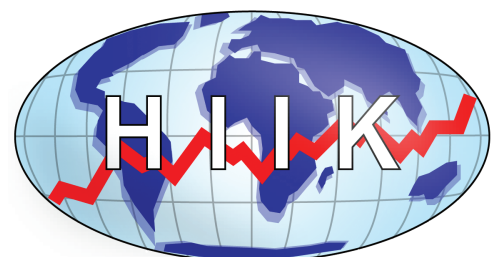


**HEIDELBERG INSTITUTE FOR
INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT RESEARCH**
at the Department of Political Science, University of Heidelberg

CONFLICT BAROMETER 2007

**Crises - Wars - Coups d'État
Negotiations - Mediations - Peace Settlements**

16th ANNUAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS



HIIK

The HEIDELBERG INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT RESEARCH (HIIK) at the Department of Political Science, University of Heidelberg is a registered non-profit association. It is dedicated to research, evaluation and documentation of intra- and interstate political conflicts. The HIIK evolved from the research project 'KOSIMO' (Conflict Simulation Model) led by Prof. Dr. Frank R. Pfetsch (University of Heidelberg) and financed by the German Research Association (DFG) in 1991.

Conflict

We define conflicts as the clashing of interests (positional differences) over national values of some duration and magnitude between at least two parties (organized groups, states, groups of states, organizations) that are determined to pursue their interests and achieve their goals.

Conflict items

Territory
Secession
Decolonization
Autonomy
System/ideology
National power
Regional predominance
International power
Resources
Others

Conflict intensities

State of violence	Intensity group	Level of intensity	Name of intensity	Definition
Non-violent	Low	1	Latent conflict	A positional difference over definable values of national meaning is considered to be a latent conflict if demands are articulated by one of the parties and perceived by the other as such.
		2	Manifest conflict	A manifest conflict includes the use of measures that are located in the stage preliminary to violent force. This includes for example verbal pressure, threatening explicitly with violence, or the imposition of economic sanctions.
Violent	Medium	3	Crisis	A crisis is a tense situation in which at least one of the parties uses violent force in sporadic incidents.
	High	4	Severe crisis	A conflict is considered to be a severe crisis if violent force is used repeatedly in an organized way.
		5	War	A war is a violent conflict in which violent force is used with a certain continuity in an organized and systematic way. The conflict parties exercise extensive measures, depending on the situation. The extent of destruction is massive and of long duration.

In this publication, the intensity of each conflict as shown in the tables is the highest intensity reached in the course of the year. Therefore, conflicts may, for instance, be classified as severe crises although there may have been no more fighting in the second half of the year.

The present Conflict Barometer 2007 reflects our current state of research. Because conflict data even of previous years is continuously reviewed, this edition's data might differ from older editions. Therefore, if you wish to trace a conflict over time, please contact us in order to receive up-to-date time series evaluations.

The HIIK assumes no liability for the accuracy of the data printed in this publication.

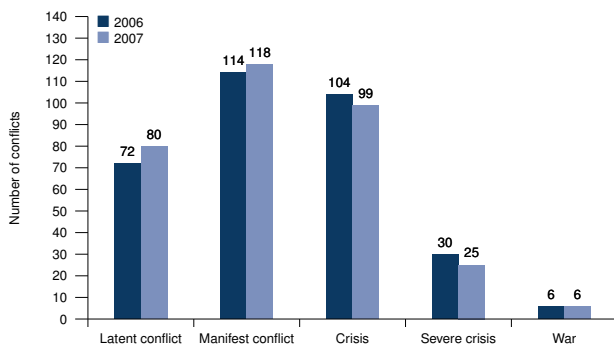
Editorial deadline: December 1, 2007

Global Conflict Panorama

Global Development

In 2007, 328 political conflicts were counted. Among these, six constituted wars and 25 severe crises, amounting to a total of 31 conflicts carried out with a massive amount of violence. 99 conflicts were conducted with only sporadic use of violence and therefore classified as crises. The crises and highly-violent conflicts amounted to a total of 130 violent conflicts. In contrast, 198 non-violent conflicts were counted, which can be subdivided into 118 manifest and 80 latent conflicts. Compared to 2006, the number of wars remained the same with six. Five of these had already been fought out on this intensity level in 2006: Sudan (Darfur), Somalia (UIC), Sri Lanka (LTTE), Afghanistan (Taliban), and Iraq (insurgents). Two of these, the respective conflicts in Sudan and in Iraq, were therefore classified as wars for the fourth year running. Last year's sixth war, Israel (Hezbollah), significantly de-escalated to a non-violent level following the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon in October 2006. However, the former severe crisis in Pakistan's border region to Afghanistan, Waziristan, escalated to a war in 2007 [→ Pakistan (North and South Waziristan)].

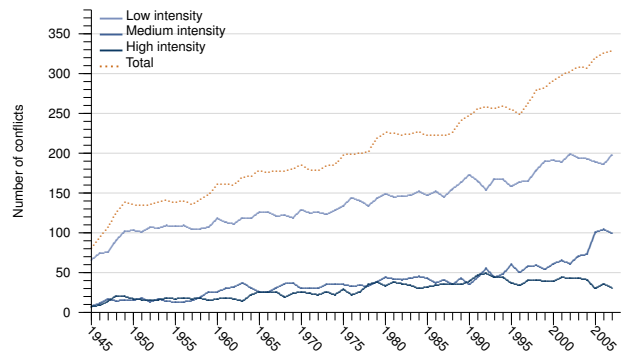
Global conflict intensities in 2007 compared to 2006



The number of severe crises decreased from 30 to 25. Sixteen of these had already been on the same level of intensity in 2006. Six escalated from the level of a crisis in 2006 to a severe crisis in 2007. Two – the conflict between the two main rebel groups in Colombia [→ Colombia (FARC - ELN)] and the opposition conflict in Myanmar [→ Myanmar (opposition)] – had been manifest conflicts, i.e. non-violent, in 2006. One severe crisis, Mexico (drug cartels), emerged as a new conflict in 2007. Those of last year's severe crises that were not conducted at this level of intensity again in 2007 developed as follows: one, Pakistan (North and South Waziristan) escalated to a war; thirteen de-escalated, ten out of these to the level of a crisis, and three to the level of a latent conflict. All in all, 31 highly violent conflicts were counted in 2007, in comparison with 36 in 2006. This indicates a considerable de-escalation – after last year's escalation compared to 2005, when, with only 30, the lowest number

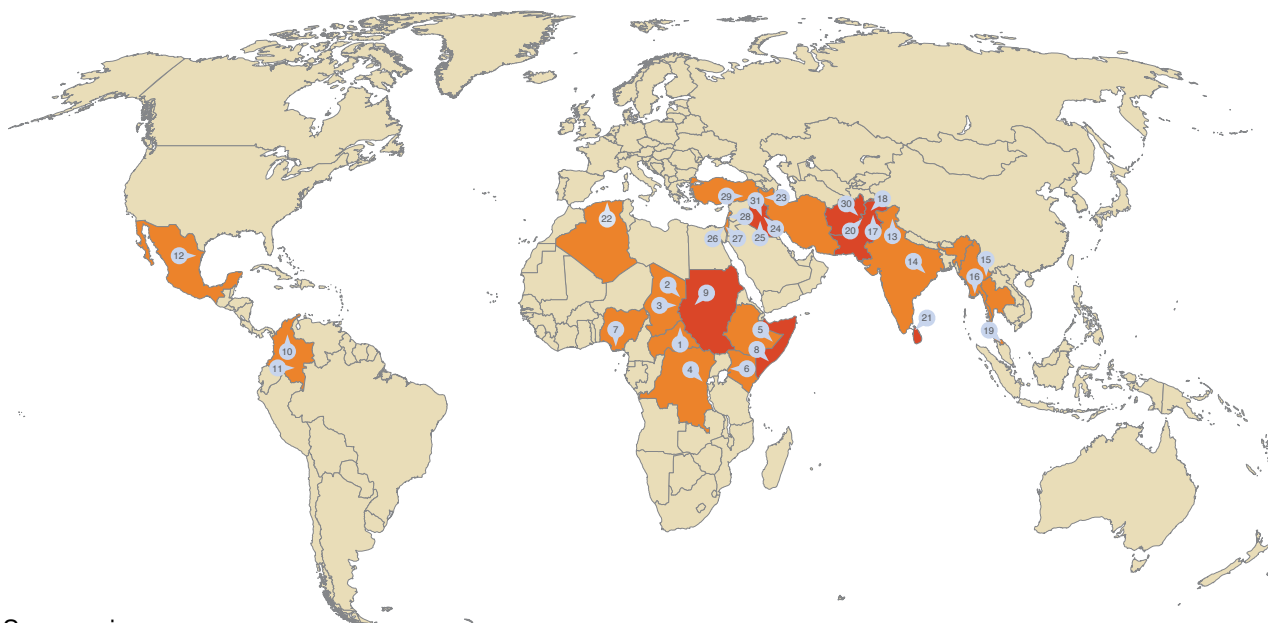
of highly violent conflicts since 1984 had been counted. The number of crises, however, decreased only slightly in relation to their high number: 99 in 2007 compared to 104 in 2006.

Ongoing global conflicts of low, medium and high intensity 1945 to 2007



The number of non-violent conflicts grew from 186 to 198, as latent conflicts increased from 72 to 80, and manifest conflicts increased at almost the same rate with 114 in 2006 compared to 118 in 2007. The total number of conflicts rose slightly from 326 to 328, as eight conflicts had ended in 2006 and ten new ones arose in 2007. These were the following: One of the terminated conflicts was located in Europe, four in Africa, and three in the Middle East and Maghreb. Of the new conflicts, three emerged in Europe, two in Africa, three in the Americas, and two in Asia and Oceania. While altogether only four of the ten new conflicts were conducted without the use of violence, five were crises and one a severe crisis in the very year of their beginning. In order to reveal a long-term trend, the five intensity levels are categorized into three groups: The two non-violent levels are summarized as low intensity, crises as medium intensity, and severe crises and wars as conflicts of high intensity. The above graph also displays the total number of conflicts observed. As the graph shows, the number of conflicts observed per year has risen more or less continuously from 81 in 1945 to 328 in 2006. Most of the conflicts are low-intensity conflicts. When looking at high-intensity conflicts, a continuous and - for the most part - regular increase, interrupted by minor phases of de-escalation, from seven in 1945 to 41 in 2004, is evident. The all-time high was 49 high intensity conflicts in 1992, shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union. After a spectacular drop to only 30 in 2005, the number of highly-violent conflicts rose again to 36 in 2006, but decreased to 31 in 2007. On the other hand, the number of crises soared to previously unknown heights in recent years, indicating a change in conflict conduct. While fewer conflicts were fought out with the systematic use of large-scale violence, more and more disputes were waged with the sporadic use of violence, e.g. ambushes, guerilla attacks, bombings and the like.

Worldmap: Violent conflicts of high intensity in 2007



- Severe crises
- Wars

The countries affected by conflicts are marked regarding the highest intensity.

Legend

No. Name and conflict items

Sub-Saharan Africa - Severe crises

- 1 Central African Republic (UFDR, APRD) - national power
- 2 Chad (ethnic groups) - regional predominance
- 3 Chad (various rebel groups) - national power
- 4 DR Congo (ex-RCD-G, Interahamwe, FDLR) - national power
- 5 Ethiopia (ONLF/Ogaden) - secession
- 6 Kenya (ethnic groups) - resources
- 7 Nigeria (Niger Delta - Ijaw) - regional predominance, resources

Sub-Saharan Africa - Wars

- 8 Somalia (UIC) - system/ideology, national power
- 9 Sudan (Darfur) - regional predominance, resources

The Americas - Severe crises

- 10 Colombia (FARC - ELN) - system/ideology, regional predominance, resources
- 11 Colombia (FARC) - system/ideology, regional predominance, resources
- 12 Mexico (drug cartels) - regional predominance

Asia and Oceania - Severe crises

- 13 India (Kashmir) - secession
- 14 India (Naxalites) - system/ideology
- 15 Myanmar (KNU, KNLA, KNPP, KnA - UWSA, DKBA, government / Karen State, Kayah State) - secession

- 16 Myanmar (opposition) - system/ideology, national power

- 17 Pakistan (Islamists) - system/ideology

- 18 Pakistan (Sunnites - Shiites) - system/ideology, regional predominance

- 19 Thailand (Muslim separatists/southern border provinces) - secession

Asia and Oceania - Wars

- 20 Pakistan (North and South Waziristan) - regional predominance

- 21 Sri Lanka (LTTE) - secession

The Middle East and Maghreb - Severe crises

- 22 Algeria (Islamist groups) - system/ideology, national power

- 23 Iran (PJAK/Kurdish areas) - autonomy

- 24 Iraq (al-Sadr group) - system/ideology, national power

- 25 Iraq (al-Zarqawi group) - system/ideology, national power

- 26 Israel (Fatah - Hamas) - system/ideology, regional predominance

- 27 Israel (PNA, al-Fatah, Hamas/Palestine) - secession, system/ideology, resources

- 28 Lebanon (Hezbollah, Fatah al-Islam) - system/ideology, national power

- 29 Turkey (PKK/KONGRA-GEL/Kurdish areas) - autonomy

The Middle East and Maghreb - Wars

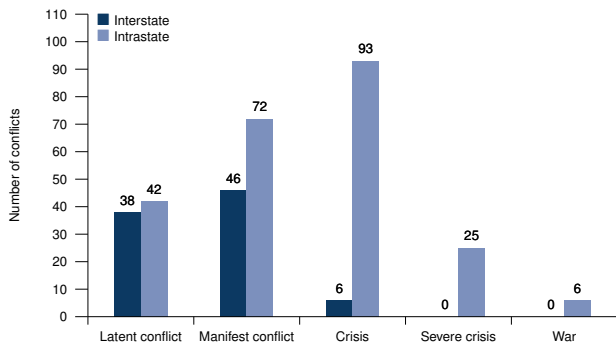
- 30 Afghanistan (Taliban) - system/ideology, national power

- 31 Iraq (insurgents) - system/ideology, national power

Analysis intrastate - interstate

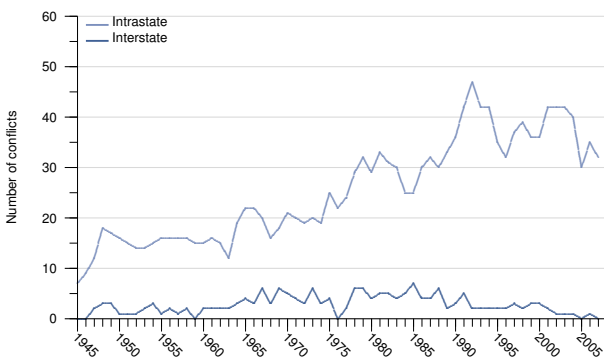
In 2007, a total number of 238 internal and 90 interstate conflicts was counted. The former category comprised four conflicts that can be classed as transnational, since at least one conflict party is a non-state actor whose main base of operations is located in a country other than its opponent's, be it a state or another non-state actor. Since the structure of these conflicts (non-state actor vs. state or another non-state actor) resembles the structure of intrastate conflicts, they are subsumed under this category here.

Number of intra- and interstate conflicts in 2007 by intensity level



All six wars in 2007 were internal conflicts, as were all the severe crises, one of which, Chad (ethnic groups) was transnational. Therefore, after last year's severe interstate crisis between Israel and Lebanon [→ Israel - Lebanon], no conflict between states was fought out on one of the two highest intensity levels. However, six of the 99 crises were interstate [→ Armenia - Azerbaijan; Chad - Sudan; Uganda - DR Congo (Lake Albert); Colombia - Ecuador; Israel - Lebanon; Syria - Israel], whereas 93 were intrastate (none transnational).

Ongoing intra- and interstate conflicts of high intensity 1945 to 2007



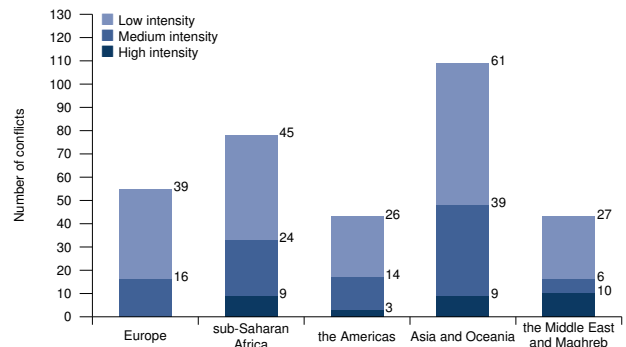
Of the six interstate crises, the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the one between Chad and Sudan had already been conducted on the same intensity level in 2006. Israel - Lebanon had been a severe crisis in 2006. The conflict between Uganda and DR Congo was new, and the remaining two disputes had been manifest conflicts in 2006. Of the non-violent conflicts, 42

latent and 72 manifest conflicts were intrastate (including one and two transnational conflicts, respectively), and 38 latent as well as 46 manifest conflicts were interstate. Therefore, intrastate conflicts outnumbered interstate conflicts not only in total, but also on every intensity level. The long-term analysis, for which the two high intensity levels, severe crisis and war, were summarized into one group, clearly shows that the predominance of highly violent intrastate conflicts can be observed from the beginning of the period examined. The current low number of interstate wars and severe crises, however, was a more recent development supposedly due to the end of the Cold War.

Regional Development

With a total of 109, almost a third of all conflicts were located in Asia and Oceania. Second came Africa with 78, third Europe with 55, then the Middle East and Maghreb and the Americas with 43 each. Asia and Oceania also held the largest number of crises with 39, as well as the largest number of non-violent conflicts, 61.

Distribution of all conflicts in 2007 by region and intensity type



Concerning highly-violent conflicts, however, Asia and Oceania ranked second with nine, two of them wars. The Middle East and Maghreb ranked first with ten highly-violent conflicts, two of them wars. Africa came second, together with Asia, with nine highly-violent conflicts each. Among those, two were wars in both regions. Africa and the Middle East and Maghreb switched places, as Africa had been the region with the most highly-violent conflicts in previous years. This change was due to a remarkable de-escalation in Africa, where high-intensity conflicts decreased from 15 in 2006 to only nine in 2007, while their number in the Middle East and Maghreb increased from nine to ten. In the Americas, the number of highly-violent conflicts rose significantly from only one in 2006 to three in 2007. In contrast, no high-intensity conflict was counted in Europe for the first time since 1967, as the last years' persistent severe crisis in Chechnya [→ Russia (Chechen rebels/Chechnya)] de-escalated to the level of a crisis and no new highly-violent conflict emerged. This is even more remarkable, as the third largest number of conflicts was located in Europe, and with 16 also the third largest number of crises (Asia and Oceania 39, Africa 24). In the Middle East

and Maghreb, only six crises were counted, less than in the Americas with 14. Therefore, most remarkably, more high-intensity conflicts than crises were fought out in the Middle East and Maghreb, whereas the structure of the distribution of the conflicts between the intensity groups, if summarized into three groups (low, medium, and high intensity), normally resembles a pyramid, with the high-intensity conflicts on top. If the number of states per region is taken into account and the number of conflicts related to the number of states, the Middle East and Maghreb's sad pole position becomes even clearer. Not only that the average number of highly violent conflicts per state was almost 0.5 in this region (the world average being around 0.2), while Africa had 0.2, Asia and Oceania 0.1, the Americas less than 0.1, and Europe zero. Also, the Middle East and Maghreb with 2.1 had the highest overall average number of conflicts per state, thereby replacing Asia and Oceania as the region with most conflicts. The world average was around 1.7. Asia and Oceania as well as Africa displayed values around that mean, while Europe and America had only about one conflict per state on average.

Dynamics within individual conflicts

Approx. two-thirds of all conflicts, i.e. 215 out of 328, remained on the same intensity level from 2006 to 2007. While a total of 36 conflicts escalated – six of these by two levels –, 67 conflicts in all de-escalated. Of the latter, 61 cases de-escalated by one level, two by two levels, and four by three levels. Therefore, the de-escalation from 2006 to 2007 is quite remarkable, with not only the number of high-intensity conflicts decreasing, but also the de-escalating conflicts by far outnumbering the conflicts that escalated. In 2006, the overall number of escalating and de-escalating conflicts had been equal, with escalation more often than de-escalation taking place over two intensity levels.

Change of intensity	Number
Escalation by four levels	0
Escalation by three levels	0
Escalation by two levels	6
Escalation by one level	30
No change	215
De-escalation by one level	61
De-escalation by two levels	2
De-escalation by three levels	4
De-escalation by four levels	0

Of the six conflicts that escalated by two levels, all went from non-violent to violent. Four escalated from a latent conflict to a crisis [→ Estonia (Russian-speaking minority); Mexico (EPR/Guerrero); Niger (Tuareg/Agadez); Pakistan (opposition)], and two from a manifest conflict to a severe crisis [→ Colombia (FARC - ELN) and Myanmar (opposition)]. Therefore, a total of 18 conflicts turned violent in 2007, as in addition twelve conflicts escalated from the level of a manifest conflict to a crisis. Of the other conflicts escalating by one

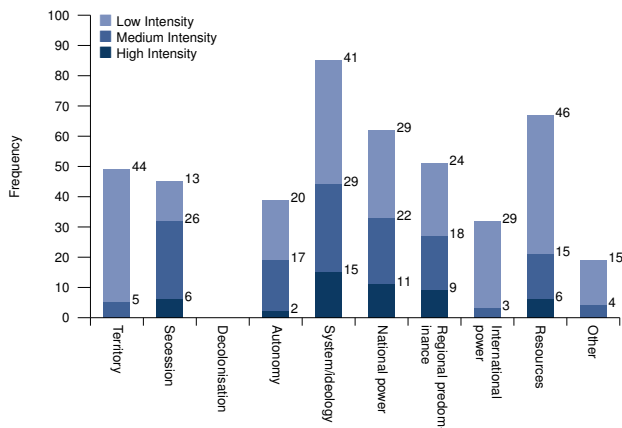
level, six turned from a crisis into a severe crisis [→ Ethiopia (ONLF/Ogaden); Kenya (ethnic groups); Pakistan (Islamists); Iraq (al-Zarqawi group); Israel (Fatah – Hamas); Lebanon (Hezbollah, Fatah al-Islam)], and one turned from a severe crisis into a war [→ Pakistan (North and South Waziristan)]. The remaining eleven remained non-violent, escalating only from a latent to a manifest conflict. One of the four conflicts that de-escalated by three levels turned from a war to a manifest conflict [→ Israel (Hezbollah)], as no more violent incidents between the conflict parties were reported after Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. Three cases went from severe crisis to latent conflict [→ Ethiopia (Guji – Borena); Guinea-Bissau (MFDC-Sadio); Sudan (Nuer, White Army – SPLM/A)]. In Sudan, this was due to the overwhelming force of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), causing the White Army to finally abandon the area in 2006; in Guinea-Bissau, the security forces had succeeded in pushing the rebels over the border to Senegal's Casamance region, where they had originated [→ Senegal (MFDC-Sadio/Casamance)]. Both conflicts de-escalating by two levels decreased from crisis to latent conflict. Therefore, all six conflicts de-escalating by more than one level turned from violent to non-violent. In addition, 28 crises decreased to manifest conflicts. Therefore, altogether 34 conflicts ceased being violent from 2006 to 2007, stressing the significant de-escalation in 2007.

Conflict Items

The prevalent conflict item in 2007 was system/ideology with 85 cases. This item signifies that the respective disputes were conducted in order to change the political or economic system or concerned ideological differences, e.g. striving for a theocracy as opposed to a secular state, religious differences, seeking democracy in an autocracy, or striving for a socialist economic order. System/ideology had already been the most frequent item in 2006. Resources ranked second with 67, closely followed by national power with 62. Please note that conflicts very often were centered around more than one item. Therefore, one and the same conflict might occur twice or three times in this analysis. Combinations of the three most frequent items were common, as was the combination of territory and resources, regional predominance and resources, or international power and system/ideology. More than half of the system conflicts as well as the national power conflicts were fought out with the use of violence. Among these, 15 of the system conflicts and eleven of the national power conflicts were even highly violent. Three of each of these even were wars. Half of the disputes over regional predominance were violent, including nine highly violent ones. The latter comprised two wars, i.e. Sudan (Darfur) and Pakistan (North and South Waziristan). Disputes concerning autonomy were violent in half of the cases, including two highly violent conflicts. Almost three-quarters of secession conflicts (32 of 45) were fought out violently, featuring six highly violent conflicts, including the war in Sri Lanka [→ Sri Lanka (LTTE)]. In contrast, conflicts over

resources were conducted violently only in less than one-third of the cases (however, six of those were highly violent). This might be due to the fact that resources can be shared among the conflict parties, while certain other items, such as ideological questions, power, or self-determination can hardly be divided between the conflict parties in a way satisfying both parties.

Global frequency of conflict items in 2007 by intensity groups



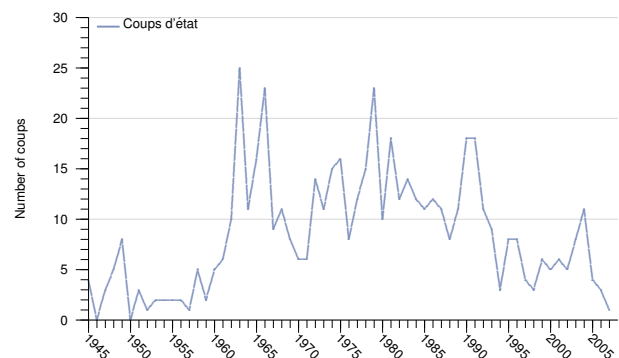
Another factor might be that many conflicts over resources were interstate conflicts, which are by far less violence-prone than intrastate conflicts [→ Panorama: Analysis intrastate – interstate]. In fact, violence in disputes over resources occurred only in intrastate cases, with the single exception of the crisis between Uganda and DR Congo [→ Uganda – DR Congo (Lake Albert)]. The lower susceptibility to violence of interstate conflicts is also illustrated by the fact that only three of 32 conflicts over international power, an interstate item, were conducted violently in 2007, none of the cases being a high-intensity conflict. The same applies to territory, another interstate item, which was pursued violently in only five out of 49 cases. No high-intensity conflicts concerning one or both of these two items were observed in 2007. Striking differences concerning the frequency of items can be discovered between the regions. In Europe, the prevalent cause for disputes was self-determination, with secession the most frequent item with 16 cases, and autonomy ranking second with 13 cases. In contrast, both internal power conflicts and conflicts over regional predominance were almost unknown (two conflicts over national power, one over regional predominance). This is a quite different pattern of intrastate conflicts than in Africa, where the prevalent conflict item was national power (28), often in combination with the second-most frequent item, resources, and where regional predominance – an item often indicating weakness on the part of the state – came third with 16 cases. Secession or autonomy were, however, sought only occasionally. System/ideology was a rare item both in Europe and in Africa (four and six cases, respectively). In contrast, it was the prevalent item in Asia and Oceania, in the Middle East and Maghreb, and also in America (32, 22, and 21 cases, respectively). Another similarity between Asia and Oceania and the Middle East and Maghreb was the

large number of national power conflicts, albeit still considerably less than in Africa. Similarly to Africa, Asia and Oceania had a very large number of regional predominance conflicts as well (26) – an item almost unknown in the Middle East and Maghreb (only one case). Asia and Oceania also had a large number of secession or autonomy conflicts (17 and 13 cases, respectively), similar to Europe, but in contrast to Africa, the Americas, and the Middle East and Maghreb. The only analogy between Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East and Maghreb was the relatively large number of interstate conflicts.

Coups d'état

After last year's two successful coups in Thailand and Fiji, and one attempted coup d'état on the Philippines, only one attempted coup d'état was observed in 2007, again on the Philippines. 50 rebelling soldiers occupied a luxury hotel in the capital, Manila, demanding the resignation of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on November 29.

Coups d'état and attempted coups d'état 1945 to 2007



The mutineers were led by Antonio Trillanes, who was due to stand trial that day for another coup attempt in 2003. Trillanes, however, escaped together with the military policemen supposed to guard him, and occupied the hotel. After an ultimatum had passed, special forces stormed the hotel. Trillanes surrendered in order to avoid bloodshed.

Terrorism

Using the HIIK's methodology, terrorist attacks are taken into account as a measure of conflict conduct if one conflict party uses terrorist means to pursue its interests that are related to national values. Most of this year's terrorist attacks can be classified as conflict measures in existing conflicts [→ cf. above all Iraq (insurgents) and Afghanistan (Taliban)]. However, some attacks can not be attributed to certain distinguishable conflicts, as the attacker's aim is often unknown or vague and not related to a certain state. Because the HIIK's conflict definition does not apply to these incidents, they are not treated as separate conflicts but listed in this section. As in the years before, European countries were targeted by terrorist attacks, probably in connection with their involve-

ment in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. On June 30, a car was driven into Glasgow Airport's main terminal, where it burst into flames. Only the drivers were injured. The day before, two cars packed with petrol, gas, and nails had been detected in London before they could explode. They had been parked near a nightclub in Haymarket and near Trafalgar Square. London had already been targeted by terrorists in 2005 and 2006. In addition, German authorities in September announced that they had prevented a major terrorist attack on US and German targets in Germany. Three Islamist militants, allegedly members of a group called Islamic Jihad Union, were arrested, and a large quantity of potentially explosive chemicals and military-grade detonators was confiscated on September 4. Another suspect was arrested by Turkish authorities in November. In Austria, three persons were arrested in September in connection with an online video made by Islamic militants in March, threatening Germany and Austria if they did not withdraw their troops from Afghanistan. Also in September, two men with suspected links to al-Qaeda were arrested in Copenhagen by Danish authorities under suspicion of planning a bomb attack. Another six were arrested as well but released after questioning. On November 23, three men arrested in September 2006 for allegedly planning bomb attacks were sentenced to up to eleven years in prison. In Morocco, several terrorist attacks were committed in 2007. In Casablanca, a suicide bomber blew himself up in a cyber café on March 13, to avoid arrest. Three people were injured. On April 10, as a result of a major security operation against suspected Islamist militants, three suicide bombers blew themselves up in order to avoid arrest. The detonation killed one police officer and wounded 20 other people. Another bomber was shot by the police while trying to detonate his explosive device. On April 14, two suicide bombers killed themselves and wounded another person in an attack on US diplomatic offices in Casablanca. In reaction, Morocco raised its terror alert to its highest level, which resulted in the full mobilization of the security forces. On August 14 in the city of Meknes, a man tried to blow himself up near a bus full of tourists. Only the attacker was injured. These attacks, together with other events, seem to indicate al-Qaeda's spread in the region. Even previously existing Islamist groups such as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) announced that they had joined al-Qaeda [→ Algeria (Islamist groups)]. GSPC pledged to organize extremists across North Africa to become a new international force of jihad. It is forging links with terrorist groups in Morocco, Nigeria, Mauritania, Tunisia and elsewhere. In January, a dozen militants and two Tunisian security officers were killed in a series of gun battles in Tunisia. The militants had come across the border from Algeria.

Crime and Conflict

The overall rise in crime rates in worldwide conflict regions prompts the HIIK and its conflict definition to question how crime can be methodologically separated from political conflicts, and which criteria are necessary for

the distinction between the two. The HIIK regards and evaluates conflicts by definition as political conflicts. This leads to the conclusion that crime in the sense of massive raising, trafficking, and distribution of drugs is generally not considered a political conflict. However, constant conflict monitoring does show that crime as such can transform into a blurred mixture of political and criminal conflict or even culminate in a mere political conflict. In order to be able to classify massive crime as a political conflict, the following qualitative criteria concerning the dimension of crime and the state government's reaction to it have to be fulfilled: There must be an identifiable conflict item of national value, including "regional predominance" and "resources," for example. Moreover, the extent of organized crime must pose a severe threat to the internal authority of the state institutions in question, limiting its territorial and institutional control. The criminal actors' aim must not be solely reduced to its criminal intention, e.g. drug growing and selling, but also has to include the distinct motivation to fight and diminish state sovereignty and authorities – even with the use of massive violence, if necessary. Sometimes, this even takes the extent of an intended takeover of state territory [→ Mexico (various drug cartels)]. The state government has to recognize this threat as such and take measures in order to secure or regain sovereignty in the affected region. However, the HIIK does not class violent clashes between rivaling drug gangs as political conflicts but continues to regard them as organized crime. If two rivaling non-state actors, both involved in criminal activities, are durably at odds with each other e.g. over ideological issues, the control of territory, or resources, and take measures to secure their respective control, however, the HIIK counts this as a political conflict – as can be seen in Colombia. The rebel group Revolutionary armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) accuses the National Liberation Army (ELN) of betraying common revolutionary ideals. Both rebel groups are well equipped and organized, and are actually fighting each other in order to secure or extend their spheres of territorial influence. Apart from that, these violent clashes force the local population to flee their homes, and therefore have a considerable impact on the nation. Finally, the totality of the fighting between the two rebel armies is underlined by FARC's declaration of war on the ELN, according to which the latter is to be completely eradicated [→ Colombia (FARC - ELN)]. As a result, the Colombian state government has partly lost its control over these affected areas. In many cases, crime and conflict are inseparable in so far as crime both serves to finance the strive and the strive provides the necessary opportunity structure for organized crime. One example for this is Myanmar, one of the world's leading providers of opium. Most of the drugs are produced in the mountainous areas primarily inhabited by ethnic minorities. Because the military government of Myanmar derives much of its legitimacy through restoring peace in the conflict-ridden country, the government and army has focused on negotiating cease-fire agreements, also at the cost of conceding autonomy to various ethnicities and ethnic organizations. This autonomy has enabled these organizations to cultivate

opium without state interference, thus providing them with financial resources and in turn fueling the conflict feasibilities. The largest group producing and trafficking opium, heroin, and methamphetamine is the United Wa State Army (UWSA), presently allied with Myanmar's army in its fight against the Shan. Due to UWSA's extensions to neighboring Laos, the current state of affairs has transnational significance, as well [→ Myanmar (SSA-S, SSNA, SSA-N - government, UWSA, NDAA-ESS / Shan State)]. In extreme cases, however, means and ends become blurred or interchange, and a political conflict mutates into crime. The original aim of the non-state conflict party, mostly of an ideological nature, typically degenerates over the course of time and ends up playing only a minor role in the conflict, while the focus of interest shifts more and more to economic and financial profits. While economic elements in political conflicts are by no means a new phenomenon, the end of the Cold War has blurred the lines between means and ends concerning economic/criminal and political dimensions of conflicts, especially in Africa. This phenomenon has been discussed extensively under such controversial keywords as violence economies or "New Wars". However, "economization" of conflicts does not imply that the respective actors do not have "political" aims such as the control of the state in mind any more. Sometimes control over the government can be the most efficient way of acquiring riches. Therefore, not all economically-oriented rebel movements are content with the control over certain profitable areas (e.g. diamond mines) but seek to control the entire state. Charles Taylor, former leader of the rebel movement National Patriotic Front of Liberia, then president of Liberia from 1997 to 2003, is a good example of this. He is believed to have accumulated tens of millions of US dollars in foreign bank accounts in that era, and is meanwhile being tried for his involvement in another civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone [→ Sierra Leone (AFRC, RUF, SMG)]. Finally, conflict monitoring reveals a fourth model: Violent political conflicts generally offer criminal actors an enormous chance – due to the political and sovereign frailty of the state – to pursue and achieve their aims in the shade of the central ongoing political conflict. A closer examination of this last model also reveals that a clear-cut differentiation between political and criminal intent as regards the various conflict measures within such a conflict mostly cannot be undertaken, due to the inherent lack of information vital and a complex mixing of interests [→ e.g. Guatemala (various opposition groups), Haiti (opposition)].

Comment by Jens J. Hofmann and Friedemann J. Schirmeister

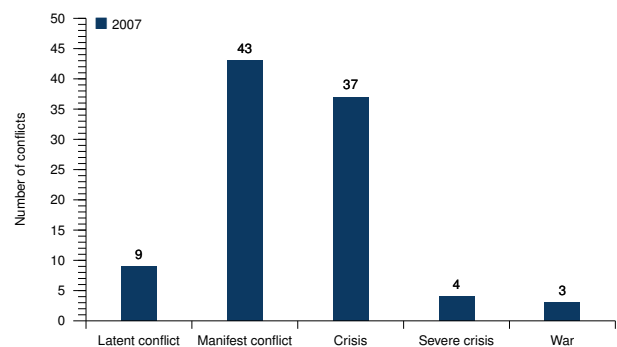
Measures of Conflict Resolution

Negotiations

In at least 52 of the current 328 conflicts, talks, negotiations, or conferences were held between the conflict parties or at least some of the conflict parties. Altogether, the number of talks in these conflicts added up

to at least 96. However, about two-thirds ended without results. The negotiations finally led to the conclusion of agreements in only 29 cases, distributed over 26 conflicts. Serbia (Kosovo) and Turkey - Greece were the disputes with the largest single number of talks. In most of the cases, only one or two rounds of talks were held. The majority of disputes in which the parties negotiated with each other were manifest conflicts and crises. Also, most talks took place in manifest conflicts (43) or crises (37). As far as highly violent conflicts are concerned, talks were held in only five of them: in the Central African Republic (UFDR, APRD), Chad (various rebel groups), Somalia (UIC), Sudan (Darfur), and Thailand (Muslim separatists/southern border provinces). The negotiations there totaled seven. However, treaties were finally concluded in only three of these disputes.

