

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

CONFLICT BAROMETER 2008

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

17th 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 'COSIMO' (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 2008 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.

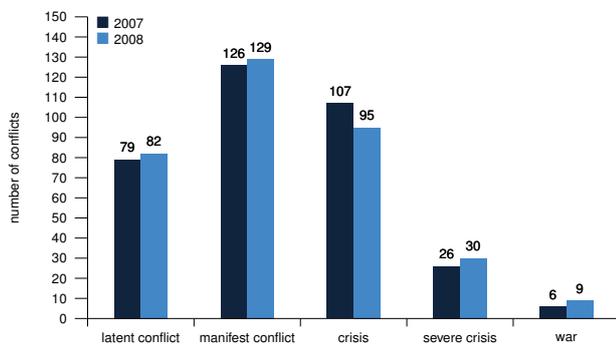
Editorial deadline: November 30, 2008

Global Conflict Panorama

Global Development

A total of 345 conflicts was counted in 2008. Apart from the 39 conflicts fought out with the use of a massive amount of violence, 95 conflicts were conducted with sporadic use of violence and therefore classified as crises. In contrast, 211 non-violent conflicts were counted, which could be subdivided into 129 manifest and 82 latent conflicts. Compared to the previous year, the number of conflicts remained almost the same (344 in 2007 and 345 in 2008).

Global Conflict Intensities in 2008 compared to 2007



The total number of non-violent conflicts rose by six, while the number of crises decreased by twelve. However, after a relatively peaceful year 2007, the number of highly violent conflicts rose once more in 2008. Nine wars and 30 severe crises were counted, amounting to 39 highly violent conflicts, as compared to six wars and 26 severe crises, i.e. a total of 32 highly violent conflicts, in 2007. Four of the wars had already been fought out on this intensity level in 2007: Afghanistan (Taliban), Sudan (Darfur), Somalia (UIC), and Sri Lanka (LTTE). All of the four had already been wars in 2006; the conflict in Darfur was actually carried out as a war for the fifth year running, indicating a hardening and self-perpetuation of massive violence. Four of the remaining five wars of 2008 had been severe crises in 2007: Chad (various rebel groups), Iraq (al-Sadr group), Pakistan (Islamists), and Turkey (PKK/KONGRA-GEL / Kurdish areas). Their escalation to wars indicated an intensification of already massive violence. Only in the case of Russia vs. Georgia, a hitherto non-violent but nevertheless tense conflict escalated to a rather short war. The two wars in 2007 which did not continue on this level of intensity in 2008, i.e. Iraq (insurgents) and Pakistan (North and South Waziristan), slightly deescalated to the level of severe crises. The overall number of severe crises increased by four in 2008. While two of these had been wars in 2007 (see above) and twelve had already been severe crises, 14 escalated from the level of a crisis, and two from the level of a manifest conflict. Both of these were located in sub-Saharan Africa: In Kenya, opposition protests against alleged election

fraud sparked nationwide ethnic clashes continuing for weeks which caused 1,500 fatalities [→ Kenya (opposition)]; in Nigeria, a disputed local chairmanship election resulted in two days of massacres between Christians and Muslims, leaving at least 400 people dead [→ Nigeria (Christians - Muslims)]. Those of last year's severe crises that neither escalated to wars nor remained on this intensity level all (ten) deescalated to the level of a crisis, i.e. remained violent despite deescalation.

The total number of conflicts rose by one, as five conflicts ended in 2007 and six new conflicts emerged in 2008. In addition, four conflicts were considered to have ended in 2008. In Europe, one conflict ended in 2008, as Macedonia and the self-proclaimed independent republic of Kosovo settled their territorial dispute [→ Macedonia (Kosovo)]. In Africa, one conflict had ended in 2007, and a new violent conflict arose in 2008. Two conflicts ended in 2008, one of them in Angola, where the first elections in 16 years were clearly won by the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). The main opposition party and former rebel group Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) accepted its defeat, thereby ending a decades-long conflict that had been fought out with a huge amount of violence. In Chad, the rebel group Movement for Democracy and Justice (MDJT), which had actively fought the government from 1998 to 2003 [→ Chad (MDJT), joined ranks with several other rebel groups fighting the government since 2005 [→ Chad (various rebel groups)]. Two territorial disputes in the Americas ended in 2007 due to international court rulings, i.e. the conflicts between Guyana and Suriname, and Honduras and Nicaragua, respectively. Four new conflicts emerged in 2008, all of which were intrastate and turned violent in the very year of their

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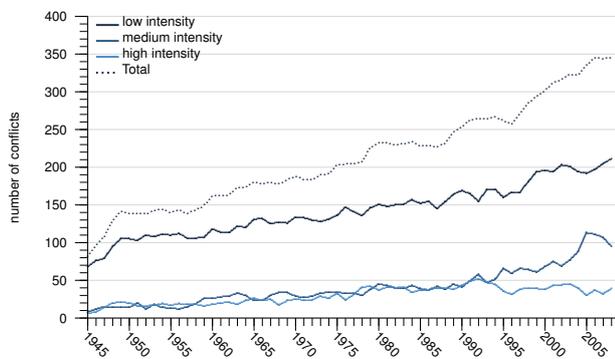
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beginning [→ Chile (Mapuche); Nicaragua (various opposition groups); Panama (opposition); Peru (opposi-

tion)]. One conflict in the Americas was considered to have ended in 2008. In Asia and Oceania, two conflicts had ended in 2007, i.e. Singapore (Malays) and Vietnam (KKNLF). In the Middle East and Maghreb, no conflict ended either in 2007 or 2008, and no new conflict broke out in 2008.

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 graph below 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. Most of the conflicts are low-intensity conflicts. Regarding high-intensity conflicts, a continuous and - for the most part - regular increase, interrupted by minor phases of deescalation is evident.

Global Conflicts of low, medium and high Intensity 1945 to 2008



The all-time high was reached with 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, then decreased to 32 in 2007, and finally rose again to 39 in 2008 – the highest number since 2004. The number of crises had soared to previously unknown heights in recent years, peaking with 113 in 2005. However, this trend was reversed in 2006, with the number of crises decreasing again, now for the third year. Nevertheless, the number of crises remained on a very high level.

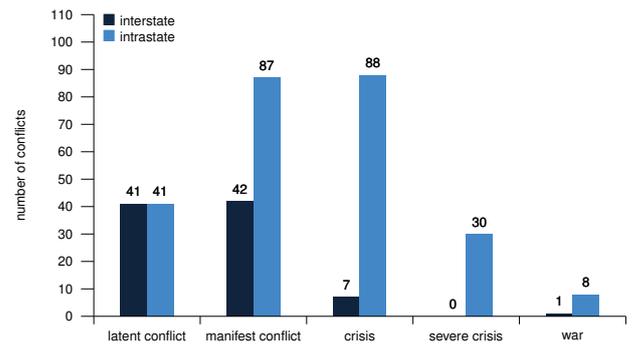
Analysis intrastate - interstate

With 254 intrastate and 91 interstate cases, respectively, more than two thirds of the conflicts monitored in 2008 were internal conflicts, as in the past years.

As only eight out of 91 of the interstate conflicts were conducted with the use of violence, intrastate conflicts accounted for the vast majority of violent and especially highly violent conflicts.

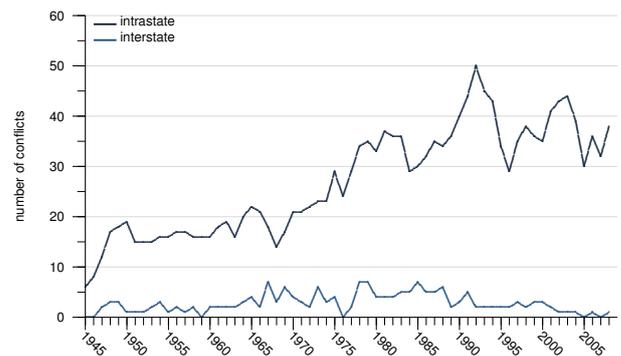
While 88 of the 95 crises were intrastate, seven interstate crises were observed: Armenia - Azerbaijan, Chad - Sudan, Eritrea - Djibouti, Israel - Lebanon,

Number of Intra- and Interstate Conflicts in 2008 by Intensity Level



Pakistan - India, Thailand - Cambodia (border), and USA - Pakistan. Two of these, i.e. Armenia - Azerbaijan, and Chad - Sudan, had already been crises in 2006 and 2007, while Israel - Lebanon had already been a crisis in 2007, and a severe crisis in 2006. Eight of the nine wars as well as all of the 30 severe crises were conducted within a state.

Intra- and Interstate Conflicts of high Intensity 1945 to 2008

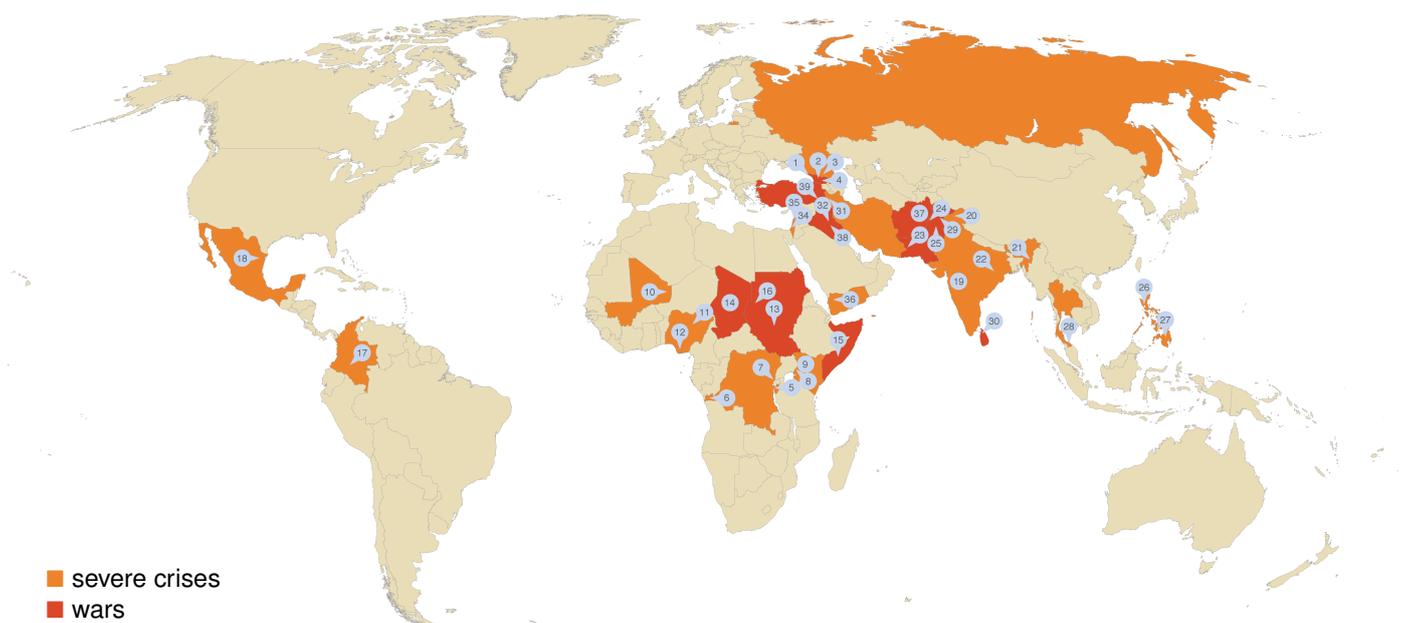


Only one of the highly violent conflicts, the short war between Russia and Georgia, was fought out between two states, constituting the first war between two states since the 2003 war between the USA and Iraq. The last severe crisis between two states had been carried out between Israel and Lebanon in 2006, while no highly violent conflict had been interstate in 2007. Long-term analysis, for which both high-intensity categories, i.e. severe crisis and war, were summarized in one group, clearly shows that the predominance of highly violent intrastate conflicts is observable from the very beginning of the examination period.

Regional Development

As in the previous year, almost a third of all conflicts (111) were located in Asia and Oceania. Africa ranked second with 79, Europe third with 65, the Middle East and Maghreb fourth with 47, and the Americas fifth with 43. Asia and Oceania also accounted for the largest number of non-violent conflicts with 68, as well as of crises with 31. Africa again came second with 30. Concerning highly violent conflicts, these two regions ranked

World Map: High-Intensity Violent Conflicts in 2008



The countries affected by conflicts are marked according to the highest intensity.

Legend

Name and conflict item(s)

Europe - severe crises

- 1 Georgia (Abkhazia) - secession
- 2 Georgia (South Ossetia) - secession
- 3 Russia (Islamist rebels/Ingushetia) - secession, system/ideology

Europe - wars

- 4 Russia - Georgia - international power

Sub-Saharan Africa - severe crises

- 5 Burundi (Palipehutu-FNL Rwaswa) - national power
- 6 DR Congo (Bundu dia Kongo) - autonomy, system/ideology
- 7 DR Congo (CNDP) - regional predominance, resources, other
- 8 Kenya (opposition) - national power
- 9 Kenya (SLDF) - regional predominance
- 10 Mali (Tuareg/Kidal) - autonomy, resources
- 11 Nigeria (Christians - Muslims) - system/ideology
- 12 Nigeria (MEND, Ijaw/Niger Delta) - regional predominance, resources
- 13 Sudan (SPLM/A / South Sudan) - territory, secession, resources

Sub-Saharan Africa - wars

- 14 Chad (various rebel groups) - national power
- 15 Somalia (UIC) - system/ideology, national power
- 16 Sudan (Darfur) - regional predominance, resources

The Americas - severe crises

- 17 Colombia (FARC) - system/ideology, regional predominance, resources
- 18 Mexico (drug cartels) - regional predominance, resources

Asia and Oceania - severe crises

- 19 India (Islamists) - system/ideology
- 20 India (Kashmir) - secession
- 21 India (MPLF, ZRA, KCP/Manipur) - secession
- 22 India (Naxalites) - system/ideology
- 23 Pakistan (BLA, BRA, BLF/Balochistan) - secession, resources
- 24 Pakistan (North and South Waziristan) - autonomy, system/ideology
- 25 Pakistan (Sunnites - Shiites) - system/ideology, regional predominance
- 26 Philippines (CPP, NPA) - system/ideology
- 27 Philippines (MILF/Mindanao) - autonomy, system/ideology, resources
- 28 Thailand (Muslim separatists/southern border provinces) - secession, system/ideology

Asia and Oceania - wars

- 29 Pakistan (Islamists) - system/ideology, national power
- 30 Sri Lanka (LTTE) - secession

The Middle East and Maghreb - severe crises

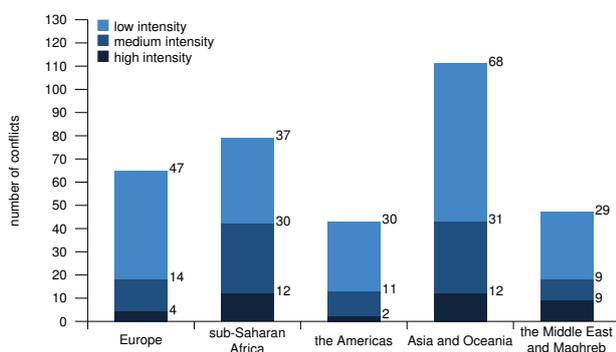
- 31 Iran (PJAK/Kurdish areas) - autonomy
- 32 Iraq (al-Zarqawi group/AQI) - system/ideology, national power
- 33 Iraq (insurgents) - system/ideology, national power
- 34 Israel (PNA, al-Fatah, Hamas/Palestine) - secession, system/ideology, resources
- 35 Lebanon (religious groups) - system/ideology, national power
- 36 Yemen (Believing Youth Movement) - system/ideology

The Middle East and Maghreb - wars

- 37 Afghanistan (Taliban) - system/ideology, national power
- 38 Iraq (al-Sadr group) - system/ideology, national power
- 39 Turkey (PKK/KONGRA-GEL / Kurdish areas) - autonomy

equally, both accounting for twelve high intensity conflicts each. However, while only two of Asia and Oceania's highly violent conflicts were wars, three wars were fought out in Africa. The Middle East and Maghreb came third with nine highly-violent conflicts, three of them wars. One war and three severe crises were observed in Europe, and two severe crises in the Americas. This ranking indicates a significant change from 2007 to 2008: On the one hand, the number of highly violent conflicts slightly decreased both in the Middle East and Maghreb (from ten to nine) and in the Americas (from three to two). On the other hand, it increased in Asia and Oceania (from ten to twelve) and in Africa (from nine to twelve). The most startling escalation was observed in Europe, with highly violent conflicts increasing from zero in 2007 to four in 2008. While last year's zero had been an all-time low reached for the first time since 1967, the four highly violent conflicts in Europe in 2008 mark the highest number since 1998. One of them, Russia (Islamist rebels/Ingushetia) was located in the northern Caucasus, which also had accounted for Europe's only recent long-lasting severe crisis up to 2006 [→ Russia (Islamist rebels/Chechnya)]. The other three highly violent conflicts of Europe were all fought out on Georgian soil [→ Georgia (Abkhazia); Georgia (South Ossetia); Russia - Georgia].

