if possible, record the call.
-  In the event of threats in any form, immediately contact the authorities and do not comply with the criminals' demands.
-  If possible, undergo training in defensive and evasive driving to enhance your ability to protect yourself or your family in the event of an assault in public spaces.
-  If you find yourself in a situation of high vulnerability and at risk of robbery or express kidnapping, do not resist.

**Note.** The investigative work and analysis recorded in this security assessment is exclusive to **3+ Security Colombia**. Therefore, it is recommended not to disclose the document in question.





**3+ SECURITY  
COLOMBIA**

**Let us accompany you with  
the service you deserve.**



**RESOLUCIÓN:  
No. 20204100025717**



BUSINESS ALLIANCE FOR SECURE COMMERCE  
CERTIFICADO BASC  
COLBOG01083-1-1