Number of negotiations in 2007 by intensity



Treaties

A total of 29 treaties or agreements on the regulation of conflicts were signed in 2007. Eleven of these were signed in respect of non-violent conflicts, 14 for crises, and four for the regulation of highly-violent conflicts. The latter were set as follows: In the war in Sudan's Darfur region [→ Sudan (Darfur)], the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) – only one out of more than a dozen rebel groups – signed a ceasefire with the government on January 11. However, the ceasefire was not respected by the conflict parties. In the Central African Republic (CAR), both a breakaway faction and the original rebel group, Union of Democratic Forces for Union (UFDR), signed a peace treaty with the government, on February 2 and March 13, respectively. However, heavy fighting in the CAR continued [→ Central African Republic (UFDR, APRD)]. In Chad, several rebel groups concluded a peace agreement with the government on October 25 [→ Chad (various rebel groups)]. However, this agreement also failed to de-escalate the conflict. In total, seven peace agreements were signed, three in the above-mentioned high-intensity conflicts, three in crises, and one in a latent conflict. In addition, six ceasefire treaties were concluded, one in the above-mentioned war in Darfur, four in crises, and one in a manifest conflict. The rest of the agreements referred to the regulation of procedures or items, were court rulings or of a more general nature like memoranda of understanding.

International Organizations

By the end of 2007, the United Nations (UN), particularly the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, was administering 20 missions. These included three political missions: UNAMA in Afghanistan, the UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL), and the UN Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB). The latter was meant to strengthen the national capacities of Burundi's government in order to overcome the consequences of the civil war [→ Burundi (Hutu - Tutsi)]. It succeeded the predominantly military UN Mission for Burundi (ONUB), which had facilitated the ceasefire agreement of September 2006 [→ Burundi (Palipehutu-FNI Rwasia)] and ended in December 2006. The UN Security Council authorized the establishment of two other new and complex missions. On July 31, it approved the deployment of the African Union/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) to Darfur, scheduled for 12/31/07. On September 25, it authorized a hybrid AU-UN mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). UNAMID resulted from the deterioration of the security situation in Darfur and was supposed to begin implementing its mandated tasks, including implementation of the 2006 Darfur Peace Agreement without "prejudice to the responsibility of the Government of Sudan", no later than 12/31/07 [→ Sudan (Darfur)]. It represented an expression of the UN's goal of enhancing strategic partnerships with multilateral and regional organizations. The Security Council approved the deployment of nearly 20,000 military personnel and more than 6,000 police officers. MINURCAT was intended to help create the security conditions conducive to a sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons [→ Central African Republic (UFDR, APRD) and Chad (various rebel groups)]. As in previous years, sub-Saharan Africa constituted the region with the most UN missions (ONUB, succeeded by the political mission BINUB in Burundi, MINURCAT in Chad and the Central African Republic, UNOCI in Côte d'Ivoire, MONUC in the DR of the Congo, UNMEE in Ethiopia and Eritrea, UNMIL in Liberia, the political mission UNIOSIL in Sierra Leone, UNMIS in Sudan, and UNAMID in Darfur, Sudan). As in 2006, Africa was followed by the Middle East and Maghreb with five concurrent UN missions (the political mission UNAMA in Afghanistan, UNTSO in Israel, UNIFIL in Lebanon, UNDOF in the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria, and MINURSO in Western Sahara, Morocco). Despite the overall number of conflicts and the high number of violent ones, the UN deployed only two peacekeeping operations to Asia and Oceania (UNMIT in East Timor and UNMOGIP in India and Pakistan). With UNFICYP in Cyprus, UNOMIG in Abkhazia (Georgia), and UNMIK in Kosovo (Serbia), the UN maintained one mission more in Europe than in Asia and Oceania. The UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was the only UN mission in the Americas. Without counting the highly complex UNAMID in Darfur, the number of personnel deployed in UN peacekeeping operations and other field missions and offices grew to 100,000 by August 2007, compared to approx. 85,000 at the beginning of 2006. Military and po-

lice only amounted to 83,006 by November 2007, compared to 82,120 one year before. 80 UN peacekeepers were killed in 2007. The main contributors among the 115 countries sending uniformed personnel were Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India, together accounting for more than 40 percent of UN peacekeepers. However, with the deployment of 7,000 European troops to UNIFIL in Lebanon in 2006, the total number of troops from European and NATO countries in UN missions more than doubled the previous share of UN peacekeepers of less than six percent. Germany contributed a maximum of 1,196 personnel to eight missions (UNAMA, UNAMID, UNIFIL, UNMEE, UNMIK, UNMIL, UNMIS, UNOMIG), 905 troops alone to UNIFIL. All in all, the annual budget allocated for UN peacekeeping represented 0.5 percent of global military spending. In general, the international community still increasingly depended on robust mandates and assigned Blue Berets also to high-intensity conflicts. However, the UN also applied measures not involving military personnel in order to maintain or restore peace and security. Sanctions represent such measures. In 2007, the UN maintained eleven sanctions committees compared to nine in 2006: with Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Sudan against seven states of sub-Saharan Africa, an arms embargo against the DPR Korea introduced in 2006, a travel ban and assets freeze against individuals suspected of involvement in the 2005 terrorist bombing in Lebanon that had killed Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 others, as well as against al-Qaeda and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities. Apart from the UN, several regional organizations maintained field missions in 2007, for instance the Economic and Monetary Council of Central Africa (CEMAC) in the Central African Republic, as well as the African Union (AU). The AU administered a mission in Sudan (AU Mission in Sudan, AMIS), deployed to Darfur since 2004, which was agreed to be transformed into the hybrid UN-AU mission UNAMID at the end of the year. In March, it deployed a new mission to Somalia (AU Mission in Somalia, AMISOM). The only mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) in the Americas, which had supported the different elections in Haiti in 2006, was dissolved and incorporated into the permanent OAS office in Haiti. From midyear 2006 on, its main tasks were to foster the institutionalization of the provisional electoral council, to support the judiciary and the rule of law, to support the socioeconomic development of the country, and to strengthen inter-American cooperation in fighting drugs. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) maintained a total of eight field missions, six of them in the Balkans, one in Moldova, and one in Georgia, as well as eleven other field presences. In the Balkans, the European Union (EU) deployed EUFOR troops as part of its Althea mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had succeeded the NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) late in 2004. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) maintained operations and missions in Afghanistan (ISAF), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (KFOR), Macedonia, Darfur, Iraq (NTM-I), and the Mediterranean (Active Endeavor).

Overview: Present DPKO-led UN Peacekeeping Missions

Mission acronym	Name of mission	Start	Country
Europe			
UNFICYP	UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus	1964	Cyprus
UNOMIG	UN Observing Mission in Georgia	1993	Georgia
UNMIK	UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo	1999	Serbia
Sub-Saharan Africa			
ONUB	UN Operation in Burundi	2004	Burundi
BINUB	UN Integrated Office in Burundi	2007	Burundi
MINURCAT	UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad	2007	Chad, Central African Republic
MONUC	UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	1999	Congo (Kinshasa)
UNOCI	UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire	2004	Côte d'Ivoire
UNMEE	UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea	2000	Ethiopia, Eritrea
UNMIL	UN Mission in Liberia	2003	Liberia
UNIOSIL	UN Mission Integrated Office in Sierra Leone	2006	Sierra Leone
UNMIS	UN Mission in the Sudan	2005	Sudan
UNAMIS	UN Mission in the Sudan	2007	Sudan
UNAMID	AU/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur	2007	Sudan
The Americas			
MINUSTAH	UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti	2004	Haiti
Asia and Oceania			
UNMOGIP	UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan	1949	India, Pakistan
UNMIT	UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste	2006	Timor-Leste
The Middle East and Maghreb			
UNAMA	UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan	2002	Afghanistan
UNTSO	UN Truce Supervision Organization	1948	Israel
UNDOF	UN Disengagement Observer Force	1974	Israel, Syria
UNIFIL	UN Interim Force in Lebanon	1978	Lebanon
MINURSO	UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara	1991	Morocco

Authoritative Decisions by the ICJ

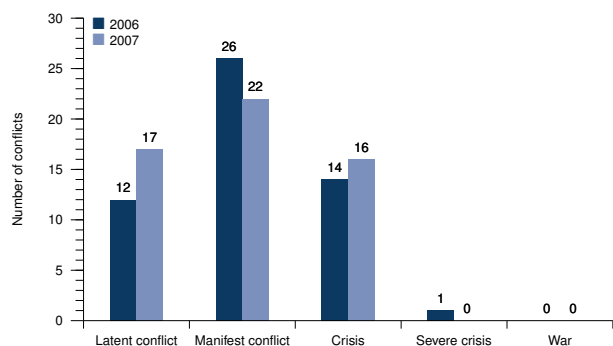
Apart from 26 ongoing cases, eleven cases were pending and two cases were being heard before the ICJ in the period under review. On April 18, Rwanda submitted an application to the court with respect to a dispute with France concerning international arrest warrants issued by French judicial authorities against three Rwandan officials on 11/20/06 and a request sent to the UN Secretary General that President Paul Kagame should stand trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). However, France had yet to submit to ICJ jurisdiction in the case [→ Rwanda - France]. In the territorial and maritime dispute between Nicaragua and Colombia, public hearings were concluded on June 8. The two parties presented their final submissions to the ICJ, which subsequently began its deliberations. The ICJ was to deliver its judgment in the case on December 13 [→ Nicaragua - Colombia (sea border)]. The court was also ready to begin deliberation in the case of sovereignty over Pedra Branca/Pulau Batu Puteh, Middle Rocks, and South

Ledge, disputed between Malaysia and Singapore, concluding public hearings on November 23 [→ Singapore - Malaysia]. On February 26, the ICJ affirmed its jurisdiction to deal with the dispute between Bosnia and Herzegovina vs. Serbia over the application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The court found that while Serbia was not guilty of committing genocide it had violated its obligation under the genocide convention to prevent genocide in Srebrenica and that it had also violated its obligations under the convention by having failed to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) [→ Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnian Serbs/Republic of Srpska)]. On October 8, the court ruled in the territorial and maritime dispute between Nicaragua and Honduras in the Caribbean Sea and found that Honduras has sovereignty over Bobel Cay, Savanna Cay, Port Royal Cay, and South Cay, drawing a single maritime boundary between the two countries [→ Honduras - Nicaragua (sea border)].

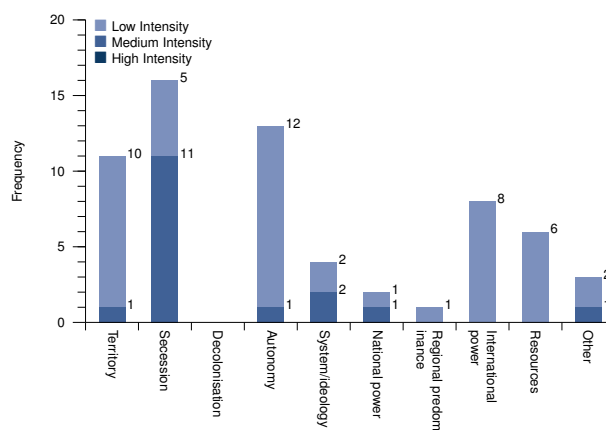
Europe

The total number of conflicts monitored in Europe was 55. With the non-violent secession of Montenegro from the federation of Serbia and Montenegro, one conflict had ended in 2006 already. No further conflicts were terminated in 2007. Instead, three new conflicts emerged [→ Belgium (CD&V/Flanders); Georgia (opposition); Serbia (Wahhabis/Sandzak)]. Due to the de-escalation of the Chechen conflict [→ Russia (Chechnya)], no severe crisis was observed in Europe. Three violent conflicts decreased to a non-violent level but two other conflicts crossed the threshold of violence. Therefore, compared to 2006, the total number of conflicts judged as violent rose from 15 to 16. It should be noted, however, that the conflict intensity of a crisis as defined by the HIIK encompasses a range of conflicts from those seeing violence in one or two isolated incidents to those where clashes occur frequently throughout the year, causing a larger number of fatalities. A perhaps typically European way of conducting conflicts without violence was for EU member countries to put pressure on states they were locked in conflict with by threatening to veto EU accession of the latter [→ Cyprus - Turkey; Greece - Macedonia; Slovenia - Croatia]. With 15 conflicts, the Balkans remained the most unstable region, closely followed by the Caucasus with 13 conflicts. This was reflected by the crises involving the breakaway republics of Abkhazia (Georgia), Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), and South Ossetia (Georgia), the one involving the Georgian opposition movement, and those in the Russian Caucasus republics of Chechnya and Ingushetia, compared to three crises in the Balkans [→ Macedonia (Albanian minority/northwestern Macedonia); Serbia (Kosovo); Serbia (Wahhabis/Sandzak)]. The specter of Kosovo unilaterally declaring its independence loomed large over the continent. It was feared that such a move might accelerate nationalist separatism in neighboring countries [→ Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnian Serbs/Republic of Srpska); Macedonia (Albanian minority/northwestern Macedonia); Serbia (Albanian minority/Presevo Valley)]. Additionally, a number of other, mostly Russian-backed, breakaway republics in eastern Europe were seen as likely candidates to follow suit with Kosovo [→ Georgia (Abkhazia); Georgia (South Ossetia); Moldova (Transnistria)]. The majority of conflicts in Europe were intrastate conflicts with secession and autonomy as the most frequent conflict items. For interstate conflicts, the most common conflict item was territory, followed by international power. A number of conflicts observed concerned relatively affluent regions insisting on more autonomy from the central government, not least in order to retain more control over their tax revenues [→ Belgium (CD&V/Flanders); Italy (Lega Nord/northern Italy); Serbia (ZzV/Vojvodina); Spain (Catalan nationalists/Catalonia)].

Conflict intensities in Europe in 2007 compared to 2006



Frequency of conflict items in 2007 in Europe by intensity groups



Overview: Conflicts in Europe in 2007

Name of conflict ¹	Conflict parties ²	Conflict items	Start	Change ³	Int. ⁴
Arctic*	Russia vs. USA vs. Canada vs. Norway vs. Denmark	Territory, resources	2001	•	1
Armenia - Azerbaijan	Armenia vs. Azerbaijan	Territory	1988	•	3
Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh)	Nagorno-Karabakh Republic vs. government	Secession	1988	•	3
Azerbaijan (opposition)*	Opposition vs. government	National power	2003	•	2
Belarus (opposition)	Opposition vs. government	System/ideology	1997	↘	2
Belarus - Poland*	Belarus vs. Poland	International power	1994	•	2
Belgium (CD&V/Flanders)	CD&V, Vlaams Belang vs. government, cdH	Autonomy	2007	NEW	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnian Serbs/Republic of Srpska)	Republic of Srpska vs. central government, Bosniak-Croat Federation	Secession	1995	↘	2

Name of conflict ¹	Conflict parties ²	Conflict items	Start	Change ³	Int. ⁴
Bosnia and Herzegovina (Croat parties/Herzegovina)*	Croat parties vs. government, Bosniak parties	Autonomy	1992	•	2
Caspian Sea*	Azerbaijan vs. Iran vs. Kazakhstan vs. Russia vs. Turkmenistan	Territory, international power, resources	1993	•	1
Croatia (Croatian Serbs/Krajina, West and East Slavonia)*	Croatian Serbs vs. government	Autonomy	1991	•	2
Cyprus (Northern Cyprus)	Northern Cyprus vs. central government	Secession	1963	•	2
Cyprus - Turkey*	Cyprus vs. Turkey	International power	2005	•	2
Denmark - Canada (Hans Island)*	Denmark vs. Canada	Territory	1973	•	1
Estonia (Russian-speaking minority)	Russian-speaking minority vs. government	Autonomy	1991	↑	3
France (FLNC/Corsica)	FLNC vs. government	Secession	1975	•	3
France (rioters)	Rioters vs. government	Other	2005	•	3
Georgia (Abkhazia)	Abkhazian separatists vs. government	Secession	1989	•	3
Georgia (Armenian minority)*	Armenian minority vs. government	Autonomy	2004	↘	1
Georgia (Azeri minority)*	Azeri minority vs. government	Autonomy	2004	↘	1
Georgia (opposition)	Opposition vs. government	National power	2007	NEW	3
Georgia (South Ossetia)	South Ossetian separatists vs. government	Secession	1989	•	3
Greece - Macedonia	Greece vs. Macedonia	Other	1991	•	2
Hungary - Romania*	Hungary vs. Romania	International power	1990	•	1
Hungary - Slovakia (minority)	Hungary vs. Slovakia	International power	1993	•	2
Hungary - Slovakia (resources)*	Hungary vs. Slovakia	Resources	1989	•	1
Italy (Lega Nord/northern Italy)*	Lega Nord vs. government	Autonomy	1991	•	1
Latvia (Russian-speaking minority)*	Russian-speaking minority vs. government	Autonomy	1991	•	2
Macedonia (Albanian minority/northwestern Macedonia)	Albanian minority vs. government	Secession	1991	•	3
Moldova (Transnistria)	Transnistrian separatists vs. government	Secession	1989	•	2
Romania (Hungarian minority/Transylvania)*	Hungarian minority vs. government	Autonomy	1989	↘	1
Romania - Ukraine*	Romania vs. Ukraine	Territory, resources	1991	•	1
Russia (Chechen rebels/Chechnya)	Chechen rebels vs. government	Secession	1989	↘	3
Russia (Ingush rebels/Ingushetia)	Ingush rebels vs. government	Secession	2004	•	3
Russia (opposition)	Opposition vs. government	System/ideology	2001	↗	3
Russia - Estonia	Russia vs. Estonia	International power	1994	↗	2
Russia - Georgia	Russia vs. Georgia	International power	1992	•	2
Russia - Latvia	Russia vs. Latvia	Territory, international power	1994	↘	1
Russia - Norway (Barents Sea)*	Russia vs. Norway	Territory, resources	1947	•	1
Russia - Ukraine*	Russia vs. Ukraine	Territory, resources	2003	•	2
Serbia (Albanian minority/Presevo Valley)	UCPMB, southern Serbian municipalities Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja vs. government	Secession	2000	•	2
Serbia (Bosniak minority/Sandzak)*	Bosniak minority vs. government	Autonomy	1991	↘	1
Serbia (Hungarian minority/northern Vojvodina)*	Hungarian minority vs. government	Autonomy	1998	↘	1
Serbia (Kosovo)	Kosovo Albanians vs. central government	Secession	1989	•	3

Name of conflict ¹	Conflict parties ²	Conflict items	Start	Change ³	Int. ⁴
Serbia (Wahhabis - moderate Muslims)*	Wahhabis vs. moderate Muslims	System/ideology, regional predominance	2002	↘	2
Serbia (Wahhabis/Sandzak)	Wahhabis in Sandzak vs. government	Secession, system/ideology	2007	NEW	3
Serbia (ZzV/Vojvodina)*	ZzV vs. government	Autonomy	1989	•	1
Slovakia (Hungarian minority/southern Slovakia)*	Hungarian minority vs. government	Autonomy	1993	•	2
Slovenia - Croatia*	Slovenia vs. Croatia	Territory	1991	•	2
Spain (Catalan nationalists/Catalonia)*	ERC, CiU, Catalan regional government vs. government	Secession	1979	↘	1
Spain (ETA, PNV/Basque Provinces)	ETA, Basque regional government (PNV) vs. government	Secession	1959	•	3
Spain - United Kingdom (Gibraltar)*	Spain vs. United Kingdom	Territory	1954	•	1
Turkey - Armenia	Turkey vs. Armenia	Other	1991	•	2
Turkey - Greece*	Turkey vs. Greece	Territory	1973	•	2
United Kingdom (IRA et al./Northern Ireland)	IRA, Real IRA, Sinn Féin, SDLP vs. government, UDA/UFF, DUP, UUP	Secession	1968	•	3

¹ Conflicts marked with * are without description

² Mentioned are only those conflict parties relevant for the period under review

³ Change in intensity compared to the previous year: ↑ or ↗ escalation by one or more than one level of intensity; ↓ or ↘ de-escalation by one or more than one level of intensity; • no change

⁴ Levels of intensity: 5 = war; 4 = severe crisis; 3 = crisis; 2 = manifest conflict; 1 = latent conflict

Armenia - Azerbaijan

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1988
Conflict Parties:	Armenia vs. Azerbaijan	
Conflict Items:	Territory	

The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan concerning Nagorno-Karabakh [→ Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh)], internationally recognized as Azerbaijani territory but predominantly populated by ethnic Armenians, continued. The OSCE Minsk Group facilitated bilateral talks in November 2006 and June 2007. These negotiations yielded no tangible results. Azerbaijan rejected an attempt by Armenia, supported by the mediators, to draw representatives of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR) into the ongoing negotiation process. Azerbaijan claimed the 1994 ceasefire agreement ending the war between the two countries had been broken by Armenian forces on three occasions in January, September, and October, and reported three Azerbaijani and three Armenian soldiers killed. Armenia denied this. Both sides were engaged in an arms race and belligerent rhetoric throughout the year. (mak)

Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1988
Conflict Parties:	Nagorno-Karabakh Republic vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The secession conflict between the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR) and the Azerbaijani government continued. Nagorno-Karabakh was internationally recognized as Azerbaijani territory but de-facto independent and predominantly populated by ethnic Armenians, and depended on the Armenian army for protection. The OSCE Minsk Group facilitated bilateral talks on Nagorno-Karabakh between Armenia and Azerbaijan in November 2006 and June 2007 [→ Armenia - Azer-

baijan]. These negotiations yielded no tangible results. Azerbaijan rejected an attempt sponsored by Armenia and supported by the mediators to draw representatives of the NKR into the ongoing negotiation process. Azerbaijan claimed Armenian forces violated the 1994 ceasefire on three separate occasions in January, September, and October. Azerbaijan reported three Azerbaijani soldiers and three troops of the other side were killed. It was unclear whether the latter three belonged to the Nagorno Karabakh Defense Army or the Armenian armed forces, as these two are deeply integrated. The NKR held a constitutional referendum on independence in December 2006 as well as presidential elections in July 2007, which Azerbaijan condemned as illegal and illegitimate. The international community, with the exception of Armenia, also did not recognize the polls. Bako Sahakian, the winner of the presidential elections, announced that he would seek full independence from Azerbaijan. (mak, aog, al)

Belarus (opposition)

Intensity: 2	Change: ↘	Start: 1997
Conflict Parties:	Opposition vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology	

The conflict between opposition parties and the government of President Alexander Lukashenko concerning democratization in Belarus de-escalated. Pressure against oppositional activists and human rights abuses continued, however. Many of the opposition leaders arrested in March 2006 for protesting against presidential election fraud received prison sentences in 2007. Opposition protesters clashed with police when thousands of people attended a rally against Lukashenko addressed by opposition leader Alexander Milinkevich in the capital, Minsk, on March 25. On April 4, opposition leader Andrei Klimov was arrested. In September, he was sentenced to two years in jail for anti-government activities. The op-

position, on October 14, organized a march for the integration into European institutions. Before the demonstration, opposition leaders had been arrested for taking part in an illegal rally, e.g. Viktor Ivashkevich, on September 26. The offices of oppositional media and parties were searched and their office equipment seized, e.g. on 12/02/06 that of the Belarusian Helsinki Committee. On November 21, the human rights committee of the UN General Assembly approved a resolution criticizing the human rights situation in Belarus. (lo)

Belgium (CD&V/Flanders)

Intensity: 2	Change: NEW	Start: 2007
Conflict Parties:	CD&V, Vlaams Belang vs. government, cdH	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy	

Following elections on June 10, Belgium became locked in a political stalemate between Flemish and Walloon parties, leaving the country without a new government. The leader of the victorious Flemish Christian Democrats (CD&V), Yves Leterme, was commissioned with forming a new government coalition. However, negotiations became deadlocked when Leterme's insistence on increasing regional autonomy and curtailing financial transfers to poorer Wallonia met with the resistance of his Walloon counterparts. On August 17, Belgium's King Albert II suspended formal negotiations, opting for private political consultations. The uncertainty sparked a fierce debate over whether the country should be split along the lines of predominantly Dutch-speaking Flanders and French-speaking Wallonia. On November 7, the Flemish parties forced through a divisive parliamentary vote concerning the break up of the country's only bilingual electoral district, Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde. For Belgium's Francophone community, constituting approx. 40 percent of the Belgian population, it marked the first time the Dutch-speaking majority had forced its will. On November 18, over 30,000 citizens participated in a march for Belgian unity. On November 22, the Belgian parliament, including the majority of Flemish MPs, voted against an initiative by the extreme right-wing party Vlaams Belang (Flemish Interest) to divide the country. Leterme abandoned efforts to form a coalition government after a deadline he had set for all four parties to agree to his proposals had passed on December 1. (aog, al)

Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnian Serbs/Republic of Srpska)

Intensity: 2	Change: ↘	Start: 1995
Conflict Parties:	Republic of Srpska vs. central government, Bosniak-Croat Federation	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The conflict concerning a more unitary political order between the two entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) stemming from the 1992-95 civil war, i.e. the Bosnian Serb Republic of Srpska (RS) and the Bosniak-Croat Federation (BCF), continued. RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik repeatedly called for the creation of a third, i.e. Croat entity within BiH, in order to weaken the BCF, and also made statements linking the future of RS to the future of Kosovo [→ Serbia (Kosovo)]. Both the EU and

new international High Representative Miroslav Lajčák repeatedly expressed their frustration at BiH's failure to pursue constitutional reforms aimed at strengthening the state institutions. In October, Lajčák took a tougher stance, rejecting a last-minute police reform deal between Bosniak and Bosnian Serb leaders as failing to fulfill key principles, and announced a change to the law on BiH's Council of Ministers in order to strengthen the functionality of state institutions over the protest of Bosnian Serb politicians. On November 1, BiH Prime Minister Nikola Spirić tendered his resignation to protest against Lajčák's measures. On February 26, the ICJ exonerated Serbia of responsibility for genocide in BiH, but ruled that it had failed to prevent the 1995 genocidal slaughter of Bosniaks at Srebrenica (RS). Bosniak politicians saw this as proof of RS owing its existence to genocide, and, together with Bosniak municipal councilors in Srebrenica, pushed for giving the town special district status which would remove it from the jurisdiction of RS. (aog)

Cyprus (Northern Cyprus)

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1963
Conflict Parties:	Northern Cyprus vs. central government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The conflict between breakaway Northern Cyprus and the government of the Republic of Cyprus (ROC) continued. In January, the government signed deals with Lebanon and Egypt concerning oil- and gas-drilling rights. Northern Cyprus protested, stating that the ROC did not represent the whole island. Between January and March, five barriers between the two entities were dismantled by the ROC, e.g. in Nicosia, to facilitate commercial traffic. The UN extended its peacekeeping mission by six months on June 15, and condemned the partition of Cyprus. On September 5, the Cypriot president, Tassos Papadopoulos, and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat met for the first time since 2006. On October 14, the ROC criticized the launch of a regular ferry connection between Northern Cyprus and Syria. Turkey's president, Abdullah Gül, stressed the necessity of accepting the reality of two states existing on Cyprus [→ Cyprus - Turkey], provoking strong protests from the ROC. (tl)

Estonia (Russian-speaking minority)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↑	Start: 1991
Conflict Parties:	Russian-speaking minority vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy	

The conflict between the Russian-speaking minority and the government resurfaced and turned violent. It centered around the protests of the Russian minority against the removal of a Soviet-era war memorial from the center of Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. On January 10, the government passed a law allowing the removal. As a result, a Russian-speaking minority group called Night Vigil started organizing nightly watches to defend the memorial site. 1,000 protesters demonstrated in Tallinn against the construction of a fence around the memorial on April 26. The police used tear gas to disperse the crowd. In the night of April 27, riots broke out between

the police and the Night Vigil and their supporters, after the Estonian authorities had removed the monument and relocated it to the Tallinn military cemetery. One person was killed in the riots, 40 injured, and 300 people were temporarily arrested. On May 5, an ethnic Russian resident of Estonia was arrested in Tallinn for complicity in cyber attacks on Estonian servers [→ Russia - Estonia].

(kw)

France (FLNC/Corsica)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1975
Conflict Parties:	FLNC vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The secession conflict between the separatist Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC) and the government continued. The FLNC frequently attacked French governmental institutions, while the number of attacks on holiday homes owned by non-Corsicans decreased. The FLNC increasingly used rocket launchers to target police barracks, occasionally injuring passers-by, e.g. in Ajaccio on September 15. The French authorities assured that they would take a firm line against militant separatists. (al)

France (rioters)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 2005
Conflict Parties:	Rioters vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Other	

The conflict between deprived youths and the French authorities erupted again on November 25. Following the deaths of two teenagers of North African descent whose motorbike had collided with a police car, young rioters set cars on fire, damaged schools, libraries, and shops. They threw rocks, fireworks, and petrol bombs at police officers. Because of the frequent use of firearms, the violence was perceived as more intense than in 2005. The French authorities reported 120 injured policemen. The violence also spread to other cities, with at least ten cars burned and a fire at a library in Toulouse. President Nicolas Sarkozy held emergency talks with ministers to discuss the wave of urban violence, calling the shooting at police officers attempted murder. After two nights of violent clashes, the unrest abated. Four young rioters were sentenced to several months in prison on November 27. (al)

Georgia (Abkhazia)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1989
Conflict Parties:	Abkhazian separatists vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The renegade Republic of Abkhazia continued to strive for independence from Georgia while the central government insisted on restoring territorial integrity. The Abkhazian separatists received substantial political support from the Russian Federation. In December 2006, unknown perpetrators killed the Abkhazian officials Otar Turnaba and Alik Khishba in the Gali district. On February 11 and March 4, Abkhazia's de facto government held local elections not recognized internationally, from which Georgian citizens were excluded. Georgia urged

the UN Security Council to react to the elections. On March 12, Georgia accused Russia of attacking Georgian villages in the Kodori Valley with helicopter gunships [→ Russia - Georgia]. In August, Georgian media accused militias and Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia of harassing Georgian citizens in the Gali district. In September and October, several Abkhazians died in skirmishes with Georgian soldiers and security forces. On November 4, Abkhazia's de facto president, Sergei Bagapsh, and two other leaders of Russian-supported breakaway republics, South Ossetia's Eduard Kokoity and Transdniestria's Igor Smirnov, signed a charter at a summit in Sukhumi, calling for the recognition of their independence and the strengthening of mutual cooperation, including a continued presence of Russian peacekeeping forces [→ Georgia (South Ossetia); Moldova (Transdniestria)]. In mid-November, the Georgian government accused Russia of increasing its military presence in Abkhazia. (mag)

Georgia (opposition)

Intensity: 3	Change: NEW	Start: 2007
Conflict Parties:	Opposition vs. government	
Conflict Items:	National power	

A new conflict erupted between the opposition and the government. In late September, thousands protested in Georgia's capital, Tbilisi, against the government, accusing President Mikhail Saakashvili of corruption and silencing powerful opponents, as attempted in the case of former defense minister Irakli Okruashvili. On November 2, 50,000 attended the largest street protest in the country since the 2003 Rose Revolution, urging Saakashvili to step down. The situation escalated when riot police used tear gas and water cannons to disperse the protesters on November 7. The same day, Saakashvili imposed a nationwide state of emergency which restricted the freedom of the press and assembly. It was lifted nine days later on November 16. Meanwhile, Saakashvili announced early presidential elections. Opposition parties welcomed the announcement and nominated Levan Gachechiladze as their candidate to run against Saakashvili in presidential elections scheduled for 01/05/08. Saakashvili resigned as president on November 25, in compliance with Georgian law. On November 27, Okruashvili was rearrested in Germany on an Interpol warrant issued by the Georgian authorities. (al)

Georgia (South Ossetia)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1989
Conflict Parties:	South Ossetian separatists vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The breakaway republic of South Ossetia continued to strive for secession from Georgia, encouraged by the Russian Federation. In December 2006, a pro-Georgian alternative government was created in the Georgian-controlled areas of South Ossetia. This government, led by Dmitry Sanakoyev as Head of the South Ossetian Provisional Administrative Entity, competed with the de facto government of South Ossetia under Ed-

uard Kokoity. On April 14, the Georgian government passed a law reforming the South Ossetian administration. South Ossetia's parliament rejected the reforms as illegal. Meanwhile, from January to March, several South Ossetian militiamen and Georgian policemen were killed in gunfights. In May, South Ossetian militias fired with mortars at Georgian villages. The de facto South Ossetian authorities cut off the water supply to ethnic Georgian villages in South Ossetia from May 31 to July 4. On July 9, Kokoity threatened with terrorist attacks throughout Georgia. Georgia's President Mikhail Saakashvili accused Russia of carrying out an air raid on Georgian territory after an unexploded missile was found near the village of Tsitelubani, near South Ossetia, on August 6. Russia denied the accusations [→ Russia - Georgia]. On November 4, Kokoity and two other leaders of Russian-supported breakaway republics, Abkhazia's Sergei Bagapsh and Transdniestria's Igor Smirnov, signed a charter at a summit in Sukhumi (Abkhazia), calling for the recognition of their independence and the strengthening of mutual cooperation between these republics and Russia, including a continued presence of Russian peacekeeping forces [→ Georgia (Abkhazia); Moldova (Transdniestria)]. (mag)

Greece - Macedonia

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1991
Conflict Parties:	Greece vs. Macedonia	
Conflict Items:	Other	

In the dispute over a mutually acceptable official name for the Macedonian state, Greece and Macedonia remained unable to reach an agreement. Macedonia continued to push for recognition of its constitutional name, Republic of Macedonia, whereas Greece favored the current transitional name, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), or similar modifications. Tensions increased in December 2006 after the airport of Macedonia's capital, Skopje, had been renamed "Alexander the Great", after a figure claimed by both countries as part of their respective national history. Between January and November, UN special envoy for Macedonia, Matthew Nimetz, frequently tried in vain to mediate. Greece threatened to veto Macedonia's accession to the EU and NATO as long as the issue remained unsettled. The Macedonian government retorted that it would rather remain excluded from EU and NATO membership than change its constitutional name. A progress report on Macedonia adopted by the European Parliament on July 12 stressed that the name dispute could not form part of the conditions for EU membership. (aj)

Hungary - Slovakia (minority)

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1993
Conflict Parties:	Hungary vs. Slovakia	
Conflict Items:	International power	

The conflict between Hungary and Slovakia concerning the cultural autonomy and rights of the Hungarian minority in Slovakia continued. In July, the Slovakian cabinet approved programs for cross-border cooperation with Poland and Hungary for the 2007-2013 period. However, tensions rose following the formation

of an extreme right-wing paramilitary group in Hungary called the Hungarian Guard in August. On September 10, the Party of the Hungarian Coalition, Slovakia's largest ethnic Hungarian party, proposed that both countries' parliaments issue a joint statement of reconciliation, containing mutual apologies for past injustices [→ Slovakia (Hungarian minority)]. The Slovakian government rejected the proposal as pure provocation, stating that Slovakia had no reason to apologize to Hungary. On September 20, the Slovakian Parliament declared the inviolability of the Benes decrees, under which ethnic Hungarians had been expelled from Czechoslovakia after the end of World War II. The Hungarian government subsequently protested, and Hungary's parliamentary president, Katalin Szili, canceled a visit to Slovakia over the disagreement. On October 3, Slovakia's prime minister, Robert Fico, accused Hungarian President László Sólyom of using a recent private visit to Hungarian-inhabited southern Slovakia for political purposes. Sólyom had made critical remarks concerning the Benes decrees during his unofficial visit. (sd)

Macedonia (Albanian minority/northwestern Macedonia)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1991
Conflict Parties:	Albanian minority vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The conflict between the Albanian minority and the government continued. On May 30, after striking a deal with Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, the largest ethnic Albanian opposition party, the Democratic Union for Integration (BDI), ended its parliamentary boycott, started the previous summer in protest to its non-inclusion in the new governing coalition. On October 30, two ethnic Albanian constitutional court judges resigned over the court's decision to ban the display of the Albanian flag outside public buildings in areas where ethnic Albanians comprise the majority. On August 2, unknown perpetrators attacked a Macedonian outpost on the border to Kosovo. On August 31, a former leader of the ethnic Albanian National Liberation Army (UCK), Xhezair Shakiri, claimed that fighters under his command had driven off police forces from the Kosovo-Macedonian border village of Tanusevci. The week before, Shakiri had publicly announced it was the villagers' will to secede from Macedonia and join Kosovo. On September 2, interior ministry special forces recaptured escaped terrorism convict and former Albanian National Army (AKSh) fighter Dzemail Iseini. Unknown perpetrators killed a policeman in an ambush near Tanusevci on October 24. On November 7, special police forces launched a major operation against alleged criminal gangs including former ethnic Albanian guerrillas, killing six near Tetovo. A group calling itself the Political-Military Council of the UCK later claimed responsibility for the clashes. (aog)

Moldova (Transdnistria)

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1989
Conflict Parties:	Transdnistrian separatists vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The secession conflict between the breakaway region of Transdnistria and the government of Moldova continued. Negotiations between Moldova and Transdnistria had already been suspended in spring 2006 because of a dispute concerning new customs regulations. In July, the government of Transdnistria declared, with reference to Kosovo [→ Serbia (Kosovo)], there was no alternative to the recognition of Transdnistrian authority. In August, the Transdnistrian government rejected resuming negotiations until economic autonomy was reconstituted. On November 4, Igor Smirnov, de facto president of Transdnistria, and two other leaders of Russian-supported breakaway republics, Abkhazia's Sergei Bagapsh and South Ossetia's Eduard Kokoity, signed a charter at a summit in Sukhumi (Abkhazia), calling for the recognition of their independence and the strengthening of mutual cooperation between these republics and Russia, including a continued presence of Russian peacekeeping forces [→ Georgia (Abkhazia); Georgia (South Ossetia)]. Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin, however, called for a replacement of Russian troops by other international peacekeeping forces. On September 14, Moldova filed an official complaint with the UN protesting human rights violations in Transdnistria. (ag)