Distribution of all Conflicts in 2008 by Region and Intensity Type



If the number of conflicts is related to the number of states in a region, the Middle East and Maghreb ranked first both in terms of the average number of conflicts and specifically of highly violent conflicts per state (2.2 and 0.4, respectively). Asia and Oceania ranked second with regard to conflicts in general, and third regarding high-intensity conflicts. Africa ranked second where highly violent conflicts were concerned, and third regarding conflicts in general. From this point of view, neither Asia and Oceania nor Africa was the most conflict-ridden region, or that affected worst by massive violence, but the Middle East and Maghreb. In both respects, Europe and the Americas were the world's most peaceful regions.

Dynamics within individual Conflicts

As in the previous years, approx. two thirds of all conflicts, i.e. 227 out of 345, remained on the same level

of intensity from 2007 to 2008. A total of 65 conflicts deescalated, all apart from one by one level only. Two deescalated from wars to severe crises [→ Iraq (insurgents); Pakistan (North and South Waziristan)], ten from severe crises to crises, among them Myanmar (opposition) and Lebanon (Fatah al-Islam). In these cases violence merely eased. Nevertheless, in 32 conflicts violence ceased for the duration of the period under examination at least. For instance, the crisis involving opposition and government in Chile deescalated by two levels to a latent conflict, and 31 crises eased to manifest conflicts, e.g. Georgia (opposition) and Syria – Israel. The remaining 20 conflicts deescalating by one level all went from manifest to latent conflicts.

| Change of intensity | Number |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Escalation by four levels | 0 |
| Escalation by three levels | 1 |
| Escalation by two levels | 8 |
| Escalation by one level | 38 |
| No change | 227 |
| Deescalation by one level | 64 |
| Deescalation by two levels | 1 |
| Deescalation by three levels | 0 |
| Deescalation by four levels | 0 |

In contrast to the 65 deescalating cases, 47 conflicts escalated. However, all but eight of these conflicts either crossed the threshold of violence, or the violence intensified. One case, the conflict between Russia and Georgia, saw an escalation by three levels, from a manifest conflict to a war. In addition, eight conflicts escalated by two levels: Two escalated from non-violent manifest conflicts to severe crises, i.e. Kenya (opposition) and Nigeria (Christians – Muslims). Six conflicts escalated from the lowest intensity level to crises: three intrastate conflicts, i.e. Colombia (various indigenous groups), Algeria (Berber/Kabylia), and Yemen (Islamic Jihad), as well as three interstate conflicts, namely Eritrea – Djibouti, Thailand – Cambodia (border), and USA - Pakistan. Furthermore, only eight out of 38 conflicts escalating by one level remained non-violent, that is, escalated from latent to manifest conflicts. In the remaining 30 cases, conflict conduct either turned violent or the violence intensified. Four escalated from severe crises to wars: Iraq (al-Sadr group), Turkey (PKK/KONGRA-GEL / Kurdish areas), Pakistan (Islamists), and Chad (various rebel groups). Fourteen conflicts intensified from crises to severe crises, and twelve turned from non-violent manifest conflicts to crises. Among the latter were the struggles between opposition and government in Armenia, Burundi, Nepal, and Thailand, as well as the border conflict between Pakistan and India.

Conflict Items

As in the years before, the most frequent conflict item in 2008 was system/ideology, with 107 cases. This item signifies that the respective conflicts 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. National power ranked second with 74, followed by resources with 71 cases. It must be noted that conflicts very often involve more than one item. Therefore, one and the same conflict may feature twice or more 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. While conflicts over territory as well as those over international power were conducted without the use of violence in a large number of cases (46 of 53 and 32 of 38, respectively), conflicts over national power, regional predominance, secession or autonomy, resources, and system/ideology were violent in about half of the cases observed. About one fifth (20) of the conflicts concerning system/ideology were even fought out with the use of massive violence, making this item the most important one in highly violent conflicts: With 20, more than half of the 39 high-intensity conflicts were fought out over questions of system or ideology, alone or in combination with other items. The second most important items in high-intensity conflicts were national power, resources, and secession with ten cases each.

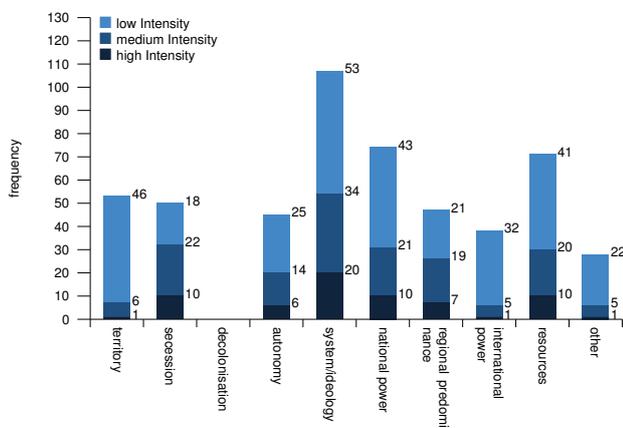
conflicts) and also important in Asia and Oceania (24 cases) as well as in the Middle East and Maghreb (15 cases). It was, however, comparatively rare in the Americas (six cases) and Europe (five cases). Equally, the item ranking third in global terms, resources, was prevalent in Africa (29 cases), where many conflicts were fueled by natural resources exploited by rebel groups, and the Americas (20 cases), but rare in Europe (six cases), Asia and Oceania (eleven cases), and in the Middle East and Maghreb (five cases). Another notable difference was that conflicts over regional predominance, a very violence-prone item, were fought out primarily in Africa (18 cases) as well as Asia and Oceania (22 cases), whereas this item was unknown in Europe (zero cases) and very rare in the Middle East and Maghreb (one case). In the Americas, it was not very frequent (six cases), but nevertheless important, as it accounted for both high-intensity conflicts in this region. Conflicts over self-determination, i.e. over autonomy or secession, were prevalent in Europe (14 and 20, respectively) and common in Asia and Oceania (15 and 18, respectively), but not too frequent in Africa (both nine), and quite rare both in the Americas (three and one) as well as in the Middle East and Maghreb (four and two).

Coups d'État

While only one coup had been attempted - and failed - in 2007, on the Philippines, three attempted or successful coups were observed in 2008. In Mauritania, the military overthrew President Mohamed Abdallahi, the country's first democratically elected leader. Abdallahi had taken office after the first elections following the 2005 military coup d'état against the then president, Maaouiya Ould Taya [→ Mauritania (coup plotters)]. In Guinea-Bissau, two alleged coup attempts against the government of President João Bernardo Vieira failed. The authorities announced on August 6 to have uncovered a coup plot by a group of officers led by Admiral José Américo Bubo Na Tchute, head of the navy. In another attempted coup in Guinea-Bissau, a group of soldiers opened fire on Vieira's residence early on November 23. In the following hour-long gun battle between Vieira's presidential guard and the attackers - among them some members of the presidential guard -, one person was killed and several others injured. The same day, Guinea-Bissau's neighbor and close ally Senegal sent troop reinforcements to the common border, and offered a plane in case an airlift of Vieira and his family became necessary. The UN, EU, and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) condemned the coup attempt. On November 24, the authorities arrested Sergeant N'Tacha Yala, a nephew of opposition leader Kumba Yala of the Social Renewal Party, as the alleged leader of the soldiers carrying out the attack.

In addition to these coups, Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan claimed to have uncovered a coup plot by a network of hard-line nationalists and secularists called Ergenekon. Investigators suspected the group of planning terrorist acts meant to provoke an

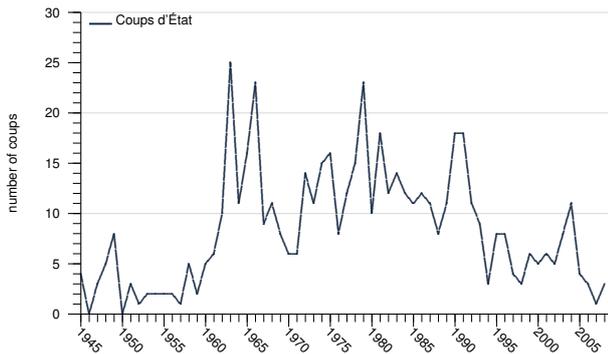
Global Frequency of Conflict Items in 2008 by Intensity Groups



Concerning the frequency of the various items, there are remarkable differences between the various regions of the world, indicating different regional patterns of conflicts. System/Ideology, the most frequent item in total, was the prevalent item in Asia and Oceania (38 cases, i.e. a third of conflicts), in the Middle East and Maghreb (27 items, i.e. more than half), and in the Americas (24 cases, also more than half of the conflicts). In contrast, this item was of minor importance in Europe (12), and almost unknown in Africa (six cases). It is nevertheless noteworthy that its proneness to violence was visible in all regions – e.g., five of the six system conflicts in Africa were carried out violently, three of them even with a massive amount of violence. The second most frequent item on a global scale, national power, was significant in Africa (25 cases, i.e. one third of this region's

army takeover in Turkey, which had experienced three successful military coups between 1960 and 1980. At the time, tensions had been rising in the country, with the Constitutional Court considering a case against AKP over alleged anti-secular activities. On July 14, 86 people, including leading figures from the army, business, and the secular press, were indicted for - among other things - allegedly forming an armed terror group and attempting to overthrow the government by force.

Coups d'État and Attempted Coups d'État 1945 to 2008



Terrorism

Terrorism remained an important measure of conflict conduct in 2008. The vast majority of this year's terrorist attacks could be attributed to distinct conflicts according to the HIIK methodology. Here, different patterns of terrorism could be distinguished: On the one hand, terrorist means were used by local actors to pursue secular aims, such as self-determination or national power. In 2008, this was the case e.g. in Spain with ETA trying to force the Spanish government to grant the Basque provinces independence [→ Spain (ETA/Basque provinces)], in Northern Ireland [→ United Kingdom (IRA et. al/Northern Ireland)], or on the French island of Corsica, where separatists bombed public buildings as well as holiday homes of non-Corsicans [→ France (FLNC/Corsica)]. In these conflicts, both the scope of the means employed as well as the resulting damage were relatively small. Terrorist attacks by secular local groups caused large damage in other parts of the world, e.g. in Mexico [→ Mexico (drug cartels)] and Sri Lanka [→ Sri Lanka (LTTE)].

On the other hand, the transnational terrorist network al-Qaeda and its affiliated groups, motivated by fundamentalist religious faith, committed numerous attacks of varying scale which caused scores of casualties and severe damage. One of the most serious single assaults was the coordinated attack on various hotels, a railway station, and other public places in the Indian city of Mumbai, claiming almost 200 lives. The attackers seemed to have come from Pakistan, where al-Qaeda-related Islamist insurgents waged a full-scale war against the government, often employing terrorist tactics such as suicide attacks. Pakistan was a major refuge of Taliban

from Afghanistan and their supporters as well as Islamist insurgents from Uzbekistan. Pakistan's northwestern tribal regions were home to indigenous pro-Taliban militants, some of whom now oppose the growing Taliban influence. Pakistani counterinsurgency operations [→ Pakistan (Islamists); Pakistan (North and South Waziristan)] continued on a highly violent level. The fighting caused more than 300,000 people to flee. US forces repeatedly entered Pakistani territory in order to target Taliban positions [→ Afghanistan (Taliban)]. During one of these operations, a violent incident between US and Pakistani troops occurred [→ Pakistan - USA].

In Afghanistan, terrorist attacks by Taliban forces on government and international troops as well as civilians rose. Iraq remained the country where the population had to suffer the highest number of terrorist attacks in the Middle East and Maghreb, conducted by several insurgent groups including al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). Besides Afghanistan and Iraq, al-Qaeda was also active in Algeria, under the name of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). While AQIM and AQI were partly contained and lost strength in Iraq and Algeria, AQIM spread to other Maghreb countries such as Mauritania. Also, militant groups affiliated to al-Qaeda conducted terrorist assaults in other countries, e.g. Fatah al-Islam in Lebanon and Syria, and the Islamic Jihad and the Yemeni Soldiers Brigade in Yemen.

Islamist terrorism was, however, not confined to Asia and the Middle East but continued to be a key feature of the secession conflicts in Russia's troubled North Caucasus republics [→ Russia (Islamist rebels/Chechnya) et al.], where rebels increasingly resorted to terrorist warfare aiming for the establishment of an independent Caucasian Emirate based on Islamic law. Among these conflicts, the Ingush one was the most violent this year.

In contrast, and unlike the previous years, western Europe did not see any Islamist terrorist attacks in 2008. Nevertheless, tensions remained high. In February, the German Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) announced that they suspected al-Qaeda of planning to commit further terrorist attacks in Germany. German federal police seized two suspected terrorists from a Dutch passenger aircraft at Cologne airport on September 29. Both suspects were later released due to lack of evidence. On December 9, a Lebanese man was sentenced to life in prison over failed plans to bomb passenger trains in Germany in July 2006. In Great Britain, five men were arrested under the Terrorism Act in a series of dawn raids across the Birmingham area. In November, a British secret intelligence report stated that the UK would remain "a high-priority target" for al-Qaeda for the foreseeable future. In Denmark, two men were sentenced to twelve and seven years in prison, respectively, for preparing a terrorist attack. In Spain, eleven Muslim men were accused of conspiring to blow up part of Barcelona's transport network. A further eight people were held in Spain on suspicion of helping Islamic militants.

The only terrorist attacks in 2008 that could not be attributed to a conflict according to the HIIK methodology were several bombings in the Somali autonomous

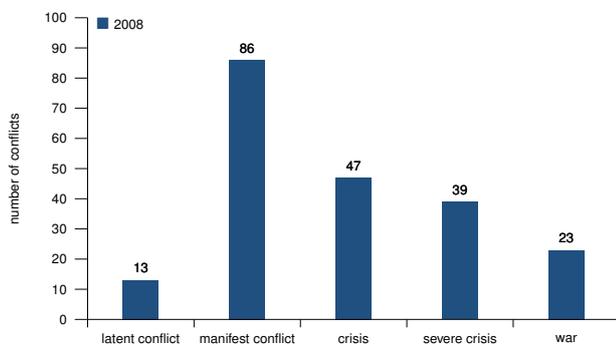
region Puntland and the Somali breakaway republic of Somaliland: On February 5, at least 20 to 100 people, mostly Ethiopian migrants, were killed in two bomb blasts in the coastal town of Bosaso in Puntland. On April 9, the Somaliland parliament was attacked with a bomb. In the most severe incident, on October 29, five synchronized bomb blasts hit Somaliland and Puntland. In Somaliland's capital, Hargeisa, suicide car bombers attacked the UN Development Program's compound, the presidential palace, and the Ethiopian embassy, killing at least 25. In Puntland's largest city, Bosaso, at least three people were killed when similar attacks targeted the intelligence headquarters. No group claimed responsibility. The USA blamed al-Qaeda, whereas Somaliland, on November 27, accused the Islamist al-Shabab militias, based in southern Somalia, of being behind the attacks [→ Somalia (UIC)].

Measures of Conflict Resolution

Negotiations and Treaties

In at least 77 of the current 345 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 208.

Number of Negotiations in '2008' by Intensity



At least 62 were held in highly violent conflicts, at least 57 in conflicts that were carried out with a low level of violence, and at least 89 in non-violent disputes. In Bolivia, the opposition and the government talked on at least 20 occasions and, finally, reached an agreement on October 20 which foresaw holding a constitutional referendum on 01/25/09 and elections in December 2009 [→ Bolivia (opposition)]. Several rounds of talks - at least ten each - were also held in Colombia - Ecuador, Greece - Macedonia, and Moldova (Transnistria), however, without resulting in agreements. In approx. half of the 77 conflicts where the parties negotiated, talks were also inconclusive. The conflict parties signed 52 treaties in 37 cases, twelve of those in sub-Saharan Africa, eleven in Europe, eight in Asia and Oceania, and six in the Middle East and Maghreb. The conflict parties in high-intensity conflicts signed 22 agreements, eleven of these being truces. Ten deals were reached in medium-intensity con-

flicts, and 20 in low-intensity conflicts.

The warring parties in the nine wars held no negotiations in three cases [→ Russia - Georgia; Sudan (Darfur); Sri Lanka (LTTE); Turkey (PKK/KONGRA-GEL/Kurdish areas)], and negotiated without reaching an agreement in two cases [→ Chad (various rebel groups); Afghanistan (Taliban)]. In the war between Islamist insurgents and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, several agreements were reached between different parties to the conflict [→ Somalia (UIC)]. In May, the TFG and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS), an opposition alliance of Islamists and other members of the opposition, based in Eritrea, began peace talks in Djibouti. Following UN-mediated talks from May 31 to June 9, ARS and TFG signed a peace deal. A hardliner faction of ARS, however, immediately rejected the peace deal, resulting in a split within ARS. New ceasefires and deals were signed on August 18, October 26, and November 26, reaffirming these agreements, the last of which added propositions for power-sharing. However, TFG President Abdullahi Yusuf as well as the militant Islamist group al-Shabaab and the ARS hardliner faction were not involved. Peace talks in Pakistan's Swat Valley in the North West Frontier Province in early May between pro-Taliban militant Maulana Fazlullah and the government of Pakistan led to a truce and a temporary deescalation only [→ Pakistan (Islamists)]. From November on, 2,000 people were killed in the heavy fighting. In Iraq, a truce between the al-Sadr group and the government on May 10 ended the fighting that had killed a total of up to 1,000 people and wounded at least 2,500 [→ Iraq (al-Sadr group)]. Internationally mediated negotiations also were held in the conflict between Russia and Georgia [→ Russia - Georgia].

International Organizations

The United Nations (UN) administered 20 missions. 17 of these were led by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the other three being political missions of the UN Department of Political Affairs organized or supported by the DPKO. The latter included the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) with a strength of 253 international civilian, 1,127 local civilian, 15 military observer, two police, and 40 UN volunteers; the UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) with 55 international civilian, 156 local civilian, five military observers, two police, and 18 UN volunteers; and the UN Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) with 117 international civilian, 229 local civilian, eight military observers, nine police, and 47 UN volunteers. UNIOSIL was succeeded by UNIPSIL. The peacekeeping missions amounted to a total of 90,243 personnel by October, consisting of 12,125 police, 75,512 troops, and 2,606 observers, after having reached a peak of 90,883 in January. This represented the highest number between 1995 and 2008. The same month in 2005, UN mission personnel had amounted to 65,050. In June 1999, a low of 12,084 had been reached. Pakistan (10,637 by October 2008), Bangladesh (9,610), and India (8,834), once again, contributed the largest number

of military and police personnel to UN operations, accounting for one third of UN peacekeepers, representing a continuation of the trend that the largest share of the peacekeeping burden was being shouldered by the Global South. This trend especially referred to UN missions in Africa. From this resulted a new divide between those who do the peacekeeping and those whose peace is kept, on the one hand, and those who fund and control the operations, on the other. By January, Germany contributed a maximum of 758 personnel to eight missions (UNAMA, UNAMID, UNIFIL, UNMEE, UNMIK, UNMIL, UNMIS, UNOMIG), 544 alone to UNIFIL. By October, these numbers had shrunk to 410 personnel in seven missions (the same except for UNMEE). By October 31, UN missions' fatalities amounted to a total of 109 in 2008, compared to 90 in 2007. Between 1948 and 2008, a total of 2,435 people died while deployed in a UN mission, 128 of these from India, 114 from Canada, 99 each from Pakistan and the UK, 98 from France, 94 from Nigeria, and 92 from Bangladesh. By January, the top ten providers of assessed financial contributions to UN peacekeeping missions were the USA, Japan, Germany, the UK, France, Italy, China, Canada, Spain, and the Republic of Korea. The UN General Assembly assigned the expenses based on a scale taking into account the member states' relative economic wealth, with the permanent members of the Security Council required to pay a larger share in line with their special responsibility. Many countries also voluntarily made additional resources available to support UN peacekeeping efforts on a non-reimbursable basis in the form of transportation, supplies, personnel, and financial contributions above and beyond their assessed share of peacekeeping costs. Apart from UNIPSIL, no new mission was deployed. However, the complex mission African Union/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) that had been approved by the UN Security Council on 07/31/07 formally began operations on 12/31/07 [→ Sudan (Darfur)]. By September 2008, UNAMID had not reached its authorized strength of up to 9,555 military personnel, and 6,432 police, but only a total of 10,461 uniformed personnel, including 8,287 troops. Fatalities added up to twelve troops, four police, and one local civilian. UNAMID represented an expression of the UN's goal of enhancing strategic partnerships with multilateral and regional organizations.

One mission, the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) came to an end in July, although tensions between the two countries concerning border demarcation had increased to the threat of a renewed military conflict in 2007 [→ Ethiopia - Eritrea]. UNMEE had been set up eight years before, in July 2000, to maintain liaison with the parties and establish a mechanism for verifying the ceasefire signed by Ethiopia and Eritrea following proximity talks led by Algeria and the Organization of African Unity. From September 2000 on, UNMEE had been authorized to monitor the cessation of hostilities and to help ensure the observance of security commitments.

As in previous years, sub-Saharan Africa constituted the region with the most UN missions, adding up to nine operations including UNMEE, i.e. the two political mis-

sions, BINUB in Burundi and UNIOSIL in Sierra Leone, MINURCAT in the Central African Republic and Chad, MONUC in the DR Congo, UNOCI in Côte d'Ivoire, UNMEE in Ethiopia and Eritrea, UNMIL in Liberia, UNMIS in Sudan, and UNAMID in Darfur, Sudan. Sub-Saharan Africa was followed by the Middle East and Maghreb with five concurrent UN missions, i.e. the political mission UNAMA in Afghanistan, UNTSO in Israel, UNDOF in the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria, UNIFIL in Lebanon, and MINURSO in Western Sahara, Morocco. Despite the overall number of conflicts and the high number of violent ones, the UN still deployed only two peacekeeping operations in Asia and Oceania (UNMOGIP in India and Pakistan, and UNMIT in Timor-Leste). 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. As in previous years, the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was the only UN mission in the Americas. 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 represented such measures. In 2008, the UN maintained eleven sanctions committees; the same as in 2007, compared to nine in 2006. These sanctions concerned, firstly, seven states in sub-Saharan Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Sudan). Secondly, the UN maintained an arms embargo against the DPR Korea introduced in 2006, and a further arms embargo as well as an assets freeze against senior officials of the former Iraqi regime and their immediate family members. Thirdly, a travel ban and assets freeze was in place against individuals suspected of involvement in the 2005 terrorist bombing that had killed Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 others, as well as against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and associated individuals and entities.

With regard to the weaponry used in conflict conduct, an international treaty was formally endorsed in Dublin, the capital of Ireland, on May 30, and opened for signature on December 3. The Convention on Cluster Munitions prohibited the use, the production, or acquisition of cluster bombs. It was to enter into force on the first day of the sixth month after the 30th ratification. The Oslo Process leading to the treaty had begun in the Norwegian capital in February 2007 and had been followed by a meeting in the capital of Peru, Lima, in May 2007. The principles to be included in the treaty were set forth in the final preliminary meeting in Wellington, New Zealand, on February 22. In November, the European Parliament passed a resolution calling on all EU governments to sign and ratify the Convention, as several EU countries had not yet declared their intention to do so. Finland had declared it would not sign. 92 countries signed the treaty, including all EU countries except Finland, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Greece, and Cyprus. Major producers of cluster munitions did not sign, including the USA, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, and Brazil. Cluster bombs are air-dropped or ground-launched munitions that eject a

number of smaller submunitions over a wide area; unexploded bomblets that are very costly to locate and remove can kill or maim civilians long after a violent conflict has ended. The general rules of international humanitarian law aimed at protecting civilians also apply to cluster bombs as to all weapons. However, cluster bombs had been used by Russia in the First Chechen War in 1995 and the Second Chechen War in 1999 [→ Russia (Islamist rebels/Chechnya)], by US and British NATO troops in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1999 [→ Serbia (Kosovo)], by the USA in Afghanistan in 2001 [→ Afghanistan (Taliban)], by Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon in 2006 [→ Israel (Hezbollah); Israel - Lebanon], and by Georgia in South Ossetia [→ Georgia (South Ossetia)], and according to Human Rights Watch also by Russia in Georgia [→ Russia - Georgia], both in August 2008.

Apart from the UN, several regional organizations maintained field missions in 2008, for instance the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) employed about 3,000 staff in a total of 18 missions and field operations to facilitate political processes, prevent or settle conflicts, and promote civil society and the rule of law. Among these were seven field missions in the Balkans, i.e. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo, Skopje (Macedonia), Zagreb (Croatia), one mission to Moldova, one to Georgia, field offices in Minsk (Belarus), Baku (Azerbaijan), Yerevan (Armenia), and Tajikistan, project coordinators in Ukraine and Uzbekistan, OSCE Centers in Ashgabad (Turkmenistan), Astana (Kazakhstan), and Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), as well as a Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference [→ Armenia - Azerbaijan]. In the wake of the August war between Russia and Georgia [→ Russia - Georgia], which represented a crisis for the hitherto existing cooperative security system in Europe, the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting late in 2008 gave new impetus to discussions on the OSCE's role. However, the ministers did not agree on a joint political declaration. A ministerial statement was nevertheless issued on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict [→ Armenia - Azerbaijan].

The Council of the European Union, as part of its European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP), deployed five new missions in 2008 - two in Europe and three in sub-Saharan Africa -, in addition to nine already existing EU missions. On February 16, just before Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence, the Council decided to launch the EU rule of law mission in Kosovo (EULEX) with an initial mandate of two years [→ Serbia (Kosovo)]. EULEX represented the so far largest civilian mission under the ESDP, reaching its initial operational capability in early December with currently 1,300 international and 500 local staff. It is expected to reach its full deployment of 1,900 international and 1,100 local staff by the end of the winter of 2009. After the escalation to highly violent conflicts in Georgia [→ Georgia (Abkhazia); Georgia (South Ossetia); Russia - Georgia], the Council decided on September 15 to establish the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia to contribute to stability throughout Georgia and the surrounding region in accordance with

the six-point agreement signed between the conflict parties in August. EUMM was deployed on October 1. Approx. 340 personnel were staffed to the headquarters in Georgia's capital, Tbilisi, and to additional field offices in the towns of Gori, Poti, and Zugdidi, as well as more than 200 monitors. The EU, on January 28, decided to launch EUFOR Chad/CAR, a Military Bridging Operation in eastern Chad and the northeast of the Central African Republic to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and contribute to the protection of civilians as well as UN personnel, facilities, installations, and equipment [→ Central African Republic (various rebel groups); Chad (various rebel groups)]. Full operational capability was achieved on September 15, with around 3,400 troops from 25 European states as of November 30 being deployed to the country. On February 12, the Council decided to establish an EU Mission in support of security sector reform in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (EU SSR Guinea-Bissau).

It was to be officially launched in June at a strength of 21 internationals and 18 locals, and represented the first mission entirely planned under the newly established headquarters for EU civilian crisis management operations, the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC). On November 23, a group of soldiers opened fire on the president's residence [→ Coups d'état]. Most recently, and in the wake of the outbreak of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast, the EU, on December 8, decided to launch the military operation EU NAVFOR Somalia. Furthermore, in addition to these five new missions, the EU maintained nine other operations: three in Europe, two in sub-Saharan Africa, and four in the Middle East and Maghreb. These were the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EU-BAM), the EU military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR ALTHEA), the EU Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was to be concluded at the end of 2008, the EU Police Mission for the DRC (EUPOL DR Congo), the EU security sector reform mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUSEC DR Congo), the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN), the EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS), the EU Border Assistance Mission at Rafah Crossing Point in the Palestinian Territories (EU BAM Rafah), and the EU Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX).

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) maintained eight operations: in Europe, the robust UN-mandated NATO-led KFOR presence in Kosovo, the NATO Headquarters Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the NATO Headquarters Skopje in Macedonia, the NATO Headquarters Tirana in Albania, and the NATO Military Liaison Office Belgrade in Serbia; in the Middle East and Maghreb, ISAF in Afghanistan (ISAF), Active Endeavor in the Mediterranean as part of NATO's multifaceted response to "the terrorist threat", and the NATO Training Mission - Iraq (NTM-I) in Iraq.