Russia (Chechen rebels/Chechnya)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↘	Start: 1989
Conflict Parties:	Chechen rebels vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The secession conflict between rebels in the northern Caucasus Republic of Chechnya and Russia de-escalated. In early 2007, the law enforcement authorities in Chechnya granted amnesty to more than 400 members of armed terrorist groups who had turned themselves in to the authorities by the end of 2006. In February, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree accepting the resignation of Alu Alkhanov from the position of Chechen president. In accordance with the President's decree, Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov, a former rebel fighter, became acting president of Chechnya. The Chechen parliament confirmed Kadyrov as president on March 2. Also in March, the Council of Europe accused the Chechen law enforcement services of systematic torture. Kadyrov in turn accused the Russian forces of torturing captives in Chechnya. Frequent bombings, kidnappings and combat actions between Russian security forces and Chechen rebels led to a number of casualties. At the end of March, four rebels were reportedly killed in a clash with federal troops. In April, the federal forces eliminated Chechen warlord Khairullah in a sweep operation in Chechnya. The Russian side reported 184 dead between January and May. In August, one of the last remaining prominent Chechen rebels, Rustam Basayev, was killed by security forces in a shootout. In October, the security situation deteriorated

once more, with ten fatalities and 14 people injured in armed clashes. Tensions between the Russian central government and Chechnya also emerged in the economic sphere. Kadyrov accused the Kremlin of enriching itself from Chechen oil revenues. The conflict also spilled over into adjacent Russian northern Caucasus republics. In neighboring Dagestan, for instance, security forces clashed with Islamist militants in June, leaving five dead, and a further four policemen died in a bomb blast on July 18. (vi)

Russia (Ingush rebels/Ingushetia)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 2004
Conflict Parties:	Ingush rebels vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The secession conflict between armed rebels in Ingushetia, a constituent republic of Russia, and the government continued. From 2004 on, Russian troops had regularly sought to intercept resistance forces using Ingushetia as a rear base for their armed struggle in Chechnya [→ Russia (Chechnya)]. In the summer of 2006, the resistance began to frequently attack law enforcement, security and border guard personnel and facilities. The security forces registered 18 attacks on their facilities, patrols, and vehicles between June and September 2007. At least 25 Russian and Ingush servicemen and policemen were killed. The rebels also targeted civilian members of the Moscow-backed Ingush administration, and individuals close to the government of Ingush President Murat Zyazikov. Three people were killed in these assaults. Militants fired at the president's motorcade on July 21 but did not inflict any casualties. The insurgents also targeted civilians from non-Ingush ethnic groups living in the republic, mainly ethnic Russians. Ingush and Russian officials regularly blamed the rebels for the killings. The federal forces launched a security crackdown in late July, deploying 2,500 additional troops to Ingushetia. The security forces meted out harsh reprisals against individuals suspected of ties to the rebels, fostering resentment among the Ingush civilian population. In early October, the Ingush government prohibited security agencies from passing on information on alleged terrorist incidents to the media, for which reasons no reports of further attacks on security services personnel emerged. (mak)

Russia (opposition)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↗	Start: 2001
Conflict Parties:	Opposition vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology	

The conflict between the opposition and the government escalated during marches organized by the Other Russia opposition movement in St Petersburg on March 3 and Moscow on April 14. The Other Russia consisted of a broad coalition of mainstream politicians, leftists, and nationalists, all opposed to President Vladimir Putin. Despite a ban by the authorities, the marches were attended by several thousands of protesters who clashed violently with special police forces from the Militia Brigade for Special Purposes (OMON). Hundreds

were arrested, including the movement's leaders, such as Garry Kasparov and Eduard Limonov. The opposition parties' campaign for the parliamentary and presidential elections scheduled for December 2007 and March 2008, respectively, was seriously hampered by the state. Opposition presidential candidate Alexander Donskoy, the mayor of Arkhangelsk, was charged with corruption and abuse of office, and arrested on July 19. In October, the election commission barred The Other Russia coalition from the parliamentary election, arguing it was not registered as a political party. The local edition of the independent newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* in Samara closed on November 11 as a result of pressure from the authorities. Unknown perpetrators fatally injured Farid Babayev, human rights activist and leading candidate for the liberal Yabloko party in the southern Dagestan region, in Makhachkala on November 21. Late in November, Kasparov was arrested by the police at a The Other Russia rally in Moscow after some protesters had tried to march on the election commission. (lo)

Russia - Estonia

Intensity: 2	Change: ↗	Start: 1994
Conflict Parties:	Russia vs. Estonia	
Conflict Items:	International power	

The conflict between Russia and Estonia resurfaced due to the removal of a Soviet-era war memorial from the center of Tallinn, the capital of Estonia [→ Estonia (Russian-speaking minority)]. On January 17, the Russian Parliament discussed a resolution against Estonia and threatened economic sanctions. After riots in Tallinn on April 27, the Russian government protested against the monument's removal and the exhumation of the soldiers buried underneath it. Anti-Estonian demonstrations took place in Moscow and St Petersburg, organized by the Russian youth groups Nashi, Mestnye, and Molodaya Rossiya. On May 2, the Estonian embassy temporarily had to suspend its consular service due to ongoing demonstrations. After cyber attacks against Estonian servers on May 4, Estonian officials accused Russia of being responsible, stating that the attacks could be traced to Russian government servers. On the Russian memorial day for World War II on May 9, Russian President Vladimir Putin openly criticized the desecration of Soviet war memorials. (kw)

Russia - Georgia

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1992
Conflict Parties:	Russia vs. Georgia	
Conflict Items:	International power	

The conflict between Russia and Georgia concerning international power continued. On 11/18/06, Georgia signaled it may block Russian aspirations for membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili announced on 11/26/06 that Georgia would switch to importing natural gas from Azerbaijan as an alternative to rising Russian prices. On 12/06/06, the Russian Parliament passed a resolution calling for the recognition of Abkhaz independence from Georgia [→ Georgia (Abkhazia)]. On March 12, Georgia accused Russia of attacking Georgian villages in the

Kodori Valley with helicopter gun-ships. On March 27, Georgia filed a lawsuit against Russia with the European Court of Human Rights concerning the deportation of Georgian citizens in 2006. Late in May, Russia announced its decision to issue visas to some Georgian citizens. In August, Georgian media accused militia and Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia of harassing Georgian citizens in the Gali district. Saakashvili accused Russia of carrying out an air raid on Georgian territory after an unexploded missile was dropped near the village of Tsitelubani on August 6. Russia denied the accusations. On September 21, Russian soldiers temporarily refused Georgian politicians and diplomats access to a conference concerning reforms in South Ossetia [→ Georgia (South Ossetia)]. Russian soldiers detained three Georgian policemen on October 30. One day later, Georgia decided to push for an accelerated withdrawal of the Russian peacekeeping forces. In early November, Saakashvili accused Russia of being behind recent opposition protests in Georgia [→ Georgia (opposition)] and threatened to expel the Russian ambassador, who had only returned to Tbilisi on January 23. Georgia recalled its ambassador to Russia on November 7. (luk, mag)

Russia - Latvia

Intensity: 1	Change: ↘	Start: 1994
Conflict Parties:	Russia vs. Latvia	
Conflict Items:	Territory, international power	

The conflict between Russia and Latvia de-escalated. On March 27, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov and Latvian Prime Minister Aigars Kalvitis finally signed a border treaty between Russia and Latvia in Moscow. The Latvian and Russian parliaments ratified the border treaty on May 17 and September 5, respectively. (kw)

Serbia (Albanian minority/Presevo Valley)

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 2000
Conflict Parties:	UCPMB, southern Serbian municipalities Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The conflict between the Serbian government and the three Albanian-dominated southern Serbian municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac, and Medvedja continued. In late 2006, four ethnic Albanian parties from the Presevo Valley announced they would participate in Serbia's general elections on January 21, ending their ten-year boycott. Nagip Arifi, the mayor of Bujanovac, justified this decision with the removal of the five percent threshold for minority parties in Serbian electoral law. In January, one ethnic Albanian representative was elected to Serbia's parliament. In June, the ethnic Albanian party Movement for Democratic Progress suggested establishing a joint national council for negotiating with the Serbian government on a possible fusion of the Presevo Valley with Kosovo. On June 15, approx. 500 ethnic Albanian protesters gathered in Presevo to demand unification with Kosovo. The demonstration was organized by the association of veterans of the Presevo, Medvedja, and Bujanovac Liberation Army (UCPMB). The chairman of

the government coordination body for southern Serbia rejected the unification demands. In July, ethnic Albanian leaders reiterated their intention to join Kosovo in case of a division of that province between Serbs and ethnic Albanians [→ Serbia (Kosovo)]. On September 29, ethnic Albanian representatives adopted a declaration accusing Belgrade and the coordination body in particular of being responsible for a deteriorated political situation in the region. Serbia reacted by accusing the Albanian side of stirring tensions in the context of the ongoing status negotiations in Kosovo. Throughout the year, ethnic Albanians accused the local police several times of repression and discrimination against them. (jc)

Serbia (Kosovo)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1989
Conflict Parties:	Kosovo Albanians vs. central government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The conflict between the Albanian majority in Kosovo and the Serbian government over the status of the province continued. Shortly after the Serbian general elections on January 21, UN special envoy Martti Ahtisaari presented his recommendations for the future status of Kosovo. His plan foresaw a "supervised independence". According to the plan, the province would be provided with features of an independent state, including the right to adopt a constitution, to apply for membership in international organizations, to use national symbols, and to keep an army-type security force. However, international civilian and military presence would continue in the region. Furthermore, Kosovo could neither join any other state nor split up. With regard to the Kosovo Serbs, the document emphasized the protection of minority rights. While the Serbian government and parliament rejected Ahtisaari's proposals, the ethnic Albanian leaders broadly agreed. On February 10, approx. 3,000 ethnic Albanians demonstrated in Prishtina, demanding outright and unconditional independence. Two protesters died following clashes with UN and local police, and approx. 80 people were injured. On March 10, the final round of status talks under UN supervision ended in a deadlock. In April, the UN Security Council started discussing Ahtisaari's plan. Russia threatened to veto any solution that did not meet with Serbia's agreement. Several attempts to obtain support from Russia by revising the draft UN resolution failed. Therefore, the six-nation Contact Group was authorized to continue the negotiations outside the UN and to seek a compromise acceptable to both sides. On August 10, a new round of status talks began, lead-managed by a "troika" of mediators from the US, Russia, and the EU. Several direct meetings between ethnic Albanian and Serbian leaders failed to produce a breakthrough. The UN set December 10 as a deadline for reaching a settlement. The ethnic Albanian side threatened to unilaterally declare independence in case of inconclusive talks. On November 17, parliamentary and local elections were held in Kosovo, accompanied by an overall low turnout. Concurring with a recommendation by the Serbian government, the Serb minority boycotted the ballot. The Democratic Party of Kosovo won with 34 percent of the vote. The designated

new prime minister and former Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) leader, Hashim Thaci, pledged to formally proclaim Kosovo's secession from Serbia immediately after the December deadline. Various acts of violence were perpetrated in the province throughout the year. An explosion in Prishtina, reportedly committed by a radical ethnic Albanian group, was aimed at the UN administration UNMIK, and caused damage to property. Other sporadic attacks were directed against the Serb minority. Late in 2006, a railway line was blown up shortly before a train carrying ethnic Serbs was due to pass. In spring, unknown perpetrators attacked a Serbian Orthodox monastery. (jc)

Serbia (Wahhabis/Sandzak)

Intensity: 3	Change: NEW	Start: 2007
Conflict Parties:	Wahhabis in Sandzak vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession, system/ideology	

A new conflict emerged in the predominantly Muslim Sandzak region in southwest Serbia when Serbian police began actions against Islamist militants belonging to the Wahhabi sect. On March 17, police dismantled an alleged Wahhabi extremist training camp near Sandzak's main city, Novi Pazar, confiscating arms and explosives. Several men were arrested and detained under suspicion of plotting terrorist acts against the Serbian state. Sandzak politician and head of Serbia's coordination team with the Hague Tribunal, Rasim Ljajic, urged the authorities to fully investigate the actions of the Wahhabi extremists, which he described as primarily a threat to the region's Islamic community. Wahhabis had already clashed with followers of the traditional version of Islam practiced in Sandzak in November 2006 [→ Serbia (Wahhabis - moderate Muslims)]. On April 20, police officers killed suspected Islamist militant Ismail Prentic after coming under attack during a raid near Novi Pazar. On September 14, Serbia's special organized crime prosecution issued an indictment charging 15 Wahhabis with terrorism. On September 20, joint action by Serbian and Kosovo police led to the arrest of a man accused of selling arms to Wahhabi militants in Sandzak. In addition, the region remained highly volatile due to the manifold divisions within the Muslim community, resulting in violent incidents. (aog)

Spain (ETA, PNV/Basque Provinces)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1959
Conflict Parties:	ETA, Basque regional government (PNV) vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The secession conflict concerning independence for the Basque provinces continued. On 12/30/06, the militant organization Basque Homeland and Freedom (Euskadi Ta Askatasuna, ETA) set off a bomb at Madrid's international airport Barajas killing two people and injuring 26. The incident marked the end of a ceasefire declared by ETA in March 2006. Following the bombing, the Spanish public protested against ETA and the government, which immediately suspended its peace talks with ETA. Nationwide local elections late in May were accompanied by minor riots in the Basque provinces after the

Spanish supreme court had banned a Basque party, the Patriotic Socialist Union, for being a follow-up party of the illegal Herri Batasuna, ETA's political wing. 400 candidates were barred. On July 5, ETA officially ended its unilateral ceasefire after 14 months, and threatened new bombings. The first incident after the end of the ceasefire occurred on July 25 when two small bombs exploded along the route of the Tour de France. More bombings followed in August and September, in one case injuring two policemen in northern Spain on August 24. On December 1, a Spanish civil guard was shot dead and another fatally wounded by members of ETA in southwestern France. Spanish and French police discovered several arms caches, and arrested over 40 members of ETA and 24 of Herri Batasuna. On June 8, the Spanish police arrested Arnaldo Otegi, leader of the banned Herri Batasuna party, who had previously been sentenced to 15 months for glorification of terrorism. Meanwhile, on September 28, Basque Prime Minister Juan José Ibarretxe of the moderate Basque Nationalist Party (EAJ/PNV) announced his plans to hold a referendum on self-determination in October 2008, provided an agreement with the central government in Madrid remained elusive until then. Ibarretxe also had to appear in court on January 31, charged with meeting leaders of Herri Batasuna. (jrt)

Turkey - Armenia

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1991
Conflict Parties:	Turkey vs. Armenia	
Conflict Items:	Other	

Tensions between Turkey and Armenia over Turkey's enduring denial of the genocide against Armenians by the Ottoman Empire in 1915 remained high. On January 19, Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, who kept calling attention to the genocide in public, was shot dead by a Turkish nationalist. On November 11, members of the Turkish police were indicted in connection with the Dink murder. At Dink's funeral on January 23, the Armenian deputy foreign minister, Arman Kirakosian, stated his country was ready to re-establish diplomatic ties with Turkey without any preconditions. The following day, Turkey's foreign minister, Abdullah Gül, announced the prospect of amending the controversial Article 301 of the penal code. This article had been frequently used to prosecute people drawing attention to the mass killings of Armenians under the charge of having insulted Turkishness. On October 19, the US House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Re-

lations passed a non-binding resolution acknowledging the genocide against the Armenians by Turkey's predecessor state. Gül, now the Turkish president, issued a warning against the resolution's adoption by the US Congress. His Armenian counterpart Robert Kocharyan welcomed the resolution, however, and encouraged bilateral talks to restore Turkish-Armenian relations. The Turkish government and high-ranking military members renewed their denial of the genocide and canceled visits to the US. The debate on the resolution in the US House of Representatives was postponed on October 25. (sh)

United Kingdom (IRA et al./Northern Ireland)

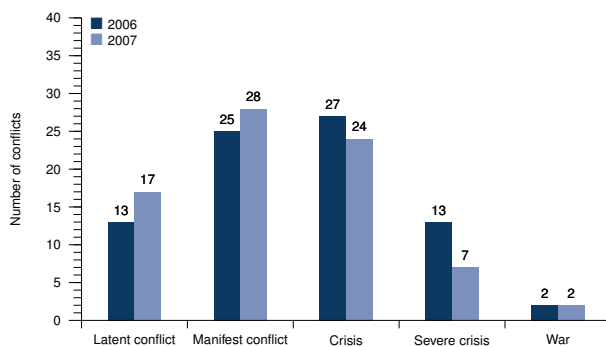
Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1968
Conflict Parties:	IRA, Real IRA, Sinn Féin, SDLP vs. government, UDA/UFF, DUP, UUP	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The conflict concerning the secession of Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom saw the restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly, which had been disbanded in 2002. The British government announced an assembly election on March 7 after the pro-Irish Republican party Sinn Féin had voted to accept Northern Ireland police two days earlier, on January 28. Two traditionally hard-line parties from the two antagonistic communities, the pro-British Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and the pro-Irish Sinn Féin, won the assembly election. Following coalition talks, they sealed a power-sharing deal on March 26, and DUP leader Ian Paisley and Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness took office as first and deputy first minister, respectively, on May 8. In August, tensions within the new DUP-Sinn Féin coalition rose concerning the issue of the introduction of the Irish Language Act. The British army's military operation in Northern Ireland ended on July 30. Paramilitary violence continued, however. The loyalist paramilitary Ulster Defense Association (UDA) claimed responsibility for a series of riots within the Protestant community in July and August. In November, the militant organization Real Irish Republican Army (Real IRA) claimed responsibility for two cases of attempted murder on police officers in Londonderry and County Tyrone, respectively. On August 10, Northern Irish Social Development Minister Margaret Ritchie announced a halt to government funding for a loyalist initiative linked to the paramilitary UDA unless the latter started decommissioning arms. In November, the UDA declared its renunciation of violence, following the loyalist paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), which had declared in May that it would cease to exist as a terrorist organization. (jb)

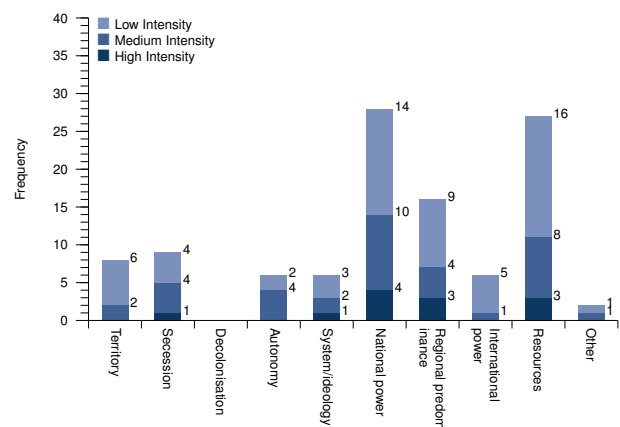
Sub-Saharan Africa

The number of conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa decreased from 80 in 2006 to 78 in 2007, as four conflicts had ended in 2006 and only two new ones emerged in 2007. The number of highly-violent conflicts declined significantly from 15 to nine. Seven of these had already been highly violent in 2006. As in 2006, the both most frequent and most violence-prone conflict item was national power, often in combination with resources, which came second. Regional predominance came third. The phenomenon of regional conflicts leading to zones of instability in the Greater Horn of Africa and central Africa, remained the most important features of the African conflict pattern in 2007. In southern, western, and central Africa, with the exception of Zimbabwe, Guinea, Nigeria, and eastern Congo, conflicts did not deteriorate to an extent threatening the breakdown of state structures or the spreading of conflicts across borders. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Nigeria, both feared to recede into civil war in connection with national elections, protests against the election results did not lead to the re-emergence of lasting violent conflicts. However, local conflicts in the Kivu regions and the Niger Delta, respectively, remained highly violent. The most alarming developments took place in eastern Africa. The persisting conflicts in the Sudan, Chad, and Central African Republic (CAR) border triangle, the deteriorating situation in Somalia, and the threat of a renewed military conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia established an arc of crisis prone to further violent confrontations as well as humanitarian crises. Both of last year's wars, in Somalia [→ Somalia (UIC)] and in Sudan [→ Sudan (Darfur)], continued on this highest level of intensity. Despite repeated peace negotiations, intense fighting in Darfur and Chad continued. In Somalia, the war between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and Ethiopian troops, on the one hand, and forces of the United Islamic Courts (UIC), on the other, continued unabated, resulting in hundreds of thousands of new refugees. In Sudan, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), concluded between the Sudanese Government and the SPLA insurgents in southern Sudan in 2005, seemed to be on the brink of collapse. As a counter strategy to the deteriorating situation in the region, EU, AU, and the UN launched peace missions – some of them as joint or hybrid operations. In Sudan, a UN-AU mission was to succeed AMID. In eastern Chad and northern CAR, a hybrid UN-EU mission is to be deployed in order to stabilize the humanitarian situation. In Somalia, the AU started a peacekeeping mission intended to guarantee stability after a potential retreat of Ethiopian forces. However, delay by the Sudanese government, intensified fighting in eastern Chad, as well as the ineffectiveness of AU forces in Somalia, led to increased skepticism about the feasibility of this kind of missions.

Conflict intensities in sub-Saharan Africa in 2007 compared to 2006



Frequency of conflict items in 2007 in sub-Saharan Africa by intensity groups



Overview: Conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa in 2007

Name of conflict ¹	Conflict parties ²	Conflict items	Start	Change ³ Int. ⁴
Angola (FLEC/Cabinda)	FLEC vs. government	Secession, resources	1975	• 3
Angola (UNITA)	UNITA vs. government	National power	1975	↘ 2
Botswana (Basarwa)	Basarwa vs. government	System/ideology, resources	1997	• 2
Burundi (Hutu - Tutsi)	Various Hutu parties vs. various Tutsi parties	National power	1962	• 2
Burundi (opposition)*	FRODEBU, UPRONA, FNL-Icanzo vs. government	National power	2006	↘ 2
Burundi (Palipehutu-FNL Rwanda)	Palipehutu-FNL faction led by Rwaswa vs. government, Palipehutu-FNL faction led by Nestor "Barnes" Banzubaze	National power	2005	• 3
Burundi - Rwanda (border)*	Burundi vs. Rwanda	Territory	1960	↘ 1

Name of conflict ¹	Conflict parties ²	Conflict items	Start	Change ³	Int. ⁴
Central African Republic (Patassé)*	Patassé vs. government	National power	2003	END	1
Central African Republic (UDFR, APRD)	UDFR, APRD vs. government	National power	2005	•	4
Chad (ethnic groups)	Arab ethnic communities vs. African ethnic communities	Regional predominance	2003	•	4
Chad (MDJT)*	MDJT vs. government	National power	1998	↗	2
Chad (opposition)*	Opposition vs. government	National power	1990	•	2
Chad (various rebel groups)	FUC, UFDD, UFDD-F vs. government	National power	2005	•	4
Chad - Sudan	Chad vs. Sudan	International power	2003	•	3
Comoros (Anjouan, Moheli)	Regional government of Anjouan, regional government of Moheli vs. Union government on Grande Comore	Autonomy	1997	↗	3
Congo-Brazzaville (Ninja militias)*	CNR, Ninja militias vs. government	Autonomy, national power	1997	•	3
Côte d'Ivoire (Guere - Dioula, Immigrants)*	Guere vs. Dioula, immigrants	Regional predominance, resources	2004	↘	2
Côte d'Ivoire (rebels)	FN, Group of Seven vs. government	National power	1999	•	3
DR Congo (ex-RCD-G, Interahamwe, FDLR)	Ex-RCD-G, FDLR, Interahamwe vs. government	National power	2004	•	4
DR Congo (Hema - Lendu)*	Hema vs. Lendu	Regional predominance, resources	2000	•	2
DR Congo (Ituri militias)	Hema militia, Lendu militia vs. government	Regional predominance, resources, other	1999	↘	3
DR Congo (Mayi-Mayi)	May-Mayi vs. government	National power, resources	2004	↘	3
DR Congo (MLC, RCD, UDPS)	MLC, RCD, UDPS vs. government	National power, resources	1997	•	3
DR Congo - Rwanda*	DR Congo vs. Rwanda	International power, resources	2002	•	2
DR Congo - Uganda*	DR Congo vs. Uganda	International power, resources	1999	•	2
Equatorial Guinea - Gabon*	Equatorial Guinea vs. Gabon	Territory, resources	1970	•	2
Ethiopia (Anyuak - Nuer)*	Anyuak vs. Nuer	Regional predominance, resources	2003	↘	1
Ethiopia (EPPF)*	EPPF vs. government	National power	1998	↘	3
Ethiopia (Guji - Borena)*	Guji vs. Borena	Regional predominance, resources	2005	END	1
Ethiopia (OLF/Oromiya)	OLF vs. government	Secession	1974	•	3
Ethiopia (ONLF/Ogaden)	ONLF vs. government	Secession	1984	↗	4
Ethiopia (opposition)	CUD, UEDF vs. government	National power	2005	•	2
Ethiopia (Oromo - Somali)*	Oromo vs. Somali	Regional predominance, resources	2005	•	1
Ethiopia (TPDM)*	TPDM vs. government	Regional predominance	2002	•	3
Ethiopia - Eritrea	Ethiopia vs. Eritrea	Territory	1998	•	2
Guinea (Guerze - Konianke)*	Konianke vs. Guerze	Regional predominance	2001	•	1
Guinea (opposition)	Opposition, unions vs. government	National power	2006	•	3
Guinea-Bissau (MFDC-Sadio)*	MFDC-Sadio vs. government	Regional predominance	2006	↓	1
Guinea-Bissau (PAIGC)*	PAIGC vs. government	National power	1998	↗	3
Kenya (ethnic groups)	SLDF, Soy vs. government, Ndorobo	Resources	1991	↗	4
Kenya (Mungiki sect)	Mungiki sect vs. government	System/ideology, regional predominance	2002	•	3
Kenya (opposition)*	ODM vs. government	System/ideology, national power	1999	•	2
Mali (Tuareg/Kidal)	Various Tuareg rebel groups vs. government	Autonomy, resources	1989	•	3
Mauritania - Senegal*	Mauritania vs. Senegal	Resources	2000	•	1
Namibia (CLA/Caprivi Strip)*	CLA, DTA, UDP vs. government	Secession	1998	•	2
Niger (Tuareg/Agadez)	MNJ vs. government	Autonomy, resources	1999	↑	3
Nigeria (Christians - Muslims)*	Christians vs. Muslims	System/ideology	1960	↘	2

Name of conflict ¹	Conflict parties ²	Conflict items	Start	Change ³	Int. ⁴
Nigeria (MASSOB/Biafra)	MASSOB vs. government	Secession	1967	↘	2
Nigeria (Niger Delta - Ijaw)	Ijaw, NDPVF, MEND vs. government	Regional predominance, resources	1997	•	4
Nigeria (Niger Delta - Ogoni)*	MOSOP, Ogoni vs. government	Autonomy, resources	1990	↘	1
Nigeria - Cameroon (Bakassi)*	Nigeria vs. Cameroon	Territory	1961	•	2
Rwanda (various Hutu rebel groups)*	Interahamwe, ex-FAR, FDLR vs. government	National power	1990	•	2
Rwanda - France*	Rwanda vs. France	International power	2004	↘	1
Rwanda - Uganda*	Rwanda vs. Uganda	International power, resources	2000	•	2
Senegal (MFDC-Sadio/Casamance)*	MFDC-Sadio, MDFC-Badiate vs. government	Secession	1982	↘	3
Sierra Leone (AFRC, RUF, SMG)*	AFRC, RUF, SMG vs. government	National power, resources	1991	•	2
Somalia (Maakhir - Puntland)*	Maakhir vs. Puntland	Other	2007	NEW	2
Somalia (Puntland - Somaliland)	Puntland vs. Somaliland	Territory, regional predominance	1998	↗	3
Somalia (Puntland)*	Puntland vs. transitional federal government	Autonomy	1998	•	1
Somalia (Somaliland)*	Somaliland vs. transitional federal government	Secession	1991	•	2
Somalia (UIC)	UIC vs. transitional federal government, Ethiopia	System/ideology, national power	2006	•	5
Somalia (various rebel groups)*	Warlords vs. government	National power	1980	↘	2
South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal)*	IFP vs. ANC	Regional predominance	1990	↘	2
South Africa - Namibia*	South Africa, Namibia	Territory, resources	1991	•	1
Sudan (Darfur)	SLM/A-MM, SLM/A-AW, SLM/A-AS, G19, SLM, SLM/A-Unity, JEM, NMRD, DLM, JEM/PW, RDFF, RUM, SFDA vs. government, Janjaweed	Regional predominance, resources	2003	•	5
Sudan (Eastern Front)*	Eastern Front vs. government	National power	2005	↘	2
Sudan (Hotiya-Baggara - Newiba-Aballa)*	Hotiya-Baggara vs. Newiba-Aballa	Resources	2005	↓	1
Sudan (Nuer, White Army - SPLM/A)*	Nuer, White Army vs. SPLM/A	Regional predominance	2006	↓	1
Sudan (SPLM/South Sudan)	SPLM/A vs. government	Secession	1955	↘	3
Sudan - Uganda*	Sudan vs. Uganda	International power	1994	•	1
Swaziland (opposition)	SWAYOCO, PUDEMO, SFTU vs. government	System/ideology	1998	•	3
Swaziland - South Africa*	Swaziland vs. South Africa	Territory	1902	•	1
Tanzania (CUF/Zanzibar)*	CUF vs. government	Secession	1993	↘	2
Togo (opposition)	UFC vs. government	National power	2002	↘	1
Uganda (ADF, NALU)*	NALU, ADF vs. government	National power, resources	1987	↘	2
Uganda (LRA)	LRA vs. government	National power, resources	1987	•	3
Uganda - DR Congo (Lake Albert)	Uganda vs. DR Congo	Territory, resources	2007	NEW	3
Zimbabwe (opposition)	MDC (Tsvangirai), MDC (Mutambara), NCA vs. government	National power	2000	•	3

^{1 2 3 4} Cf. overview table for Europe

Angola (FLEC/Cabinda)

Intensity: **3** Change: • Start: 1975
 Conflict Parties: FLEC vs. government
 Conflict Items: Secession, resources

The conflict between the Front for the Liberation of the

Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC) and the government remained tense. While political and military implementation of the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) continued in Cabinda, FLEC equipment was destroyed in official ceremonies from January 6 to 8. FLEC soldiers under the control of the Cabinda Forum For Dia-

logue either joined Angolan regulars and police forces or were demobilized. According to former FLEC leader Antonio Bento Bembe, the rebels' military integration into the armed forces was thereby completed. However, small-scale attacks by remaining separatist FLEC fighters who had not signed the MOU increased in May and June. The army reportedly responded with a new offensive. In early August, former FLEC members were appointed to posts in Angolan embassies, local administration, and public companies in compliance with clauses of the MOU. (ml)

Angola (UNITA)

Intensity: 2	Change: ↘	Start: 1975
Conflict Parties:	UNITA vs. government	
Conflict Items:	National power	

The conflict over power between the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and Angola's largest opposition party, the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), continued. In January, a demobilization plan for the Civil Defense Organization (ODC) was presented at a meeting between MPLA and UNITA. Voter registration was completed in September. The registration process was mainly fair, but cases of intimidation of opposition party voters by MPLA members were reported. UNITA president Isaias Samakuva accused the police of trying to assassinate him in March, when several shots were fired at a party building he was visiting at the moment. This claim, however, was denied by the police. A political climate of intolerance and intimidation remained even though public funding of political parties and access to official information improved. (ml)

Botswana (Basarwa)

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1997
Conflict Parties:	Basarwa vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, resources	

The conflict between the Basarwa (or San) and the government continued. After a court case lasting four years, on 12/13/06 the High Court ruled by two to one that the Basarwa (or San) had been wrongfully evicted by the government from their ancestral homeland, the Central Kgalagadi Game Reserve (CKGR). Since the beginning of the conflict, the administration had always justified its actions with environmental concerns and the need for modernization, thereby denying any link to diamond deposits in the CKGR. Despite the official governmental acceptance of the High Court decision, park officials denied 20 San access to the reserve. According to the NGO Survival International (SI), at least 43 San were arrested for hunting without a permit. (br)

Burundi (Hutu - Tutsi)

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1962
Conflict Parties:	Various Hutu parties vs. various Tutsi parties	
Conflict Items:	National power	

For the second year running, no violence was used in the national power conflict between Hutu and Tutsi. The UN mission in Burundi (ONUB) was succeeded by the

UN Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB). The Burundian cabinet was composed of 60 per cent Hutu and 40 per cent Tutsi members, in accordance to the 2005 constitution fixing ethnic quotas for all public institutions, in order to overcome the ethnic tensions. However, the implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement of 2000 was still not completed. It called for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), an international judicial commission of inquiry, and an international criminal tribunal to deal with crimes committed during the conflict. The Burundian government, led by former Hutu rebel leader Pierre Nkurunziza, however, favored reconciliation over prosecution for all crimes. Its position contravened therefore the international principle that those accused of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity must be prosecuted. When UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour visited Burundi in May, the government agreed that no amnesty should be given for such crimes. On November 2, the government officially launched the steering committee in charge of conducting popular consultations to chart the path towards the setup of the TRC and a special international tribunal for Burundi. In his speech, Nkurunziza rejected the concept of collective guilt by any ethnic group, stating that there were only individuals who had committed crimes and were to be prosecuted as individuals. However, ethnic tensions remained. Unknown armed men in uniform attacked and murdered former Chief of District Patrick Nkurunziza, a Tutsi, in the province of Kirundo on November 11. Because police and army did not intervene to rescue him, ethnic suspicions arose and caused more than 50 Tutsi to flee to neighboring Rwanda, fearing for their safety. Although more than 300,000 refugees returned to Burundi in 2006, at least 370,000 Burundian refugees still remained in the neighboring countries Tanzania and DR Congo. (hlm)

Burundi (Palipehutu-FNL Rwaswa)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 2005
Conflict Parties:	Palipehutu-FNL faction led by Rwaswa vs. government, Palipehutu-FNL faction led by Nestor "Barnes" Banzubaze	
Conflict Items:	National power	

The conflict concerning national power between Agathon Rwaswa's rebel group Palipehutu National Liberation Forces (Palipehutu-FNL) and the government led by President Pierre Nkuruziza continued. Rwaswa had signed a ceasefire agreement with the government on 09/07/06, but both sides continued violating it occasionally, and were unable to conclude an accord on its implementation. Talks on an implementation accord were mediated by Tanzania and South Africa. From mid-December to mid-June, talks in the capital of Tanzania, Dar-es-Salaam, and then in the Burundian capital of Bujumbura were held, broken off without results, and resumed again several times. Palipehutu-FNL participated on and off in the joint verification and monitoring mechanism set up after the ceasefire deal in 2006. The main issues of disagreement were the withdrawal of the army from rebel-held areas and the release of Palipehutu-FNL prisoners. The political integration of

the rebels in government and parliament as well as in the army was another point of intense disagreement, as the government only envisaged military integration. On June 17, an agreement on the release of the prisoners was finally reached. This agreement, however, did not lead to a ceasefire implementation accord, as the other issues remained disputed. Therefore, the rebel delegation walked out of the joint verification team and left Bujumbura on July 21. As a condition for their return, the rebels demanded that the chief mediators be replaced, accusing them of pro-government bias. In the second half of the year, a new Palipehutu-FNL splinter group in favor of joining the peace agreement, led by Nestor "Barnes" Banzubaze, emerged. Rwsa's faction repeatedly claimed that this group was not a dissident group but accused the government of creating a faction within the Palipehutu-FNL. The factions clashed repeatedly. On September 3, Rwsa's fighters attacked a camp in Buterere where dissidents had meanwhile been stationed by the government awaiting integration in the peace process. The attack left at least 21 dead, causing the army to threaten to crack down on the rebel groups. Hundreds of civilians fled the area. A few days later, three high-ranking Palipehutu-FNL officers were shot dead in the center of Bujumbura. In the night of October 1, Rwsa's group fired mortars into another dissident camp, killing two of them and wounding many. Towards the end of October, Rwsa twice attacked a dissident camp in Kabezi, killing up to 15 dissidents and two government soldiers protecting the site. Two of the raiders also died in the fighting, and hundreds of villagers fled. On November 8, some fighters of Rwsa clashed with Burundian soldiers when an army officer tried to forcibly disarm one of them, injuring two. Army and police clashed again with Palipehute-FNL fighters on November 29. Nobody was harmed. Throughout the year, police and National Intelligence Service repeatedly arrested alleged followers of Rwsa. Some observers suspected that these arrests in fact served as a means to oppress the opposition [→ Burundi (opposition)]. (hlm)

Central African Republic (UFDR, APRD)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 2005
Conflict Parties:	UDFR, APRD vs. government	
Conflict Items:	National power	

In the national power conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR), fighting between the Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFDR) and the Popular Army for the Restoration of the Republic and Democracy (APRD), on the one hand, and the government, on the other, continued. The Multinational Force of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (FOMUC), a military mission deployed by the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) in 2002, supported the government in the fighting. In addition, a military contingent from Chad, and troops from France, which had a defense treaty with the CAR, fought alongside the government. On January 1, the APRD, mainly active in the northwest, attacked the city of Paoua in the Ouam-Pendé region. On February 2, a splinter group of UFDR led by Abdoulaye Miskine signed a peace treaty with the

government in Sirte, Libya. On March 13, Damane Zakaria, military leader of the main UFDR, signed the Birao agreement with the government. This move, however, was rejected by the political leader of the UFDR, Abakar Saboune, who had been arrested in Benin in 2006. On March 3, heavy fighting erupted around the town of Birao, causing widespread destruction. In June, the government claimed that APRD 100 rebels had laid down their weapons. Several thousand villagers had to flee due to fighting between the APRD and government forces in the Ouham prefecture in October. A total of approx. 300,000 people were displaced throughout the year, of which 50,000 fled to Chad and 30,000 to Cameroon. Considering the spreading violence in the border triangle of CAR, Chad [→ Chad (various rebel groups)] and Sudan [→ Sudan (SLM/A, JEM/Darfur)], and the resulting deteriorating humanitarian situation, the UN Security Council authorized a UN mission (MIN-UCRAT) on September 25 to be deployed to Chad and the northern CAR. It was intended that this mission be supported by a EU mission (EUFOR TCHAD/RCA). (rz)

Chad (ethnic groups)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 2003
Conflict Parties:	Arab ethnic communities vs. African ethnic communities	
Conflict Items:	Regional predominance	

The conflict between Arab Janjaweed groups, located on both sides of the Chad-Sudan border, and black African communities in the eastern part of Chad remained highly violent. In mid-December 2006, Janjaweed attacked the villages of Aradib and Habile in the Koukou Angarana sub prefecture, close to the Sudanese border, killing at least 30 villagers. The attackers, supposedly from Sudan [→ Sudan (Darfur)], partly burned down the villages. On March 31, Janjaweed attacked the villages of Tiero and Marena, near the Sudanese border, killing between 200 and 400 people, according to the UNHCR. Some 2,000 civilians sought refuge in the camp Goz Amir. The attackers again allegedly came from across the Sudanese border. However, foreign observers suspected local Arab communities of having carried out the attacks. By April 10, 9,000 IDPs had fled to the newly set up refugee camp Habile. The security situation stabilized when the Chadian government massively deployed troops to the area. The number of IDPs in eastern Chad rose from 100,000 to 180,000 between January and November. In addition, 50,000 people fled to Sudan to avoid the Janjaweed and black African militias, respectively. (jk, sk)

Chad (various rebel groups)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 2005
Conflict Parties:	FUC, UFDD, UFDD-F vs. government	
Conflict Items:	National power	

Amid an overall deteriorating security situation in the region [→ Chad - Sudan; → Central African Republic (UDFR, APRD)], the violent conflict between several rebel alliances and the government continued. In the first weeks of December 2006, heavy fighting between the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development

(UFDD) and government forces erupted when rebels tried to capture the eastern town of Biltine. On December 24, the government concluded a peace agreement with the United Front for Change (FUC), leading to the appointment of FUC leader Mahamat Nour Abdelkerim to the post of defense minister in April. Rejecting the peace agreement, rebel forces managed to temporarily capture the towns of Adé and Adré at the beginning of the year. In response, government forces conducted massive air raids against rebel positions on the eastern border. On October 3, peace negotiations started in the Libyan town of Sirte. On October 25, a peace agreement was concluded between the government and the UFDD, the Rally of Forces for Change (RFC), the Chadian National Concord (CNC), and the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development – Fundamental (UFDD-F). Despite the peace agreement, heavy fighting between the army and UFDD forces erupted at the town of Abougouleigne, 90 km to the east of Abeche in eastern Chad, on November 26, leaving several hundred dead. The UFDD stated that the government had not abided by the peace agreement. The government accused Sudan of having masterminded this escalation of the conflict in order to prevent a EU-UN mission from being deployed in the eastern part of the country, as the UN Security Council had authorized a peacekeeping mission (MINURCAT) on September 25, to be supported by a 3,700-strong French-led EU mission (EUFOR TCHAD/RCA). The RFC as well as the UFDD announced that they would not accept a EU-UN mission led by France. The rebel movements accused France of keeping a military presence of 1,000 in Chad siding with the President and providing the army with intelligence won by French reconnaissance flights over rebel territory. Amid the deteriorating situation in eastern Chad [→ Chad (ethnic groups)], and linked to the different ethnic affiliations of government and rebel forces, respectively, clashes between the ethnic groups of Tama and Zarghawa erupted in eastern Chad in September and October, leaving 20 people dead. The Tama supported the FUC, while the Zarghawa were the native ethnic group of President Idris Déby. (jk)

Chad - Sudan

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 2003
Conflict Parties:	Chad vs. Sudan	
Conflict Items:	International power	

Despite two peace agreements, the conflict between Sudan and Chad concerning the support of rebel groups as well as the conduct of cross-border military operations remained violent. Chad repeatedly accused Sudan of backing rebels in Chad [→ Chad (various rebel groups)] and of supporting attacks in Chad by Janjaweed militia based in Darfur [→ Chad (ethnic groups)]. Sudan, on the other hand, accused Chad of backing the Darfur rebels [→ Sudan (SLM/A, JEM/Darfur)]. On February 22, Sudan and Chad, with the mediation of Libya, reached their third peace agreement within one year, again pledging to end hostilities and to respect each other's sovereignty. However, on March 22, Chad confirmed that, for the second time within five months, war planes from neighboring

Sudan had bombed two towns in the violence-stricken east, killing several people. On April 10, Sudan stated that its armed forces had clashed with the Chadian army in the western region of Darfur, leaving 17 soldiers dead and 40 injured. In response, Chad announced that its forces had crossed the border with Sudan while pursuing Chadian rebels, and had only accidentally clashed with the Sudanese army. After talks between officials in Libya, both countries formed a joint military committee on April 17 as part of the efforts to end their border conflict. After mediation efforts by Saudi Arabia, the two conflict parties signed the Riyadh agreement on May 3. The accord included the formation of a joint border force and the deployment of observers to the war-torn border region. Considering the spreading violence in the border triangle of Chad, the Central African Republic [→ CAR (UDFR, APRD)], and Sudan, the UN Security Council authorized a UN mission (MINURCAT) on September 25 to be deployed to Chad and the northern CAR. On October 10, the EU decided to launch the EU Military Operation in Eastern Chad and North Eastern Central African Republic (EUFOR TCHAD/RCA), to operate within the framework of MINURCAT. (jk)

Comoros (Anjouan, Moheli)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↗	Start: 1997
Conflict Parties:	Regional government of Anjouan, regional government of Moheli vs. Union government on Grande Comore	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy	

The conflict concerning autonomy between the regional government of Anjouan and the central government on Grande Comore turned violent. In May, the Union government in Moroni withdrew the mandate of the president of Anjouan, Mohamed Said Bacar, and appointed a transitional president for the interim period until the elections in June. As a result, central government troops and Bacar loyalist local security forces clashed, exchanging heavy artillery fire. In the crossfire, two soldiers of the central government died. Bacar ignored a postponement of the elections from June 10 to June 17 by the central government and the AU, printed his own ballots and announced his victory by 90 percent of the votes. After several months of negotiations between Anjouan and the AU-backed central government, the national army and about 200 soldiers of the AU enforced sanctions on Anjouan from October 10 to November 24 in order to facilitate free and fair elections. (ab)

Côte d'Ivoire (rebels)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1999
Conflict Parties:	FN, Group of Seven vs. government	
Conflict Items:	National power	

The conflict over national power between the rebels of the New Forces (FN) and the government of President Laurent Gbagbo continued. On 12/19/2006, Gbagbo declared his willingness to confer directly with the FN. From January on, Gbagbo and FN leader Guillaume Soro negotiated under the auspices of Burkina Faso's president, Blaise Compaoré, a former backer of the rebels. On March 4, the conflict parties signed the Ouagadougou

Political Agreement. They agreed to hold elections in early 2008, including voter identification and registration. In addition, the parties agreed on the disarmament and reintegration of the rebels into the army as well as on the reunification of the divided national territory. On March 27, both sides agreed on Soro as the new prime minister, who was inaugurated on April 4. Between April 16 and September 16, French and UN troops withdrew from the zone of confidence between the northern rebel-controlled and the southern government-controlled parts of the country, and were replaced by joint army and rebel troops. However, as of November, the peace process, including election organization, lagged behind schedule. On October 29, Gbagbo and Soro signed accords supplementing the Ouagadougou agreement and envisaging the disarmament and dismantlement of militias by December 22 at the latest. On June 29, Prime Minister Soro's plane was attacked with heavy weapons after it had landed in the northern rebels' capital, Bouaké. Soro remained unharmed, but four members of his escort died in the incident. The UN Security Council renewed the mandates of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the French Opération Licorne twice, until 01/15/08, in order to facilitate free and fair elections. (sk)

DR Congo (ex-RCD-G, Interahamwe, FDLR)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 2004
Conflict Parties:	Ex-RCD-G, FDLR, Interahamwe vs. government	
Conflict Items:	National power	

The conflict concerning national power between the government and dissident fighters of the Congolese Rally for Democracy - Goma (ex-RCD-G), led by Laurent Nkunda, continued on the level of a severe crisis. The conflict mainly affected the eastern provinces of DR Congo (DRC), especially the Kivus. Nkunda renamed his Rwandan-backed paramilitary force National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP). The government was strongly supported by the UN Mission in DRC, MONUC. It fought Nkunda's men as well as rebels of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and Interahamwe militias. Interahamwe and FDLR, Hutu militias that had fled Rwanda after the genocide in 1994, refused to leave the country. Nkunda refused to be integrated into the new army according to the current procedure [→ DR Congo (MLC, RCD-G, UDPS)]. He demanded full integration into the new army, freedom from judicial prosecution, and that the rights of the Congolese Banyamulenge, related to the Tutsi ethnic group, be respected. However, small groups of Nkunda's fighters enrolled in the integration program throughout the year. Both army and rebels continued murdering and raping civilians. In late November 2006, the government and MONUC attacked Nkunda's forces at the town of Sake, which the latter had taken previously. Tens of thousands of people were displaced. The fighting continued after newly elected president Joseph Kabila had visited Sake, proposing to Nkunda that he lead his troops into integration centers and engage in politics. Around the turn of the year, more clashes occurred, leaving 18 people dead

in the city of Jomba. In January, the parties engaged in talks facilitated by Rwanda. The UN and the government, who considered offering Nkunda an amnesty, welcomed the move. At the end of January, fighting erupted between two factions of CNDP, differing over the issue of integration. In January, the army started an operation to push the FDLR away from towns and put them under pressure to take part in the integration process. In March, FDLR and the army exchanged gunfire in the town of Burumba in South Kivu, causing some 10,000 people to flee. The rebels' attacks continued in early April. Some 100,000 people had been displaced by the end of the month. The overall number of displaced persons in the region was approx. 370,000. In May, more attacks were conducted by the FDLR. 57 fighters of Nkunda's who had already been integrated deserted the army. At the end of August, CNDP and army clashed again. MONUC mediated a ceasefire. However, fighting resumed on September 25 and in early October. The government issued a warrant for Nkunda for war crimes. Nevertheless, it extended the deadline for Nkunda's forces to move to the integration centers by the end of October. DRC and Rwanda held talks on November 9, resulting in the DRC's pledge to disarm all Rwandan rebels hiding in the DRC, and Rwanda's statement to stop supporting any rebels in the DRC [→ DR Congo - Rwanda]. At the end of November, army and the CNDP clashed again, causing widespread displacement. (pb)

DR Congo (Ituri militias)

Intensity: 3	Change: ▾	Start: 1999
Conflict Parties:	Hema militia, Lendu militia vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Regional predominance, resources, other	

The conflict concerning the disarmament of several militias by the government in the Ituri province of the DR Congo (DRC) de-escalated. The government was backed by the UN mission MONUC. The militias were formed along the ethnicities of Hema and Lendu. The conflict was rooted in the dispute over regional predominance and resources between these two [→ DR Congo (Hema - Lendu)]. In Ituri, about 60,000 people had died and 400,000 had been displaced since 1999 in various conflicts. MONUC and the new Congolese army, Armed Forces of DRC (FARDC), had been conducting a voluntary disarmament program. Both forcibly disarmed militias refused to surrender their weapons. The army regularly clashed with the militias. On 12/21/06, 110 militiamen loyal to the Patriotic Resistance Front in Ituri (FRPI) entered MONUC's process of demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration (DDR). After a ceasefire during New Year, battles between the army and militias caused some 4,000 people to flee the town of Fataki, northeast of the province's capital, Bunia. The fighting broke out despite talks between the government and Peter Karim, leader of the Front of Nationalists and Fundamentalists (FNI). Karim had been appointed a colonel in the FARDC. The former leader of FNI, Thomas Lubunga, was still on trial before the ICC. He was indicted in January. On October 18, Germain Katanga was brought before the ICC. Katanga had been a senior officer of FRPI. He was the second militia officer to face charges

in The Hague. In May, some 200 FNI fighters joined the DDR process. The government stated that an overall of 22,000 fighters had been disarmed in Ituri. Other militias than the FNI, such as the Patriotic Resistance Front in Ituri (FRPI) and the Movement for Revolution in Congo (MRC) had been more reluctant to join the DDR. FRPI leader Cobra Matata refused to continue with disarmament. He accused the government of not adhering to its promises stipulated by the 2006 disarmament agreement, granting rebels participating in the DDR program amnesty and integration into the army. The government announced a major breakthrough towards peace in Ituri in early August when approx. 3,500 fighters of the three militia groups handed over their weapons following negotiations. In October, fighting between FARDC and FNI erupted, displacing approx. 10,000 persons. On November 6, Karim and MRC leader Matthieu Ngudjolo, along with 14 other militia leaders, went to Kinshasa to join the FARDC. (pb)

DR Congo (Mayi-Mayi)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↘	Start: 2004
Conflict Parties:	Mayi-Mayi vs. government	
Conflict Items:	National power, resources	

The conflict between the militia of the Mayi-Mayi and the government de-escalated. The conflict took place in the provinces of Katanga, Maniema, and the Kivus. The Mayi-Mayi had been allied with the government of Joseph Kabila during the civil war. Mayi-Mayi was a general term describing self-organized defense units that had fought Rwandan invaders and their Congolese allies in the last civil war. In 2004, the conflict, rooted in the Mayi-Mayi feeling of having been betrayed by Kabila for not including them in his then transitional government, was sparked by the issue of disarmament [→ DR Congo (MLC, RCD, UDPS)]. Throughout the year, the Mayi-Mayi tried to quell Laurent Nkunda's uprising in the eastern provinces [→ DR Congo (ex-RCD-G, Interahamwe, FDLR)]. By the end of 2006, some 2,500 Mayi-Mayi had entered the reintegration process. In January, the army started an operation to remove the Mayi-Mayi from the vicinity of towns. In May, fighting between Mayi-Mayi, the armed forces, and other militias forced several hundred people to flee to Burundi. On September 9, Mayi-Mayi clashed with other militias in the towns of Kitshanga and Bwila in North Kivu. A political wing of the Mayi-Mayi, the Coalition of Patriots in the Congolese Resistance (PARECO), emerged. (pb)

DR Congo (MLC, RCD, UDPS)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1997
Conflict Parties:	MLC, RCD, UDPS vs. government	
Conflict Items:	National power, resources	

The conflict over national power and resources remained violent. The control over resources and the election were the main topics. After the elections had taken place in 2006, the new and old president, Joseph Kabila, was inaugurated on 12/06/06. His main opponent and runner-up in the election, Jean-Pierre Bemba of the Congolese Liberation Movement (MLC), contested the

result. The civil war had ended in 2003, but the security situation remained volatile due to ongoing small-scale skirmishes. The international community strongly supported the peace process with the 18,700-strong UN mission MONUC mainly located in the east. Political efforts by countries in the Great Lakes region went on. On February 1, several people were killed in violent clashes between security forces and supporters of Bemba throughout the Bas-Congo province. On March 22, Kabila's forces tried to disarm Bemba's 400-500 strong guard in the capital, Kinshasa. Subsequent violent clashes over the next three days left dozens, allegedly up to 600, dead. Many civilians were among the casualties. Some 1,000 people fled across the Congo river to Congo-Brazzaville. The government issued a war crimes warrant for Bemba, who sought refuge in the South African embassy. In April, he moved to Portugal for medical reasons, denying he was going into exile. War crimes had been committed by all parties. Several persons suspected of being responsible for these had been appointed to offices in the Kabila government. The entire political opposition was passed over by Kabila in the distribution of offices. The government also impeded the press, including broadcast media operated by Bemba. Bemba's role in the civil war in the Central African Republic in 2002 was investigated by the ICC. At the end of March, the integration process of fighters loyal to Bemba into the Congolese army continued in the Équateur province. In early May, DRC and Congo-Brazzaville signed an agreement concerning the return of those who had fled the fighting in March, including Bemba militias. In May and June, the senate discussed measures to remove Bemba's immunity, in order to prosecute him for his role in the March unrests. MONUC undertook its own investigation of the incidents. Azarias Ruberwa, leader of the oppositional Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD), urged the ICC investigation to be impartial in order not to jeopardize Bemba's future and therefore the consolidation in DRC. Bemba was allowed to remain in Portugal. In September, Kabila stated that Bemba's case was a matter for the countries' judicial and parliamentary bodies, not for him. He also ruled out offering his opponent a special status. The senate election was scheduled for November 5. The winner of the senate head position was Léon Kengo wa Dondo, an ally of Bemba's. This was a political defeat for Kabila. (pb)

Ethiopia (OLF/Oromiya)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1974
Conflict Parties:	OLF vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The secession conflict between the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and the Ethiopian government remained violent. On January 31, the OLF accused Ethiopian authorities of having killed at least eleven Oromo detainees in extra-judicial executions. In the following months, the OLF launched several attacks on military convoys and army bases. For instance, OLF killed 20 soldiers on February 17, eleven on March 29, and eleven on April 8. The OLF claimed having killed 82 Ethiopian soldiers between May 10 and May 15 in joint attacks

with the Ogaden National Liberation Front [→ Ethiopia (ONLF/Ogaden)] around the city of Wardher. OLF announced to have killed 60 Ethiopian soldiers in another attack in the eastern Babile region on July 1. The police and anti-terrorism forces claimed to have prevented OLF terrorist attacks in Addis Ababa on August 14. (bw)

Ethiopia (ONLF/Ogaden)

Intensity: 4	Change: ↗	Start: 1984
Conflict Parties:	ONLF vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The conflict between the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) and the Ethiopian government turned highly violent. The ONLF fought for the independence of the Ogaden region, bordering on Somalia and predominantly inhabited by Muslims. It opposed Ethiopia's involvement in the Somali war [→ Somalia (UIC)] and tried to prevent Ethiopian troops from entering Somali territory via Ogaden. However, it denied any links with the Islamist rebels in Somalia, as well as links with Eritrea [→ Ethiopia - Eritrea]. From December to April, the ONLF repeatedly attacked Ethiopian military outposts and convoys heading for Somalia. The ONLF claimed to have killed or wounded hundreds of soldiers in these attacks. On April 24, the ONLF attacked a Chinese-owned oil exploration field, killing 65 Ethiopians and nine Chinese, and taking seven Chinese and two Ethiopians temporarily hostage. At the end of May, the rebels claimed the capture of the city of Kefalo without resistance and stated to have killed dozens of soldiers in May. The latter claim was dismissed by the government. On May 28, a hand grenade exploded in Jijiga stadium, where 100,000 people were celebrating the 16th anniversary of the demise of the Derg regime. 17 people were killed and dozens injured by the explosion and the ensuing stampede. While the government blamed the ONLF for the attack and called it a terrorist group, ONLF denied any responsibility but announced that it had once again killed scores of soldiers in May and June. In mid-May, the government launched a major offensive against the ONLF, reportedly using aircraft and helicopters. The government was aided by local militias. ONLF supporters were also hunted down in Somalia. According to HRW, the army destroyed villages and committed serious sexual abuses, forcing thousands to flee, often to Somalia. After the IRC issued a warning about an oncoming humanitarian crisis, the government ordered it to leave the country in seven days' time. In September, the UN sent a delegation to assess the human rights situation, facilitated by a unilateral truce declared by the ONLF. After ONLF leaders had met politicians in Washington in August, the US Congress discussed in October a bill condemned by Ethiopia to cut aid for Ethiopia as a consequence of the human rights abuses. In August, Ethiopia had briefly detained four US soldiers for allegedly trying to contact the rebels. As of August, the government announced that the offensive had been successful and had killed more than 500 rebels. The ONLF boasted numerous attacks on government troops in October. It claimed having killed more than 250 soldiers in a major operation in the Wardher region between October

20-23, involving almost 1,000 fighters. The government denied these claims. At this time, approx. 600,000 people depended on food aid, as Ethiopian troops had blockaded areas considered to be rebel strongholds. In mid-November, Ethiopia and the UN agreed on measures to ensure humanitarian aid to the affected population. At the same time, ONLF reported aerial bombing of villages by the government and claimed having repeatedly attacked army posts, killing over 100 soldiers in November alone. (bw, hlm)

Ethiopia (opposition)

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 2005
Conflict Parties:	CUD, UEDF vs. government	
Conflict Items:	National power	

The conflict concerning national power between the government and legal opposition groups gradually abated. The government acquitted eight journalists and 17 members of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), detained in connection with post-electoral riots in 2005, on April 9. On July 20, more CUD activists were pardoned after they had partially admitted responsibility for the riots. However, the vacant parliamentary seats caused by the 2005 boycott or the arrest of their holders were to be contested in by-elections. The talks between the ruling party, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), and the opposition on the strategic planning of voting rights and upcoming regional elections were resumed in December, and led to first agreements. Nevertheless, more than 300 opposition supporters were arrested on charges of terrorism in January. Moreover, in late November, the opposition parties CUD, United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF), and the Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement (OFDM) accused the authorities of harassment and intimidation ahead of the impending local elections and by-elections. Over the course of the year, the CUD underwent an internal split. (bw, sk)

Ethiopia - Eritrea

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1998
Conflict Parties:	Ethiopia vs. Eritrea	
Conflict Items:	Territory	

Tensions rose this year in the border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia, putting the two states on the brink of a renewed war. In November 2006, the independent Ethiopian-Eritrean Boundary Commission (EEBC) completed the process of demarcation. Endorsing the Eritrean view, the EEBC stuck to its 2002 border ruling. It left the physical demarcation on the ground to the two parties. Ethiopia rejected the plan as legally invalid. Over the course of the year, both parties increased their numbers of troops close to the border. By August, Ethiopia had deployed an estimated 100,000 troops close to the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ). In November, Ethiopia had some 4,000 troops in the TSZ, and another 120,000 troops nearby. While Eritrea warned the international community that a new war could erupt if the EEBC border ruling was not implemented, Ethiopia announced on September 25 that it was con-

sidering withdrawing from the Algiers Agreement, which had ended the war in 2000. The relations between the two states further deteriorated due to Ethiopia accusing Eritrea of being responsible for terrorist attacks in Ethiopia as well as supporting Ethiopian rebel groups [→ Ethiopia (ONLF/Ogaden)]. Peacekeepers of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) guarding the TSZ observed several incidents where Ethiopian and Eritrean troops nearly engaged in fighting. On October 11, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the conflict parties to exercise "utmost restraint". On November 9, the USA asked both states to show "maximum restraint" in order to avert a new war. In reaction to the continuing deadlock and consistent with its November 2006 ruling, the EEBC dissolved on November 30 and concluded its mandate by marking the border on the map. (mh, sk)

Guinea (opposition)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 2006
Conflict Parties:	Opposition, unions vs. government	
Conflict Items:	National power	

The conflict between the opposition and the central government remained violent. Trade unions, NGOs, and the main political opposition parties organized an unlimited general strike on January 11, calling for governmental reforms. Concomitant protests gathering up to 500,000 people led to repeated clashes with security forces. The unions suspended the strike on January 29 due to President Lansana Conté's agreement to comply with some of the opposition's demands. However, Conté's announcement on February 9 that he would appoint as premier his chief of staff, Eugene Camara, led to a renewal of the strike and massive violent protests lasting three days. Mobs torched police stations, looted shops, and attacked government facilities in several cities. A ten-day curfew imposed on February 12 and strictly enforced by security forces slowed down the fighting while the strike continued. The clashes claimed a total of at least 113 lives and more than 1,500 injured. The tense situation subsided in late February when President Conté announced the appointment of the new Prime Minister Lansana Kouyaté. In early May, soldiers carried out violent protests for two weeks, looting shops and warehouses in the capital, Conakry. UN facilities were also targeted during the unrest. At least six people were killed. Conté's promise to increase the soldiers' salaries, and the announced replacement of Defense Minister Arafan Camara by retired army general Mamadou Bailo Diallo temporarily halted the military protests. However, the army threatened with further protests in the case of non-compliance with their demands, reiterating their threats in mid-August. In November, the parliamentary elections scheduled for December were postponed due to organizational difficulties. (ab)

Kenya (ethnic groups)

Intensity: 4	Change: ↗	Start: 1991
Conflict Parties:	SLDF, Soy vs. government, Ndorobo	
Conflict Items:	Resources	

The violent conflict over resources between ethnic groups in Kenya's border region to Uganda escalated. In December 2006, a long-standing dispute over land ownership led to inter-clan clashes between Soy and Ndorobo communities in Kenya's western Mount Elgon district. The Saboat Land Defense Force (SLDF), formed by members of the Soy clan, initiated attacks in the region, claiming the nullification of the government's land allocation policy. On January 18, a councilor was shot dead by SLDF militia men in Mount Elgon. Continuous attacks cost at least 100 lives in January. On April 20, the government suspended the controversial land allocations in the Mt. Elgon district to end land clashes. Gunmen raided several villages on April 24, leaving seven dead. Thousands of people fled to neighboring Uganda. The government deployed massive security forces to contain the ongoing violence in the region. Clashes between SLDF and security forces on August 23 left eight alleged SLDF members dead. After a meeting in the town of Eldoret in western Kenya, elders of the two clans declared a truce from September 14 on. However, attacks and killings continued in October and November, causing at least 250 fatalities and more than 60,000 displaced persons. In the run-up to the general elections, the level of violence increased in November as militiamen from different clans targeted non-clan politicians and their supporters. After militiamen of other clans had threatened some of the initially 18 parliamentary candidates, only five continued to stand for election. (kaa)

Kenya (Mungiki sect)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 2002
Conflict Parties:	Mungiki sect vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, regional predominance	

The conflict between the Mungiki sect, demanding the return to traditional practices including female circumcision, and the government continued. According to the sect, most of their members were recruited from Kenya's largest ethnic group, the Kikuyu. The sect had already been outlawed by the government in 2002. Originally fighting for Kikuyu rights, the Mungiki had become Kenya's most powerful gang, controlling most of Kenya's main highways. In December 2006, members of the sect attacked police forces, killing at least four people. Shortly afterwards, security forces arrested 800 alleged members of the sect for planning terrorist attacks in Nairobi. In May, Mungiki members beheaded six people, accusing them of passing information concerning the sect to the police. The police subsequently launched a massive crackdown, arresting 900 alleged members of the sect in Central and Nairobi Provinces. The government intensified its crackdown in June with President Mwai Kibaki giving the order to shoot-to-kill. On June 5, Mungiki members killed three policemen and fatally slashed four people in Gitera, Kuharu Division. The following day,

police forces responded by killing at least 37 alleged Mungiki in various incidents. On June 7, members of the Mungiki torched several houses, killing 30 people. In a three-day long police operation against Mungiki, 30 alleged members died and 250 were arrested. In June, 112 people were killed in gang-related violence and police shootings, making it one of the most violent months in Kenya's recent history. In August, the police arrested the alleged leader of the Mungiki, Njoroge Kamunya, which led to further fights between police and the sect, resulting in at least 300 casualties by October. On November 26, Kenyan lawyers published a report accusing police forces of having executed more than 8,000 suspected members of the sect since 2002. (kaa)

Mali (Tuareg/Kidal)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1989
Conflict Parties:	Various Tuareg rebel groups vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy, resources	

The autonomy conflict between various Tuareg rebels and the government remained violent. Although a peace treaty had been concluded in 2006, a Tuareg faction under the leadership of Ibrahim Ag Bahanga resumed fighting in July. They announced an alliance with Tuareg rebels in adjacent Niger [→ Niger (Tuareg/Agadez)]. Other Tuareg groups, such as the Democratic Alliance for Change, condemned this escalation. The main demand of the Bahanga faction was a greater role for the Tuareg in the political process as well as increased economic development efforts in their region. On July 27, the rebels seized several soldiers in the Kidal region, bordering Niger. In August, Mali and Niger agreed on joint efforts to protect their border. On September 17, an army convoy was ambushed near the town of Tinzaotene, leaving one soldier and seven rebels dead. Two days later, the government announced that it had agreed on a truce with the Tuareg rebels. Peace negotiations under Algerian auspices started on November 5. (ng)

Niger (Tuareg/Agadez)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↑	Start: 1999
Conflict Parties:	MNJ vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy, resources	

The autonomy conflict between Tuareg rebels and the government escalated. The recently founded Tuareg rebel group Movement of Nigerians for Justice (MNJ) under the leadership of Aghal ag Alambo repeatedly clashed with the armed forces of Niger in the northern region of Agadez. Apart from regional autonomy, a major conflict issue was the exploitation of uranium in the Tuareg areas, to which the MNJ objected. On February 8, the MNJ attacked the city of Iferouane in Agadez, killing at least three soldiers. On June 22, the MNJ seized a military base in Tizerzet, killing 15 soldiers and taking 72 people hostage. A Chinese national working for a Chinese mining company was kidnapped by the MNJ on July 5. On August 23, President Tandja Mamadou declared a three-month state of emergency for the northern region. The MNJ attacked an army outpost on Septem-

ber 6, killing 50 soldiers and displacing 5,000 people. The MNJ was assumed to be cooperating with Tuareg rebels in Mali [→ Mali (Tuareg/Kidal)]. Mali and Niger agreed on joint border controls on August 24. (pg)

Nigeria (MASSOB/Biafra)

Intensity: 2	Change: ↓	Start: 1967
Conflict Parties:	MASSOB vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The secession conflict between the separatist Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and the Nigerian authorities de-escalated. MASSOB was mainly supported by the Igbo population. In 1967, the declaration of an independent state of Biafra had led to one of Africa's most devastating civil wars. The situation had escalated anew after the imprisonment of the MASSOB leader Ralph Uwazurike in November 2005, resulting in protests and strikes in southeast Nigeria and clashes between MASSOB activists and police forces in 2006. Uwazurike was released from detention late in October as a government effort to foster a political dialogue on regional problems. The MASSOB leader, however, stated that he would not enter any agreement, calling for a sovereign state of Biafra and the balkanization of Nigeria. (de)

Nigeria (Niger Delta - Ijaw)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 1997
Conflict Parties:	Ijaw, NDPVF, MEND vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Regional predominance, resources	

The conflict in the Niger Delta between various groups and the government concerning the distribution of oil revenues remained highly violent. On January 28, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) launched an attack on the River State police headquarters, freeing one of their allies' leaders, Soboma George, as well as 125 other prisoners. Towards the end of June, over a dozen people died in another attack on a police station. Mujahid Dokubo-Asari, one of the major political figures of the Ijaw ethnic group, was released from prison on June 14. The leader of the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF) had been imprisoned since 2005. At the end of June, at least twelve people were shot dead in an attack on a funeral procession led by Dokubo-Asari. Shortly after Dokubo-Asari's release, another important political figure in the Niger Delta, former Bayelsa State Governor Diepreye Alamieyeseigha, was released on July 27. Both releases were part of government initiatives to take up a new political dialogue on regional problems in Nigeria [→ Nigeria (MASSOB/Biafra)]. On May 29, Goodluck Jonathan, of the Ijaw ethnic group, was appointed vice president. The discharge of these prisoners had been a major political demand of MEND. However, MEND announced that it would continue its struggle. In mid-August, five days of ongoing fighting between different militias, led by George and Ateke Tom, respectively, left at least 32 dead. As a reaction, the Nigerian army launched a massive attack against George's rebel hideout in the center of Port Harcourt on August 16. The Nigerian authorities imposed a

night-time curfew and deployed troops to the region. The tense situation relaxed, and negotiations between the federal government and regional authorities contained the violence. However, seven people were shot dead during the curfew. Until September alone, more than 200 foreign oil workers were taken hostage. On September 3, MEND leader Jomo Gbomo was allegedly arrested at Luanda Airport, Angola. Nigeria requested his extradition. MEND denied the arrest and threatened with renewed violence in the Niger Delta. (de)

Somalia (Puntland - Somaliland)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↗	Start: 1998
Conflict Parties:	Puntland vs. Somaliland	
Conflict Items:	Territory, regional predominance	

The conflict between the self-proclaimed independent state of Somaliland and the autonomous region of Puntland escalated this year. Both sides claimed the provinces of Sanaag and Sool as part of their respective territory. The conflict started in 2003, when Puntland took control of Sool's provincial capital, Las Anod. In April, both sides engaged in skirmishes in the province of Sanaag, which later declared its independence from Puntland as well as its allegiance to the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, forming the autonomous state of Maakhir [→ Somalia (Maakhir - Puntland)]. On September 17, Puntland and Somaliland engaged in fighting centered around Las Anod. The fighting soon escalated into exchange of artillery fire, leading to several dead and up to 50,000 refugees by November. On October 15, Somaliland forces took Las Anod. On November 7, hundreds of Somaliland troops backed by armored vehicles entered the town, removed road blocks built by the local population after the Somaliland takeover, and shot dead one civilian. On November 17, a conference of local clan elders started discussing the situation. (sk)

Somalia (UIC)

Intensity: 5	Change: •	Start: 2006
Conflict Parties:	UIC vs. transitional federal government, Ethiopia	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The conflict concerning national power and the orientation of the political system between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) continued as a war. Intense fighting between the TFG, strongly supported by Ethiopia, and the UIC flared up in December 2006, following the approval by the UN Security Council of a combined peacekeeping mission by the AU and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). On 12/12/06, the UIC's Yusuf Mohamed Siad "Inda'ade" issued an ultimatum to Ethiopia to withdraw its troops. After the deadline had passed, intense fighting broke out around the city of Baidoa on 12/19/06. It peaked between 12/24/06 and 12/26/06, when Ethiopia launched air strikes against several towns and the airports of the cities of Mogadishu and Baledogle. Ethiopian-backed troops of the TFG under President Abdullahi Yussuf Ahmed and Prime Minister Ali Muhammad Gedi drove the UIC out of Mogadishu, push-

ing UIC forces further south towards the Kenyan border in January. The USA launched air strikes in southern Somalia between January 8 and 22, ostensibly to fight terrorists. After a planned peacekeeping mission by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to Somalia had failed to materialize, the AU, in September 2006, agreed on a peace mission of 8,000 troops. The mission was approved by the UN Security Council, in order to enable the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops without risking renewed fighting. The TFG transferred its base from the city of Baidoa to the capital, Mogadishu, on March 13. However, a mere 1,600 Ugandan troops were deployed to Mogadishu from early March on. The ongoing clashes between the TFG and various rebel groups escalated late in March, when disarmament attempts failed, resulting in the public execution and mutilation of the bodies of TFG troops. The TFG, backed by Ethiopia, reacted with military offensives in March and April. Further peaks in the fighting were reported in late June and mid-August. After having been postponed several times, a reconciliation conference was eventually held in Mogadishu from July 15 to August 30. From October 27 on, heavy fighting between rebels related to the UIC and Ethiopian-backed TFG troops erupted in Mogadishu. By mid-November, the death toll had risen to at least 200, mainly civilians. Amid increased fighting, Prime Minister Gedi resigned on October 29. On November 22, President Yussuf appointed Nur Hassan Hussein "Nur Ade" of the Hawiye ethnic group as the new prime minister. According to the UNHCR, the total number of internally displaced persons rose to one million, of which some 600,000 fled Mogadishu beginning in February. (tb)

Sudan (Darfur)

Intensity: 5	Change: •	Start: 2003
Conflict Parties:	SLM/A-MM, SLM/A-AW, SLM/A-AS, G19, SLM, SLM/A-Unity, JEM, NMRD, DLM, JEM/PW, RDFF, RUM, SFDA vs. government, Janjaweed	
Conflict Items:	Regional predominance, resources	