The African Union (AU) administered a mission to Somalia (AU Mission in Somalia, AMISOM) as well as the hybrid UN-AU mission UNAMID, which had late in 2007 succeeded the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS), deployed to

Darfur since 2004. Other regional organizations, such as the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), also maintained operations in sub-Saharan Africa. An example was the Multinational Force in Central Africa (FOMUC), a CEMAC peace operation encompassing about 380 military and 170 police forces that supported the Central African government. On July 12, the responsibilities for FOMUC shifted from CEMAC to the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), leading to the renaming of the mission into Mission for the Consolidation of Peace (MICOPAX). The Organization of American States (OAS) in the Americas maintained a permanent OAS office in Haiti, which

had succeeded the only OAS mission supporting the different elections in Haiti in 2006. The main tasks of the permanent office were to foster the institutionalization of the provisional electoral council, to support the judiciary and the rule of law as well as the socioeconomic development, and to strengthen inter-American cooperation in fighting drugs. Apart from the office in Haiti, the OAS maintained the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (OAS/MAPP). OAS/MAPP had been established in February 2004 to verify the demobilization and reintegration of paramilitary groups, such as the AUC [→ Colombia (AUC)].

Overview: Current UN Missions led or supported by DPKO

| Mission Acronym | Name of Mission | Start | Country |
|------------------------------------|---|-------|-------------------|
| Europe | | | |
| UNOMIG | UN Observer Mission in Georgia | 1993 | Georgia |
| UNFICYP | UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus | 1964 | Cyprus |
| UNMIK | UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo | 1999 | Serbia |
| Sub-Saharan Africa | | | |
| BINUB | UN Integrated Office in Burundi | 2007 | Burundi |
| MONUC | UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo | 1999 | Congo (Kinshasa) |
| UNMIS | UN Mission in the Sudan | 2005 | Sudan |
| UNAMIS | AU/UN Hybrid operation in Darfur | 2007 | Sudan |
| UNMEE | UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea | 2000 | Ethiopia, Eritrea |
| UNOCI | UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire | 2004 | Côte d'Ivoire |
| MINURCAT | UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad | 2007 | Chad |
| UNMIL | UN Mission in Liberia | 2003 | Liberia |
| UNIOSIL | UN Mission Integrated Office in Sierra Leone | 2006 | Sierra Leone |
| UNIPSIL | UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone | 2008 | Sierra Leone |
| AMISOM | African Union Mission to Somalia | 2007 | Somalia |
| 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 | | | |
| UNIFIL | UN Interim Force in Lebanon | 1978 | Lebanon |
| UNAMA | UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan | 2002 | Afghanistan |
| MINURSO | UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara | 1991 | Morocco |
| UNTSO | UN Truce Supervision Organization | 1948 | Israel |
| UNDOF | UN Disengagement Observer Force | 1974 | Syria, Israel |

Authoritative Decisions by the ICJ

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) had a dual jurisdiction to, firstly, decide, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by states (contentious cases) and, secondly, to give advisory opinions (advisory proceedings) on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized UN organs and specialized agencies. The ICJ was founded in 1947. Between then and November 2008, 142 cases were submitted to the Court. During the period under review, 17 cases were pending, 15 of which remained so by November 30. In eight of the pending cases, at least one of the parties was a Euro-

pean state. In one of these, Croatia's lawsuit against Serbia for genocide committed during the 1991-1995 war, as the Court started proceedings on May 26, triggered a series of counteraccusations of ethnic cleansing by Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic. When the ICJ declared its competence in the lawsuit on November 18, Jeremic announced Serbia would file a countersuit for alleged war crimes against ethnic Serbs. Croatian Serb leader Milorad Pupovac denounced the decision to seek the ICJ's view as "a continuation of war" [→ Croatia (Croatian Serbs/Krajina, West and East Slavonia)]. Six cases were disputed among American states. In four

cases, at least one of the parties was from sub-Saharan Africa. Only one case involved Asian states.

The ICJ rendered judgment in two contentious cases. On May 23, the Court found by twelve votes to four that sovereignty over Pedra Branca/Pulau Batu Puteh belonged to Singapore. The dispute had been submitted to the ICJ on the basis of a special agreement between Malaysia and Singapore in July 2003 [→ Singapore - Malaysia]. In the case filed by Djibouti against France concerning the latter's refusal to execute an international rogatory letter in January 2006, the Court unanimously found on June 4 that France had failed to comply with its international obligation by not giving Djibouti the reason for the refusal. Apart from these two judgments, the Court issued preliminary objections with regard to the territorial and maritime dispute between Nicaragua and Colombia [→ Nicaragua - Colombia (sea border)], and found that the 1928 treaty between the two states settled the matter of sovereignty over the islands of San Andrés, Providencia, and Santa Catalina. Therefore, it ruled that it had no jurisdiction over this question, but to adjudicate upon the dispute concerning sovereignty over the other maritime features and upon the dispute concerning the maritime delimitation. The case remained pending.

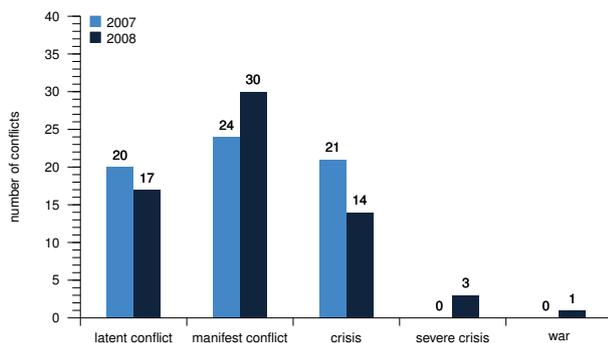
In contrast to the previous year when no new case had been filed, six new cases were submitted to the Court. On January 16, Peru instituted proceedings against Chile with regard to a dispute concerning maritime delimitation between the two States [→ Peru - Chile (border)]. Ecuador instituted proceedings against Colombia with regard to a dispute concerning the alleged aerial spraying by Colombia of toxic herbicides over Ecuadorian territory on April 1 [→ Colombia - Ecuador]. On June 5, Mexico requested interpretation of the Judgment of 03/31/04 in the case concerning Avena and Other Mexican Nationals and asked for the urgent indication of provisional measures [→ USA - Mexico (border fence)]. The case was under deliberation as of November 30. Against

the background of the August war [→ Russia - Georgia], Georgia instituted proceedings against Russia for violations of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on August 12, and submitted a request for the indication of provisional measures two days later. On October 15, the Court indicated inter alia that both parties should refrain from any act of racial discrimination and from sponsoring, defending, or supporting such acts, that they should facilitate humanitarian assistance, and refrain from any action which might prejudice the respective rights of the parties or might aggravate or extend the dispute. On November 17, Macedonia instituted proceedings against Greece for a violation of Article 11 of the Interim Accord of September 13, 1995, contending, in particular, that Greece vetoed Macedonia's application to join NATO because of desiring to resolve the difference concerning the constitutional name of the applicant as an essential precondition [→ Greece - Macedonia]. The UN General Assembly, on October 10, requested an advisory opinion from the Court on Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence from Serbia on February 17 [→ Serbia (Kosovo)]. With Romania's case against Ukraine concerning the maritime border between the two states in the Black Sea adding to Mexico's request of interpretation of a judgment, two cases were being heard or under deliberation in the period under review. The ICJ held public hearings on Romania vs. Ukraine in September, and subsequently began deliberation [→ Romania - Ukraine]. With regard to a border dispute on the Prevlaka peninsula, Montenegro and Croatia decided to submit their case to the ICJ [→ Montenegro - Croatia (Prevlaka)]. On March 12, Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader announced after talks in Croatia's capital, Zagreb, with his Montenegrin counterpart, Milo Djukanovic, that Croatia and Montenegro agreed to send their border dispute to the ICJ for a ruling and would establish a joint border demarcation commission. By November 30, this had not yet materialized.

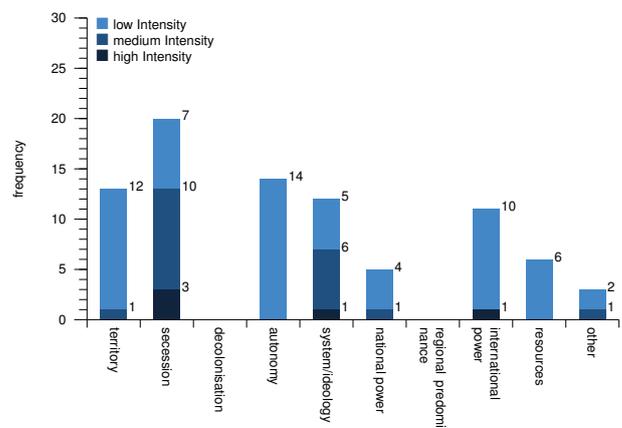
Europe

The total number of conflicts monitored in Europe was 65. Only one conflict was terminated in 2008 [→ Macedonia (Kosovo)], and no new conflicts emerged. Whereas no highly violent conflicts had been registered in Europe in 2007, 2008 saw a steep increase to four high-intensity conflicts, with one war [→ Russia - Georgia] and three severe crises being fought [→ Georgia (Abkhazia); Georgia (South Ossetia); Russia (Islamist rebels/Ingushetia)]. The most frequent conflict item in Europe was secession, followed by an almost even number of conflicts concerning autonomy, territory, system/ideology, and international power, respectively. While the only war in 2008 was led for international power [→ Russia - Georgia], the three severe crises were fought over secession, and, in the case of the Islamist insurrection in Ingushetia, also system/ideology [→ Georgia (Abkhazia); Georgia (South Ossetia); Russia (Islamist rebels/Ingushetia)]. The 14 crises observed also dealt with secession in the majority of cases, closely followed by system/ideology – in the case of the various Islamist insurgencies in the North Caucasus indeed in combination with the latter. Whereas all 14 autonomy conflicts in 2008 were conducted non-violently, 13 out of 20 twenty secession conflicts were violent, perhaps indicating a connection between radical demands and radical measures peculiar to Europe. This was mostly the case in the Caucasus but also applied to certain western democracies [→ France (FLNC/Corsica); Spain (ETA, PNV/Basque Provinces); United Kingdom (IRA et al./Northern Ireland)]. In contrast, territory and resources were relatively peaceful conflict items, with only one violent conflict among them [→ Armenia - Azerbaijan]. The sub-regions with the greatest number of registered conflicts within Europe were the Caucasus and the Balkans with 17 and 16 conflicts, respectively. Whereas the situation in southeast Europe slightly eased, the situation in the Caucasus drastically deteriorated. Southeast Europe continued to feature a large number of conflicts, of which only two remained violent [→ Greece (leftwing militants); Serbia (Kosovo)], while two actually deescalated to manifest conflicts [→ Macedonia (Albanian minority/northwestern Macedonia); Serbia (Wahhabis/Sandzak)]. Fears that Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence on February 17, which was backed by the USA and many EU countries but opposed by Russia [→ Serbia (Kosovo)], would accelerate nationalist separatism in neighboring countries remained largely unfulfilled. The political consequences of the events surrounding Kosovo's independence were more serious than the conflict's intensity level communicates, however. Perhaps in connection with this controversial move, the conflicts between Georgia and its breakaway republics gained new momentum and escalated to severe crises early in August [→ Georgia (Abkhazia); Georgia (South Ossetia)]. The related conflict between Russia and Georgia even turned into a war [→ Russia - Georgia], followed by Russia's recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states. Georgia's failed attempt at recovering South Ossetia and Russia's harsh intervention sent tremors through east Europe. Russia's military reaction to alleged threats to its citizens and allies in Georgia fueled anxieties of other pro-western post-Soviet states, some of them with substantial Russian minorities of their own [→ Estonia (Russian-speaking minority); Latvia (Russian-speaking minority); Russia - Estonia; Russia - Latvia; Russia - Ukraine]. These fears increasingly led to calls for military deterrents reminiscent of the Cold War era [→ USA - Russia (missile system)]. In addition, the security situation between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea also suffered from three crises in the former Soviet republics of the southern Caucasus [→ Armenia (opposition); Armenia - Azerbaijan; Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh)] and especially the various regional insurgencies aiming for independent Islamic statehood in Russia's North Caucasus. The latter accounted for five more crises and one severe crisis [→ Russia (Islamist rebels/Chechnya); Russia (Islamist rebels/Ingushetia) etc.].

Conflict Intensities in Europe in 2008 compared to 2007



Frequency of Conflict Items in 2008 in Europe by Intensity Groups



Overview: Conflicts in Europe in 2008

| Name of conflict ¹ | Conflict parties ² | Conflict items | Start | Change ³ Int. ⁴ |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| Armenia (opposition) | opposition vs. government | national power | 2003 | ↗ 3 |

| Name of conflict ¹ | Conflict parties ² | Conflict items | Start | Change ³ | Int. ⁴ |
|---|---|---------------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Armenia - Azerbaijan | Armenia vs. Azerbaijan | territory | 1987 | • | 3 |
| Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh)* | Nagorno-Karabakh Republic vs. government, | secession | 1988 | • | 3 |
| Azerbaijan (opposition)* | opposition vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 2003 | • | 2 |
| Belarus (opposition)* | opposition vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1994 | • | 2 |
| Belarus - Poland* | Belarus vs. Poland | international power | 1994 | • | 2 |
| Belgium (CD&V/Flanders) | CD&V, N-VA vs. government, Walloon parties | autonomy | 2007 | • | 2 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnian Serbs/Republic of Srpska) | Republic of Srpska vs. central government, Bosniak-Croat Federation | secession | 1995 | • | 2 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina (Croat parties/Herzegovina)* | Croat parties vs. government, Bosniak parties | autonomy | 1992 | • | 2 |
| 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 | ↘ | 2 |
| 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 | ↗ | 4 |
| 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 | ↘ | 2 |
| Georgia (South Ossetia) | South Ossetian separatists vs. government | secession | 1989 | ↗ | 4 |
| Greece (leftwing militants)* | leftwing militants vs. government | system/ideology | 1973 | • | 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 |
| Italy (Red Brigades)* | Red Brigades vs. government | system/ideology | 1970 | ↘ | 1 |
| Latvia (Russian-speaking minority)* | Russian-speaking minority vs. government | autonomy | 1991 | • | 2 |
| Macedonia (Albanian minority/northwestern Macedonia)* | Albanian minority vs. government | autonomy | 1991 | ↘ | 2 |
| Macedonia (Kosovo) | Kosovo vs. Macedonia | territory | 2001 | END | 1 |
| Moldova (Transnistria) | Transnistrian separatists vs. government | secession | 1989 | • | 2 |
| Montenegro - Croatia (Prevlaka)* | Montenegro vs. Croatia | territory | 1991 | • | 1 |
| Romania (Hungarian minority/Transylvania)* | Hungarian minority vs. government | autonomy | 1989 | • | 1 |
| Romania - Ukraine* | Romania vs. Ukraine | territory, resources | 1991 | • | 1 |
| Russia (Islamist rebels/Chechnya) | Islamist rebels vs. government | secession, system/ideology | 1989 | • | 3 |
| Russia (Islamist rebels/Dagestan) | Islamist rebels vs. government | secession, system/ideology | 1999 | • | 3 |
| Russia (Islamist rebels/Ingushetia) | Islamist rebels vs. government | secession, system/ideology | 2004 | ↗ | 4 |

| Name of conflict ¹ | Conflict parties ² | Conflict items | Start | Change ³ | Int. ⁴ |
|--|---|---|-------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Russia (Islamist rebels/Kabardino-Balkaria)* | Islamist rebels vs. government | secession, system/ideology | 2004 | • | 3 |
| Russia (Islamist rebels/Karachay-Cherkessia)* | Islamist rebels vs. government | secession, system/ideology | 2001 | • | 3 |
| Russia (Islamist rebels/North Ossetia-Alania) | Islamist rebels vs. government | secession, system/ideology | 2006 | • | 3 |
| Russia (opposition) | opposition vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 2001 | ↘ | 2 |
| Russia - Estonia | Russia vs. Estonia | international power | 1994 | • | 2 |
| Russia - Georgia | Russia vs. Georgia | international power | 1992 | ↑ | 5 |
| Russia - Kazakhstan et al. (Caspian Sea)* | Azerbaijan vs. Iran vs. Kazakhstan vs. Russia vs. Turkmenistan | territory, international power, resources | 1993 | • | 1 |
| Russia - Latvia* | Russia vs. Latvia | territory, international power | 1994 | ↗ | 2 |
| Russia - Norway (Barents Sea)* | Russia vs. Norway | territory, resources | 1947 | ↗ | 2 |
| Russia - Norway et al. (Arctic)* | Russia vs. USA vs. Canada vs. Norway vs. Denmark | territory, resources | 2001 | ↗ | 2 |
| Russia - Ukraine | Russia vs. Ukraine | territory, international power, resources | 2003 | • | 2 |
| Serbia (Albanian minority/Presevo Valley)* | UCPMB, Albanian minority vs. government | secession | 2000 | • | 2 |
| Serbia (Bosniak minority/Sandzak)* | Bosniak minority vs. government | autonomy | 1991 | ↗ | 2 |
| Serbia (Hungarian minority/northern Vojvodina)* | Hungarian minority vs. government | autonomy | 1998 | • | 1 |
| Serbia (Kosovo) | Kosovo Albanians vs. central government | secession | 1989 | • | 3 |
| Serbia (Wahhabis/Sandzak)* | Wahhabis in Sandzak vs. government | secession, system/ideology | 2007 | ↘ | 2 |
| 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. central 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 | international power, other | 1991 | • | 2 |
| Turkey - Greece | Turkey vs. Greece | territory | 1973 | • | 2 |
| United Kingdom (IRA et al./Northern Ireland) | IRA, Real IRA, Continuity IRA, Sinn Féin, SDLP vs. government, UDA, UVF, DUP, UUP | secession | 1968 | • | 3 |
| United Kingdom (SNP/Scotland) | Scottish regional government (SNP) vs. central government | secession | 2007 | • | 1 |
| USA - Russia (missile system) | USA vs. Russia | international power | 2007 | • | 2 |

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 ↘ deescalation 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 (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↗ | Start: 2003 |
| Conflict parties: | opposition vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

The conflict over national power between the opposition and the government turned violent. On February 19, Prime Minister Serge Sarkisian, an ally of outgoing Pres-

ident Robert Kocharian, won the presidential elections. His main rival, leading opposition candidate Levon Ter-Petrosian, Kocharian's predecessor, insinuated irregularities. The OSCE confirmed the accusations in late May. From February 20 on, 30,000 to 50,000 opposition supporters staged daily protests in Armenia's capital, Yerevan. The situation escalated when riot police fired

in the air and used tear gas to disperse protesters on March 1. Some reports stated that demonstrators had attacked the police. One policeman and seven civilians died in the ensuing clashes. Kocharian placed opposition leader Ter-Petrosian under house arrest, restricted the freedom of the press and assembly, deployed troops and imposed a state of emergency in Yerevan. It was lifted on March 21. The EU and OSCE immediately sent mediators to Yerevan, and the UN, USA, and Russia urged both parties to start a dialog. On April 8, several dozen opposition supporters clashed with police in the central Armenian town of Hrazdan following the disappearance of nine supporters of an arrested opposition parliamentarian. The following day, Sarkisian was inaugurated as president. On April 21, thousands participated in an opposition rally authorized by the government. Armenia's main opposition alliance announced a renewed campaign of daily anti-government protests as thousands of its supporters marched through the center of Yerevan in July. Several dozen protesters began a non-stop sit-in near the city's Liberty Square, cordoned off by hundreds of riot police. In late July, Sarkisian ruled out the possibility of starting a dialog with his political opponents. Throughout the year, the Armenian government arrested opposition politicians and supporters on charges related to their participation in opposition activities. (jd)

Armenia - Azerbaijan

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1987 |
| Conflict parties: | Armenia vs. Azerbaijan | |
| Conflict items: | territory | |

The conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh continued. The number of ceasefire violations on the contact line between the armed forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan increased. Armenian and Azerbaijani troops repeatedly exchanged gunfire early in March, marking the worst breaches of the 1994 ceasefire agreement in years. In the biggest single incident, Azerbaijan claimed that four of its troops and twelve Armenian soldiers were killed, whereas Armenia reported it had suffered no casualties while eight Azerbaijanis died on March 4. Both sides accused each other of disinformation and provoking these incidents as well as taking advantage of the continuing unrest in Armenia following the February presidential election [→ Armenia (opposition)]. On March 14, the UN General Assembly adopted an Azerbaijani-authored non-binding resolution demanding the withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan. In the context of the events in Georgia, Armenia declared it would not recognize the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia [→ Georgia (Abkhazia); Georgia (South Ossetia)] as long as it did not recognize the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic either [→ Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh)]. On September 26, a meeting was held between the foreign ministers of Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan in New York [→ Turkey - Armenia]. OSCE Minsk Group officials also attended the meeting. On November 2, Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a joint agreement aimed at finding a political settlement for their dispute. Only two

weeks later, an Azerbaijani soldier died in a skirmish in the Fizuli region near the ceasefire line. Armenia side described the incident as the second serious incident on the contact line this year. Both sides blamed each other for the encounter. (sga)

Belgium (CD&V/Flanders)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 2007 |
| Conflict parties: | CD&V, N-VA vs. government, Walloon parties | |
| Conflict items: | autonomy | |

The tensions between Flemish and Walloon parties over the Flemish parties' demands for financial autonomy and the Walloon parties' rejection thereof continued. Following the failure of coalition talks on 12/01/07, King Albert II authorized incumbent Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt on 12/03/07 to find a solution to the crisis. He therefore transferred expanded privileges to Verhofstadt to allow him a fixed-term continuation as head of an interim government. Two days later, Verhofstadt succeeded in negotiating an interim government consisting of five parties for a three-month term. On March 23, Yves Leterme, the leader of the Flemish Christian Democrats (CD&V), successfully created a government with parliament approval. On May 6, a dispute about the reform of the country's only bilingual election district, Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde, caused a deadlock between the coalition parties. On June 15, Leterme offered the King his resignation. Albert II rejected Leterme's resignation and made a televised speech in defense of Belgian unity. On September 19, the separatist party New-Flemish Alliance (N-VA) announced it lacked trust in the current government's ability to grant more autonomy for the regions, and withdrew from the government coalition. Three days later, Flemish and Walloon parties returned to the negotiation table for further talks on this topic. Nevertheless, the Flemish sports minister suggested the division of Belgium's football federation, creating Franco-phone and Dutch-speaking wings. (sh)

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 (FBiH), continued. Bosniak politicians called for full implementation of the Dayton Accords or, failing that, a reversal of the agreement, leading to the abolition of the existing entities. RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik, however, strove for even greater devolution, and repeatedly threatened to seek the right to self-determination for the RS, especially in the light of Kosovo's declaration of independence in February [→ Serbia (Kosovo)]. In April, the BiH Parliament approved key police reform laws maintaining separate police forces for each entity instead of merging them as called for by the EU. Nevertheless, a

state-level control panel was established. On November 8, the three main political parties of BiH's ethnic groups signed a deal on future constitutional changes and territorial organization. On July 3, the former Bosnian army commander of Srebrenica, Naser Oric, was acquitted of war crimes at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). On July 15, RS police stopped some 100 Bosniak Srebrenica survivors from visiting the village of Kravica. Serbian police arrested former RS President Radovan Karadzic on July 21 in the Serbian capital, Belgrade. He was extradited to the ICTY on July 30. In Belgrade, one protester died from injuries he sustained during a demonstration against Karadzic's arrest on July 29. On September 15, the ICTY sentenced the former chief of staff of the Bosnian army, Rasim Delic, to three years in prison. Dodik criticized the verdict as insufficient. (aog)

Cyprus (Northern Cyprus)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1963 |
| Conflict parties: | Northern Cyprus vs. central government | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The tensions between breakaway Northern Cyprus and the government of the Republic of Cyprus eased somewhat. On February 24, newly-elected Cypriot President Dimitris Christofias stressed his will to cooperate with Turkish Cypriot de-facto President Mehmet Ali Talat to achieve reunification. Talat also expressed wishes for a timely solution. On June 16, EU foreign ministers agreed to ease the economic isolation of the Turkish-controlled part of Cyprus. From September to late November, Christofias and Talat met in ten rounds of reunification talks but failed to reach a power-sharing agreement. Whereas Christofias envisaged a common sovereignty with political equality for both communities, Turkish Cypriots insisted the solution be based on two equal states. In a show of good will, the Greek Cypriot side canceled the National Guard's annual military exercise on October 13. On July 20, Christofias condemned the visit of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Northern Cyprus to mark the arrival of Turkish troops in 1974 as an illegal visit to occupied territory [→ Cyprus - Turkey]. In reaction to Greek Cypriot demands that Turkish troops withdraw from the island, de-facto Prime Minister of Northern Cyprus Ferdi Sabit Soyer announced on September 12 that the troops would stay until a solution to the conflict was reached. According to Christofias, Turkish Cypriot authorities had denied Greek Cypriots permission to enter the Turkish part of the island in order to attend a traditional Orthodox liturgy in Morphou in August. (aj)

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 government buildings and holiday homes owned by non-

Corsicans. On 12/13/07, the Corsican militant Yvan Colonna was sentenced to life in prison for killing the Prefect of Corsica, Claude Érignac, in February 1998. Corsican separatists committed several bombings in retaliation, injuring two people on 12/23/07 in Corsica's capital, Ajaccio. The FLNC targeted government buildings, police barracks, and court houses in Corsica with explosives, grenades, and machine guns. Nine suspects were taken into custody by the French police following attacks in April. In June, different groups within the FLNC had claimed responsibility for 55 attacks. In September, a non-Corsican couple was kidnapped and tied up by four masked men who later demolished their home using plastic explosives. (al)

Georgia (Abkhazia)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↗ | Start: 1989 |
| Conflict parties: | Abkhazian separatists vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The conflict between Georgia and the breakaway republic of Abkhazia intensified and escalated to a severe crisis in August. Following several incidents with Russian peacekeeping soldiers with a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) mandate at the de-facto border between Abkhazia and Georgia, Georgia renewed its attempts to internationalize the peacekeeping format in the region. In the wake of Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence on February 17 and its recognition by the USA and various European states [→ Serbia (Kosovo)], the situation deteriorated. In early March, the Russian Federation declared itself no longer bound by trade, economic, and transport sanctions imposed by the CIS on Abkhazia in 1996. The Abkhaz parliament issued a formal appeal to the UN Secretary General and the Russian Federation to recognize the independence of Abkhazia. Russia did not recognize Abkhazia as an independent state but intensified its already close relations to the entity on April 16. In March, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili tabled a peace plan for Abkhazia, immediately rejected by the Abkhaz side. A series of confirmed and alleged shoot-downs of Georgian unmanned reconnaissance drones over Abkhazia by Abkhaz air defense with Russian support in March and April contributed to growing tensions. In May, Russia reinforced peacekeeping troops in Abkhazia by 500 paratroopers and placed them on increased combat readiness. Later that month, 400 unarmed Russian railway forces were moved to the region and, within two months, rebuilt railway lines between Sukhumi and Ochamchire. Georgia construed these military activities as preparations for an armed intervention in Abkhazia [→ Russia - Georgia]. In late June and early July, unknown perpetrators committed several alleged terrorist attacks in Abkhazia and on Georgian police posts at the de-facto border, killing several people. Subsequently, the international community undertook an unsuccessful German-led effort to table a peace plan and bring the Georgian and Abkhaz sides together in negotiations. In the wake of increasing clashes between Georgia and South Ossetia [→ Georgia (South Ossetia)], the Abkhaz side canceled negotiations planned for August, and mobilized its

troops. On August 9, the Abkhaz troops, with support from Russian ground and air forces, launched an attack on Georgian positions in the upper Kodori Gorge, the only area within Abkhazia under control of the central government in Tbilisi. Abkhaz forces expelled Georgian troops from the valley on August 12, leading to the displacement of approx. 1,000 ethnic Georgian residents. No casualties were reported in the brief fighting. The Abkhaz de-facto president, Sergei Bagapsh, was a signatory to the Six-Point Ceasefire Agreement mediated by the French EU Presidency between Georgia and Russia in mid-August. Russia recognized Abkhazia's independence on August 26, and signed a comprehensive treaty of friendship and cooperation, foreseeing the establishment of a Russian military base in the region. On October 15, internationally-brokered talks in Geneva to mediate between Georgia and Russia foundered over the unresolved question of Abkhaz and South Ossetian participation in the negotiations. Informal talks were held on November 19, to be continued on a monthly basis. However, the situation in Abkhazia remained tense, with a series of assassination attempts on Abkhaz and Georgian officials in the border areas as well as repeated armed attacks on police posts in the region. (mak)

Georgia (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change:  | Start: 2007 |
| Conflict parties: | opposition vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

The conflict between the opposition and the government continued. After large-scale demonstrations in November 2007 that had been beaten down by the authorities, President Mikheil Saakashvili resigned and announced early presidential elections to be held on January 5. He won with an absolute majority. However, the opposition protested irregularities and repeatedly staged demonstrations with thousands of supporters in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi. On May 21, the governing United National Movement won the parliamentary elections with a two-thirds majority. Once more claiming rigged elections, the opposition parties vowed to boycott parliament, supported by thousands of protesters in Tbilisi. The OSCE criticized violations of democratic standards. The opposition's election campaign had been strongly restrained due to state control of the media and obstruction of opposition activities. During the South Ossetian crisis [[→ Georgia \(South Ossetia\); Russia - Georgia](#)], the opposition refrained from criticizing the government. However, from September on opposition leaders reiterated their criticism of Saakashvili, demanding his resignation and an inquiry into the recent war. On October 27, ex-parliamentary speaker and former Saakashvili ally Nino Burjanadze launched a new opposition party, the Democratic Movement - United Georgia. Thousands demonstrated against the President at the anniversaries of the 2007 anti-Saakashvili protests and the 2003 Rose Revolution in November. (nb)