The conflict between various rebel groups and the Sudanese government over regional predominance and resources in the Darfur region continued to be carried out as a war for the fourth year running. Since 2004, the conflict had led to approx. 400,000 fatalities, 2.2 million displaced persons, and 3.5 million people dependant on humanitarian aid. In 2007, the war was characterized by additional fragmentation of the rebel groups and the further deterioration of the humanitarian situation. Another 240,000 persons were displaced. The government consented to a hybrid mission of the AU and the UN. Peace negotiations started in Libya but were boycotted by most of the rebel factions. Clashes between Janjaweed and government troops of the Sudanese Defense Forces (SDF), on the one hand, and various insurgents, on the other, were reported for the whole year. Furthermore, government troops and the only Darfur rebel faction that had signed the 2006 Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) clashed violently. For example, 50 were killed in an attack by government forces on a refugee camp near El Geneina in December 2006. In North Darfur,

security forces bombed the villages of Umm Ra, Jira, Anka, and Hashasaba in April. On April 21, the SDF used aerial bombing to destroy a rebel meeting in North Darfur. In March, fighting erupted between government forces and a faction of the Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) led by Minni Minawi (SLM/A-MM), which had signed the DPA. In May, forces from the Border Intelligence Guard reportedly conducted several raids, killing more than 100 people. Heavy fighting in the Bulbul and Jebel Marra regions claimed several hundred and prompted tens of thousands of people to flee their homes. In August, hundreds of people were killed when rebel groups captured the strategically important town of Adila. In the same month, government forces attacked the refugee camp of Kalma, near the town of Nyala. Janjaweed, supported by air raids of the Sudanese air force, attacked Mazrouk and Um Sa'ouna in August. In clashes throughout the year in Muhajiriya, Bir Degig, and Um Dukhum, 16,000 were displaced. In October, heavy fighting between the Sudanese army and rebel forces was reported at Mohajiriya, a town in southern Darfur. The same month, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attacked a Chinese-operated oil field in the neighboring Kordofan region, fuelling threats that the conflict could spread to adjacent regions of Sudan. In February, the Kordofan Alliance for Development (KAD) had already announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Darfur rebel alliance of the National Redemption Front (NRF). The process of fragmentation that had already begun in 2006 gained momentum in 2007 when the two original rebel groups, the SLM/A and the JEM, splintered into numerous factions. Subsequently, at least 16 rebel groups seemed to be operating in Darfur. The SLA had already split into SLM/A-MM and SLM/A-AW, led by initial SLM/A chairman Abdel Wahid Mohamed el Nur, SLM/A-AS, led by Ahmed Abdelshaafi, and G19, a breakaway group of SLM/A-MM in 2006. In January 2007, the former SLM/A-MM spokesperson, Mahjoub Hussein, set up the Greater Sudan Liberation Movement (GSLM). SLM/A-AW, SLM/A-AS and G19, together, formed the Non-Signatory Faction (SLM/A-NSF) to be represented in the Ceasefire Commission. In addition, a group led by Abdallah Yahya broke away from the G19, forming the SLM/A-Unity. JEM, led by Khalil Ibrahim, was believed to have splintered into the factions of the National Movement for Reconstruction/Reform and Development (NMRD), the Darfur Liberation Movement (DLM), the JEM Peace Wing (JEM/PW), the Field Revolutionary Command (FRC) and the Popular Forces Troops (PFT). Apart from movements that emerged from the original JEM and SLM/A rebel groups, there were also groups that had not been connected to these groups previously, e.g. the Sudan Federal Democratic Alliance (SFDA). Furthermore, groups representing Arab communities in Darfur, previously believed to be aligned with government forces, for instance the Revolutionary Democratic Front Forces (RDFF) and the Revolutionary United Movement (RUM), claimed to have joined the forces fighting the government. Different rebel factions merged into bigger unions to be represented at various talks. JEM, NMRD and SLM/A-AW, as non-DPA signa-

tories, joined the NRF. In July, four rebel groups – two SLM/A groups, RDFF and NMRD – jointly formed the United Front for Liberation and Development (UFLD). On November 15, several SLM/A factions signed the Charter of Unification, announcing the merging of their military and political structures. On April 23, the government launched the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority (TDRA), the highest governing authority, as set out in the DPA. The situation in Darfur also deteriorated for international personnel, such as those of the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS). AMIS had been deployed in the region since 2004. Two AMIS soldiers were killed in Gereida and El Fasher in March. On September 29, another ten were killed in an attack near Haskanita, a town in northern Darfur. In the course of a civilian-military supporting action, under the 2005 Council Joint Action, the EU decided on April 23 to provide AMIS with a civilian-military support package including 21 military as well as 32 police troops. After the government had accepted the concept of a hybrid AU-UN mission in Darfur on April 12, the UNSC, on July 31, authorized UNAMID to take over from AMIS in Darfur on 12/31/07. Its maximum size was to be 19,555 military personnel and 3,772 police troops, constituting roughly three times the size of AMIS. Due to demands by the government, the mission was supposed to consist mainly of African troops. Therefore, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Senegal were supposed to act as main troop contributors. On October 31, UNAMIS set up its headquarters in El Fasher. Under mediation of the UN, AU, and Libya, peace talks started in Sirte, Libya, on October 27. These led to the announcement of a ceasefire by the government. However, most rebel movements refused to attend the peace conference. On November 19, the AU and UN decided to engage in simultaneous consultations with the rebel movements in Sirte, Khartoum, Juba, and Darfur. (lh, rs)

Sudan (SPLM/South Sudan)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↘	Start: 1955
Conflict Parties:	SPLM/A vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The conflict concerning an independent state in southern Sudan between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), now heading the newly established Government of Southern Sudan, and the central government in Khartoum continued. Central issues of dispute were the redeployment of troops and border demarcations, leading to the withdrawal of the SPLM/A from the government. In 2005, the conflict parties had signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), stipulating the formation of a government of national unity, the establishment of the autonomous Government of Southern Sudan, the creation of Joint Integrated Units (JIU) in the Armed Forces, the redeployment of SPLM/A and government forces to southern and northern parts of the country, respectively, and the reintegration of militias either into the SPLM/A, now the official armed forces of Southern Sudan, or the national army, respectively. Furthermore, it envisaged a referendum on the independence of Southern Sudan to be held in 2011. As in 2006, sporadic clashes between the

conflict parties left several people dead. On September 8, approximately 1,000 troops of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) besieged 61 SPLM/A fighters for several days in central Sudan, accusing them of illegally carrying small arms north of the demarcation line. After mediation by the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), the siege was lifted. On October 17, contingents of SPLM/A and SAF clashed near the towns of Bar El Gahzal and Bahr El Arab, in Bahr El Gahzal state, leaving ten people dead. In June, the South Sudan Defense Force (SSDF), a former pro-government militia, integrated its 31,000 forces into the SPLM/A. In July, the SDF missed a CPA deadline to move its troops north of a demarcation line. So far, only two thirds of the original approx. 40,000 northern troops in Southern Sudan had moved north. SPLM/A, on the other hand, did not fully withdraw its forces from the areas Southern Blue Nile and South Kordofan. The conflict parties could not reach an agreement concerning the future status of the oil-rich Abyei region, either belonging to northern or southern Sudan. On October 11, the SPLM/A suspended its participation in the Government of National Unity, recalling all ministers and presidential advisors. It accused the North of delaying the demarcation of the north-south border, the redeployment of the northern troops from the south, and the creation of an administration for the Abyei region. Amid Egyptian mediation efforts, the conflict parties agreed on a timetable for the redeployment of troops, according to which all SAF forces were to be withdrawn to the North by December 15. However, the exact number of SAF forces still stationed in the South remained contested among the conflict parties. Further doubts about the future of the CPA emerged on November 18 when Sudanese President Bashir called for the re-opening of training camps and further recruiting of young men to the Popular Defense Forces (PDF), a group considered to be a pro-government militia. On October 31, the UN Security Council extended UNMIS' mandate by six months. (jk)

Swaziland (opposition)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1998
Conflict Parties:	SWAYOCO, PUDEMO, SFTU vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology	

The conflict between oppositional formations and the government of King Maswati III continued. Although the new constitution, signed by King Maswati III in 2006, had indirectly legalized political parties, their participation in national elections was prevented. On February 12, the government prevented police officers and prison guards from forming trade unions. Sixteen members of the banned opposition party People's Democratic Movement (PUDEMO) were attacked by police forces on April 12 and subsequently imprisoned while conducting a peaceful picket. Six of them were charged with sedition for carrying signs with pro-democratic slogans. On June 3, members of the Swaziland Youth Congress (SWAYOCO) and communal police units clashed during a SWAYOCO rally. At least 50 PUDEMO members were arrested for participating in a peaceful border blockade in mid-April. On July 25-26, protesters clashed with police forces dur-

ing a strike organized by the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) and the Swaziland Federation of Labour (SFL), leaving at least one policeman injured. (jek)

Togo (opposition)

Intensity: 1	Change: ▾	Start: 2002
Conflict Parties:	UFC vs. government	
Conflict Items:	National power	

The political situation in Togo became more stable. Faure Gnassingbe's takeover had caused hundreds of casualties, and almost 40,000 refugees fled to Benin and Ghana. Since then, the number of refugees has decreased drastically, with 20,000 returning from Benin. All opposition parties participated in the election on October 14, which proceeded without incident. The ruling Rally for the Togolese People (RPT) won, obtaining 50 of 81 seats. The oppositional Union of Forces for Change (UFC) dominated the opposition with 27 seats. The Constitutional Court secured an official legal victory for the ruling party. The EU and ECOWAS confirmed the result as election witnesses. (nm)

Uganda (LRA)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1987
Conflict Parties:	LRA vs. government	
Conflict Items:	National power, resources	

In the national power conflict between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the government, the peace process gained momentum. While the conflict parties could not agree on a final conflict solution, they were able to reach two agreements. One of those concerned redevelopment in northern Uganda, the other legal accountability for war atrocities. Despite a raid on a truck convoy, allegedly conducted by the LRA and claiming the lives of seven people, the parties maintained the ceasefire agreement of 2006. On January 12, the peace process reached an impasse when the LRA withdrew from the Juba talks. They demanded the relocation of negotiations from Juba, and the replacement of chief mediator Riek Machar, acting vice president for the government of Southern Sudan. After negotiations in Mombasa (Kenya), led by UN Special Envoy Joaquim Chissano, the LRA resumed the Juba talks. It also consented to accepting Machar as chief mediator. In exchange, the LRA was granted permission to move all its fighters to the Rikwangba assembly point on the border between Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The original plan had been to locate the fighters to two separate assembly points. On May 2, the conflict parties reached an agreement on redevelopment in northern Uganda. Another agreement, on reconciliation and accountability, was concluded on June 29. The latter stated that war crimes should fall under national, as opposed to international, jurisdiction. On August 20, Interior Minister Ruhakana Ruganda, who was also involved in the negotiations with the LRA, hinted that a special domestic court instead of the International Criminal Court (ICC) might try cases of war atrocities. An LRA delegation led by Martin Ojul held peace talks with President Museveni

in the capital on October 29 specifically concerning the role of the ICC in the peace process. The LRA insisted that ICC arrest warrants from 2005 for five top LRA leaders be dropped as a precondition for a peace agreement. The 2006 ceasefire agreement was extended by three additional months on November 5. At the beginning of November, the surrender of several LRA commanders, as well as a split between Joseph Kony, the leader of the LRA, and his deputy, Vincent Otti, cast doubt on the future of the peace process. While approx. 100,000 internally displaced persons returned to their homes, more than 1.4 million people remained displaced in northern Uganda. (rs)

Uganda - DR Congo (Lake Albert)

Intensity: 3	Change: NEW	Start: 2007
Conflict Parties:	Uganda vs. DR Congo	
Conflict Items:	Territory, resources	

Following large oil discoveries under Lake Albert, tensions erupted between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda concerning the border in the lake area, as well as the control over the Rukwanzi Strip, a territory situated at the Semiliki river that flows into Lake Albert. At the end of July, four Ugandan soldiers were captured by Congolese security forces on Lake Albert. On August 1, the conflict escalated when a Congolese soldier as well as an employee of the Canadian Heritage Oil Corporation were killed in a shootout between the two countries' armed forces. On September 8, in a move to defuse tensions, the Ugandan and Congolese governments signed the Ngurdoto Arusha Agreement, in which they agreed on joint exploitation of the contested resources. The conflict parties also pledged to demilitarize the Rukwanzi strip, and to deploy joint police forces in this area. However, six Congolese died when fresh fighting erupted between the conflict parties on September 24. Uganda denied responsibility for this incident, claiming that the crew of the Ugandan navy ship involved was disobeying orders. On October 10, the two countries announced the creation of a joint commission intended to deal with the controversial issues. Late in October, the two countries started the deployment of police contingents to the island. (rs)

Zimbabwe (opposition)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 2000
Conflict Parties:	MDC (Tsvangirai), MDC (Mutambara), NCA vs. government	
Conflict Items:	National power	

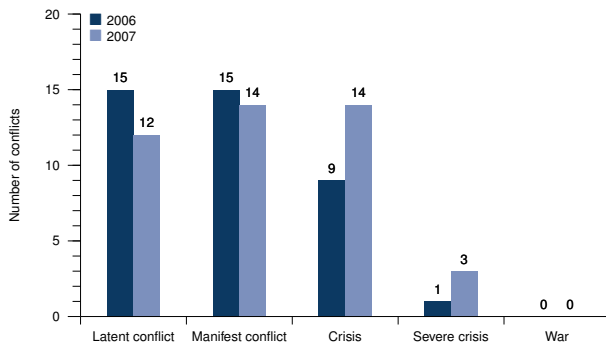
The power struggle between the opposition and the government of President Robert Mugabe and his Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) was

marked by occasional acts of violence. Moreover, the deteriorating economic situation – including an official inflation of 8,000 percent – kindled a further radicalization of the conflict. As of November, the number of Zimbabwean refugees in neighboring countries was estimated to range from 1.1 to over 3 million. The divided main opposition party, Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), faced internal clashes. On October 2, Morgan Tsvangirai, president of one of the two MDC factions, dismissed Lucia Matibenga, chairwoman of the faction's women's league. This led to several violent intra-party clashes over the following two months. Within ZANU-PF, Mugabe successfully outmaneuvered internal rivals and succeeded in becoming the party's only candidate for the presidential elections scheduled for 03/02/08. The authorities detained six men on June 15, including army officers, and indicted them for plotting to assassinate Mugabe. On February 16, MDC followers attacked a police station in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, injuring four policemen. On February 18, the police broke up a rally of the MDC's Tsvangirai faction and injured several protesters. Police and military dissolved an opposition prayer meeting and shot dead Gift Tandare, youth chairperson of the National Constitutional Assembly, on March 11. Earlier that day, police had arrested the leaders of the two MDC factions, Morgan Tsvangirai and Arthur Mutambara, as well as several other party members. The detainees were severely beaten while in custody. The following day the police arrested more than 200 protesters during protests against the security forces' crackdown. Two mourners were shot by the police on March 13. Between March 12 and March 27, unknown attackers committed eight bombings of police stations, a ZANU-PF politician's house, a supermarket, a passenger train, and a ZANU-PF district office, injuring three policewomen and five civilians. On March 28, police arrested Tsvangirai and several followers in connection with the bombings. Two of them had to be put on life-saving systems after their release. The same day, the Southern African Development Community entrusted South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki at a crisis meeting with facilitating talks between government and opposition. In April, the conflict parties held talks in South Africa and Zimbabwe. In September, both MDC factions and ZANU-PF agreed on a constitutional amendment setting forth regulations for the upcoming elections. This encompassed the synchronization of all elections, regulations for the fixing of electoral districts, and the abolition of the president's right to appoint members of parliament. Notably, it provided the President with the right to choose his successor, who would then be voted in by the ZANU-PF-dominated parliament. (sk)

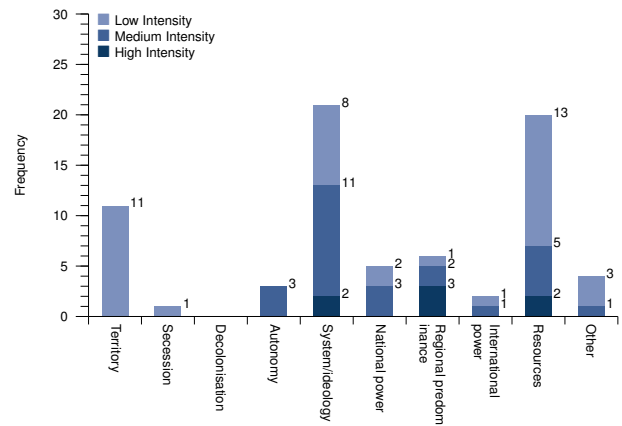
The Americas

In the region of the Americas, the total number of conflicts increased from 40 to 43. Compared to 2006, the number of highly violent conflicts rose considerably, from one to three [→ Colombia (FARC); Colombia (FARC - ELN); Mexico (drug cartels)]. The conflicts in the Americas escalated in total, and also the level of crime increased, e.g. in Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, and Haiti. Altogether, only two conflicts de-escalated, whereas eleven escalated. Seven conflicts turned violent while only one de-escalated to a non-violent level. Two conflicts were settled in 2007. As in the previous year, three new conflicts erupted, two of them non-violent and one highly violent. The main source of instability in several states of the continent was still the insecure and tense economic situation in Central and South America. Therefore, in violent conflicts, system/ideology remained the dominant conflict item. Once again, Mexico was the country with the most violent conflicts, numbering four, including one highly violent conflict [→ Mexico (drug cartels)]. However, Colombia was the country with the most highly violent conflicts: In addition to the severe crisis between the rebel group Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the government, heavy clashes flared up between the two mayor rebel groups, FARC and the National Liberation Army (ELN). For the first time in twelve years, an interstate conflict was carried out violently. Colombia's fight against the FARC rebels created spill-over effects towards Ecuador [→ Colombia - Ecuador]. Cross-border violations and combat actions on Ecuadorian territory led to a crisis in the relations between the two countries.

Conflict intensities in the Americas in 2007 compared to 2006



Frequency of conflict items in 2007 in the Americas by intensity groups



Overview: Conflicts in the Americas in 2007

Name of conflict ¹	Conflict parties ²	Conflict items	Start	Change ³ Int. ⁴
Argentina (Piqueteros)*	Piqueteros vs. government	System/ideology	2001	• 2
Argentina - Iran (AMIA)*	Argentina vs. Iran	Other	1992	• 2
Argentina - United Kingdom (Falkland Islands)	Argentina vs. United Kingdom	Territory, resources	1945	↗ 2
Belize (opposition)*	Opposition vs. government	System/ideology	2005	• 1
Bolivia (JAD/eastern provinces)	Opposition vs. government	Autonomy, system/ideology, resources	2005	• 3
Bolivia (opposition)*	Opposition vs. government	System/ideology, national power, resources	1983	• 1
Bolivia - Chile (access to sea)*	Bolivia vs. Chile	Territory, resources	1945	• 1
Brazil (MST)*	MST vs. government	Resources	1995	• 3
Canada (AFN)	AFN vs. government	Resources, other	1995	↗ 2
Canada (Bloc Québécois/Quebec)*	Bloc Québécois vs. government	Secession	1945	• 1
Chile (opposition)	Opposition vs. government	System/ideology	2006	↗ 3
Chile - United Kingdom (Antarctica)	Chile vs. United Kingdom	Territory, resources	2007	NEW 1
Colombia (AUC)*	AUC vs. government	System/ideology, regional predominance, resources	1995	• 2
Colombia (ELN)*	ELN vs. government	System/ideology, regional predominance, resources	1964	↗ 3

Name of conflict ¹	Conflict parties ²	Conflict items	Start	Change ³	Int. ⁴
Colombia (FARC - ELN)	FARC vs. ELN	System/ideology, regional predominance, resources	2006	↑	4
Colombia (FARC)	FARC vs. government	System/ideology, regional predominance, resources	1964	•	4
Colombia (Guambianos)*	Guambianos vs. government	Resources	2005	•	1
Colombia - Ecuador	Colombia vs. Ecuador	International power	2005	↗	3
Colombia - Venezuela (border, Monjes Islands)*	Colombia vs. Venezuela	Territory	1945	•	1
Colombia - Venezuela (system)*	Colombia vs. Venezuela	System/ideology	2004	↗	2
Costa Rica - Nicaragua (Rio San Juan)*	Costa Rica vs. Nicaragua	Territory, resources	1945	↗	2
Ecuador (opposition)*	Opposition vs. government	System/ideology	1980	•	3
Guatemala (various opposition groups)	Right-wing militant groups vs. left-wing militant groups	System/ideology, national power	1960	↗	3
Guatemala - Belize (territory)*	Guatemala vs. Belize	Territory	1981	•	1
Guyana - Suriname (sea border)	Guyana vs. Suriname	Territory, resources	2000	END	1
Haiti (opposition)	Aristide followers vs. Aristide opponents	National power	1986	•	3
Honduras - Nicaragua (sea border)	Honduras vs. Nicaragua	Territory, resources	1945	END	1
Mexico (APPO)*	APPO vs. government	System/ideology	2006	•	3
Mexico (drug cartels)	Various drug cartels vs. government	Regional predominance	2007	NEW	4
Mexico (EPR/Guerrero)	EPR vs. government	Autonomy, system/ideology	1995	↑	3
Mexico (EZLN/Chiapas)*	EZLN vs. government	Autonomy, system/ideology, resources, other	1994	↗	3
Mexiko (opposition)*	Opposition vs. government	System/ideology, national power	2006	↘	2
Nicaragua - Colombia (sea border)	Nicaragua vs. Colombia	Territory, resources	1945	•	2
Paraguay (opposition)	Opposition vs. government	System/ideology, resources	1989	•	3
Peru (Shining Path)	Shining Path vs. government	System/ideology, regional predominance	1980	•	3
Peru - Chile (sea border)*	Peru vs. Chile	Territory, resources	1945	↘	1
Uruguay - Argentina (Uruguay River)	Uruguay vs. Argentina	Resources	2006	•	2
USA - Cuba (Guantanamo)*	USA vs. Cuba	Territory	1959	•	1
USA - Cuba (system)*	USA vs. Cuba	System/ideology	1959	•	2
USA - Mexico (border fence)*	USA vs. Mexico	Other	2001	•	2
USA - Russia (missile system)	USA vs. Russia	International power	2007	NEW	2
USA - Venezuela (system)*	USA vs. Venezuela	System/ideology	2001	•	2
Venezuela (opposition)*	Opposition vs. government	System/ideology, national power	2000	•	3

^{1 2 3 4} Cf. overview table for Europe

Argentina - United Kingdom (Falkland Islands)

Intensity: **2** Change: ↗ Start: 1945
 Conflict Parties: Argentina vs. United Kingdom
 Conflict Items: Territory, resources

The conflict between Argentina and the United Kingdom (UK) over the territory of the Falkland Islands attracted new attention due to the 25th anniversary of the Falklands war. British oil companies unilaterally drilled for oil on the archipelago, thereby violating an agreement concluded between the two states in 1995. On March 29, Argentina stopped the exploration. On April 2, British

Prime Minister Tony Blair commemorated the start of the Falklands war with a military service, and announced that going to war had been the right decision. The Argentinean government also held a memorial service in Patagonia, and called on the UK to resume negotiations. On June 14, Argentinean President Nestor Kirchner reinforced Argentina's claim for the Falkland Islands. (eg)

Bolivia (JAD/eastern provinces)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 2005
Conflict Parties:	Opposition vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy, system/ideology, resources	

The conflict concerning autonomy rights for four states rich in natural resources between the Junta Autonómica Democrática (JAD) and the government, led by President Evo Morales, remained violent. In 2006, a constitutional assembly was elected to work out a new constitution. That year in December, the prefects of four provinces founded the JAD to stress their demands for autonomy. A fifth state joined the JAD at the constitutional assembly when the government declined its call for the relocation of the capital from La Paz to Sucre. Two people died and about 200 were injured during protests against an oppositional provincial prefect on January 11. Another protester was killed in April during a demonstration concerning the allocation of gas reserves. In protests in August, oppositional demonstrators tried to set the Gran Mariscal theater on fire, where the constitutional assembly was meeting. The violence followed the announcement that the demand to relocate the capital had been rejected. On August 23, a fight broke out in the Congress when the opposition tried to stop pro-government deputies from bringing charges of improper conduct against four constitutional court judges, who had ordered the suspension of four of the president's judicial appointees in May. On October 18, Morales sent 220 troops to occupy Viru Viru Airport because of the local administration's plans to collect the airport fees instead of paying them to the central government. The occupation led to a demonstration the following day, but the troops had already been withdrawn by then. From November 24 to 26, four people died and several people were injured in violent protests in Sucre and Santa Cruz. The protesters also set a prison on fire, enabling more than 100 prisoners to escape. Owing to security concerns, the constitutional assembly moved to a military school. (kow, eg)

Canada (AFN)

Intensity: 2	Change: ↗	Start: 1995
Conflict Parties:	AFN vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Resources, other	

The conflict between the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the government over land reform and indigenous rights continued. An official report stated that the Canadian government was responsible for the death of AFN activist Dudley George in 1995. On June 1, Ontario's Premier Dalton McGuinty issued an apology for George's death. Prime Minister Stephen Harper on June 12 announced a plan to overhaul the system of dealing with land claims. There were 800 unresolved claims by native groups across the country for land and resources. On June 29, indigenous groups across the country staged a day of protests and marches to highlight poverty and social issues facing their communities. More than 1,000 people marched into the capital, Ottawa. Although the organizers called for peaceful demonstrations, a major highway as well as railways

were closed for several hours due to blockades. However, Canada did not sign the UN Declaration for the Rights and Recognition of Aboriginal People on September 15. (ms)

Chile (opposition)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↗	Start: 2006
Conflict Parties:	Opposition vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology	

The conflict between the non-parliamentary opposition and the government concerning economical and social issues turned violent. In 2006, workers of the copper mine La Escondida struck for higher wages. This year, the dispute escalated with road blocks, hunger strikes and demonstrations. On July 25, trade unions announced their intention to continue their protests until a satisfactory agreement was reached. On August 30, 573 demonstrators were arrested after heavy clashes that left 33 policemen injured. President Michelle Bachelet criticized the outbreak of violence, which finally culminated in local lootings and blackouts of electricity substations. (cr)

Chile - United Kingdom (Antarctica)

Intensity: 1	Change: NEW	Start: 2007
Conflict Parties:	Chile vs. United Kingdom	
Conflict Items:	Territory, resources	

A new conflict emerged between Chile and United Kingdom over Antarctic territory, covering 386,000 sq miles. On October 17, Great Britain asserted its claim over this area. However, Chile reacted to the British claim with its own demand two days later. According to the Chilean foreign minister, Jorge Taiana, Chile was to prepare its own application to the UN "in defense of the legitimate sovereign rights" of Chile. (cr)

Colombia (FARC - ELN)

Intensity: 4	Change: ↑	Start: 2006
Conflict Parties:	FARC vs. ELN	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, regional predominance, resources	

The conflict concerning regional predominance and ideology between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN) escalated dramatically this year. The main object of conflict between the two groups was the control over drug growing and trafficking, as well as over regions with large oil resources. Moreover, FARC claimed that the ELN was betraying common revolutionary ideals by holding talks with the Colombian government over a possible peace deal. On 06/12/06, FARC had officially declared war on the smaller left-wing group ELN, estimated to have some 4,000 men in arms. FARC had subsequently launched a systematic military campaign against the ELN, in which up to 500 rebels were killed. Farmers were constantly displaced due to the fighting between the two rebel groups, especially in the eastern and northern provinces. On July 6, an average of 200 families per month had been counted as being displaced in the province of Arauca alone since August 2006. Thousands

of people were fleeing as they were involuntarily drawn into the conflict, with the conflict parties demanding food and lodging, and also punishing those helping the opposite side. (jjh)

Colombia (FARC)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 1964
Conflict Parties:	FARC vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, regional predominance, resources	

The conflict over regional predominance and the political system between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the government remained highly violent. As in the last year, the left-wing rebel group FARC, counting approx. 16,000 men under arms, continued to carry out various bombings of public buildings and attacks on Colombian police and military forces. FARC rebels killed 12 members of security forces on January 13 and 14. On March 5, at least seven Colombian soldiers and eleven FARC rebels died in an exchange of fire in the central province of Meta. A little later, FARC rebels conducted two bombings in the port of Buenaventura and the city of Cali on March 16 and April 10, respectively, killing at least five people and injuring 35 in total. Previously, the army had announced it had killed 59 rebels in assaults over the Easter holiday. On May 9, another bomb blast killed nine policemen and injured six in Santander province. One day later, a roadside bomb killed ten Colombian soldiers in the southwestern province of Valle del Cauca. A series of bombings in Buenaventura injured 30 people and killed two on June 25 after a key guerrilla leader of the FARC had been killed by police forces. On June 18, FARC rebels killed eleven politicians whom they were holding as hostages. These politicians belonged to a group of about 60 political prisoners that President Alvaro Uribe had been trying to free since February 24. At that point, Uribe for the first time expressed his willingness to talk with FARC about a possible exchange of prisoners. As a symbolic gesture, on June 5 President Uribe freed Rodrigo Granda, known as the former 'foreign minister' of the rebel group, as well as 56 FARC rebels. FARC, however, called the President's initiative a farce, and demanded a demilitarized zone as a precondition for talks. On September 1, Venezuela's President Hugo Chávez agreed to act as a mediator in the talks concerning a possible prisoner exchange. However, eleven soldiers were killed in an ambush on the same day and, only three days later, a military campaign succeeded in killing a key leader of FARC together with 16 other guerrillas. The talks about a prisoner exchange did not yield any results. On November 22, Uribe dismissed Chávez as mediator. (jjh)

Colombia - Ecuador

Intensity: 3	Change: ↗	Start: 2005
Conflict Parties:	Colombia vs. Ecuador	
Conflict Items:	International power	

The conflict between Colombia and Ecuador over border violations turned violent this year. Ecuador repeatedly claimed the violation by Colombian military forces of its sovereignty in the border region. Ecuador consid-

ered recalling its ambassador in Bogotá on 12/13/06, and brought forward a lawsuit to the OAS. Border incidents were frequent. On March 22, an incursion of Colombian military resulted in the death of two Ecuadorians. The Ecuadorian government labeled a renewed Colombian drug eradication program as a "hostile act" in January, alleging that the herbicides drifted across the border, affecting legal crops and therefore causing damage to the health of its population. Ecuador's President Rafael Correa, who took office on January 15, announced the launch of "Plan Ecuador" as a response to the "militarist" Plan Colombia, an anti-drug strategy financed by the USA. Colombia's massive crop-spraying program mainly targeted coca plantations kept by members of the Colombian guerrilla army, FARC [→ Colombia (FARC)]. Over the previous two years, there had been many diplomatic spats related to the impact of the internal conflict in Colombia. This conflict caused more than 250,000 Colombian refugees to flee to Ecuador. Since 2005, when FARC had attacked a Colombian military base in Teteyé from Ecuadorian territory, Colombia continuously accused Ecuador of tolerating the FARC rebels in its territory. (cgb)

Guatemala (various opposition groups)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↗	Start: 1960
Conflict Parties:	Right-wing militant groups vs. left-wing militant groups	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The conflict over national power between various right-wing and left-wing militant groups turned violent. The right-wing groups consisted of the former paramilitary Civil Self-defense Patrol (ex-PAC), supporters of former dictator Efraín Ríos Montt, and supporters of former general and presidential candidate Otto Pérez Molina. Montt ran for a seat in parliament in the general elections, after winning his claim to be allowed to participate. The left-wing groups, on the other hand, consisted of militant supporters of presidential candidate Miguel Ángel Sandoval. In the run-up to the general elections on September 9, at least 56 politically motivated killings were observed in total. Compared to the last elections in 2003, the death toll of political killings increased by at least 25 percent. The center left party of presidential candidate Álvaro Colom, who was later elected president, was affected most with at least 17 major candidates assassinated. On August 5, Carlos de León Bravo, a mayoral candidate of an indigenous party, was killed. Carlos Enrique Mijangos, a mayoral candidate for a right-wing party, had been murdered one week before. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Guatemala, Anders Kompass, described Guatemala as a "failed and collapsed state". (jh)

Guyana - Suriname (sea border)

Intensity: 1	Change: END	Start: 2000
Conflict Parties:	Guyana vs. Suriname	
Conflict Items:	Territory, resources	

The conflict between Guyana and Suriname over the demarcation of the sea border, oil, and fishing rights was settled this year. The conflict had started in 2000 when

Suriname sent its navy to force an expeditionary ship belonging to an oil company to leave the disputed sea area, which Suriname had claimed first. However, the company had acquired concessions for an oil rig in this area from the Guyanese government in 1998. Guyana finally brought the dispute in front of the UN International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea in 2004. On September 20, the court ruled in favor of Guyana. Suriname accepted the decision. (mmk)

Haiti (opposition)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1986
Conflict Parties:	Aristide followers vs. Aristide opponents	
Conflict Items:	National power	

The conflict between several non-state groups over national power continued. The conflict parties were roughly classifiable, respectively, as supporters and opponents of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who had been removed from office on 02/28/04. Aristide's opponents included former personnel of the army, which had been dissolved under Aristide in 1995. His supporters consisted of gangs from Cité Soleil, a shanty town located in the capital, Port-au-Prince. Since 2004, the UN mission MINUSTAH had been trying to establish security and stability in the country. Violent clashes were frequent, especially when UN forces entered Cité Soleil. When UN troops and gang members clashed in Cité Soleil on 12/22/06, January 24 and February 9, several people were killed or injured. On 12/28/06, approx. 1,000 supporters of Aristide demonstrated for their leader's return from exile and against the UN peacekeeping operation. The UN mission was nevertheless extended by the UN Security Council for eight more months on February 16, and once again for one more year on October 15. The number of violent clashes decreased considerably from March on. (mgm)

Honduras - Nicaragua (sea border)

Intensity: 1	Change: END	Start: 1945
Conflict Parties:	Honduras vs. Nicaragua	
Conflict Items:	Territory, resources	

The conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua over territory and resources was finally settled this year. On October 8, the ICJ ruled on a new demarcation of the maritime border between the two countries. The two countries had been quarrelling for decades over their common border in the Caribbean Sea. Both sides accepted the ICJ's final decision. The decision guarantees both countries equal access to resources such as oil, gas, and fish. The case had been pending at the ICJ since 1999. (mgm)

Mexico (drug cartels)

Intensity: 4	Change: NEW	Start: 2007
Conflict Parties:	Various drug cartels vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Regional predominance	

The conflict between various drug cartels and the government over regional predominance erupted on a highly violent level on 12/08/06. In early December 2006, Mexico's new president, Felipe Calderón, sent 7,000 troops

to combat drug-related violence. Throughout the year, the number of troops increased up to 30,000 including aircraft and track vehicles. On January 21, the authorities extradited 15 major drug bosses to the USA. At least seven policemen were killed in heavy fighting on February 7. The same month, the operation was extended to the states of Tamaulipas and Nuevo León. At least 23 people were killed in another operation on April 9, and at least 20 people in a similar clash on April 17. Additionally, some 250 suspectedly corrupt policemen were arrested. On May 18, heavy fighting claimed the lives of at least 22 people. President Calderón emphasized that he would retain sovereignty over the nine Mexican states affected by drug related violence. Throughout the year, Mexican security forces confiscated dozens of tons of narcotics, mostly cocaine. (fs)

Mexico (EPR/Guerrero)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↑	Start: 1995
Conflict Parties:	EPR vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy, system/ideology	

The conflict between the People's Revolutionary Army (EPR) and the government over system and ideology re-escalated to a violent level. The group, estimated at 500 members, launched a series of bomb attacks in Guanajuato and Querétaro on July 5 and 10. The attacks, the EPR's first in six years, did not claim any victims but destroyed oil and gas pipelines. On September 10, another blast caused damage to oil and gas pipelines. More than 20,000 people fled to shelters as oil and gas poured out of ruptured pipelines. The left-wing EPR demanded the release of two of its members, Raymundo Rivera Bravo and Edmundo Reyes Amaya, who were arrested in the southern state of Oaxaca at the end of May. At the same time, the rebel group warned the government of a possible escalation on October 18. (fs)

Nicaragua - Colombia (sea border)

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1945
Conflict Parties:	Nicaragua vs. Colombia	
Conflict Items:	Territory, resources	

The conflict between Nicaragua and Columbia over the San Andrés and Providencia Islands continued. In 2001, Nicaragua officially appealed to the ICJ in a bid to solve the territorial dispute legally. Both countries considerably increased the presence of their navy and police forces in the area. A possible solution to the conflict remained elusive, as the public hearings in front of the ICJ ended on June 8 with the court's decision still pending. (lc)

Paraguay (opposition)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1989
Conflict Parties:	Opposition vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, resources	

The conflict between several farmers' organizations and the government over land reforms continued. Landless peasants and indigenous groups were also involved in the conflict, facing violence and intimidation from paramilitary groups. International objections failed to improve the opposition's situation. Large landowners

using pesticides contaminating food and potable water resources were not made legally accountable. A Paraguayan human rights organization contacted the UN Organization of Human Rights in November, accusing the government of violating human rights. (sp)

Peru (Shining Path)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1980
Conflict Parties:	Shining Path vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, regional predominance	

The conflict between the left-wing rebel group Shining Path and the government continued to be carried out violently. The remaining rebels, numbering approx. 350-400, were accused of being involved in drug-trafficking. They consisted of several distinct active groups operating in the Huallaga valley and in south-central Peru. On 12/18/06, the rebels killed seven people, among them five policemen. In retaliation, the army killed three guerrillas on March 20. Two leading rebels, Jimmy Rodríguez and Humberto Chávez Sánchez, were arrested on April 18. On August 20, further rebels were arrested in special operations by the army and the police. The army killed a further seven rebels on September 18. Furthermore, one lieutenant was killed when armed rebels stormed a police station on November 1. On November 14, four policemen were killed by suspected guerrillas. In turn, army forces killed Mario Epifanio Espíritu Acosta, the leader of one of the two remaining subgroups of the Shining Path, on November 27. The guerrillas were also held responsible for the nationwide strike of coca growers protesting against the destruction of their coca fields. (mgm)

Uruguay - Argentina (Uruguay River)

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 2006
Conflict Parties:	Uruguay vs. Argentina	
Conflict Items:	Resources	

The resource conflict between Uruguay and Argentina over the construction of two Uruguayan pulp mills continued. Argentina accused Uruguay of breaking the Río Uruguay Contract of 1975, regulating the use of the river. Argentina feared environmental pollution. In December 2006, Uruguay removed its troops from the Uruguay River, demarcating the border. Argentinean environmental activists, supported by the government, protested and blocked the border bridges and ferries. On January 23, the ICJ rejected a Uruguayan complaint against the blockade. On April 29, 100,000 Argentinean protesters demonstrated for the third time against the

construction of the pulp mills. After Uruguay's President Tabaré Vázquez had inaugurated storage facilities and docks to serve the mills, protests rose again. During the Ibero-American Summit in early November, further negotiations under the mediation of Spanish King Juan Carlos I were held. The first factory was opened during the summit. Beforehand, Uruguay closed its border crossing to Argentina nearest to the mill on November 9. The opening of the pulp mill led to further protests by more than 10,000 Argentineans. On November 25, to prevent Argentinean protestors from crossing the border, Uruguay closed the last bridge open with Argentina. Both countries brought several legal cases before the ICJ. (eg, kow)

USA - Russia (missile system)

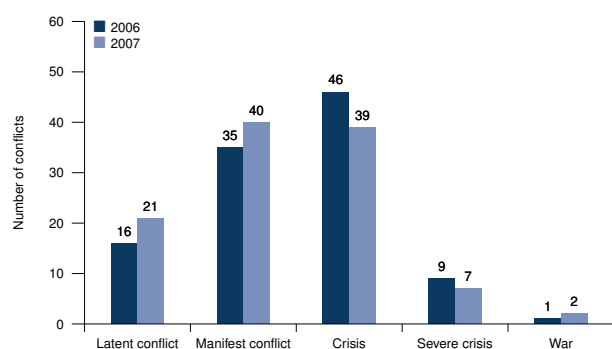
Intensity: 2	Change: NEW	Start: 2007
Conflict Parties:	USA vs. Russia	
Conflict Items:	International power	

The new conflict between the USA and Russia over international power was carried out non-violently. In January, the USA for the first time articulated plans to install a missile defense system in the Czech Republic and Poland. Russia considered this an attempt to change the strategic balance between Russia and the NATO members. On February 15, Russia's President Vladimir Putin threatened to cancel the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), a treaty mandating disarmament of short and intermediate range missiles. In response, on March 28 US President George W. Bush offered to cooperate with Russia in the disputed missile program. On April 26, Russia declared it would cease the disarmament agreed on in the CFE treaty. In reaction Washington demanded to fulfill existing treaties. Russia tested a new intercontinental missile on May 29. The USA once again reaffirmed their friendly intentions and offered to develop the system in cooperation with Russia. On June 8, Russia proposed to set it up in Azerbaijan, Turkey, or Iraq. However, the USA insisted on the original plan of installing the missile system in the Czech Republic and Poland. As a reaction, Putin finally cancelled the CFE treaty in mid-June and declared Russia's intention to build a system of her own by 2015. On August 17, Russia announced the return to the Cold War practice of permanent long-range flights of bomber aircraft. The same day, Russian bombers approached Guam, the site of a US military base, and Alaska. On October 26, Russia threatened to resume the production of short and intermediate range missiles. (ms)

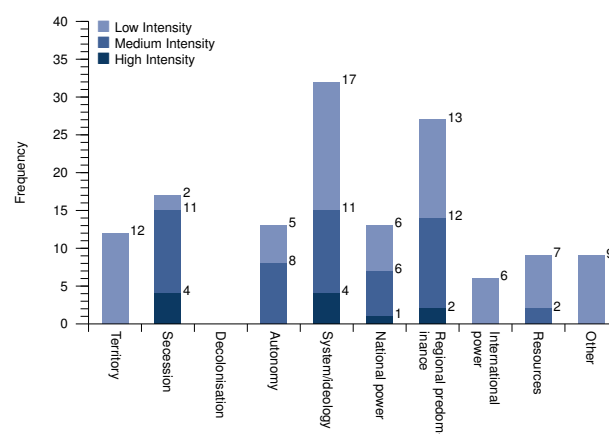
Asia and Oceania

With a total of 109 conflicts – accounting for almost a third of the world's conflicts – in 2007, Asia and Oceania was once again the region with by far the most conflicts. There were two more conflicts than in the year before: the dispute between the Sikhs and Dera Sacha Sauda (DSS) in India [→ India (Sikhs - DSS)] as well as the conflict regarding the Madhesi community in Nepal [→ Nepal (Madhesi/Terai)]. With 18 interstate conflicts and 91 intrastate conflicts, Asia and Oceania had a particularly high quota of intrastate conflicts, compared to the global conflict landscape. Most conflicts concerned system/ideology and regional predominance. The most violent conflicts were fought over secession and system/ideology, while conflicts regarding territory, international power, and resources were comparatively peaceful. Overall, a considerable increase of non-violent disputes could be observed (61 compared to 51), in contrast to the decrease in violent conflicts (48 compared to 56). However, with 39 crises (2006: 46), Asia and Oceania is the region with the most conflicts of medium intensity, both in absolute and relative terms. In 2007, seven serious crises (2006: nine) as well as two wars (2006: one) were observed. The conflict over regional predominance in Pakistan's Waziristan region between government forces, on the one hand, and tribal as well as foreign militants, on the other, escalated to a war [→ Pakistan (North and South Waziristan)]. Especially in the second part of the year heavy fighting flared up, claiming more than 1,200 lives. The war in Sri Lanka between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam continued, leading to the displacement of thousands [→ Sri Lanka (LTTE)]. Due to the army's progress, the government appeared to focus on a military solution of the conflict in 2007. Countries in the public eye were especially Myanmar and Pakistan: In addition to the numerous ethnic conflicts in Myanmar, the country was affected by new developments regarding the oppositional democracy movement [→ Myanmar (opposition)]. Set against the background of economic distress, at the end of September, large-scale anti-government demonstrations took place with tens of thousands of participants. Because the core of the protesters was formed by Buddhist monks, the protests were also termed the "Saffron Revolution". The government quelled the protests by use of force. In Pakistan, besides the war in Waziristan, Islamic militants and the democratic opposition led by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto opposed the government. The conflict with the Islamic opposition, challenging the secular-oriented government of Musharraf and openly condemning Pakistan's alliance with the USA, was in the focus of worldwide attention as government troops besieged and stormed the Red Mosque in Islamabad, where the leaders of the mosque and their students had barricaded themselves [→ Pakistan (Islamists)]. In October, Benazir Bhutto, returning from exile, survived a suicide attack at her homecoming parade in Karachi that killed at least 130 people [→ Pakistan (opposition)].