Georgia (South Ossetia)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change:  | Start: 1989 |
| Conflict parties: | South Ossetian separatists vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The conflict between Georgia and the breakaway republic of South Ossetia intensified in the first half of the year, reaching a peak in August. Since Georgia's independence in 1991, South Ossetia continued to strive for independence from Georgia and unification with Russia's North Caucasus republic of North Ossetia. While Russia had been handing out Russian passports to South Ossetians, it made no move to incorporate the entity into the Russian Federation. Russian-led joint peacekeeping forces had been deployed to South Ossetia since the 1992 ceasefire agreement, which also established the Joint Control Commission (JCC). Since the new President Mikheil Saakashvili had been forcing the issue of reintegrating breakaway regions [[→ Georgia \(Abkhazia\)](#)] in 2004, tensions rose in South Ossetia. Bomb attacks and assassination attempts by Georgians and South Ossetians frequently caused fatalities in the zone of conflict, defined as a 15-km-radius around the South Ossetian capital, Tskhinvali. Georgia refused to participate in further sessions of the JCC from October 2007 on. It aimed at changing the negotiating format and involving international actors, primarily the EU and OSCE. The situation deteriorated in the wake of the unilateral declaration of independence by Kosovo on February 17 [[→ Serbia \(Kosovo\)](#)]. In March, the parliament of South Ossetia issued a formal appeal to the UN Secretary General, the Russian Federation as well as EU and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member states to recognize the independence of South Ossetia. Russia did not recognize South Ossetia as independent, but intensified relations on April 16. From June to early August, exchange of gunfire and sporadic incidents of shelling between South Ossetian militias and Georgian Interior Ministry special purpose units increased. Georgia accused South Ossetia of establishing military fortifications, while being denounced for amassing troops and military equipment close to the zone of conflict. According to Georgia, South Ossetian militias attacked a Georgian military post on July 29, while South Ossetia accused that Georgian units had opened fire against two South Ossetian villages. Both sides blamed each other for a shootout claiming six lives on August 1. The next day, Georgia accused South Ossetia of having attacked six Georgian-controlled villages. The fighting resulted in the evacuation of more than 800 South Ossetians from Tskhinvali and the surrounding villages to North Ossetia. On August 5, in a rapid succession of armed clashes between various villages, increasingly heavy weaponry was employed including grenade-launchers and armoured combat vehicles. Severe fighting broke out on the morning of August 7, followed by unsuccessful last-minute mediation attempts by Russia, and the declaration of a unilateral ceasefire by Georgia that evening. However, around midnight Georgia launched a large-scale military operation against South Ossetia. Supported by heavy artillery, Georgian troops took control of Tskhinvali and several surrounding vil-

lages. While retrospective estimates of international observers assumed fewer than 100 civilian fatalities, South Ossetia and Russia claimed 2,000 victims. Russia intervened in support of South Ossetia, claiming to protect Russian citizens in South Ossetia. The Georgian air force tried to halt the advance of Russian tank columns entering South Ossetia from the North through the Roki tunnel in the early hours of August 8. South Ossetian militias, supported by Russian ground troops, repelled the offensive and retook Tskhinvali. Russia also carried out air strikes on Georgia from August 8 to 12. The brief war between August 8 and 12 left several hundred Georgians dead [→ Russia - Georgia]. The war also displaced 22,000 ethnic Georgians from villages within South Ossetia. Following the termination of hostilities, South Ossetia's de-facto president, Eduard Kokoity, became a signatory to the Six-Point Ceasefire Agreement mediated by the French EU Presidency between Georgia and Russia. The latter recognized South Ossetia's independence on August 26 and signed a comprehensive treaty of friendship and cooperation with South Ossetia foreseeing the establishment of a Russian military base in the region. On October 15, talks brokered by the UN, EU and OSCE in Geneva to mediate between Georgia and Russia foundered over the unresolved question of Abkhazian and South Ossetian participation in the negotiations. Finally, informal talks were held on November 19, to be continued on a monthly basis. The Georgian central government lost control over the district of Akhalkgori inside South Ossetia, which had not been under the control of the South Ossetian authorities before the August fighting. Georgia accused South Ossetian militias of ethnic cleansing against Georgian villages in the zone of conflict. Human rights organizations called on Russia to step up its responsibilities as an occupying power in South Ossetia in order to stop South Ossetian militias from attacking ethnic Georgians in the Akhalkgori district still in late November. The situation in South Ossetia remained tense, with assassination attempts, bomb attacks, and cross-border shelling being frequent. (mak)

Greece - Macedonia

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1991 |
| Conflict parties: | Greece vs. Macedonia | |
| Conflict items: | other | |

In Greece's and Macedonia's conflict over a mutually acceptable official name for the Macedonian state, compromise remained elusive. Between November 2007 and October 2008, UN special envoy Matthew Nimetz's mediation yielded no tangible results. Macedonia championed a "dual formula", i.e. using its constitutional name, Republic of Macedonia, internationally, and a special name for bilateral relations with Greece. In October, Nimetz proposed the name "Republic of Northern Macedonia" internationally and "Republic of Macedonia" domestically. Greece, which insisted on the transitional name "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", rejected a dual-name solution on October 7. In early April, Greece vetoed Macedonia's NATO membership invitation. On June 5, Greece refused Macedonia's President Branko Cervenkovski permission to land in Athens

because his plane had Macedonia written on it. On July 14, Macedonian Prime Minister Gruevski asked his Greek counterpart Kostas Karamanlis to recognize the Macedonian minority in northern Greece. Karamanlis responded by denying the existence of such a minority. On August 12, Gruevski asked Nimetz to include Greek recognition of the Macedonian Orthodox Church in the talks. On November 17, Macedonia filed a motion at the ICJ accusing Greece of breaking a UN agreement by blocking its accession to NATO. (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 situation of the Hungarian minority in Slovakia continued. On May 15, the Hungarian foreign ministry called in the Slovakian ambassador to discuss remarks by Slovakian government coalition politician Ján Slota, the leader of the Slovak National Party (SNS), who had referred to the medieval Hungarian king Saint Stephen I as a "clown rider". On May 26, Hungarian Foreign Minister Kinga Göncz criticized the Slovakian ruling coalition for featuring the SNS. On October 2, the Hungarian foreign ministry called in the Slovakian ambassador to explain the row over new textbooks for Hungarian minority schools as well as events following an international meeting of ethnic Hungarian MPs [→ Slovakia (Hungarian minority/southern Slovakia)]. Slota consequently compared Göncz to Adolf Hitler. In the days following a violent incident between Hungarian football supporters and the Slovakian police in Dunajská Streda on November 1, approx. 150 people protested in front of the Slovakian embassy in the Hungarian capital, Budapest, and, on November 10, Hungarian nationalists blocked border checkpoints between the two countries. The same day, the European Commission expressed its concern over the deteriorating relations. Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico and his Hungarian colleague Ferenc Gyurcsány held a meeting in Komárno on November 15. They released a joint statement denouncing extremism and nationalism, but also revealing big differences in their interpretations of recent events. Gyurcsány invited Fico to continue the talks in Budapest in January. (aog)

Macedonia (Kosovo)

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 1 | Change: END | Start: 2001 |
| Conflict parties: | Kosovo vs. Macedonia | |
| Conflict items: | territory | |

The conflict over border demarcation between Macedonia and the government of Kosovo, a neighboring break-away republic of Serbia, ended. The conflict had begun following a border demarcation agreement between Macedonia and Yugoslavia on 02/23/01, which foresaw the transfer of approx. 2,400 acres of territory to the Macedonian side. A special joint commission finally started border demarcation on June 30. On October 8, a group of armed people from the Kosovo village of Libiste removed stone markers laid during demarcation

to protest against land being left on Macedonian territory. On October 17, the mixed border demarcation commission signed an agreement officially defining the border. On October 25, the Macedonian foreign ministry announced that Macedonia and Kosovo had reached an agreement on their common border the day before. Meanwhile, Serbia sent a protest note to Macedonia on July 3, claiming that its move to demark its border with Kosovo without inviting Serbian officials was illegitimate [→ Serbia (Kosovo)]. Macedonian President Branko Crvenkovski said on September 5 that the border demarcation process was one of two key conditions for Macedonia to recognize Kosovo, which happened on October 9. (aog)

Moldova (Transdniestria)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1989 |
| Conflict parties: | Transdniestrian separatists vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The secession conflict between the government of Moldova and the breakaway region of Transdniestria continued. Following Kosovo's declaration of independence [→ Serbia (Kosovo)], Transdniestria's foreign ministry announced the breakaway republic's demand for international recognition on February 19. Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin offered Transdniestria wide-ranging autonomy with wide authority as well as its own emblem, flag, and language on March 10. Hopes that talks between Moldova and Transdniestria, suspended in 2006, would resume were given a boost after Voronin met with the de facto president of Transdniestria, Igor Smirnov, in the Transdniestrian city of Bendery on April 11 to discuss a contract for cooperation and friendship presented by Smirnov. On September 9, the two conflict parties and representatives of Russia, Ukraine, OSCE, EU, and USA decided to resume the frozen negotiations according to the "2-plus-5" format. Russia strove to assume the role of mediator in the conflict. Voronin and Smirnov were supposed to meet again on September 25 as a prelude to signing a joint statement on the settlement of the conflict in the presence of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. However, the talks were called off as the parties failed to agree on a venue. Following the war in South Ossetia [→ Georgia (South Ossetia)], Transdniestria demanded an increase of Russian peacekeepers from currently 385 to 3,000 soldiers as well as the resumption of air patrols on September 4. (ag)

Russia (Islamist rebels/Chechnya)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1989 |
| Conflict parties: | Islamist rebels vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession, system/ideology | |

The secession conflict between Islamist rebels in the North Caucasus republic of Chechnya and the government continued. Dokka Umarov, the erstwhile Chechen rebel leader and, since October 2007, self-proclaimed Emir of the Caucasus Emirate, issued a series of decrees in December 2007. One of them abolished the political institutions of "the former" Chechen Republic of Ichkeria (ChRI), the separatists' name for the unrecog-

nized Chechen republic. Akhmed Zakayev, ChRI foreign minister in exile, opposed the Caucasian Emirate and announced that the ChRI parliament had named him ChRI prime minister. Also in December 2007, the pro-Kremlin United Russia party received almost 99 percent of the vote in Chechnya during Russian parliamentary elections [→ Russia (opposition)]. Throughout the year, the authorities reduced federal troop presence in the republic to approx. 23,000. Frequent bombings and combat actions between Russian security forces and Chechen rebels caused numerous casualties. Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) killed over 50 militants in combat actions in Chechnya in the first nine months of 2008. In addition, federal troops smashed four armed groups in special operations during the year. At least 112 federal troops and militants were killed in combat actions. In January, federal forces killed militant leader Uvais Tachiyev in the Chechen capital, Grozny. On March 20, nine people died in a gunfight between police and rebels in Alkhazurovo. In April, the European Court of Human Rights condemned Russian and Chechen authorities' human rights abuses in Chechnya, including torture and extrajudicial executions. In June, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin announced the federal program for the social and economic development of Chechnya from 2008 to 2011, aimed at restoring the republic's infrastructure. On July 15, Russia began the large-scale military exercise Caucasus Frontier 2008 mostly on the territory of the highly volatile North Caucasus republics of Chechnya, North Ossetia, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Karachay-Cherkessia [→ Russia (Islamist rebels/North Ossetia-Alania); Russia (Islamist rebels/Ingushetia); Russia (Islamist rebels/Kabardino-Balkaria); Russia (Islamist rebels/Karachay-Cherkessia)]. (vi)

Russia (Islamist rebels/Dagestan)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1999 |
| Conflict parties: | Islamist rebels vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession, system/ideology | |

The Islamist insurgency in Russia's North Caucasus republic of Dagestan, originally spilling over from neighboring Chechnya [→ Russia (Islamist rebels/Chechnya)], was still carried out violently. Armed rebels of the Shariat Jamaat engaged in frequent assassination attempts and clashes with security forces throughout the year, resulting in at least 55 security forces and civilian fatalities. Among them were the deputy speaker of the Dagestani parliament and a Dagestan Supreme Court judge. Besides being regularly attacked by militants, the security forces were engaged in firefights with criminal gangs. Shariat Jamaat threatened to kill regional officials attempting to prevent Muslim women from wearing hijab. The security forces engaged in frequent "special operations" against suspected militants. Throughout the year, at least 65 suspected rebels died in clashes both in the countryside and in the republic's towns, especially the capital, Makhachkala. On 12/16/07, the Dagestani security agencies launched a seven-month long operation in Untsukul'sky District with 3,500 troops and armored vehicles against an illegal armed formation. The orig-

inally Azerbaijani "emir of Dagestan", Ilgar Malachiyev alias Abdul Madzhid, and two of his accomplices were killed on September 8 near the village of Magaramkent. On September 16, ten rebels and one FSB agent were killed in an anti-terror operation when Russian special forces ambushed an Islamist militant group. The neighboring former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan became increasingly affected by the activities of Dagestani Islamist rebels. On August 17, the largest Sunni mosque in Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, was bombed, leaving two people dead. The Azeri authorities blamed Malachiyev for the attack, and launched special operations against Islamist militants, killing a number of insurgents in the country's northern border region in the following months. (aog)

Russia (Islamist rebels/Ingushetia)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↗ | Start: 2004 |
| Conflict parties: | Islamist rebels vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession, system/ideology | |

The secession and system conflict between Islamist rebels in Ingushetia and both the regional and national authorities worsened. In recent years, Islamist separatist violence in Russia's North Caucasus had increasingly shifted from Chechnya to Ingushetia [→ Russia (Islamist rebels/Chechnya)], where the security situation steadily deteriorated. Bomb blasts, gun battles, and small-scale ambushes against security forces and government officials occurred on an almost daily basis. Responsibility for the attacks was in most cases uncertain but usually attributed to Islamist rebels. Ingushetia's chief prosecutor, Yury Turygin, announced that 53 attempts had been made on the lives of law-enforcement officers and servicemen in the republic from January till May, a steep increase compared to 2007. According to Turygin, these attacks killed 17 security forces, compared to 25 insurgents killed. On October 23, the public prosecution stated that assaults on law-enforcement personnel had doubled. The security forces resorted to both large-scale sweep operations and detentions of individuals, allegedly accompanied by frequent human rights violation. However, according to reports, police was forced to increasingly apply defensive tactics in order to cope with the deteriorating security situation. Former Ingush President Ruslan Aushev likened the situation to a slow civil war. At least four people were injured when a car bomb exploded on a central street in the main city, Nazran, on March 24. Unidentified gunmen assassinated the deputy chairman of Ingushetia's Supreme Court in Karabulak on April 13, and attempted to assassinate a deputy in Ingushetia's People's Assembly on April 25, killing his brother. During the first week of August, the insurgency reached a climax, with at least one policeman or Federal Security Service (FSB) officer being killed or wounded every day. On August 31, Magomed Yevloyev, the owner of opposition Internet news site *ingushetiya.ru*, was shot dead in police custody [→ Russia (opposition)]. On September 10, Bekkhan Zyazikov, the cousin of Ingush President Murat Zyazikov, was killed in Nazran. On September 15, the first deputy head of the Ingush FSB branch was killed during a special operation in the village of Verkhniye Achaluki in Malgobek District. A suicide

bomber attacked Interior Minister Musa Medov's motorcade on September 30 but failed to harm the minister, while five bystanders were wounded. *Ingushetiya.ru* reported on October 16 that rebel fighters had seized the villages of Muzhichi and Yandare, setting up their own checkpoints. Ingushetia's Interior Ministry dismissed these claims. In a major attack, the Ingush jamaat attacked Interior Ministry military convoys near the villages of Galashki and Surkhakhi on October 18. Although Russian officials initially confirmed two casualties, other sources reported between 50 and 90 soldiers killed. Five days later, a mass kidnapping of 15 people including four police officers was reported from the village of Ordzhonikidzevskaya. According to *ingushetiya.ru*, leaflets warned that drug dealers and owners of gambling houses would be killed. On October 30, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev dismissed Ingushetia's unpopular president Zyazikov, replacing him with former Intelligence Division Deputy Commander of the Volga-Urals Military District Yunus-Bek Yevkurov. Yevkurov announced he would not take a strictly military approach to fighting the Islamist insurgency but would also combat its causes, e.g. official corruption. (sga)

Russia (Islamist rebels/North Ossetia-Alania)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 2006 |
| Conflict parties: | Islamist rebels vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession, system/ideology | |

The system and secession conflict between the Islamist insurgents of Kataib al-Khoul, alias the Ossetian Jamaat, and the government in Russia's North Caucasus republic of North Ossetia-Alania continued. Kataib al-Khoul gunmen assassinated the head of the North Ossetian Interior Ministry's Organized Crime Squad (UBOP) in the regional capital, Vladikavkaz, on March 7. On March 25 and April 19, unidentified assailants opened fire on security forces on the border with Ingushetia. The director of the North Ossetian criminal investigation department was assassinated by unknown perpetrators in Vladikavkaz on October 1. On November 6, a suicide bomber on a minibus taxi killed twelve people outside the main market of Vladikavkaz. The mayor of Vladikavkaz, Vitaly Karayev, was shot dead in the regional capital on November 26. Kataib al-Khoul later claimed responsibility for the assassination. Russian chief public prosecutor Alexander Bastrykin speculated on the possibility of the Islamists seeking to reignite the 1992 ethnic conflict between predominantly Christian Ossetians and mainly Muslim Ingush. On 12/08/07, local youth near the village of Stary Terek had attacked a group of Chechens on a pilgrimage to Mekka. (aog)

Russia (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: ↘ | Start: 2001 |
| Conflict parties: | opposition vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The conflict between the opposition and the government continued. On 12/03/07, the pro-Kremlin United Russia party won the parliamentary elections, which did not meet democratic standards according to delegations of

the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly and the Council of Europe. The OSCE's election observing unit abstained due to obstruction by Russian authorities. On 12/10/07, opposition activist Yuri Chervochkin died from injuries allegedly caused by policemen during an anti-government rally in November 2007. In the run-up to the presidential elections in March, the United Civil Front's Garry Kasparov withdrew his candidacy, and the People's Democratic Union's Mikhail Kasyanov was not admitted. Other opposition activists were detained during the election period. On March 2, First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, preferred candidate of outgoing President Vladimir Putin, won the presidential elections. The independent Russian election observing institute Golos characterized the elections as undemocratic, whereas the OSCE refused again to monitor the elections after a row over strong restrictions of their work by Russian authorities. On May 17, Kasparov formally launched an alternative parliament aiming at strengthening democracy in Russia and the unification of the opposition parties. In July, Great Britain granted Andrei Sidelnikov, the leader of Russian youth opposition group Pora!, political asylum. On November 13, unknown perpetrators severely injured Mikhail Beketov, journalist for an opposition newspaper, who had frequently criticized the local administration in Khimkin. On November 14, the opposition demonstrated against President Medvedev's parliament-backed plans to change the constitution in order to extend the presidential term in office from four to six years. On November 17, the trial of three men accused of involvement in the murder of critical journalist Anna Politkovskaya in 2006 began in Moscow, closed to the public. (jd, lo)

Russia - Estonia

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1994 |
| Conflict parties: | Russia vs. Estonia | |
| Conflict items: | international power | |

Relations between Estonia and Russia remained tense. On May 14, seven NATO members backed a new cyber defense center in Estonia, which blamed Russia for attacks on its internet structure in 2007. On June 28, Russia's and Estonia's presidents held their first meeting since 2005 during the 5th World Congress of Finno-Ugric Peoples in Khanty-Mansiysk, Siberia. However, Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves walked out of the congress due to an anti-Estonian speech by the chairman of the Russian Duma's foreign affairs committee, Konstantin Kosachev. Relations between the two countries further deteriorated in the wake of the Russian-Georgian conflict [→ Russia - Georgia]. On August 9, the presidents of Estonia, Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia [→ Russia - Latvia] released a joint statement strongly condemning Russia's military actions against Georgia. On August 26, Ilves expressed dissatisfaction with NATO's defense plans for the Baltic States. At the EU emergency summit on the Russian-Georgian conflict on September 1, Estonia was among the countries calling for sanctions against Russia. On September 21, Herman Simm, the former head of the Estonian Defense Ministry's security department, was arrested on espionage charges. Simm,

who was responsible for secret coordination with NATO and the EU, was suspected of passing highly sensitive information to Russia, including details of the controversial US missile shield [→ USA - Russia (missile system)]. (aog, lw)

Russia - Georgia

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 5 | Change: ↑ | Start: 1992 |
| Conflict parties: | Russia vs. Georgia | |
| Conflict items: | international power | |

The conflict between Russia and Georgia escalated to war in August in the wake of Georgia's military attempt to regain control over South Ossetia [→ Georgia (South Ossetia)]. Since October 2007, the incidents with Russian peacekeeping soldiers in the conflict zone of Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia [→ Georgia (Abkhazia)] and Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili's accusations of Russian involvement in opposition demonstrations in November 2007 [→ Georgia (opposition)] dominated the relations between Russia and Georgia. On 12/03/07, Russia suspended its participation in the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), limiting the deployment of conventional weapons west of the Urals, and thus caused Georgian fears of Russian troops massing at the common border. At the same time, Russia repeatedly voiced its opposition to Georgia's NATO aspirations. However, Georgian-Russian relations seemed to improve after a presidential meeting in Moscow, the Russian capital, in February. Saakashvili announced the two countries were close to reaching a deal on resuming air traffic, which had been suspended in 2006, and establishing joint customs posts at the Abkhazian and South Ossetian sections of the Russian-Georgian border. The legalization of the customs posts at Gantiadi and Roki were a precondition for Georgia unblocking Russia's membership aspirations to the World Trade Organization (WTO). However, in the wake of Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence on February 17 [→ Serbia (Kosovo)], and its recognition by the USA and various European countries, tensions rose again. After Russia had formally lifted economic and trade sanctions on Abkhazia and decided to strengthen its already close ties with Georgia's breakaway republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the WTO deal fell apart. In April, Russia was involved in the downing of a Georgian reconnaissance drone over Abkhazia, whereupon Georgia withdrew from an air-defense cooperation agreement concluded with Russia in 1995. Towards the end of the month, Russia increased the number of its peacekeepers in Abkhazia by 500 paratroopers. Georgia said this deployment brought the situation close to war. In May, Russia again deployed additional 400 troops to Abkhazia. In only two months, these unarmed troops rebuilt the railway line between Sukhumi and Ochamchire, later used to transport 9,000 Russian soldiers to Georgia. On July 8, Russian fighter jets violated Georgian airspace over South Ossetia, followed by mutual accusations and the recall of the Georgian ambassador from Moscow. In the same month, both Russia and Georgia held large-scale military maneuvers. Russia's included military exercises in the North Cauca-

sus at the Roki and Mamisoni passes, border crossing points with Georgia. In the wake of increasing hostilities in South Ossetia [→ Georgia (South Ossetia)], Russia warned of an imminent large-scale conflict in which it would not stand on the sidelines early in August. On August 7, Georgia launched a military operation to recover South Ossetia. Barracks of Russian peacekeepers in Tskhinvali, the South Ossetian capital, were hit when Georgia shelled the town, killing ten peacekeepers. Russia threatened retaliation and announced measures to protect Russian citizens in the region. In the early hours of August 8, Russian army units crossed the border to South Ossetia. Subsequently, Russia launched massive air strikes all over Georgian territory, mainly targeting military installations but also hitting the Georgian town of Gori. Russian ground forces pushed Georgian troops out of South Ossetia on August 9 and 10, and supported Abkhaz militia in driving the Georgian army out of the upper Kodori Gorge in Abkhazia. Russia's Black Sea Fleet blockaded Georgia's maritime borders. Its troops then advanced from Abkhazia and South Ossetia deep into Georgian territory, destroying military hardware and ammunition, and setting up buffer zones around South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The brief war left 370 Georgians, both troops and civilians, as well as approx. 80 Russian soldiers dead. 8,000 ethnic Georgians were estimated to have been permanently displaced from Russian-occupied areas outside Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The French EU Presidency mediated a ceasefire accord on August 12. Russia withdrew its troops from the buffer zones following the EU's deployment of a civilian monitoring mission (EUMM) with 200 observers to these areas early in October. However, Georgia continued to demand a pull-back of all Russian troops to the lines held prior to August 7, in accordance with the Six-Point Ceasefire Agreement. Russia claimed the parts of the agreement relating to troop withdrawal no longer applied following its recognition of the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia late in August. Russia signed treaties of cooperation and friendship with both republics foreseeing the establishment of a permanent Russian military presence there. On October 15, talks in Geneva brokered by the UN, EU, and OSCE to mediate between Georgia and Russia foundered over the unresolved question of Abkhaz and South Ossetian participation in the negotiations. However, informal talks took place on November 19. The format was to be continued on a monthly basis. On November 23, in a continuation of the mutual propaganda warfare, Georgia accused Russian troops of firing on a convoy carrying the Georgian and Polish presidents on a fact-finding mission at a checkpoint near Akhgori. Russia denied the allegation, and claimed the incident was a provocation staged by Georgia. (mak)

Russia - Ukraine

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 2003 |
| Conflict parties: | Russia vs. Ukraine | |
| Conflict items: | territory, international power, resources | |

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine continued. From March 3 to 5, as threatened in February, the Rus-

sian state-run gas monopolist Gazprom reduced gas exports to Ukraine until the latter agreed to pay its debts. On June 6, new Russian President Dmitry Medvedev reiterated threats of "serious consequences" if Ukraine continued to strive for NATO membership [→ USA - Russia (missile system)]. On June 20, the Russian foreign ministry demanded a halt to Ukraine's exploitation of oil and gas on the Black Sea Shelf, an area whose legal status was contested between the conflict parties. In September, the Russian foreign ministry criticized Ukraine's pro-Georgian stance on the Russian-Georgian conflict [→ Russia - Georgia] and threatened to cancel the Russian-Ukrainian friendship treaty. Because of the Russian engagement in Georgia, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko boycotted a meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States in October. Later that month, Ukraine announced it would not renew the lease contract of the Russian naval base in Sevastopol after 2017. Russia, however, expressed its interest in renewing the contract. On November 1, the Ukrainian national broadcasting commission took some Russian TV channels off Ukrainian airwaves. Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov demanded the rights of Ukraine's Russian-speaking population to be respected. Ukrainian Defense Minister Yuri Yekhanurov on November 26 announced plans to deploy additional air force and air defense units towards the Russian border to be prepared for Russian military operations like those against Georgia. (mag)

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 gained new momentum after Kosovo's unilaterally declared independence. In late November 2007, UN-hosted talks between the Serbian government and the Kosovo authorities had failed to resolve their dispute. From January on, Kosovo increasingly pushed for independence, while Serbia repeatedly objected. Serbia and UN Security Council (UNSC) veto power Russia warned against the precedent-setting character of an international recognition of Kosovo against international law. Kosovo's declaration of independence on February 17 was followed by riots of more than thousand Serbs in Serbia's capital, Belgrade, and the Kosovo Serb stronghold of Kosovska Mitrovica. In Mitrovica, rioters threw hand grenades at UN and EU buildings. At Jarinje and Brnjak on the Kosovo border, hundreds of Serb protesters used bulldozers and explosives to demolish customs and police posts. NATO troops regained control and sealed the border. USA, Great Britain, France, Germany, and Croatia immediately recognized Kosovo. Serbia temporarily recalled its ambassadors from states recognizing Kosovo. On February 21, 150,000 gathered in Belgrade in protest against Kosovo's independence. The situation escalated when protesters invaded the US embassy and set it on fire. One protester died in the blaze. Riot police used tear gas to disperse the crowds, who

also targeted a number of other embassies. The same day, Serbian army reservists tried to enter Kosovo at the crossing point at Merdare, but the NATO-backed Kosovo Police Service was able to hold the line. In March, Serbia's governing coalition of Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica's moderate nationalists and the pro-western bloc led by President Boris Tadic fell apart over Kosovo and EU integration issues. Following early elections, Tadic's democratic bloc formed a coalition with the Socialist Party of the late President Slobodan Milosevic. 300 polling stations had been set up in Kosovo's Serb enclaves for the election. On March 14, hundreds of Serbs occupied a courthouse in Kosovska Mitrovica for three days. When UN police removed the occupants, demonstrators attacked the peacekeepers with hand grenades and firebombs. An exchange of gunfire left one UN policeman dead and more than 60 peacekeepers and 70 protesters injured. The UN accused Serbian officials of orchestrating the violent clashes. Later in March, Tadic proposed dividing Kosovo along ethnic lines. In June, Kosovo adopted a new constitution, while the Serb minority in Kosovo inaugurated its own assembly. On October 8, the UN General Assembly approved Serbia's request to consult the ICJ on the legitimacy of Kosovo's independence. Montenegro and Macedonia recognized Kosovo on October 9, prompting Serbia to expel their ambassadors. From mid-October on, ethnic Serbs and Albanians clashed in northern Kosovo on several occasions. After an explosion at the EU envoy's office in Kosovo on November 14, three members of the German foreign intelligence service were detained by Kosovo. Later the previously unknown militant group Army of the Republic of Kosovo claimed responsibility. On November 26, the UNSC approved UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's plan to deploy the EU police and justice mission EULEX Kosovo and reconfigure UNMIK. Both Serbia and Kosovo announced their cooperation with EULEX, despite Kosovo fearing a dilution of its authority. By late November, 54 states had recognized Kosovo. (jd)

Spain (ETA, PNV/Basque Provinces)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1959 |
| Conflict parties: | ETA, Basque regional government (PNV) vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The conflict concerning independence for the Basque Provinces continued. On 12/16/07, the militant organization Basque Homeland and Freedom (Euskadi Ta Askatasuna, ETA) staged a bomb blast at a courthouse in Bilbao. From Christmas 2007 till April 2008, ETA committed various terrorist attacks against the Socialist Party of Euskadi (PSE), killing former councilor Isaías Carrasco in Mondragón on March 7. Between February 9 and October 29, ETA killed four people and injured 40 through bombings and assassinations, mainly in northern Spain. An unannounced bomb attack on May 14 left one policeman dead in Legutiano. Car bombs killed a Spanish officer on September 22 in Santona and injured 15 people at the campus of the University of Navarra on October 29. Thousands of Spanish protested against ETA in various cities from De-

cember 2007 to March 10. Between December 2007 and November 2008, Spanish and French police arrested numerous high-ranking ETA activists, including two perpetrators of the 2006 Madrid airport attacks, as well as leading figure Javier "Thierry" López Peña and military head Garikoitz "Txeroki" Aspiazu Rubina. On May 1, the Spanish police arrested Inocencia Galparsoro, the mayor of Mondragón, suspected of supporting ETA. Spanish courts banned the Communist Party of the Basque Homelands (EHAK/PCTV) and Basque Nationalist Action (EAE/ANV) because of alleged ties to ETA on February 8. On June 26, the Basque regional parliament approved Basque Prime Minister Juan José Ibarretxe's plans to seek a referendum on the right to self-determination. On September 11, the Constitutional Court declared the referendum plans unconstitutional. On September 9 and October 25, thousands of Basque separatists demonstrated for the right to a referendum. (dh)