Conflict intensities in Asia and Oceania in 2007 compared to 2006



Frequency of conflict items in 2007 in Asia and Oceania by intensity groups



Overview: Conflicts in Asia and Oceania in 2007

Name of conflict ¹	Conflict parties ²	Conflict items	Start	Change ³ Int. ⁴
Bangladesh (AL - BNP)	AL vs. BNP, LDP vs. caretaker government	National power	1991	• 3
Bangladesh (JMB)	JMB vs. government	System/ideology, national power	2005	• 3
Bangladesh (PCJSS - UPDF)*	PCJSS vs. UPDF	Regional predominance	1997	↘ 2
Bangladesh (PCJSS, UPDF/Chittagong Hill Tracts)*	PCJSS, UPDF vs. government	Autonomy	1971	• 2
Bangladesh - India*	Bangladesh vs. India	Territory, resources	1971	↘ 2
Bangladesh - Myanmar*	Bangladesh vs. Myanmar	Territory, resources	1991	• 2

Name of conflict ¹	Conflict parties ²	Conflict items	Start	Change ³	Int. ⁴
Cambodia (CFF)*	CFF vs. government	Resources	2000	•	1
Cambodia (CPP - FUNCINPEC, SRP)*	CPP vs. FUNCINPEC, SRP	System/ideology, national power	1979	↘	1
Cambodia - Vietnam*	Cambodia vs. Vietnam	Territory	1969	•	1
China (Falun Gong)*	Falun Gong vs. government	System/ideology	1999	•	2
China (Hong Kong pro-democracy parties)*	Hong Kong pro-democracy parties vs. government	Autonomy, system/ideology	1999	•	2
China (Hui)*	Hui vs. government, Han	Other	2004	•	2
China (Taiwan)	Taiwan vs. China	Secession	1949	•	2
China (Tibet)	Tibetan government in exile, Tibetan separatists vs. government	Secession, system/ideology	1912	↘	2
China (Xinjiang)	ETIM vs. government	Secession, system/ideology	1990	↗	3
China - India*	China vs. India	Territory, international power	1949	•	1
China - Vietnam et al.*	China vs. Vietnam vs. Brunei vs. Indonesia vs. Philippines vs. Singapore	Territory, resources	1945	•	1
Fiji (indigenous traditionalist Fijians)	Indigenous traditionalist Fijians vs. caretaker government, indigenous non-traditionalist Fijians, Fijians of Indian origin	National power	1987	•	2
India (ANVC - HNLC)*	HNLC, Khasi Tribe vs. ANVC, Garo Tribe	Regional predominance	1995	•	2
India (ATTF, ULFA, NLFT - Biharis, Bengalis)*	ATTF, ULFA, NLFT vs. Biharis, Bengalis	Regional predominance	1981	•	3
India (Ayodhya)*	Hindus vs. Muslims	Regional predominance	1989	END	1
India (Bodos - Santhals)*	NDFB, Bodos vs. Santhals	Regional predominance	1994	•	2
India (Dimasa - Hmar)*	DHD vs. HPC-D	Regional predominance	1986	↓	1
India (Dimasa/Assam)	DHD, Black Widow vs. government	Autonomy	1980	•	3
India (Gujarat)*	Hindus vs. Muslims	Regional predominance	1987	↗	2
India (Hmar/Mizoram, Manipur, Assam)*	HPC-D, HNA vs. government	Autonomy	1986	•	3
India (HNLC, ANVC/Meghalaya)*	ANVC, HNLC vs. government	Secession	1995	•	3
India (Kashmir)	Kashmiri and Pakistani separatist groups vs. government	Secession	1947	•	4
India (KNF/Nagaland, Manipur)*	KNF vs. government	Secession	1995	•	3
India (LTTE)*	LTTE vs. government	Other	1987	•	1
India (MPLF, ZRA/Manipur)	MPLF, ZRA vs. government	Secession	1964	•	3
India (Nagas - Kukis)*	NSCN vs. KNF, KNA, KLA	Regional predominance	1947	•	3
India (Naxalites)	CPI (M) vs. government	System/ideology	1997	•	4
India (NLFT/Tripura)	NLFT vs. government	Secession	1989	•	3
India (NSCN-K - NSCN-IM)	NSCN-K vs. NSCN-IM	Regional predominance	1988	•	3
India (NSCN/Nagaland)*	NSCN-IM, NSCN-K vs. government	Autonomy	1947	•	3
India (PULF, INF)*	PULF, INF vs. government	System/ideology	1993	•	3
India (Sikhs - DSS)	Sikhs vs. DSS	System/ideology, regional predominance	2007	NEW	3
India (Sikhs)*	Sikhs vs. government	Regional predominance	1947	•	2
India (ULFA, NDFB/Assam)	ULFA, NDFB vs. government	Autonomy	1981	•	3
Indonesia (Dayak - Madurese)*	Dayak vs. Madurese	Regional predominance	1998	•	1
Indonesia (GAM/Aceh)	GAM vs. government	Autonomy, resources	1953	↘	2
Indonesia (Jemaah Islamiyah)*	Jemaah Islamiyah vs. government	National power	1981	•	2
Indonesia (Moluccas)	Muslims vs. Christians	Regional predominance	1998	•	3
Indonesia (OPM/Papua)*	OPM vs. government	Secession, resources	1949	•	3
Indonesia (Sulawesi)*	Christians vs. Muslims	Regional predominance	1998	•	3
Indonesia - Timor-Leste*	Indonesia vs. Timor-Leste	Other	2002	↘	1
Japan - China (Senkaku-Diaoyu-Island)*	Japan vs. China	Territory	1972	•	2

Name of conflict ¹	Conflict parties ²	Conflict items	Start	Change ³	Int. ⁴
Japan - Russia (Kuril Islands)*	Japan vs. Russia	Territory	1945	↘	2
Japan - South Korea (Takeshima/Tokto Islands)	Japan vs. South Korea	Territory	1945	↗	2
Kazakhstan (opposition)	Opposition vs. government	System/ideology	2004	↘	2
Kyrgyzstan (opposition)	Opposition vs. government	System/ideology	2005	↘	2
Laos (Hmong, Royalists)	Hmong, royalists vs. government	System/ideology, national power	1975	•	3
Malaysia (ethnic Chinese, Indians)*	Ethnic Chinese vs. Malays, Indians	Regional predominance	1946	↗	2
Malaysia (KMM)*	KMM vs. government	System/ideology	1998	↘	1
Malaysia - Indonesia, Philippines (immigrants)*	Malaysia vs. Indonesia, Philippines	Other	1998	•	2
Maldives (MDP)*	Maldives vs. MDP	System/ideology	2003	•	2
Myanmar (Arakan Army, NUFA/Rakhine State)*	Arakan Army, NUPA vs. government	Secession	1947	•	3
Myanmar (CNA, CNF/Chin State)*	CNA, CNF vs. government	Secession	1988	•	3
Myanmar (KIA, KIO/Kachin State)*	KIA, KIO vs. government	Autonomy	1961	•	2
Myanmar (KNU, KNLA, KNPP, KnA - UWSA, DKBA, government / Karen State, Kayah State)	KNU, KNLA, KNPP, KnA vs. UWSA, DKBA, government	Secession	1948	•	4
Myanmar (MNLA, NMSP, MRA, HRP/Mon State, Karen State)*	MNLA, NMSP, MRA, HRP vs. government	Secession	1958	•	3
Myanmar (opposition)	NLD, AABBM vs. government	System/ideology, national power	1982	↑	4
Myanmar (Rohingyas, ARNO/Rakhine State)*	ARNO vs. government	Regional predominance	1948	•	3
Myanmar (SSA-S, SSNA, SSA-N - government, UWSA, NDAA-ESS / Shan State)	SSA-S, SSNA, SSA-N vs. UWSA, NDAA-ESS, government	Secession	1995	•	3
Myanmar (UWSA, UWSP/Wa State, Shan State)*	UWSA, UWSP vs. government	Autonomy	1988	•	2
Nepal (Madhesis/Terai)	Madhesi community vs. government	Autonomy	2007	NEW	3
Nepal (Maoists)	CPN-M vs. government	System/ideology, national power	1990	•	3
Nepal (opposition)	Opposition parties vs. government	System/ideology	2002	↘	2
Nepal - Bhutan (refugees)*	Nepal vs. Bhutan	Other	1985	•	2
North Korea - South Korea	North Korea vs. South Korea	System/ideology, international power	1945	•	2
North Korea - USA, Japan	North Korea vs. USA, Japan	System/ideology, international power	1990	•	2
Pakistan (Balochis)	BLA, BRA, BLF vs. government	Autonomy, resources	1998	↘	3
Pakistan (Islamists)	Islamists, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal vs. government	System/ideology	2001	↗	4
Pakistan (North and South Waziristan)	Tribal militants, foreign militants vs. government	Regional predominance	2002	↗	5
Pakistan (opposition)	Opposition, PPP vs. government	System/ideology, national power	1998	↑	3
Pakistan (Sunnites - Shiites)	Militant Shia Muslims vs. militant Sunni Muslims, government	System/ideology, regional predominance	1998	•	4
Pakistan - India	Pakistan vs. India	Territory, international power	1947	•	2
Philippines (Abu Sayyaf/Mindanao)	Abu Sayyaf vs. government	Secession, system/ideology	1991	↘	3
Philippines (MILF/Mindanao)	MILF vs. government	Autonomy, system/ideology	1977	•	3
Philippines (MNLF, Malik faction/Mindanao)	MNLF vs. MNLF - Malik faction vs. government	Autonomy, regional predominance	1969	↗	3

Name of conflict ¹	Conflict parties ²	Conflict items	Start	Change ³	Int. ⁴
Philippines (NPA, CPP)	NPA vs. government	System/ideology	1968	•	3
Singapore (Jemaah Islamiah)*	Jemaah Islamiah vs. government	System/ideology	1999	↘	1
Singapore (Malays)*	Malays vs. government	Other	1963	END	1
Singapore - Malaysia	Singapore vs. Malaysia	Territory, international power	1963	↘	1
Solomons (opposition)*	Opposition vs. government	National power, resources	1998	↘	2
Sri Lanka (Buddhists - Hindus, Muslims, Christians)*	Sinhalese nationalists, conservative Buddhist clergy vs. Hindus, Muslims, Christians	System/ideology	1948	↘	2
Sri Lanka (Jamiyathul Ulama - Sufis)	Jamiyathul Ulama vs. Sufis	Regional predominance	1978	•	3
Sri Lanka (LTTE - EPDP)*	LTTE vs. EPDP	Regional predominance	1986	•	3
Sri Lanka (LTTE - JVP)*	LTTE vs. JVP	Other	1976	•	2
Sri Lanka (LTTE - PLOTE)*	LTTE vs. PLOTE	Regional predominance	1979	↘	2
Sri Lanka (LTTE)	LTTE vs. government	Secession	1976	•	5
Sri Lanka (LTTE, Tamils - SLMC, Muslims)*	LTTE, Tamils vs. LTTE, Muslims	Regional predominance	1976	•	3
Sri Lanka (LTTE-East - LTTE)	LTTE-East vs. LTTE	Regional predominance	2004	↘	3
Sri Lanka (Sinhalese nationalists)*	Sinhalese nationalists, conservative Buddhist clergy, JHU vs. government	System/ideology	1948	↘	1
Sri Lanka (SLMC)*	SLMC vs. government	Other	1981	↘	1
Sri Lanka (Up-country Tamils)*	Up-country Tamils vs. government	Regional predominance	1948	•	1
Tajikistan (opposition)*	Opposition vs. government	System/ideology	1997	•	3
Thailand (Muslim separatists/southern border provinces)	Muslim separatists vs. government	Secession	1784	•	4
Thailand (northern hill tribes)*	Northern hill tribes vs. government	Regional predominance	1955	•	1
Thailand (PPP - caretaker government)	PPP vs. caretaker government	National power	2006	•	2
Thailand - Cambodia*	Thailand vs. Cambodia	Territory, international power	1954	•	1
Thailand - Myanmar*	Thailand vs. Myanmar	Territory, other	1948	•	2
Timor-Leste (opposition)	CNRT vs. FRETILIN vs. Loromonu, Veterans vs. Lorosa'e, government	National power	2006	•	3
Timor-Leste - Australia*	Timor-Leste vs. Australia	Resources	2002	END	1
Tonga (opposition)*	HRDM vs. government	System/ideology	1970	↘	2
Uzbekistan (IMU)	IMU vs. government	System/ideology	1991	↘	2
Uzbekistan (opposition)*	Opposition vs. government	System/ideology, national power	2005	•	2
Vietnam (Khmer Krom)*	Khmer Krom, KKNLF vs. government	Regional predominance	2002	•	1

^{1 2 3 4} Cf. overview table for Europe

Bangladesh (AL - BNP)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1991
Conflict Parties:	AL vs. BNP, LDP vs. caretaker government	
Conflict Items:	National power	

The conflict over national power between the two major opposition parties, the Awami League (AL), on the one hand, and the Bangladesh National Party (BNP) as well as its offshoot, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), on the other, continued. The military-backed caretaker government seized power on January 11 by imposing a state of emergency, which remained in force throughout the year, limiting civil rights and political activities. The planned general elections were postponed once more, and an anti-corruption campaign started. Khaleda Zia, head of the BNP and Bangladesh's former prime min-

ister, as well as her main political rival, Sheikh Hasina of the AL, were imprisoned on July 16 and on September 3, respectively. They faced trial on charges of extortion, corruption, and abuse of power. The Supreme Court overruled appeals against these decisions late in 2007. In July, 200,000 people were arrested. Human rights organizations claimed that members of the army, the police, and the Rapid Action Battalion were involved in torture and extrajudicial killings. Bangladesh was confronted with growing economic and political discontent, as well as prolonged student-led riots. Nevertheless, the interim administration promised to restore democracy by holding elections at the end of 2008, allowing both the BNP and the AL to campaign. (bk, cs)

Bangladesh (JMB)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 2005
Conflict Parties:	JMB vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The national power and system conflict between the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and the government continued violently. The Supreme Court as well as President Iajuddin Ahmed rejected an appeal against the death sentences of six militants convicted for their role in killing two judges and launching country-wide bomb attacks in 2005. They were hanged late in March. Among them were the head of the JMB and his deputy. In the course of these events, unidentified gunmen shot dead a lawyer who had prosecuted the six militants. The rebels continued their operations despite further arrests and convictions of JMB militants. Three almost simultaneous blasts took place on May 1. Two top leaders and three further members of the JMB were arrested in a series of raids on July 9 and 10. (bk, cs)

China (Taiwan)

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1949
Conflict Parties:	Taiwan vs. China	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The secession conflict between Taiwan and China continued. China considered Taiwan a breakaway region, whereas Taiwan continued to view itself as the legitimate Republic of China. In February, Taiwan test-fired a cruise missile capable of hitting Shanghai or Hong Kong. In March, the US Department of Defense announced plans to sell Taiwan 218 air-to-air missiles and 235 Maverick missiles in order to help the modernization of Taiwan's armed forces. China called on the USA to cancel the planned sale. In May, Saint Lucia re-established diplomatic relations with Taiwan. As a reaction, China threatened to cut diplomatic ties with Saint Lucia. On July 20, Taiwan unsuccessfully applied for UN membership, for the first time not using the official title of Republic of China. In September, 250,000 Taiwanese demonstrated in support of the application. China threatened to attack Taiwan should it declare independence. (ar)

China (Tibet)

Intensity: 2	Change: ↘	Start: 1912
Conflict Parties:	Tibetan government in exile, Tibetan separatists vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession, system/ideology	

The conflict between China and Tibet over Tibet's status eased. The Chinese government planned to raise investments to boost the infrastructure in the remote region. In April, campaigners for Tibet marked the coming of age of the Panchen Lama, chosen by the Dalai Lama as Tibetan Buddhism's second most revered figure. He had not been seen in public since 1995, when the Chinese authorities rejected his appointment and named their own Panchen Lama. In June, Australian Prime Minister John Howard met the Dalai Lama in Sydney, brushing aside fierce opposition from China. In August, a group of Tibetans as well as foreign Tibet campaigners were arrested in China after protesting against China's

policy towards Tibet. Ahead of the Communist Party's 17th congress in October, China launched a crackdown on political dissidents, among them campaigners advocating independence for Tibet. In September, German Chancellor Angela Merkel held talks with the Dalai Lama in Berlin despite protests from China. China criticized the meeting and canceled talks with the German justice minister. In October, the Dalai Lama was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal – a top US civilian honor – in a move that infuriated China. Several Tibetan monks celebrating the award in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, were arrested by the Chinese police. (jd)

China (Xinjiang)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↗	Start: 1990
Conflict Parties:	ETIM vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession, system/ideology	

The conflict between the Uyghurs, the Muslim minority in the Xinjiang autonomous region, and the Chinese government turned violent. In November 2006, the son of Rebiya Kadeer, a well-known campaigner for the rights of China's Uyghur minority, was jailed for tax evasion. Human rights organizations judged this to be an act of revenge for Kadeer's work. On January 5, 19 people, among them a policeman, were killed in a police raid against an alleged militant training camp of the separatist East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM). 17 suspects were captured and 1,500 hand grenades seized. In February, Ismael Semed, an activist of the Uyghur movement, was executed for possession of arms and for founding ETIM. The Canadian government, having naturalized Semed as a political refugee, condemned the execution. (jd)

Fiji (indigenous traditionalist Fijians)

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1987
Conflict Parties:	Indigenous traditionalist Fijians vs. caretaker government, indigenous non-traditionalist Fijians, Fijians of Indian origin	
Conflict Items:	National power	

The conflict over national power between indigenous Fijians believing in their cultural supremacy, those without supremacist ideas, and Fijians of Indian origin continued. The government represented the latter group since the coup d'état of December 2006, when the government of Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase was toppled. Commodore Ratu Josaia Voreqe Frank Bainimarama also deposed President Ratu Josefa Iloilo, dissolved parliament, appointed himself president, and declared a state of emergency. As reasons for his coup, Bainimarama named corruption and the aggravation of ethnic tension by Qarase's government. After the coup, Bainimarama tried to convince the Great Council of Chiefs to elect a new president, whose task would have been to legalize the caretaker government under Jona Baravilala Senilagakali, installed by Bainimarama. Because the traditional leaders denied this request, Bainimarama reinstated Iloilo as president early in January. Iloilo, in turn, appointed Bainimarama as prime minister. The state of emergency was dissolved at the end of May, but re-

imposed for one month on September 7. At the beginning of November, a group of politicians and businessmen were arrested. Bainimarama announced parliamentary elections for March 2009. (ct)

India (Dimasa/Assam)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1980
Conflict Parties:	DHD, Black Widow vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy	

The autonomy conflict between the militant Dimasa tribal groups Black Widow (BW) and Dima Halim Daoga (DHD), on the one hand, and the central government, on the other, continued. In January, the Union Government extended the 2003 ceasefire agreement with the DHD by another year. In June, BW insurgents killed the former chief executive member of the North Cachar (NC) Hills Autonomous Council and a former executive member of the council. In September, BW cadres carried out a raid against Kanjar Basti in the Karbi Anglong district, and set fire to several houses and shops. On November 2, BW militants ambushed members of the Central Reserve Police Forces, killing seven. BW insurgents periodically provoked clashes with DHD cadres, and were able to gain the upper hand in the NC Hills district of Assam. At least 65 people – insurgents, Indian security forces as well as civilians – were killed. (ar)

India (Kashmir)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 1947
Conflict Parties:	Kashmiri and Pakistani separatist groups vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The secession conflict between militant separatists in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and the government continued. Clashes between militants and security forces took place on a daily basis. 745 people were estimated to have been killed in J&K in 2007 alone. The moderate All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) insisted on a deployment of troops, which was ruled out both by the central government and J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad. The central government hosted round tables in New Delhi, to which Kashmiri political parties were invited. Indian security forces were accused of killing civilians in pretend gun battles. On February 6, separatists declared a general strike to protest against these extrajudicial killings which was broadly supported by the public. The accusations were later confirmed, and a commission charged with the investigation was set up on April 3. From April on, infiltrations of Pakistani but also Bangladeshi militants into J&K occurred along the line of control. On May 21, the different security bodies involved set up an agency in New Delhi to coordinate the fight against infiltration forces. In addition to clashes, at least 20 terrorist attacks on civilians were registered. Some of them resulted in fatalities, including senior politicians and police officers. For instance, a senior Congress Party member was shot dead on April 1. The insurgents also targeted the infrastructure, e.g. the railway, which was attacked on April 16, killing one worker. (yf)

India (MPLF, ZRA/Manipur)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1964
Conflict Parties:	MPLF, ZRA vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The conflict between various separatist groups in Manipur and the central government continued. Clashes between the state security forces and the separatists occurred on a daily basis. The groups United National Liberation Front (UNLF), People's Liberation Army (PLA), and the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) united to form the Manipur People's Liberation Front (MPLF). Additionally, the Zomi Revolutionary Army (ZRA) supported the same goal. Besides the military clashes, the UNLF in particular used terrorist violence to put pressure on the government. Neither the UNLF nor the PLA were willing to negotiate with the Indian government. (kep)

India (Naxalites)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 1997
Conflict Parties:	CPI (M) vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology	

The ideological conflict between the Communist Party of India - Maoist (CPI-M) and the government continued with the same high level of violence. The Naxalites controlled a larger part of India, in which the party collected taxes and provided cadres. This area, known as the Red Corridor, consisted of rural areas between Nepal and central India. Especially the federal states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand were affected. In Chhattisgarh, approx. 43,000 people were resettled by the state government in order to deprive the Naxalites of supplies. During the first half of 2007, more than 450 persons were murdered or killed in some 800 clashes with Naxalites. On March 4, CPI-M activists shot the MP Sunil Kumar Mahato in Jharkhand. On March 15, the Maoist rebels killed 55 members of the government-supported civil militia in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh. In turn, the federal state Andhra Pradesh deployed special forces to campaign against the Naxalites. Security forces repeatedly discovered heavy weaponry such as rocket launchers, landmines, and machine guns. (cb)

India (NLFT/Tripura)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1989
Conflict Parties:	NLFT vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The secession conflict between the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the government continued to be carried out on a violent level. On 12/26/06, NLFT militants committed two bombings on a railway construction site in the West Tripura district. Apart from that incident, the NLFT was taking hostages to emphasize its demand for Tripura's independence. One rebel was killed in a clash on February 24. In early March, two policemen, one rebel, and two civilians were killed. Tripura's Police Intelligence accused the NLFT of planning a fresh offensive against security forces and the construction of rebel camps in Bangladesh. On June 6, border security forces killed two NLFT rebels. Only two days before, another

two rebels had been shot dead in the West Tripura district. (fs)

India (NSCN-K - NSCN-IM)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1988
Conflict Parties:	NSCN-K vs. NSCN-IM	
Conflict Items:	Regional predominance	

The conflict between the National Socialist Council of Nagaland - Khaplang (NSCN-K) and the NSCN faction Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) over regional predominance remained violent. Both parties aimed at the foundation of an independent state called Greater Nagaland in north-east India. However, while the NSCN-IM, with an estimated 4,500 men under arms, based its beliefs on Mao Zedong's ideology and the Christian faith, the NSCN-K's main objective was an independent Nagaland including Naga-dominated areas of Myanmar. On January 9, members of the NSCN-IM announced that it planned to completely drive away NSCN-K. Over the course of the year, at least 39 members of the NSCN-IM were killed in various attacks and ambushes performed by the NSCN-K, while the latter lost a minimum of 21 fighters. However, according to the official NSCN homepage, leading members of both groups signed a unification contract on November 23, confirming that both groups would stop fighting each other and start cooperating for the cause of an independent Nagaland. (jjh)

India (Sikhs - DSS)

Intensity: 3	Change: NEW	Start: 2007
Conflict Parties:	Sikhs vs. DSS	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, regional predominance	

A new conflict emerged in northwest India in May. The conflict concerned the Sikh religion and the syncretistic religious community Dera Sacha Sauda (DSS). The sparking event was provided by an advertisement of the leader of DSS, Gurmeet Ram Raheem Singh. The Sikhs accused Singh of having been dressed in the promotional picture like one of the central sacred figures of Sikhism, thereby insulting their religion. The DSS leader denied the allegations. Additionally, the DSS had supported another political party than the majority of the Sikhs in the state elections of February. Beginning on May 17, the tensions resulted in protests of tens of thousands of sometimes armed adherents of both sides, particularly in the state of Punjab, as well as Haryana and Rajasthan. Some protests turned violent, causing at least one casualty and several injured. The Indian government deployed troops of the paramilitary Rapid Action Force to the region. On May 22, the Sikh community went on a general strike in Punjab. Thousands of extra police and troops were dispatched. On May 28, the DSS leader apologized for "humanity's sake". (ct)

India (ULFA, NDFB/Assam)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1981
Conflict Parties:	ULFA, NDFB vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy	

The autonomy conflict between the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and the National Democratic

Front of Bodoland (NDFB) on the one hand and the government on the other continued. Talks between the federal government and ULFA had collapsed in October 2006. The rebels subsequently unleashed a series of bomb and grenade attacks across the state. From January 4-7, ULFA rebels conducted several attacks in various parts of Assam. 69 people died in this worst occurrence of violence in a decade. Security forces killed four ULFA cadres in a counter-insurgency operation. In May, ULFA militants shot dead six unidentified people in various areas of the Dibrugarh and Sivsagar districts. Seven persons were killed, and a further 18 injured in an explosion carried out by ULFA militants in the Athgaon area of Guwahati City. From June to October, several attacks and bombings caused 27 deaths, and left about 50 people injured. (ds)

Indonesia (GAM/Aceh)

Intensity: 2	Change: ▾	Start: 1953
Conflict Parties:	GAM vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy, resources	

The conflict between the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and the government, concerning the status of the Aceh province, further de-escalated to a non-violent level. Both sides complied with the commitments made in the 2005 peace deal, granting the province special autonomy in exchange for complete disarmament of the GAM rebels. As agreed in the peace treaty, unrestricted and direct local, district, and provincial elections, the first ones in the history of the province, were held on 12/11/06. Three days later, the EU- and ASEAN-led Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM), overseeing the implementation of the peace deal, formally ended. Irwandi Yusuf, a former insurgent and independent candidate backed by GAM leaders, won the elections and was sworn in as governor on February 8. Nevertheless, the conflict continued, now concerning the sharing of power between Jakarta and Aceh's provincial government. On April 21, Irwandi Yusuf protested that a draft law, aimed at giving the national government wider influence on domestic provincial affairs, contradicted the Helsinki peace agreement. He threatened to reopen negotiations about certain aspects of the peace deal. (nr)

Indonesia (Moluccas)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1998
Conflict Parties:	Muslims vs. Christians	
Conflict Items:	Regional predominance	

The conflict between Muslims and Christians over regional predominance on the Moluccan Islands continued. Both religious communities sought to shape an upcoming restructuring of an administrative district according to their respective particular interests. This restructuring was part of a nationwide administrative and territorial reform. Occasional minor clashes between the police, Christians, and Muslims from April on culminated in a violent clash between Muslim protesters and the police in Ternate, North Maluku, on August 22, injuring 15 people. The demonstrators were mostly supporters of a local sultan, whom the provincial elections commission

had shortly before deemed ineligible for the gubernatorial campaign scheduled for September. According to the commission, the sultan failed to meet the administrative requirements. (nr)

Japan - South Korea (Takeshima/Tokto Islands)

Intensity: 2	Change: ↗	Start: 1945
Conflict Parties:	Japan vs. South Korea	
Conflict Items:	Territory	

The conflict between Japan and South Korea over the Takeshima/Tokto Islands intensified. As a part of its commitment to develop an off-shore fleet, South Korea commissioned six destroyers. The first of these to become operational was named "Tokto". South Korea named the conflict with Japan as one reason for the expansion of its fleet. Talks between the two states concerning the border demarcation between the respective exclusive economic zones around the islands ended without results. The Japanese defense white book for 2007 explicitly included Takeshima/Tokto. To prevent a military escalation of the conflict, both parties agreed to establish a common hotline. (dar)

Kazakhstan (opposition)

Intensity: 2	Change: ↘	Start: 2004
Conflict Parties:	Opposition vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology	

The conflict concerning the political system between the opposition and the government of President Nursultan Nazarbayev de-escalated. On 12/05/06, the chairman of the oppositional party, Bolat Abilov, was put on trial for fraud, which he considered a political maneuver. On 12/30/06, the Civic Party and the Agrarian Party merged with the governing Nur-Otan party, increasing the latter's power even more. Prime Minister Daniyal Akhmetov resigned on January 8 without giving any reason, and was replaced by Karim Masimov. On May 18, parliament passed a constitutional amendment enabling the president to stay in office for an unlimited number of terms. In June, Nazarbayev dissolved parliament in order to initiate re-elections, which were held on August 18. In these elections, Nazarbayev's Nur-Otan party won all seats in parliament. However, the election process did not meet international standards, and the opposition complained about massive manipulation. (ac)

Kyrgyzstan (opposition)

Intensity: 2	Change: ↘	Start: 2005
Conflict Parties:	Opposition vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology	

Although the conflict concerning the political system between the opposition and the government was not carried out violently anymore, dissatisfaction with President Kurmanbek Bakiyev steadily increased. A new constitution was adopted on 11/09/06, narrowing presidential powers. On 12/19/06, the government of Prime Minister Feliks Kulov resigned. Three days later, parliament decided to restore some presidential powers. On January 29, Azim Isabekov was elected the new prime minister. In March, the new government resigned, and Almaz

Atambayev succeeded Isabekov. On April 11, peaceful protesters demanded Bakiyev's resignation. The following day, he signed a constitutional amendment limiting his authority. However, the president's powers were increased once more by another constitutional amendment, adopted in a referendum on October 21. Bakiyev dissolved parliament the next day, and announced new elections for mid-December. On November 28, shortly before the planned elections, Prime Minister Atambayev resigned. (ac)

Laos (Hmong, Royalists)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1975
Conflict Parties:	Hmong, royalists vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The national power and system conflict between the ethnic Hmong and the Royalists on the one hand and the government on the other continued on a violent level. While many Hmong were living in Thailand, the USA, and other countries, some 10,000 remained in the jungle near the border to Thailand. According to Hmong activists, journalists, and NGOs, the Hmong population in Laos did not pose a threat to the government. However, the army launched several organized military operations, causing casualties through direct or indirect violence. An AI report accused government troops of attacking Hmong near Vang Vieng on April 6, claiming at least 26 lives, mostly women and children. Government authorities denied the attack. Hmong groups reported attacks by the armed forces in June, killing 57 members of their ethnic group. In November, Thai authorities forcibly returned a group of 53 Hmong to Laos, some 7,000 of whom had been living in informal refugee camps in Thailand. In June, US prosecutors charged nine people with plotting the violent overthrow of the Communist government in Laos. Among the arrested was Vang Pao, a leader of the US American Hmong community. The group allegedly conspired to buy machine guns, missiles, and explosives to carry out attacks on government buildings in the capital, Vientiane. (thw)

Myanmar (KNU, KNLA, KNPP, KnA - UWSA, DKBA, government / Karen State, Kayah State)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 1948
Conflict Parties:	KNU, KNLA, KNPP, KnA vs. UWSA, DKBA, government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The secession conflict between the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), the armed wing of the Karen National Union (KNU), and the Karenni Army (KnA), the military arm of the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), on the one hand, and the government, supported by the United Wa State Army (UWSA) and the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) on the other, continued. The KNU, having a force of about 12,000 at its command, demanded an independent Karen state. While many ethnic rebel groups had signed ceasefire deals with the government, the 2004 peace talks between KNU and government only led to a temporary de-escalation. In January, China and Russia vetoed a UN resolution drafted by the USA that called, among

other things, for an end to attacks on ethnic minorities in Myanmar. Clashes in March, including heavy fighting on March 10, killed at least 14 and injured 300. A Karen peace demonstration on March 18 called for an end to violence. In April, a continued government offensive killed over 17 and displaced hundreds over the Thai border. According to KNU Secretary-General Mahn Sha, KNLA forces supported the anti-government protests [→ Myanmar (opposition)] by launching repeated attacks on regime forces. Throughout the rest of the year, clashes between the conflicting parties were reported. In June, KNU forces clashed repeatedly with the government-backed DKBA and government troops. According to KNU, fights between their armed wing, KNLA, and government forces, backed by the DKBA, took place in October, when the government tried to push through a road-building project through Karen territory. Several other clashes between the KNPP and government forces claiming casualties were reported from Karen State. According to HRW, an ongoing counterinsurgency campaign by the government against forces of the KNU, begun in early 2006, caused the displacement of more than 40,000 civilians. (thw)

Myanmar (opposition)

Intensity: 4	Change: ↑	Start: 1982
Conflict Parties:	NLD, AABBM vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The conflict between the opposition and the government concerning the political system and the distribution of power turned violent. The government continued to arrest political activists demanding democratic reforms and the release of the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), Aung San Suu Kyi. On May 25, the government extended Suu Kyi's house arrest by another year. In September, hundreds of Buddhist monks in central Myanmar held demonstrations against the government, originally sparked by the military junta's decision of August 15 to double fuel prices. Monks from various monasteries and regions formed the Alliance of All Burmese Buddhist Monks (AABBM). During the following weeks, the monks gained massive public support. Tens of thousands peacefully joined the protests in Rangoon and other major cities. From September 26 on, the government, besides imposing a dusk-to-dawn curfew in the main cities, Rangoon and Mandalay, and putting heavy restrictions on the media, massively intervened for days by deploying troops in a country-wide concerted action. The military used tear gas, batons, and live bullets, cracking down on protesters, and subsequently raided numerous monasteries throughout the country. A multitude of monks and civilians were detained, maltreated, and killed. While the government stated that the unrest had resulted in ten fatalities, the AABBM estimated at least 200 casualties, among them a Japanese reporter. The UN Human Rights Council reported about 100 people killed. After 14 years of drafting a new constitution for Myanmar, the military leaders declared the work of the National Convention complete on August 22. The NLD continued to boycott the special assembly. On October 18, the government set up a committee to draft

a new constitution, as part of what the generals called their road map to democracy. Seven days later, Suu Kyi held her first meeting with a senior military official appointed to liaise with her. At the same time, the government rejected a UN plan for three-way talks, calling it an interference in Myanmar's sovereignty. During the internal conflict, pressure from international organizations as well as individual states on Myanmar's government increased. On January 10, the US government presented a draft resolution to the UN Security Council, calling on Myanmar to ease repression and free Suu Kyi. However, China and Russia cast a double veto, arguing that the situation in Myanmar was a purely internal matter. The USA imposed new sanctions against the government in September. ASEAN also called on Myanmar to speed up the process of national reconciliation and to release political prisoners. During the public protests in September, Myanmar's closest ally, China, called on the government to end the crackdown on the opposition. On October 12, the UN Security Council adopted a statement calling on the government and all other parties involved to work together towards a de-escalation of the situation and a peaceful solution. (gp, rs)

Myanmar (SSA-S, SSNA, SSA-N - government, UWSA, NDAA-ESS / Shan State)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1995
Conflict Parties:	SSA-S, SSNA, SSA-N vs. UWSA, NDAA-ESS, government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The autonomy conflict between the Shan State Army – South (SSA-S), the Shan State National Army (SSNA), and the Shan State Army – North (SSA-N), on the one hand, and the government as well as the United Wa State Army (UWSA), the military arm of the United Wa State Party (UWSP), on the other, continued. The UWSA was closely related with the National Democratic Alliance Army – Eastern Shan State (NDAA-ESS), while the SSA-S, SSNA, and the SSA-N resembled each other in terms of their goals and ethnic composition. Despite this constellation, UWSA, NDAA-EES, and SSA-N all derived from the Communist Party of Burma in 1989. While violent clashes between government forces and the SSA-S had taken place in 2006, no major offensives were launched. In December 2006, Thai officials reported an increased deployment of government troops to the border with Thailand, the location of the SSA-S's second largest base. Troops of the UWSA reportedly fought alongside government troops. However, tensions between UWSA and the government existed, due to the group's resistance to disarmament. In January, the SSA-S announced to engage in dialogue with the government, while sporadic clashes between them and the UWSA continued. According to various spokespersons of ethnic minority groups, the armed forces increased their attacks in April. Ceasefire talks between SSA-S and government failed on May 23. In June, the group decided to strengthen its armed forces, according to its leader. In mid-2007, more than 500 villagers were forced to flee their homes in the eastern Shan State due to army abuses. In October, after large-scale opposition demon-

strations [→ Myanmar (opposition)], the leader of the SSA-S urged all opponents of the government to unite. He confirmed talks with the Karen National Union (KNU) [→ Myanmar (KNU, KNLA, KNPP, KnA - UWSA, DKBA, government / Karen State, Kayah State)] and other ethnic groups to seek a common position. (thw, ct)

Nepal (Madhesi/Terai)

Intensity: 3	Change: NEW	Start: 2007
Conflict Parties:	Madhesi community vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy	

A new conflict emerged between the Madhesi community, demanding autonomy, and the coalition government. The Madhesi accounted for 48 percent of Nepal's population. In January, riots flared up in the Terai region, located in the south of the country and mainly inhabited by Madhesi. The unrest caused civilian casualties. On January 27, a curfew was imposed on the Terai region. In February, talks between the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum and the government were held, but yielded no results for the Madhesi. Further demonstrations followed, combined with strikes in the Terai region. On March 3, the Madhesi's claims were incorporated in the national politics when the interim parliament turned Nepal into a federal state, granting the regions some autonomy [→ Nepal (opposition)]. On April 5, Prime Minister Girija Praisad Koirala asked India to increase the deployment of security forces on the Indo-Nepalese border. On September 20, clashes flared up again in the south of the country following the assassination of a politician. More than 20 people died. (yf)

Nepal (Maoists)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1990
Conflict Parties:	CPN-M vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The conflict over national power and ideology between the Communist Party of Nepal - Maoist (CPN-M) and the government continued. Under the comprehensive peace agreement reached on 11/26/06, the registration process of insurgents and arms, monitored by the UNMIN, began in January. On February 3, Nepal's interim government urged the disarmament of the Maoists as a condition for participating in the government. On April 1, five members of CPN-M were sworn in as ministers. Former Maoist rebels protested against the celebrations of King Gyanendra's anniversary on July 7. One week later, they registered for the elections to a constituent assembly scheduled for November 22. In early September, the government accused the Maoists of being responsible for the blasts in the capital, Kathmandu, killing three people. The Maoists pulled out of the coalition government on September 18. They insisted on the immediate abolition of the monarchy, while the rest of the coalition advocated drafting a new constitution to turn the country into a republic [→ Nepal (opposition)]. One day later, Maoists started boycotting the elections. On September 26, the Nepali Congress Party passed a resolution urging the future constituent assembly to declare the country a republic, in an effort to draw the Maoists back into the

coalition government. Elections were postponed indefinitely on October 5. The same month, Maoists abducted and shot dead reporter Birendra Sah in the southern district of Bara. The assassination led to demonstrations in Kathmandu. The perpetrators were subsequently expelled from the Maoist party. (yf)

Nepal (opposition)

Intensity: 2	Change: ▾	Start: 2002
Conflict Parties:	Opposition parties vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology	

The conflict between the democratic political parties and the ruling monarchy over full democratization of the country deescalated. The coalition government, formed by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala of the Nepali Congress Party after King Gyanendra had reinstated the parliament on 04/24/06, limited the powers and prerogatives of the King. On March 9, the parliament amended the constitution to change the state's political system from a unitary into a federal one. Six days later, cuts to the King's staff were introduced. Seven royal palaces were nationalized in August. On May 1, elections to a constituent assembly were scheduled for November 22 with the UNMIN, set up in January to provide technical assistance to the election commission. On September 26, the Nepali Congress Party passed a resolution urging the future constituent assembly to declare the country a republic. Planned elections were postponed on October 5, due to the boycott by Maoist rebels, who demanded the immediate abolition of the monarchy [→ Nepal (Maoists)]. In October, the parliament debated the role of the monarchy without arriving at any conclusion. (yf)

North Korea - South Korea

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1945
Conflict Parties:	North Korea vs. South Korea	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, international power	

In the international power and ideology conflict between North Korea and South Korea, the two governments approached each other despite a border incident in early August. Several shots were exchanged across the border. On May 17, several passenger trains crossed the border for the first time in 50 years. Furthermore, South Korea provided economic aid to North Korea. After the shutdown of the biggest nuclear station in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, in July, North Korea received 400,000 tons of rice from South Korea. A summit scheduled for August was delayed due to a flood disaster in North Korea. On October 5, the leaders of both countries met in Pyongyang. The summit was only the second meeting of this kind since the partition of the Korean peninsula. The leaders signed a declaration to work towards a formal end of the Korean War. Family reunions were to be further facilitated, a joint fishing zone in disputed areas as well as periodical summit meetings were to be established. On November 14, North Korea's Kim Yong-Il met the South Korean prime minister, Han Duck-soo. They agreed on a timetable for establishing cargo rail services in order to improve economic ties. (kaa)

North Korea - USA, Japan

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1990
Conflict Parties:	North Korea vs. USA, Japan	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, international power	

The conflict between North Korea on the one hand, and the USA and Japan on the other, de-escalated slightly. On October 31, China announced it would continue the six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear program. Talks were terminated in December 2006 without a sign of progress. On January 9, Japan declared it did not intend to tolerate a potential possession of nuclear arms by North Korea, and called for intensified international cooperation. In February, North Korea agreed to shut down and seal its Yongbyon nuclear reactor within 60 days in exchange for fuel or other economic aid. On June 26, IAEA inspectors entered North Korea for the first time since 1992. North Korea shut down all of the five nuclear reactors in Yongbyon in July and, on October 3, agreed to also shut down all of its nuclear facilities at Yongbyon besides providing a complete list of its nuclear programs by the end of the year. These nuclear facilities were suspected to produce weapons grade plutonium. (kaa)

Pakistan (Balochis)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↘	Start: 1998
Conflict Parties:	BLA, BRA, BLF vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy, resources	

The autonomy conflict concerning the Pakistani province of Balochistan remained tense. Both tribal insurgents and organized groups such as the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) assassinated army personnel as well as civilians. Besides striving for autonomy, the access to natural resources was an additional source of conflict. As a consequence, the rebels conducted regular bombings of pipelines. Compared to the escalation of the conflict following the murder of influential Balochi leader Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti the previous August, the situation eased a little but remained tense. The government responded with numerous detentions and public pressure on insurgents. At least 155 people were reportedly killed. President Pervez Musharraf tried, in cooperation with the USA, to banish supporters of al-Qaeda and Taliban from Balochistan. Meanwhile, he blamed India and Afghanistan for destabilizing Balochistan. Both states denied these allegations, however. (jp)

Pakistan (Islamists)

Intensity: 4	Change: ↗	Start: 2001
Conflict Parties:	Islamists, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology	

The system conflict between Islamists and the government escalated to a highly violent level. The conflict could be traced to latent tensions in early 2001. Due to Pakistan's alliance with the USA following the 09/11/01 incidents, tensions rose. Ever more Pakistanis demonstrated against the government. The latter responded with stricter control measures against Quran schools, imprisonments, and the prohibition of certain organiza-

tions. On 10/08/03, the conflict worsened when violent anti-regime demonstrations resulted in casualties. Militant extremists increasingly took to committing suicide attacks in Northern Pakistan and the capital, Islamabad, causing numerous deaths. In March, religious students held a woman captive whom they accused of owning a brothel. The leaders of the Red Mosque in Islamabad called for further attacks and for fighting against the government as well as for the enforcement of strict Sharia law. On May 18, members of the Red Mosque took five policemen hostage. In response, the Pakistani army besieged the mosque for a week, and subsequently stormed it on June 10. Over a hundred people died. In the following months, Islamic extremists carried out numerous attacks on the police and army, but also on civilians, for instance decapitating two women accused of being prostitutes. The extremists declared these attacks to be acts of revenge for the storming of the Red Mosque. On November 24, two suicide bombings in Rawalpindi killed at least 30 people and injured many others. (fh)

Pakistan (North and South Waziristan)

Intensity: 5	Change: ↗	Start: 2002
Conflict Parties:	Tribal militants, foreign militants vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Regional predominance	

The conflict over regional predominance between tribal militants and foreign militants on the one hand, and the government, on the other, in North and South Waziristan, two agencies of the semi-autonomous Pakistani Federal Administered Tribal Areas, escalated to a war. In total, more than 1,200 people were killed. Measures used by the local militants to force the army to withdraw from the tribal areas included rocket attacks on army barracks, hostage taking, roadside bombs, suicide attacks on army checkpoints, and the assassination of suspected spies. The government systematically used military means including heavy weapons such as helicopter gun-ships, mortars, and artillery. Apart from numerous clashes between the army and tribal militants, heavy fighting between pro-government tribesmen and foreign, mostly Uzbek, militants broke out in South Waziristan between March and early April, claiming at least 250 lives. In the aftermath of the crisis surrounding the siege of the Red Mosque in Islamabad [→ Pakistan (Islamists)], the Pakistani army further increased its presence in Waziristan, which led to a new peak of violence in which almost 200 people died up to early August. Hence the September 2006 peace deal between tribal elders, tribal militants, and the local administration of North Waziristan did not succeed in de-escalating the conflict. In early October, intensive clashes between the army and tribal militants in North Waziristan claimed nearly 250 casualties. The government had about 90,000 troops engaged against the militants. Throughout the year, the USA increased the diplomatic pressure on the Pakistani political elite, urging for an intensification of the military operations in the border region to Afghanistan in order to combat international terrorist networks. (sdi)

Pakistan (opposition)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↑	Start: 1998
Conflict Parties:	Opposition, PPP vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The national power conflict in Pakistan escalated. The political situation became tense following the return from exile of Pakistan's former prime minister and current leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Benazir Bhutto, on October 18. One day before the presidential elections on October 6, President Pervez Musharraf announced his intention to drop all corruption charges against politicians in office between 1986 and 1999. After Bhutto's arrival in Karachi, unknown perpetrators conducted a terrorist attack on her and her followers during a rally. 143 people died in the attack, but Bhutto remained uninjured. Neither the Taliban nor al-Qaeda claimed responsibility, although the latter had issued a threat earlier. While an alliance between Musharraf and Bhutto had still been considered possible in October, the subsequent events ruled out such a cooperation. One precondition had been for Musharraf to step down as supreme commander of the army. US President George W. Bush personally requested Musharraf to meet this demand. Bhutto threatened to organize a demonstration in Rawalpindi on September 11, and a march to the capital, Islamabad, on November 13, but was placed under house arrest. Many of her followers were detained. On November 3, Musharraf imposed a state of emergency and, despite numerous international protests, did not revoke this decision. On November 22, the Supreme Court, reconstituted by Musharraf on November 3, confirmed Musharraf's re-election, despite heavy criticism by opponents as well as foreign governments. Bhutto rallied a major share of the country's parties behind her. The USA supported her in her demand for Musharraf to revoke the state of emergency before the new elections, scheduled for 02/15/08, at the latest. In spite of the tense situation, the USA continuously stressed Musharraf's important role in the fight against terrorism. On November 28, Musharraf finally stepped down as leader of the military forces, which was welcomed by the USA and opposition leader Bhutto. One day later, he was sworn in for a second term as civilian ruler. (jp)

Pakistan (Sunnites - Shiites)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 1998
Conflict Parties:	Militant Shia Muslims vs. militant Sunni Muslims, government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, regional predominance	

Sectarian violence between militant Sunni and militant Shia Muslims in Pakistan continued unabated and claimed at least 130 lives. In April, heavy fighting broke out between the hostile Sunni and Shia groups in the Kurram Agency, located in the Federal Administered Tribal Areas, neighboring on Afghanistan. The fighting claimed between 80 and 100 casualties, including civilians. The Pakistani army deployed helicopter gun-ships and artillery in order to contain the fighting. Another hotbed of sectarian violence was the North West Frontier Province, especially its capital, Peshawar, and the

Dera Ismail Khan district, where at least five people were killed in late April and early May. In the Punjab region, sectarian violence also claimed the lives of at least two people. In mid-November, nearly 100 died as the result of violent skirmishes between members of the Sunni and Shia groups in the Parachinar region bordering on Afghanistan. On November 25, at least 53 people were killed in heavy fighting between the two groups in the same region. (sdi)

Pakistan - India

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1947
Conflict Parties:	Pakistan vs. India	
Conflict Items:	Territory, international power	

The conflict between Pakistan and India over the Kashmir region and international power escalated. Bilateral meetings within the framework of the Composite Dialogue initiated after the ceasefire of 2003 were held on issues such as terrorism, drug trafficking, trade and the situation of the Siachen glacier. Furthermore, new confidence-building measures were implemented. On March 7, India allowed Kashmiri separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani to travel abroad for medical treatment. His passport had been confiscated in 1981. In August, the conflict parties exchanged some 200 prisoners captured in the disputed border areas. In addition, visa and consular access agreements were revised. On August 20, modalities to allow cross-border movements of trucks were fixed. Truck trade started on October 1. On August 31, Indian and Pakistan delegates met to discuss India's plan to build a barrage at the Wullar Lake in the Kashmir valley. India claimed the barrage would make the river navigable, while Pakistan argued that the levee was a violation of the bilateral 1960 Indus Water Treaty. Despite attempting to advance the border regions economically, displays of power and territorial demands continued on both sides. On 05/12/06, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf announced his country would give up its claim to Kashmir if India accepted a phased withdrawal of troops in the region, and self-governance for Kashmiris. India rejected the proposal with reference to the ongoing internal conflict in the area [→ India (Kashmir)]. On January 17, India accused Pakistan of violating the ceasefire, claiming its patrols had been shot at from across the Line of Control. Pakistan test fired nuclear-capable ballistic missiles with ranges between 200 and 2,000 km on February 23, March 3, March 22, and August 25. Pakistan also protested India's decision to allow mountain trekkers to visit the disputed Siachen glacier region. (yf)

Philippines (Abu Sayyaf/Mindanao)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↘	Start: 1991
Conflict Parties:	Abu Sayyaf vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession, system/ideology	

The conflict concerning secession between the Islamist group Abu Sayyaf, linked to al-Qaeda and Jemaah Islamiyah, and the government de-escalated. Abu Sayyaf was fighting for an independent Islamic state in western Mindanao and the southern Sulu Archipelago. More than 8,000 Philippine troops were stationed on Jolo, in

the province of Sulu, to fight Abu Sayyaf. Since the start of the military operation in September 2006, the group's two top leaders were killed and the remaining members, said to number around 400, splintered into smaller units trying to evade government forces. On January 10, a bomb explosion at a public market in General Santos City killed six people and wounded 22. Two soldiers were killed and ten wounded in fighting in Jolo on April 11. In May, four more bomb explosions occurred, killing at least four people and injuring dozens. In June, Abu Sayyaf chose a new leader after their former leader Khadaffy Janjalani and senior figure Abu Sulaiman had been killed by soldiers in 2006. On July 27, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered continued operations in Basilan and Sulu against Abu Sayyaf. In early September, after more than a week-long lull, members of Abu Sayyaf were able to slip away from the battlefield and mingle with residents in Basilan province. On November 13, Congressman Wahab Akbar, a Basilan representative, was killed and six others wounded by an explosion at the entrance of the House of Representatives in the capital, Manila. (sus)

Philippines (MILF/Mindanao)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1977
Conflict Parties:	MILF vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy, system/ideology	

The crisis between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the government concerning autonomy as well as ideology continued. Late in November 2006, MILF had been ready to resume the stalled peace talks with the government after law enforcers had dropped criminal charges accusing chairman Ebrahim Murad of involvement in a series of bombings in Mindanao. On 12/01/06, peace negotiations in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, concerning self-determination and ancestral domains, yielded no results. After clashes with the military that had left ten rebels dead, the MILF leadership excluded forces involved in skirmishes in Maguindanao on December 15. The police blamed two commanders of MILF for a bomb attack injuring three people in Cotabato City on January 2. Both denied any involvement in the incident. Since January 25, at least 6,000 villagers fled their homes when the army and pro-government paramilitaries clashed with MILF in three villages of Midsayap, North Cotabato, over local land disputes. The army used planes to bomb suspected rebel positions in these villages. The clashes stopped after four days as the International Monitoring Team (IMT) called both sides to an emergency meeting, and both parties signed a formal resolution to stop the fighting. The clashes left three paramilitaries and three rebels dead. 35 suspected MILF rebels stormed a jail in Kidapawan, North Cotabato, on February 2, freeing 48 prisoners. MILF denied any involvement in the jailbreak. On March 5, clashes between the military and MILF erupted again in Midsayap, killing 17 rebels and one soldier. Thousands of residents fled their homes. Twenty MILF and army field commanders met on June 9. Early July, MILF lowered its demands concerning the size of area claimed as ancestral land. On July 10, clashes erupted near Tipo-Tipo, Basilan, re-

sulting in the death of five MILF fighters and 14 Philippine marines. MILF offered to abandon its strongholds in the provinces of Basilan and Sulu in order to enable the military to pursue Abu Sayyaf members [→ Philippines (Abu Sayyaf/Mindanao)] on September 16. (sus)

Philippines (MNLF, Malik faction/Mindanao)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↗	Start: 1969
Conflict Parties:	MNLF vs. MNLF - Malik faction vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy, regional predominance	

The conflict between the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), a breakaway-faction of the MNLF led by Ustadz Habier Malik, and the government concerning autonomy escalated to crisis level. From February 2 to 4, a senior officer of the Philippine Marines and an under-secretary of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, along with other 15 members of the government peace panel, were detained by a faction of the MNLF inside their camp in Jolo, Sulu. Before that, MNLF had expressed their resentment over the implementation of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement (FPA). MNLF demanded a tripartite meeting between the government, the MNLF, and the OIC, which had promoted the peace agreement. Subsequently, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the Presidential Adviser for the Peace Process, Jesus Dureza, to coordinate the immediately exercisable provisions of the FPA with MNLF. On April 15, the army overran the camp of Malik, a rogue commander of the MNLF. Earlier he had proclaimed a holy war and launched attacks on government and military positions in Sulu, resulting in the death of two marines and one child. Further attacks by Malik sympathizers occurred in the town of Sibuco, in the province of Zamboanga del Norte, on April 19. On August 12, the army announced that the mainstream MNLF helped the military in ongoing operations against rogue MNLF forces and the extremist Abu Sayyaf group [→ Philippines (Abu Sayyaf/Mindanao)]. A tripartite meeting between the government, the MNLF, and the OIC, aimed at reviewing the implementation of the FPA, began in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on November 10. Finally, the government and MNLF agreed to revive the FPA. (sus)

Philippines (NPA, CPP)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1968
Conflict Parties:	NPA vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology	

The conflict concerning ideology and the orientation of the political system between the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its military wing, the New People's Army (NPA), and the government continued on a violent level. The NPA was the 6,000-member armed unit of the CPP, which had been conducting a Maoist rebellion since 1969. Throughout the year, there were repeated single clashes between the NPA and AFP. According to the government, the NPA remained the biggest threat in the country. On 12/14/06, a high-ranking communist rebel was killed when the army overran a rebel training camp on the island of Samar. On 12/17/06, the army killed three NPA commanders in an encounter in the

town of Colombio in the province of Sultan Kudarat. One soldier was wounded when troops fought against 30 to 50 armed NPA militants in Mawab town, Mindanao, on May 21. The following days, five communist guerrillas were killed in several clashes. Further clashes between the rebels and the army in Mindanao left eight rebels and four soldiers dead on June 8. One week later, NPA militants killed four police officers in a shootout. In July, at least 20 militants were killed and some dozen were wounded in different operations. On August 28, CPP leader Jose Maria Sison was arrested in the Netherlands on charges of being involved in murders committed in the Philippines. Sison was the founding chairman of the CPP and the NPA and had been living in the Netherlands since 1987. His arrest raised security issues in the Philippines, but he was released on September 14. One week before, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 1377, granting amnesty to members of the CPP, NPA, National Democratic Front (NDF), and other communist rebel groups in the country. On October 7, NPA guerrillas killed one soldier and two civilians in the capital town of Catanduanes. An NPA leader was killed while three others were wounded during an encounter with the army in Mindoro Occidental on November 25. (sus)

Singapore - Malaysia

Intensity: 1	Change: ▾	Start: 1963
Conflict Parties:	Singapore vs. Malaysia	
Conflict Items:	Territory, international power	

Diplomatic relations between Singapore and Malaysia improved. Nevertheless, unresolved border issues remained. On November 6, the International Court of Justice held its hearings concerning a pending case over sovereignty over Pedra Branca (as Singapore refers to the island) or Pulau Batu Puteh (as Malaysia refers to the island), Middle Rocks and South Ledge, an outcrop of rocks situated where the Singapore Strait meets the South Chinese Sea, between the two countries. The case existed since 2003. Both parties submitted written pleadings from 2004 to 2005. The outcome of the dispute resolution is expected to be announced by June 2008. The ICJ's decision is final and not subject to appeal. (sg)

Sri Lanka (Jamiyathul Ulama - Sufis)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1978
Conflict Parties:	Jamiyathul Ulama vs. Sufis	
Conflict Items:	Regional predominance	

The conflict concerning regional predominance between two Muslim groups, Jamiyathul Ulama and the Sufis, remained violent. In November 2006, supposed orthodox Muslims had attacked civilians with hand grenades and gunfire in Kattankudy, eastern Sri Lanka. The attack occurred in front of the office of Abdul Rauf Moulawi, the Sufis' religious leader. Violence erupted between the two factions there in early December 2006, after the burial of Abdul Payilvan, the president of the Sufi All-Island Tharikathul Mufliheen. The Jamiyathul Ulama regarded Kattankudy as a holy place where no one should

be buried whose opinions contradicted the Quran. In demonstrations lasting several days, they demanded Payilvan's exhumation. The government provided police protection for prominent Sufi members, while security guarded the graveyard. The police used tear gas and ordered a curfew for Kathankudy in order to curb vandalism by enraged Muslims. Many people were injured, houses and vehicles were damaged. Also in December 2006, extremists exhumed a dead Sufi follower who had just been buried, and threw his body onto the street. At the end of January 2007, a bookstore owned by a Moulawi supporter was burnt down. Another Moulawi follower was assumed to have been kidnapped by a group of armed Muslims, prompting a demonstration. (ps)

Sri Lanka (LTTE)

Intensity: 5	Change: •	Start: 1976
Conflict Parties:	LTTE vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The secession conflict between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the government continued as a full-scale war. Massive clashes occurred at sea, in the air, and on the ground. The government regained control over the eastern part of the island and also started an offensive in the northwest. Tens of thousands of civilians were forced to flee. In December 2006 alone, 75,000 people were displaced in the Batticaloa area. The heaviest sea clash took place off the northern port of Point Pedro on June 19. The government reported that 15 to 29 LTTE Sea Tiger boats engaged in battle with navy gun boats and helicopter gun-ships. The LTTE did not comment on this incident. In early December, the defense secretary, the brother of Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse, escaped a suicide bomb attack in the capital, Colombo, allegedly carried out by LTTE. The government announced sweeping anti-terror measures on 12/06/06, giving security forces wide-ranging powers to search, arrest, and question suspects. After weeks of heavy fighting, the military announced in January the capture of the LTTE stronghold of Vakarai in the eastern part of the island. In March, government troops claimed progress in their fight against rebels in eastern coastal areas. By July, the government had driven out the rebels from Thoppigala, their last jungle stronghold in the east. The LTTE, for the first time, carried out an aerial attack, hitting a military base next to the international airport north of Colombo in early March. Other air strikes by the LTTE followed. In June, the police forced hundreds of members of the Tamil minority from the capital, citing security concerns. The Supreme Court ordered the authorities to end the expulsions. In 2006 and 2007, thousands of refugees fled to the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The Italian and US ambassadors were injured in a mortar attack when rebels shelled a delegation of diplomats touring eastern areas. The LTTE claimed to have been responding to a government artillery attack. In September, the armed forces started a new offensive aimed at driving the LTTE out of the northwestern Mannar district. The government decided to increase military expenditure by nearly 20 percent. (ps)

Sri Lanka (LTTE-East - LTTE)

Intensity: 3	Change: ↘	Start: 2004
Conflict Parties:	LTTE-East vs. LTTE	
Conflict Items:	Regional predominance	

The conflict over regional predominance between the Karuna faction of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE-East) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) deescalated after the Sri Lankan government had recaptured the complete eastern part of the island with the support of the Karuna faction. In December 2006, the LTTE admitted the abduction of 22 students. In April, Colonel Karuna mentioned that he no longer supported an independent state for the Tamils – the goal the Tamil Tigers had fought for for decades [→ Sri Lanka (LTTE)]. Karuna formed a political party, the Tamileela Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP), to contest provincial and general elections in the future. In July, he emphasized that he had no plans to disarm his fighters. UK police and immigration services arrested Karuna, and placed him in immigration detention in November. (ps)

Thailand (Muslim separatists/southern border provinces)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 1784
Conflict Parties:	Muslim separatists vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The severe crisis in Thailand's southern border provinces of Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat continued. Killings of civilians and security forces still occurred on a daily basis. By September, the total death toll had risen to about 2,600. After the successful coup d'état against Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in 2006, the new caretaker government tried to prevent violence in the southern border provinces and offered negotiations to the insurgents. The heterogeneous insurgency movement responded to the offer with violence. Neither the campaign of the government to win the "hearts and minds" of the insurgents nor the "community relations work" showed an effect. As a response to the government's new approach, Muslim separatist and criminal organizations in the south launched numerous bomb and rifle assaults targeted against everything connected with the Buddhist Thai state. Most of the victims were teachers, soldiers as well as Buddhist monks. One of the region's worst outbreaks of violence since the start of the current insurgency took place on February 18. Muslim separatists planted 30 bombs, killing eight and wounding 50 people. Sweep military operations in June and July reduced the separatist's ability to conduct attacks. Due to the lack of success of regular governmental security forces, various paramilitary forces and civilian militias have been set up, beginning in 2004. In various incidents, these paramilitaries allegedly killed Muslims and acted abusively towards locals. (ml)

Thailand (PPP - caretaker government)

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 2006
Conflict Parties:	PPP vs. caretaker government	
Conflict Items:	National power	

The conflict between the former government under Thaksin Shinawatra and the current military caretaker government continued. The party of deposed Prime Minister Thaksin, Thai Rak Thai, was banned by the transitional government at the beginning of the year. Thereupon, the party reassembled under the name of People's Power Party (PPP), and planned to participate in the first elections after the September 2006 coup d'état, scheduled for December 23. The election campaigns started in autumn. However, martial law was maintained in one third of Thailand. Thaksin remained in exile, but intended to return to Thailand in case of his party's victory. In October, General Sonthi Boonyaratglin resigned from his military offices and subsequently assumed a key position within the caretaker government. Sonthi had been one of the most important players in the 2006 coup. (ml)

Timor-Leste (opposition)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 2006
Conflict Parties:	CNRT vs. FRETILIN vs. Loromonu, Veterans vs. Lorosa'e, government	
Conflict Items:	National power	

The conflict concerning national power between sacked militaries and the government, on the one hand, and the two major political parties, on the other, continued. Following the dismissal of 600 soldiers, almost half of the Timor-Lestese army, violent protests had erupted in March 2006. The sacked soldiers were from Loromonu, the western part of Timor-Leste, whereas the Timor-Lestese army was dominated by people from Lorosa'e, the country's eastern part. Despite the presence of UN peacekeeping forces and the complete disarmament of the insurgents, several smaller quarrels occurred in the run-up to the presidential elections in February and March. In total, five insurgents were killed by peacekeepers. Prime Minister José Ramos-Horta of the National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction (CNRT) became president. When President Xanana Gusmao of the Revolutionary Front for an Independent Timor-Leste (FRETILIN) succeeded him as prime minister on August 6, small-scale unrest flared up once more. (di)

Uzbekistan (IMU)

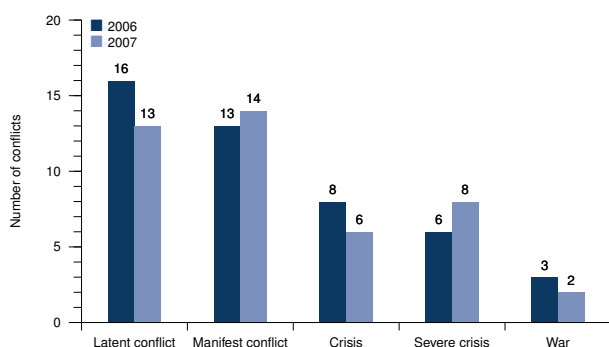
Intensity: 2	Change: ↘	Start: 1991
Conflict Parties:	IMU vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology	

The conflict between the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) and the government de-escalated. The organization was scattered throughout the entire region. Alleged IMU members were detained and arrested in neighboring countries. Afghanistan and Tajikistan accused Uzbekistan of being responsible of not taking sufficient measures against members of IMU crossing the border. (df)

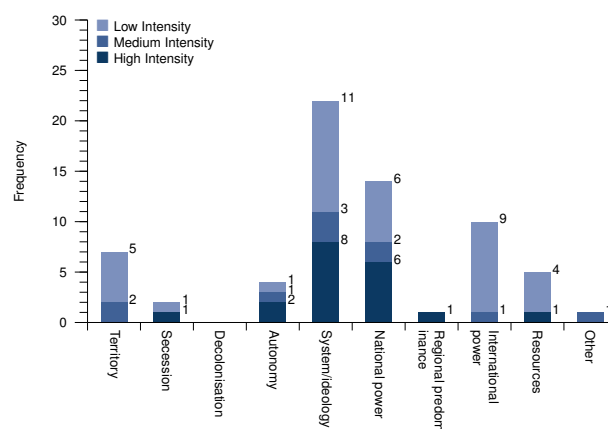
The Middle East and Maghreb

In the Middle East and Maghreb there were 43 political conflicts in 2007, compared to 46 in 2006. Three latent conflicts had ended in 2006, i.e. Egypt - Sudan, Iraq - Israel, and Turkey - Iran. Two of the total number of six wars were fought in the Middle East and Maghreb. Both Afghanistan (Taliban) and Iraq (insurgents) had already been classed as wars in 2006. Last year's third war, Israel (Hezbollah), which had been fought on Lebanese soil, de-escalated to a manifest conflict. Israel had withdrawn its troops from Lebanon in October 2006. However, the total number of highly violent conflicts in the region increased from nine in 2006 to ten in 2007, while the number of severe crises rose from six to eight. Whereas the conflict between Israel and Lebanon de-escalated from a severe crisis in 2006 to a crisis in 2007, Iraq (al-Zarqawi group), Israel (Fatah - Hamas), and Lebanon (Hezbollah, Fatah al-Islam) escalated from crisis level in 2006 to severe crises in 2007. The overall number of crises decreased from eight to six compared to the year before. More than half of the 43 conflicts in the Middle East and Maghreb were non-violent. 14 of these were manifest conflicts and 13 latent conflicts. Nearly all of the 17 interstate conflicts were carried out non-violently. In contrast, more than half of the 26 intrastate conflicts were violent. Altogether, 32 out of 43 conflicts remained on the same level of intensity in 2007. Six conflicts escalated and five de-escalated in the region. The by far most frequent source of conflict in the region was the orientation of the political system or ideology, with more than half of all conflicts centering around this item, either as the sole item or in combination with others.

Conflict intensities in the Middle East and Maghreb in 2007 compared to 2006



Frequency of conflict items in 2007 in the Middle East and Maghreb by intensity groups



Overview: Conflicts in the Middle East and Maghreb in 2007

Name of conflict ¹	Conflict parties ²	Conflict items	Start	Change ³	Int. ⁴
Afghanistan (Taliban)	Taliban vs. government	System/ideology, national power	1994	•	5
Algeria (Berber/Kabylia)*	FFS, RCD, CIACD vs. government	Autonomy, system/ideology	1963	•	1
Algeria (Islamist groups)	AQIM vs. government	System/ideology, national power	1989	•	4
Bahrain (Shia opposition)*	Shia opposition groups vs. government	National power	1975	•	2
Egypt (Islamist groups)	Muslim Brotherhood vs. government	System/ideology, national power	1992	↘	2
Iran (Balochis)	PRMI vs. government	Autonomy	1979	•	3
Iran (People's Mujahideen)*	Mujaheddin-e Khalq vs. government	System/ideology, national power	1965	•	1
Iran (PJAK/Kurdish areas)	PJAK vs. government	Autonomy	1979	•	4
Iran (reformers - conservatives)*	Reformers vs. government	National power	1993	•	2
Iran - Israel	Iran vs. Israel	System/ideology, international power	1979	•	2
Iran - UAE	Iran vs. UAE	Territory	1970	↗	2
Iran - USA	Iran vs. USA	System/ideology, international power	1979	•	2
Iraq (al-Sadr group)	Al-Sadr group vs. government	System/ideology, national power	2004	•	4
Iraq (al-Zarqawi group)	Al-Zarqawi group vs. government	System/ideology, national power	2003	↗	4

Name of conflict ¹	Conflict parties ²	Conflict items	Start	Change ³	Int. ⁴
Iraq (insurgents)	Insurgents vs. government	System/ideology, national power	2004	•	5
Iraq - Iran	Iraq vs. Iran	International power	1969	•	2
Iraq - Kuwait*	Iraq vs. Kuwait	Territory, resources	1961	•	1
Iraq - Syria	Iraq vs. Syria	System/ideology, international power	2003	•	1
Israel (Fatah - Hamas)	Fatah vs. Hamas	System/ideology, regional predominance	1994	↗	4
Israel (Hezbollah)	Hezbollah vs. Israel	System/ideology	1982	↓	2
Israel (PNA, al-Fatah, Hamas/Palestine)	Al-Fatah, Islamic Jihad, Hamas, PNA vs. government	Secession, system/ideology, resources	1920	•	4
Israel - Jordan (West Bank)*	Israel vs. Jordan	Territory	1967	•	1
Israel - Lebanon	Israel vs. Lebanon	Territory, international power	1967	↘	3
Jordan (militant group)*	Militant group vs. government	System/ideology	2006	•	2
Jordan - Israel (water)*	Jordan vs. Israel	Resources	1945	•	1
Lebanon (Hezbollah, Fatah al-Islam)	Hezbollah, Fatah al-Islam vs. government	System/ideology, national power	1975	↗	4
Lebanon (religious groups)*	Various religious groups vs. government	System/ideology, national power	1990	•	3
Lebanon - Israel (water)*	Lebanon vs. Israel	Resources	2001	•	1
Libya - USA*	Libya vs. USA	System/ideology, international power	1964	↘	1
Mauritania (coup plotters)*	Taya, Taya loyalists vs. government	National power	2003	↘	1
Morocco (POLISARIO Front/Western Sahara)	POLISARIO Front vs. government	Secession	1975	•	2
Morocco - Spain (Ceuta and Melilla)*	Morocco vs. Spain	Territory	1956	↗	2
Morocco - Spain (Parsley Island)*	Morocco vs. Spain	Territory	2002	•	1
Saudi Arabia (Islamists)	Islamists vs. government	System/ideology, national power	1990	•	3
Saudi Arabia (reformers)*	Reformers, MIRA vs. government	System/ideology	2001	•	1
Syria - Israel	Syria vs. Israel	Territory, other	1967	↗	3
Syria - Lebanon	Syria vs. Lebanon	International power	1976	•	2
Syria - USA	Syria vs. USA	System/ideology, international power	2003	•	2
Turkey (PKK/KONGRA-GEL/Kurdish areas)	PKK/KONGRA-GEL vs. government	Autonomy	1920	•	4
Turkey - Iraq	Turkey vs. Iraq	International power	1979	•	2
Turkey - Syria*	Turkey vs. Syria	International power, resources	1983	•	1
Yemen (Believing Youth Movement)	Believing Youth Movement vs. government	System/ideology	2004	•	3
Yemen (Islamic Jihad)*	Islamic Jihad vs. government	National power	1994	•	1

^{1 2 3 4} Cf. overview table for Europe

Afghanistan (Taliban)

Intensity: 5	Change: •	Start: 1994
Conflict Parties:	Taliban vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The war between the Taliban and the government concerning national power and the orientation of the political system continued, with more than 3,000 people killed up to late October. The southern provinces and increasingly also the eastern provinces experienced the fiercest fighting since 2001 between the army, supported by US-led coalition forces, and the Taliban. The number of civilian fatalities also increased rapidly. Tens of thousands became refugees in the first half of the year

alone. The coalition forces countered a spring offensive by the Taliban with several major operations. The largest of them, Operation Achilles, left 1,000 Taliban dead – among them one of the top Taliban military commanders, Mullah Dadullah. Another top-ranking militant, Abdul Manan, was killed in November. The number of suicide attacks rose sharply, reaching more than 120 by early September, compared to approx. 100 for all of 2006. The bloodiest attacks killed at least 35 in a bomb attack on a police bus on June 17, and 50 more on September 10 and 29. On November 23, at least three civilians and one Australian soldier were killed in the province of Urusgan. The same day, the Taliban be-

headed seven policemen and abducted six officers in the province of Kandahar. However, the most prominent of several kidnappings took place in July when 23 South Koreans were abducted. The Taliban demanded the release of imprisoned comrades and the withdrawal of South Korean troops from Afghanistan in exchange for the hostages. They were finally released after South Korea had withdrawn its forces. On November 28, NATO planes hunting Taliban militants killed twelve road construction workers who were sleeping in their tents in northeast Afghanistan. (ts)

Algeria (Islamist groups)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 1989
Conflict Parties:	AQIM vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The severe crisis between the Al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the government over national power and political identity continued. The AQIM, formally known as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), a splinter group of the Islamic Salvation Army (FIS), joined al-Qaeda in September 2006 and changed its name to AQIM in January 2007. There was a noticeable increase in terrorist attacks, which have more frequently taken place in urban areas. The incidents prompted a shift in government tactics, as President Abdelaziz Bouteflika called for a new, more intensive fight against terrorism, heralding the use of military force. One person was killed in a bomb attack on buses carrying foreign workers of a US-Algerian oil company on January 10. It was the first attack on Western expatriates in many years. In addition, 25 people were assassinated from January to March. On April 11, triple suicide bombings killed 33 people in Algiers, the capital. It was the most lethal attack in the country since 2002. Terrorist assaults claimed four more lives in May and June. A second suicide attack in eastern Algiers killed eight and wounded 27 on July 11. In an attempt to seize arms, about 100 terrorists attacked a local police station and the headquarters of the city guard on July 13. The Algerian army killed about 20 AQIM members in an isolated forest 130 km east of the capital. The raid was launched on July 23, and lasted several days. Sir Ali Rachid, the principal organizer of the suicide attacks in April and July, was killed by troops in the Kabylia region [→ Algeria (Berber/Kabylia)] on July 30. A third suicide bombing targeted Bouteflika in Batna on September 6. The President survived because the bomb detonated prematurely. However, 22 were killed. On September 8, a booby-trapped car exploded at coast guard barracks in Dellys, killing 30 and wounding many more. On November 16, the army killed Abdelhamid Sadaoui, also known as Abou el Haythem, former leader of the GSPC and believed to be treasurer of AQIM. On October 5, the founder of the GSPC, Hassan Hattab, surrendered to the authorities. (im)

Egypt (Islamist groups)

Intensity: 2	Change: ↘	Start: 1992
Conflict Parties:	Muslim Brotherhood vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The conflict between the banned but usually tolerated Muslim Brotherhood and the government continued. A referendum restricting the rights of the Muslim Brotherhood was adopted. Members of the Muslim Brotherhood tried to participate in the elections to the upper house of parliament by running as independent candidates. During the run-up to the elections, 75 supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood were arrested on June 3-6, among them candidates for the election. On election day, June 11, an independent candidate belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood was killed by supporters of the government party. The Brotherhood accused the government of harassing its candidates as well as election manipulation. The ruling National Democratic Party of President Hosni Mubarak won 84 of the 88 contested seats. A military trial against more than 40 members of the Muslim Brotherhood, accused among other things of terrorism and money laundering, continued. (khz)

Iran (Balochis)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1979
Conflict Parties:	PRMI vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy	

The conflict concerning autonomy between the Balochis, organized in the People's Resistance Movement of Iran (PRMI), formerly called the Iranian Army of God (Jundullah), and the government continued. The Balochis are an ethnic group inhabiting parts of Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq. The militant Jundullah claimed to have killed 1,000 Iranian soldiers since 1979. The PRMI operated from the Iranian provinces of Sistan and Balochistan. In December 2006, a car explosion killed one person in Zahedan, the capital of Balochistan. Early in 2007, the PRMI opened fire on Iranian security forces in Zahedan, killing four of them. On February 14, a car bomb killed eleven members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and injured 31 people. Subsequently, a PRMI member who had confessed to the bombing was publicly hanged on February 19. (tt)

Iran (PJAK/Kurdish areas)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 1979
Conflict Parties:	PJAK vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy	

The autonomy conflict between the Party of Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK) and the government continued on a violent level. The PJAK is an Iranian-Kurdish guerrilla group fighting for Kurdish autonomy in Iran. On February 24, the PJAK shot down a military helicopter with a shoulder-held missile, killing eight soldiers and capturing one. 17 gunmen had been killed by Iranian troops before the helicopter crashed. Late in May, ten PJAK fighters and seven Iranian border guards were killed in clashes during a three-day operation near the town of Salmas in an area close to Turkey. In another military operation in June, 15 militants and seven soldiers were killed. On

July 8, the Iranian military started placing PJAK camps under fire, leaving one PJAK leader dead. Four fighters were captured. From August on, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard was sent to the border with Iraq, and the fight has turned more intensive with almost daily clashes with Kurdish fighters. On August 24, the Kurdish authorities in northern Iraq accused Iran of launching shells across the border [→ Iran - Iraq]. While October saw no clashes, Iran opened gunfire on PJAK camps in northern Iraq on November 12. (sz)

Iran - Israel

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1979
Conflict Parties:	Iran vs. Israel	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, international power	

The manifest ideological conflict between Iran and Israel continued. Iran denied Israel's right to exist. Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called the existence of the Holocaust of European Jewry in World War II into question. He expressed this view on several occasions, e.g. in his UN speech on September 24, when he referred to Israel as an illegal Zionist regime. In October 2005, he had threatened to wipe Israel off the map. While Israel blamed Iran for supporting Hezbollah in Lebanon, Ahmadinejad claimed on June 7 that the world would soon witness Israel's destruction and that the war between Israel and Hezbollah [→ Israel (Hezbollah)] for the first time provided proof for Israel's weakness. On September 19, the deputy commander of the Iranian air force stated that in the unlikely event of an Israeli attack, Iran could respond with air and missile raids. Israel's foreign ministry referred to the comments as alarming proof that the international community should take a firm stance on Iran regarding the issue of Iran's nuclear armament program [→ Iran - USA]. (tt)

Iran - UAE

Intensity: 2	Change: ↗	Start: 1970
Conflict Parties:	Iran vs. UAE	
Conflict Items:	Territory	

The conflict between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) concerning control of three islands in the Persian Gulf escalated to a manifest conflict. On May 1, the UAE arrested twelve Iranian divers off one of the disputed islands. On May 13, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad visited Sheikh Khalifa and top UAE officials. It was the first visit of an Iranian head of state since the UAE was formed in 1971. Before the visit, the twelve detained Iranian divers were set free in an apparent goodwill gesture. Iran arrested the crew of three Emirati boats on June 27. 17 Indians and six Emiratis were arrested for illegal entry into Iranian waters and illegal fishing. On October 27, Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz, the Saudi Arabian prime minister, reiterated the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) stance that the three islands occupied by Iran belonged to the UAE. (ptr)

Iran - USA

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1979
Conflict Parties:	Iran vs. USA	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, international power	

The conflict between Iran and the USA concerning Iran's nuclear program continued. The two countries also mutually accused each other of responsibility for violence in Iraq [→ Iraq (insurgents); Iraq (al-Sadr group)]. In early 2007, Iran barred IAEA inspectors from entering the country and let the 60-day grace period to halt the enriching of uranium expire. In March, the UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted the British-, French- and German-sponsored Resolution 1747 against Iran, referring to Iran's nuclear program and freezing the assets of individuals, institutions, and companies. While Iran ignored another 60-day deadline, it consented to inspectors visiting a nuclear plant in Arak. On September 2, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced that 3,000 uranium-enriching centrifuges had been installed at a nuclear plant. In early November, the permanent UNSC members and Germany agreed to draft another resolution providing for new sanctions against Iran. (hk)

Iraq (al-Sadr group)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 2004
Conflict Parties:	Al-Sadr group vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The conflict concerning the orientation of the political system between the group of Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and the government remained highly violent. The government, supported by US-led coalition forces, intensified its actions against al-Sadr's militia, the Mehdi army. In over 50 operations carried out in December 2006 and January 2007, more than 600 militiamen were arrested. More than 1,000 Iraqi and coalition troops entered the predominantly Shiite-inhabited Baghdad suburb of Sadr City as part of the new security plan for Baghdad on March 4. Clashes erupted between US and Iraqi forces, on the one side, and fighters from the Mehdi Army, on the other, in Diwaniyah, a city south of Baghdad, on April 6. 50 died and hundreds were injured in gunfights at a major religious festival with hundreds of thousands of Shia pilgrims in the southern holy city of Karbala on August 28. The public blamed fighters of the Mehdi army for the incident. On September 11, US troops killed nine suspected Shia militants in a raid in Sadr City. US forces captured one Mehdi Army fighter and killed two others in a raid in the central Iraqi province of Diyala on October 27. Al-Sadr published a list of rogue elements in his Mehdi Army on May 5, and announced at the end of August that its activities would be suspended for six months in order to reorganize it. However, several members continued fighting and clashed with Iraqi and US forces. A car bomb explosion near the town of Mahmudiya targeting supporters of al-Sadr killed at least 18 and injured about 28 on April 8. On October 6, al-Sadr and Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, head of the Supreme Islamic Council of Iraq, signed a deal to end violence between their Shiite groups. From December 2006 to January 2007, al-Sadr boycotted the Iraqi parliament because

of a meeting between Prime Minister Nouri Maliki and US President George W. Bush. On April 16, he ordered his six ministers to leave the cabinet in order to step up pressure on the government to set a timetable for the withdrawal of US-led coalition troops. In September, the political movement loyal to al-Sadr completely withdrew from Iraq's ruling Shiite alliance. (me)

Iraq (al-Zarqawi group)

Intensity: 4	Change: ↗	Start: 2003
Conflict Parties:	Al-Zarqawi group vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The crisis between the al-Qaeda-affiliated al-Zarqawi group and the government concerning the establishment of an Islamist state reached a severe level. The group carried out major attacks while the Iraqi and US-led coalition forces tried to defeat the group by means of major operations. On 12/08/06, troops came under fire in the northern Thar Thar area, near Tikrit. In turn, the US led an air strike, killing 20 militants. In December 2006, a group of Sunni tribal chiefs caught more than 100 members of the al-Zarqawi group. The tribes had joined forces in September 2006 in an attempt to defeat al-Qaeda. Many of their leaders were killed in bomb attacks in 2007. On March 17, three chlorine gas attacks killed eight and left hundreds injured, including six US soldiers. Two of the attacks took place near the city of Falluja, the third near Ramadi. On March 21, eight militants were killed in fierce clashes with US and Iraqi forces near the Sunni stronghold of Falluja. On May 1, the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Ayyub al-Masri, was killed, reportedly by internal rivals. On June 2, Sunni fighters battled militants linked to al-Qaeda in Amiriya, a suburb of Baghdad. Subsequently, on June 5, at least 15 people were killed in a suicide car bomb attack on a market in Amiriyah. The blast targeted elders of the al-Buissa tribe, most of whom were anti-al-Qaeda. On June 19, 10,000 Iraqi and coalition troops launched a major ground and air operation against militants linked to al-Qaeda in Baquba, a center of the Sunni Arab insurgency. In early July, US forces arrested Khaled Mashhadani, a leading member of al-Qaeda in Iraq. On September 29, Abu Osama al-Tunisi, a senior leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, was killed in a US air strike near Baghdad. In late October, Osama Bin Laden urged insurgent groups in Iraq to unify their ranks. On October 29, al-Qaeda militants killed at least 27 people in a suicide bomb attack in front of a police headquarters in Baquba. (me)

Iraq (insurgents)

Intensity: 5	Change: •	Start: 2004
Conflict Parties:	Insurgents vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The war over national power between insurgents and the government, supported by the US-led coalition forces, continued. Insurgents clashed with Iraqi and coalition forces on various occasions. Small- and large-scale military operations against insurgents were launched continually. The mostly Sunni insurgents utilized guerrilla warfare and terrorist attacks. The attacks still mostly

took place in Baghdad and the Sunni triangle in general. According to International News Safety Institute (INSI) 64 journalists were killed this year in Iraq. Since 2003 the number of killed journalists was at least 235. On 12/12/06, more than 1,000 Danish and UK troops raided homes in Basra. On the same day, a suicide bomber killed about 70 and injured more than 230 Shiite workers in Baghdad. Throughout December 2006, several coalition soldiers died in clashes and bomb attacks. On 12/30/06, former president Saddam Hussein was executed. The same day, three car bombs killed 37 and injured 76 in a predominantly Shiite-inhabited district of Baghdad. On January 6, Shiite Prime Minister Nouri Maliki said a new US-supported security plan would be implemented by the Iraqi army. In an operation lasting three days, beginning on January 9, at least 1,000 soldiers backed by US aircraft fought militants in Baghdad. About 50 insurgents were killed. On January 10, US President George W. Bush announced the deployment of 20,000 more troops to Iraq. Also in January, hundreds more were killed in attacks throughout the country, among them US and British soldiers. In early February, a double suicide bombing in the central Iraqi town of Hilla killed at least 73 people and injured about 167. The next day, on February 3, more than 130 were killed and at least 300 injured in an attack on Shiites in Baghdad. Maliki blamed the attack on followers of Saddam Hussein. In mid-February, Iraqi and coalition forces launched a security crackdown in Baghdad. On March 6, six US troops died during operations in Salahuddin province. The same day, at least 90 Shiite pilgrims were killed and more than 150 wounded in a double suicide bombing in Hilla. In mid-April, approx. 200 were killed in a series of attacks in Baghdad. A member of parliament was among the victims. Nine US soldiers were killed in a suicide bomb attack on a base in the province of Diyala on April 24. On June 28, three British soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in the southern Iraqi city of Basra. In the most severe attack since April, a truck bombing in a busy market in the small town of Amirli, south of Kirkuk, killed 105 and injured 240 on August 11. Four days later, the deadliest attack on a single area ever since the war started in 2003 killed at least 250 people and injured 350 in bombings in two Kurdish-inhabited villages near the city of Mosul. Seven US soldiers were killed in clashes on September 7. On October 3, insurgents injured the Polish ambassador in a bomb attack on his convoy in Baghdad. Seven US soldiers were injured by a suicide bombing in northern Baghdad on November 28. (me)

Iraq - Iran

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1969
Conflict Parties:	Iraq vs. Iran	
Conflict Items:	International power	

The conflict between Iran and Iraq concerning international power continued. Iranian troops crossed the border to northern Iraq in repeated attacks on positions and hideouts of the Party of Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK) [→ Iran (PJAK/Kurdish areas)]. Iraq and Iran accused each other of supporting rebel and terrorist groups in the respective other state. Iran also accused the USA

of supporting the PJAK. On August 9, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki visited Iran for security talks with Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Iraq started to build a four kilometer long wall along the border to Iran on August 15. On August 24, Kurdish authorities in northern Iraq accused Iran of launching shells across the border. They claimed that at least three people were injured and more than 1,000 people had to leave their homes. On August 28, the joint Kurdish parliament in northern Iraq signed a memorandum condemning Iran and Turkey [→ Turkey - Iraq] for bombing Kurdish villages. On September 7, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, an Iraqi Kurd, declared his willingness to expel the PJAK and the PKK/KONGRA-GEL [→ Turkey (PKK/KONGRA-GEL/Kurdish areas)] from Iraq. Meanwhile, on September 24, the authorities of the Iraqi Kurdistan region declared the PJAK and the PKK/KONGRA-GEL illegal organizations. From September 24 to October 9, Iran closed its border to the Iraqi Kurdish region, leading to a brief decline in the latter's economy. (db)

Iraq - Syria

Intensity: 1	Change: •	Start: 2003
Conflict Parties:	Iraq vs. Syria	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, international power	

The conflict concerning the orientation of the political system between Iraq and Syria continued. After a long period of tense silence between the two governments, formal diplomatic ties were reestablished in December 2006, which helped to ease tensions. On January 14, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani arrived in Syria for talks with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Talabani was the first Iraqi president to pay an official visit to Syria in almost 30 years. On August 20, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki held talks with Syrian Prime Minister Najji al-Otari and, some days later, with al-Assad in Damascus, the capital of Syria. Both sides emphasized their interest in fruitful cooperation. (kv)

Israel (Fatah - Hamas)

Intensity: 4	Change: ↗	Start: 1994
Conflict Parties:	Fatah vs. Hamas	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, regional predominance	

The conflict concerning predominance in Palestine between the Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fatah) and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) continued. The struggle for power in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was marked by frequent violent clashes between the two groups, with Hamas dislodging Fatah from the Gaza strip into the West Bank in June. On 12/12/06, the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) executive committee backed early elections in order to end the deadlock in the formation of a government of national unity. This step was rejected by Hamas. On January 27, the fighting resumed, leaving over 50 dead over the course of several days despite newly negotiated ceasefires. On February 9, Hamas and Fatah reached an agreement on forming a government of national unity, after having met in the Islamic holy city of Mecca to restart negotiations. A key issue was not to explicitly

recognize Israel. As a consequence, Israel and the USA boycotted the Hamas-led government. Between May 13-19, fresh clashes erupted between the groups, causing at least 50 fatalities in Gaza. In addition, Israeli troops began targeting radicals who had fired rockets on Israel [→ Israel (PNA, al-Fatah, Hamas/Palestine)]. Starting on June 10, Hamas forces battled Fatah members for control of key buildings and installations in Gaza. On June 15, Hamas occupied the presidential compound in Gaza City and took de facto control of Gaza. One day later, Fatah members stormed the Hamas-controlled Palestinian parliament building in Ramallah in the West Bank. About 100 were killed in the clashes. On June 15, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas dismissed the Hamas-led coalition government of Ismail Haniya and imposed a state of emergency, forming a new government in the West Bank with Salam Fayyad as prime minister. Israel tried to isolate Hamas in Gaza while politically and financially supporting a moderate government in the West Bank, a measure followed by the USA and EU. On June 24, Israel announced the release of 350 million US dollars of frozen tax funds to the new Palestinian government. Thousands of Palestinians in the Gaza strip protested against Hamas on August 31. Six people were killed during a march in Gaza on the occasion of the third anniversary of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's death on November 12. (hl)

Israel (Hezbollah)

Intensity: 2	Change: ↓	Start: 1982
Conflict Parties:	Hezbollah vs. Israel	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology	

The conflict concerning the orientation of the political system between Hezbollah, operating from Lebanese territory, and Israel de-escalated significantly. Since the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from southern Lebanon in October 2006, no violent incidents were reported. The fate of the two captured Israeli soldiers whose kidnapping had sparked the war in 2006 remained unknown [→ Israel - Lebanon]. On February 9, Palestinian authorities intercepted a truck transporting weapons for Hezbollah fighters. Hezbollah demanded the return of the truck and the arms. On October 15, Israel and Hezbollah exchanged the remains of an Israeli civilian for a prisoner and the bodies of two Hezbollah guerrillas. (hl)

Israel (PNA, al-Fatah, Hamas/Palestine)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 1920
Conflict Parties:	Al-Fatah, Islamic Jihad, Hamas, PNA vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession, system/ideology, resources	

The conflict between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the Israeli government concerning the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state continued. On 11/15/06, an agreement to halt hostilities between the Palestinians and Israel in the Gaza strip was reached. This included rocket fire from radical groups on Israel as well as Israeli military operations. On 12/24/06, Israel agreed to release 100 million US dollars in frozen Palestinian funds if Hamas could be passed over. A Palestinian suicide bomber killed three Israelis on Jan-

uary 29. On February 9, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fatah) signed a deal to form a government of national unity. As a reaction and with backing from the USA, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced that his government would not work with the new government until it recognized Israel, a key demand that Hamas refused. After continued rocket attacks on Israel territory, Israel launched several raids into Gaza and the West Bank in May. On May 17, Israeli troops moved into Gaza, backed by tanks and artillery. In three weeks of clashes, about 50 Palestinians were killed. During the operation, on May 25, Israel detained more than 30 senior Hamas officials, including the Palestinian education minister. On June 5, the Palestinian cabinet proposed a ceasefire to stop all rocket attacks, but without effect as Hamas took over Gaza with military force. Subsequently, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah swore in a new emergency government under Prime Minister Salam Fayyad in the West Bank that excluded Hamas on June 17 [→ Israel (Fatah - Hamas)]. On June 26, the Middle East Quartet, consisting of the EU, the UN, the USA, and Russia, met in Jerusalem to support the new Palestinian emergency government. On July 1, Israel transferred 117 million US dollars of funds to the emergency cabinet and, on July 20, released 250 Palestinian prisoners. After Hamas took over power in Gaza, cross-border rocket attacks from the Gaza strip into Israeli territory continued on a regular basis. On August 20, six Hamas members were killed in an Israeli air strike. 69 Israeli soldiers in an army camp were injured by a rocket attack from Gaza strip on September 9. Later that month, Israel declared the Gaza strip a hostile entity and cut off electricity and fuel supplies. A two-day conference planned by the USA in order to renew the peace process began in Annapolis on November 27. The conference addressed unresolved issues such as the borders of Israel, the new state of Palestine, Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, and Palestinian refugees. The parties set a target date for an agreement for December 2008. While Saudi Arabia and Syria participated for the first time, Hamas was not invited. On December 1, five Hamas fighters were killed and three people injured in an Israeli air strike on the southern Gaza Strip, east of Khan Younis. The attack raised the number of people killed by the Israeli military in Gaza since the start of the peace talks in Annapolis to eleven. (hl)

Israel - Lebanon

Intensity: 3	Change: ↘	Start: 1967
Conflict Parties:	Israel vs. Lebanon	
Conflict Items:	Territory, international power	

The conflict concerning international power and the territory of the Shebaa farms between Israel and Lebanon de-escalated. After UN Resolution 1701 had come into force, Israel withdrew its army from Lebanon territory in August 2006 and stopped attacks against Hezbollah, operating from Lebanese territory [→ Israel (Hezbollah)]. Despite the deployment of UNIFIL troops, monitoring compliance with the resolution, Israel intensified military flights over the Lebanon border. As Lebanon

considered several incidents to be violations of its border, the conflict parties exchanged gunfire at the border on several occasions. For instance, when an Israeli bulldozer crossed a security fence near the Israeli village of Avivim, Lebanese troops opened fire, returned by Israel. On February 21, Lebanon fired anti-aircraft rounds against Israeli jet fighters violating Lebanon's airspace. In March, UNIFIL, Israel and Lebanon held a tripartite meeting to avoid further escalation and to discuss the implementation of Resolution 1701. However, border violations and exchanges of fire continued. (tz, ho)

Lebanon (Hezbollah, Fatah al-Islam)

Intensity: 4	Change: ↗	Start: 1975
Conflict Parties:	Hezbollah, Fatah al-Islam vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The system and national power conflict between Fatah al-Islam, Hezbollah and the government continued. In early December 2006, hundreds of thousands of supporters of Hezbollah and its pro-Syrian allies held a mass rally in Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, to protest against the government. Several thousands set up tents outside Prime Minister Fouad Siniora's office. On May 19, Lebanese troops and Islamist militants from Fatah al-Islam clashed in Tripoli. More than 20 soldiers, 20 militants, and an unconfirmed number of civilians were killed. Fatah al-Islam, led by Shaker al-Abssi, split from the Palestinian group Fatah al-Intifada late in 2006, and was based in Palestinian refugee camp Nahr al-Bared. On May 22, the army surrounded Nahr al-Bared and attacked the camp with artillery and tank fire. During the first three days alone, some 80 people were killed. The siege lasted 105 days, until the army stormed the camp on September 2. Nearly 400 soldiers and militants died in the fighting and 40,000 people were displaced in the worst outbreak of violence since Lebanon's civil war. On June 3, additional clashes erupted between soldiers and Islamist militants at Ain al-Hilweh, another Palestinian refugee camp. Two days later, the UN launched an urgent appeal to help the estimated 27,000 Palestinians who had fled the camp. The same day, two Lebanese Red Cross workers were killed while evacuating civilians. Lebanese authorities charged 20 people with terrorism in connection with their alleged membership of Fatah al-Islam on August 5. On November 16, UN chief Ban Ki-moon urged Lebanese MPs to elect a new president on time. On November 24, the term of Lebanon's President ended with no successor having been elected, and a bitter dispute over who was in power. Before Emile Lahoud, former Lebanese President, left the presidential palace he issued an order authorizing the army to take control. Lebanon's parliament postponed electing a new president to December 7. (ho)

Morocco (POLISARIO Front/Western Sahara)

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1975
Conflict Parties:	POLISARIO Front vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Secession	

The manifest conflict between the POLISARIO Front and Morocco concerning the secession of Western Sahara

remained unsolved. On April 4, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1754, calling on the two parties to hold unconditional talks. At a meeting in New York on June 18, representatives of both parties held a first round of talks, which yielded no results. Negotiations continued on August 11. While the Moroccan government suggested a limited autonomy for the territory, the POLISARIO Front insisted on a referendum on self-determination. On August 15, negotiations were suspended without any results. They were to be continued, but no date nor location was fixed. The UN Security Council extended the UN mission MINURSO for a further six months on October 31. (sw)

Saudi Arabia (Islamists)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 1990
Conflict Parties:	Islamists vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, national power	

The conflict concerning national power and the orientation of the political system between militant Islamists, supposedly belonging to al-Qaeda, and the government continued on a violent level. On 12/12/06, Saudi authorities announced the police had detained 136 suspected militants during the past few months. Among the suspects were alleged members of al-Qaeda as well. On February 2, four French nationals were shot dead near an archeological site. Saudi officials treated the incident as a terrorist attack by radical Islamists. On April 6, security forces killed a man suspected of the murder of the four Frenchmen. He was one of the most wanted Islamist militants in Saudi Arabia. Saudi security forces arrested 172 terror suspects in a series of raids, including some foreign nationals, on April 27. The police also seized large amounts of weapons and over 32 million US dollars in cash. The authorities claimed to have foiled a plot by militants to carry out suicide air attacks on oil installations and military bases. On November 28, Saudi authorities announced the police had arrested 208 suspected militants and al-Qaeda fighters plotting assassinations and an attack on a logistical oil facility. The suspects were comprised of six cells. The men had been arrested over the past few months in various parts of the country. (hl)

Syria - Israel

Intensity: 3	Change: ↗	Start: 1967
Conflict Parties:	Syria vs. Israel	
Conflict Items:	Territory, other	

The conflict between Syria and Israel for the return of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights escalated to a crisis. On April 4, Syria's President Bashar al-Assad assured Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, during her visit in Damascus that he was ready to resume peace talks with Israel. On June 6, Israel confirmed that it had sent secret messages to Syria concerning the possibility of renewing peace negotiations. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert urged Syria on July 10 to restart direct peace talks between the two countries. However, Syria's air defenses opened fire on Israeli war planes violating Syrian airspace on September 6.

Syria lodged a formal complaint with the UN on September 12. On October 2, Israel confirmed that it had carried out an attack on a Syrian military installation. The Institute for Science and International Security published pictures of what it believed to be a Syrian nuclear reactor under construction, targeted by the Israeli air strike. On November 24, Syrian lawmaker Mohammed Habash announced that Syria would "almost certainly" send a representative to the Middle East peace conference, held at Annapolis (USA) on November 27, since the USA had made it clear that the status of the Golan Heights would be on the agenda. (hl)

Syria - Lebanon

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1976
Conflict Parties:	Syria vs. Lebanon	
Conflict Items:	International power	

The manifest conflict between Syria and Lebanon over international power continued undiminished. Lebanon accused the Syrian intelligence service of being behind attacks on Lebanese politicians and journalists who criticized Syrian influence in Lebanon. Syria denied any involvement. On February 6, the UN Security Council approved a plan by the Lebanese government to install an international tribunal to try suspects in the killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in 2005, but rivalries of religious factions stopped its ratification. On March 27, the UN Security Council extended the mandate of the commission investigating Hariri's murder by another 12 months. On May 30, the UN Security Council approved the creation of a tribunal to try suspects in the Hariri murder case and subsequent politically motivated attacks. Syria criticized this decision and once more denied any responsibility for the attack. The Special Tribunal for Lebanon was installed on June 10. Three days later, anti-Syrian Lebanese MP Walid Eido was killed together with nine others in a bomb blast in Beirut, the capital of Lebanon. Syria rejected accusations of being responsible for this attack. In the first days of August, the US administration froze the assets of persons suspected of undermining the Lebanese government. On September 19, a bomb blast killed seven, among them anti-Syrian Lebanese MP Antoine Ghanem. Syria again denied responsibility for the attack. On October 30, the Lebanese parliamentary majority leader, Saad al-Hariri, declared that he had information on Syrian plans to assassinate him and current Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora. The next day, the Syrian government denied any such intentions. (kv)

Syria - USA

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 2003
Conflict Parties:	Syria vs. USA	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology, international power	

The manifest conflict between Syria and the USA over armament control and US influence in Lebanon continued. The USA accused Syria of systematically destabilizing Lebanon, and demanded that Syria cooperate in the UN investigation of the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in 2005. From the

start, Syria denied any involvement. On March 12, Syria called for a dialogue with the USA on all matters relating to the Middle East. The USA ordered on August 3 the freezing of assets of anyone suspected of destabilizing Lebanon. On November 24, Syria announced its intention to send a representative to the Middle East peace conference to be held at Annapolis (USA) on November 27 [→ Syria - Israel; Israel (PNA, al-Fatah, Hamas/Palestine)]. (hl)

Turkey (PKK/KONGRA-GEL/Kurdish areas)

Intensity: 4	Change: •	Start: 1920
Conflict Parties:	PKK/KONGRA-GEL vs. government	
Conflict Items:	Autonomy	

The severe crisis concerning autonomy between the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK/KONGRA-GEL) and the government continued. On May 22, a bomb explosion near a bus stop in the capital, Ankara, killed at least six and injured 100. At least 14 people were injured by a bomb explosion in Istanbul on June 10. In early August, the government deployed 200,000 troops to the border with Kurdish northern Iraq. Turkey claimed that Kurdish militants took refuge on Iraqi soil. In August, at least one soldier and three civilians were killed and some 30 soldiers and civilians were wounded when roadside bombs exploded near the border. In addition, approx. five soldiers and 20 PKK/KONGRA-GEL fighters were killed in combat actions. On August 24, ten people died and four were injured by a bomb explosion in Diyarbakir in southeastern Turkey. 10,000 troops launched an offensive against the PKK/KONGRA-GEL in that area in mid-September. 20 militants and three soldiers were killed. The PKK/KONGRA-GEL committed two bomb attacks in Izmir, western Turkey, killing one person and injuring a dozen others on October 2. The same month, 35 soldiers and more than 110 militants were killed in Turkish operations. After Kurdish fighters had shot dead 13 Turkish soldiers in Sirnak province, parliament approved military action against PKK/KONGRA-GEL fighters in northern Iraq on October 18 [→ Turkey – Iraq]. 17 soldiers and more than 32 PKK/KONGRA-GEL fighters were killed in a PKK/KONGRA-GEL operation on October 21. The PKK/KONGRA-GEL kidnapped eight soldiers. Subsequently, the army attacked PKK/KONGRA-GEL hideouts in the border area, leaving 34 dead. On November 16, Turkish prosecutors opened a court case against the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Party (DTP) after it had called for autonomy for the southeast region. On November 28, Turkey's cabinet authorized the army to enter Iraq in pursuit of PKK/KONGRA-GEL militants. The next day, the army fired on a group of approx. 50-60 PKK/KONGRA-GEL fighters inside Iraq's borders to the southeast of the Turkish town of Cukurca in Hakkari province. (dl)

Turkey - Iraq

Intensity: 2	Change: •	Start: 1979
Conflict Parties:	Turkey vs. Iraq	
Conflict Items:	International power	

The conflict between Turkey and Iraq concerning inter-

national power remained manifest. In June, hundreds of Iraqi Kurds were forced to flee their homes when 30,000 Turkish soldiers launched attacks on Kurdish fighters in the Iraqi Kurdistan region [→ Turkey (PKK/KONGRA-GEL/Kurdish areas)]. In August, 200,000 Turkish troops moved to the border with Iraq. On August 7, Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri Maliki and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan agreed that Iraq would root out members of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK/KONGRA-GEL). On August 28, the joint Kurdish parliament in northern Iraq signed a memorandum condemning Iran and Turkey for bombing Kurdish villages [→ Iran - Iraq; Iran (PJAK/Kurdish areas)]. On September 28, Turkey and Iraq established an anti-terrorism deal, short of allowing Turkish troops cross-border operations against PKK/KONGRA-GEL. The Turkish government claimed 4,000 PKK/KONGRA-GEL militants were operating from Iraqi territory. On October 18, the Turkish parliament approved military action against PKK/KONGRA-GEL fighters in northern Iraq. Erdogan called on Iraq to close PKK/KONGRA-GEL camps and offices in northern Iraq and to hand over militant leaders. On October 22, US President George W. Bush assured Turkey that he was pressuring Iraq to stop Kurdish militant attacks in order to avoid a destabilization of Iraqi Kurdistan. On November 28, Turkey's cabinet authorized the army to enter Iraq in pursuit of PKK/KONGRA-GEL militants. (dl)

Yemen (Believing Youth Movement)

Intensity: 3	Change: •	Start: 2004
Conflict Parties:	Believing Youth Movement vs. government	
Conflict Items:	System/ideology	

The system conflict between the banned Believing Youth Movement, seeking to replace Yemen's government with an Islamic theocracy, and the government continued as a crisis. While the majority in Yemen is Sunni, the Believing Youth Movement consists of Shia extremists. On January 18, 45 Jewish villagers had to flee from masked gunmen belonging to the Believing Youth. Six soldiers were killed and 20 injured in attacks by Shiite militants in northern Yemen on 28 January. The attacks on military and security forces' bases in Saada province were led by prominent Shiite militant Abel Malek al-Houthi. At least 80 Shiite rebels and 40 soldiers were killed in battles in northern Yemen in early February. Shiite militants killed two foreign students in an attack on a religious school in a restive region on March 26. On April 7, unidentified attackers bombed a mosque in northern Yemen, injuring about 30 people. Yemeni security forces arrested a man apparently responsible for the attack. Two assailants had burst into the mosque during Friday prayers, spraying worshippers with petrol before setting them alight. On June 16, Shiite rebels in Yemen accepted a ceasefire proposed by the government in order to end violence. Nine people were killed in a suicide bombing on a tourist convoy on July 2. Seven Spanish tourists and at least two Yemenis died in the blast at the Queen of Sheba temple in Marib. This attack was among the worst in Yemen since 2000. (im)

CONIS

The CONIS database contains all the data the Conflict Barometer is based on. CONIS comprises information on all forms of inter- and intrastate political conflicts from 1945 until today. It aims with more than 12.000 conflict-year data on comprehending the dynamics of conflict and war. CONIS was developed on the basis of KOSIMO in the course of two research projects at the University of Heidelberg co-financed by the European Union and in collaboration with the HIIK. More information on CONIS, containing data on affected countries, conflict parties, conflict items, and annual intensities, can be accessed at www.conis.uni-heidelberg.de.

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