Turkey - Armenia

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1991 |
| Conflict parties: | Turkey vs. Armenia | |
| Conflict items: | international power, other | |

The conflict between Turkey and Armenia over international power and Turkey's denial of the genocide against the Ottoman Empire's Armenian minority between 1915 and 1917 continued. Late in April, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced plans for a Caucasian alliance consisting of Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Russia. On September 6, Turkish President Abdullah Gül became the first Turkish head of state to visit Armenia, marking the first direct political contact between Turkey and Armenia. Later that month, the foreign ministers of Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan met for talks in New York [→ Armenia - Azerbaijan]. Further trilateral talks were announced by Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan on November 12. After a meeting with Babacan in Istanbul on November 24, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian announced Armenia's interest in establishing diplomatic relations and opening its border with Turkey. Turkey announced plans to restore diplomatic relations with Armenia. In August, the Turkish cabinet replaced the current president of the Turkish Historical Society, a strong denier of the Armenian genocide, with a more moderate candidate. However, Turkish Defense Minister Mehmet Vecdi Gönül on November 10 praised the expulsion of Armenians in 1915 as a benefit for Turkish nation-building. On November 14, Erdogan urged US President-elect Barack Obama to refrain from backing Armenian genocide claims. (sh)

Turkey - Greece

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1973 |
| Conflict parties: | Turkey vs. Greece | |
| Conflict items: | territory | |

Greece and Turkey maintained their claims in the conflict concerning sovereignty rights in the Aegean border region. Simultaneously, the two countries held talks on developing mutual trust and understanding. On Jan-

uary 23, Greek Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis undertook the first official visit to neighboring Turkey by a Greek political leader in 48 years. On May 26, the General Staff chiefs of Turkey and Greece, Mehmet Yasar Büyükanit and Dimitrios Grapsas, met in the Turkish capital, Ankara, to discuss security problems stemming from territorial disputes. They agreed on more frequent visits as a move to better mutual understanding. On October 28, Turkish Defense Minister Mehmet Vecdi Gönül was the first bearer of his office in history to attend a Greek military parade in the city of Thessaloniki. On November 15, Greece protested the presence of a Norwegian-flagged oil research vessel escorted by a Turkish frigate in a part of the southern Aegean Sea claimed by both countries. The Turkish frigate and a Greek gunboat stood facing each other for hours in the disputed area, with both captains demanding each other's retreat. After the Norwegian vessel had stopped its activities, the warships withdrew. (aj)

United Kingdom (IRA et al./Northern Ireland)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1968 |
| Conflict parties: | IRA, Real IRA, Continuity IRA, Sinn Féin, SDLP vs. government, UDA, UVF, DUP, UUP | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

Tensions between the two antagonistic communities in the conflict concerning the secession of Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom slightly increased. The Northern Ireland Assembly at Stormont was deadlocked from June till November over a stand-off between the two coalition parties, the pro-British Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and pro-Irish Sinn Féin, caused by disagreements concerning the devolution of the judicial system. On November 18, however, both parties announced that they had agreed a deal ending the dispute by committing themselves to devolution of powers, albeit without a precise timetable. The parties also argued over the introduction of an Irish language act, which was rejected by the DUP. On September 3, the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC) found the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) had relinquished its paramilitary structure. Nevertheless, the IMC stated it did not expect an announcement from the IRA that its army council would disband. However, paramilitary violence continued. Dissident Republicans were accused of a series of terrorist attacks throughout the year, particularly targeting Northern Irish police officers. The murder of a police officer in Creggan on June 24 was also attributed to dissident Republicans. Also, Loyalist terror groups reportedly still defied the police, and engaged in vigilante action in working class areas controlled by them. On July 30, the government set a deadline of six months for the Loyalist paramilitary groups Ulster Volunteer Force

(UVF) and Ulster Defense Association (UDA) to decommission their weapons. (jb)

United Kingdom (SNP/Scotland)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 1 | Change: • | Start: 2007 |
| Conflict parties: | Scottish regional government (SNP) vs. central government | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The secession conflict between the Scottish National Party (SNP) and the British government continued. The SNP, whose election manifesto included a referendum on independence by 2010, had emerged from the 2007 Scottish parliamentary election as the strongest party, and proceeded to form a minority government with Alex Salmond as First Minister. However, the pro-Union opposition parties in Holyrood, the Scottish parliament, made use of their parliamentary majority on 12/06/07 by voting for an independently chaired commission to review devolution, in effect rivaling the SNP's "national conversation" on independence. On October 14, UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown said the Treasury's multi-billion pound bail-out of Scottish banks proved the strength of the Union. Salmond accused Brown of using the economic situation to attack Scottish independence. (aog)

USA - Russia (missile system)

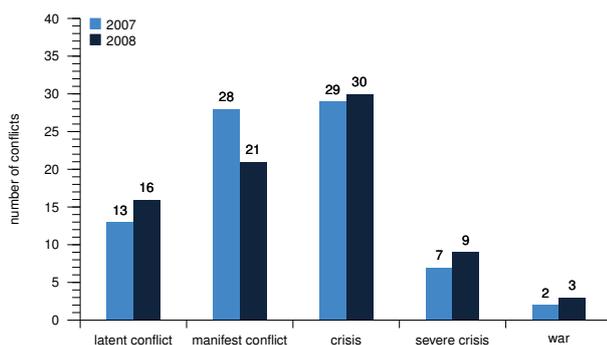
| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 2007 |
| Conflict parties: | USA vs. Russia | |
| Conflict items: | international power | |

The conflict between the USA and Russia over international power continued. Both countries had been involved in a dispute over a US-led missile defense system to be stationed in the Czech Republic and Poland since early 2007. On February 28, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced an increase in military spending by billions of dollars, especially for the air force. The Russian government justified its decision with the need to defend its borders. On July 8, the USA cited the nuclear threat posed by Iran as a justification of its missile system [→ Iran - USA]. The same day, the Czech Republic authorized the USA to install radar units for the missile system. Six days later, Russian oil deliveries to the Czech Republic temporarily stopped. Following a similar deal between Poland and the USA on August 14, Russia's deputy chief of staff warned Poland on August 15 that Russia reserved the right to launch a nuclear attack on the country for hosting US rockets. In his first state-of-the-nation address on November 5, new Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Russia would neutralize the US missile system by deploying short-range missiles in its Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad and electronically jam the American system. (sez)

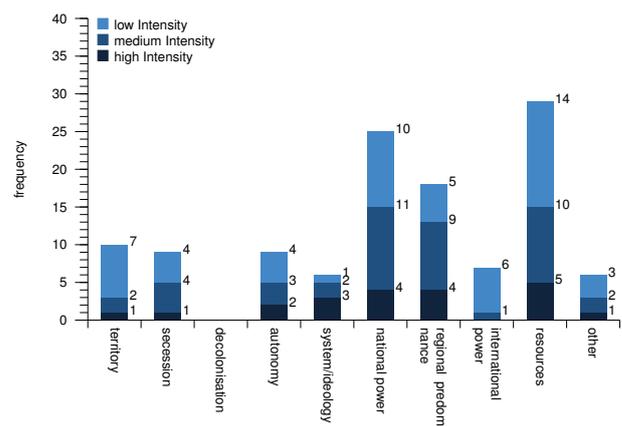
Sub-Saharan Africa

As in the previous year, 78 conflicts were observed in sub-Saharan Africa. Most of them centered around resources, oftentimes combined with national power or regional predominance. Whereas last year had seen a certain deescalation in Africa, the number of highly violent conflicts once more rose from nine to twelve in 2008. Three - instead of two - of these were wars: Chad (various rebel groups), Sudan (Darfur), and Somalia (UIC). The latter two had already been classified as wars in 2007 and 2006. As the nine severe crises were situated in Mali, Nigeria, southern Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Kenya, and additional crises were situated in Niger, the Central African Republic, and Ethiopia (which was also involved in the war in Somalia), a zone of interrelated conflicts was distinguishable, constituting an "arc of crisis" ranging from the Gulf of Guinea over central Africa and the Great Lakes region to the Horn of Africa. In addition, the increasing instability of the affected countries had a negative impact on the humanitarian situation in these areas. Neither the peacekeeping operations in Somalia nor those in Darfur, Sudan, managed to improve the security situation significantly. In Sudan, apart from the war in Darfur, northern and southern forces heavily clashed in the region of Abyei [Sudan (→ SPLM/A / South Sudan)], casting doubts on the feasibility of national elections scheduled for 2009. In neighboring Chad, rebel groups launched a major attack on the capital, N'Djamena [→ Chad (various rebel groups)]. In contrast, a fragile peace agreement was established in the Central African Republic (CAR) [→ Central African Republic (UFDR, APRD)]. In the Great Lakes region, both the refusal of the Lord's Resistance Army to sign a peace agreement [→ Uganda (LRA)] and the activities of several rebel movements in the eastern parts of the DR Congo increased the region's instability. In the DR Congo, Tutsi rebel forces under the command of Laurent Nkunda launched a major offensive against government forces in November [→ DR Congo (CNDP)]. The situation was further aggravated when the neighboring states Uganda, Rwanda, and Angola reportedly became involved in the fighting, supporting either the government or the rebels. In reaction, the UN Security Council decided to deploy 3,000 additional peacekeeping forces to the region. Compared with these developments, southern and western Africa remained relatively stable. Peaceful elections were held in Zambia and Angola [→ Angola (UNITA)]. However, the situation in Zimbabwe [→ Zimbabwe (opposition)] further deteriorated in the aftermath of the elections, which led to large-scale violent abuses against opposition members. While the conflict parties reached a general consensus on power-sharing, this agreement constantly remained on the brink of collapse, accompanied by a significantly worsening humanitarian situation towards the end of the year. In addition, South Africa witnessed violent anti-immigrant riots [→ South Africa (xenophobes - immigrants)] as well as rising tensions between different factions of the ruling party African National Congress. In western Africa, positive developments included relatively peaceful elections in Sierra Leone which saw an opposition victory, and the transfer of sovereignty over the Bakassi Peninsula from Nigeria to Cameroon [→ Nigeria - Cameroon (Bakassi)], implementing a 2002 ICJ ruling. However, Muslims and Christians once more massively clashed [→ Nigeria (Muslims - Christians)], and the conflict in the Niger Delta remained violent [→ Nigeria (Niger Delta/Ijaw)]. In addition, especially Guinea and Guinea-Bissau were seen as constantly prone for state collapse.

Conflict Intensities in sub-Saharan Africa in 2008 compared to 2007



Frequency of Conflict Items in 2008 in sub-Saharan Africa by Intensity Groups



Overview: Conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa in 2008

| 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 | END 1 |
| Botswana (Basarwa)* | Basarwa vs. government | system/ideology, resources | 1997 | • 2 |
| Burundi (Hutu - Tutsi) | various Hutu parties vs. various Tutsi parties | national power | 1962 | • 2 |

| Name of conflict ¹ | Conflict parties ² | Conflict items | Start | Change ³ | Int. ⁴ |
|---|--|---|-------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Burundi (opposition)* | FRODEBU, UPRONA, FNL-Icanzo, MSD, CNDD-FDD-Radjabu vs. government | national power | 2006 | ↗ | 3 |
| Burundi (Palipehutu-FNL Rwasia) | Palipehutu-FNL faction led by Agathon Rwasia vs. government | national power | 2005 | ↗ | 4 |
| Burundi - Rwanda (border)* | Burundi vs. Rwanda | territory | 1960 | • | 1 |
| Cameroon (insurgents/Bakassi) | LSC, NDDSC, BAMOSD, BFF vs. government | autonomy | 2006 | • | 3 |
| Central African Republic (various rebel groups) | UFDR, APRD, FIRCA, FDPC vs. government | national power | 2005 | ↘ | 3 |
| Chad (ethnic groups)* | Arab ethnic communities vs. African ethnic communities | regional predominance | 2003 | ↘ | 3 |
| Chad (MDJT)* | MDJT vs. government | national power | 1998 | END | 1 |
| Chad (opposition)* | opposition vs. government | national power | 1990 | • | 2 |
| Chad (various rebel groups) | FUC, UFDD, UFDD-F, RFC, FSR, UFCD, UDC, MDJT, NA vs. government | national power | 2005 | ↗ | 5 |
| Chad - Sudan | Chad vs. Sudan | international power | 2003 | • | 3 |
| Comoros (Anjouan, Moheli) | regional government of Anjouan vs. Union government on Grande Comore | autonomy | 1997 | • | 3 |
| Congo-Brazzaville (Ninja militias)* | CNR, Ninja militias vs. government | autonomy, national power | 1997 | ↘ | 2 |
| Côte d'Ivoire (Guere - Dioula, immigrants)* | Guere vs. Dioula, immigrants | regional predominance, resources | 2004 | ↘ | 1 |
| Côte d'Ivoire (rebels) | FN, Group of Seven vs. government | national power | 1999 | • | 3 |
| DR Congo (Bundu dia Kongo) | Bundu dia Kongo vs. government | autonomy, system/ideology | 2000 | ↗ | 4 |
| DR Congo (CNDP) | CNDP vs. government | regional predominance, resources, other | 2004 | • | 4 |
| DR Congo (FDLR, Interahamwe) | FDLR, Interahamwe vs. government | regional predominance, resources, other | 1997 | • | 3 |
| 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)* | Mayi-Mayi vs. government | national power, resources | 2004 | • | 3 |
| DR Congo (MLC, RCD, UPDS)* | MLC, RCD, UPDS 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 | ↘ | 1 |
| Eritrea - Djibouti | Eritrea vs. Djibouti | territory | 1995 | ↑ | 3 |
| Ethiopia (EPPF)* | EPPF vs. government | national power | 1998 | • | 3 |
| Ethiopia (OLF/Oromyia) | OLF vs. government | secession | 1974 | • | 3 |
| Ethiopia (ONLF/Ogaden) | ONLF vs. government | secession | 1984 | ↘ | 3 |
| 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, international power | 1998 | • | 2 |
| Guinea (opposition) | opposition, unions vs. government | national power | 2006 | • | 3 |
| Guinea-Bissau (MDFC-Sadio)* | MFDC-Sadio vs. government | regional predominance | 2006 | • | 1 |
| Guinea-Bissau (PAIGC)* | PAIGC vs. government | national power | 1998 | ↘ | 2 |
| Kenya (ethnic groups)* | SLDF, Soy vs. MF, Ndorobo vs. PRM vs. Garre vs. Murule vs. Pokot | regional predominance, resources | 1991 | ↘ | 3 |
| Kenya (Mungiki sect) | Mungiki sect vs. government | system/ideology, regional predominance | 2002 | • | 3 |
| Kenya (opposition) | ODM, Luo, Kalenjin, Luhyas vs. PNU, Kikuyu | national power | 1999 | ↑ | 4 |

| Name of conflict ¹ | Conflict parties ² | Conflict items | Start | Change ³ | Int. ⁴ |
|--|--|---|-------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Kenya (SLDF) | SLDF, Soy, MF, Ndorobo, PRM vs. government | regional predominance | 2002 | ↗ | 4 |
| Mali (Tuareg/Kidal) | ATNMC, DAC vs. government | autonomy, resources | 1989 | ↗ | 4 |
| Mauretania - Senegal* | Mauretania vs. Senegal | resources | 2000 | • | 1 |
| Namibia (CLA/Caprivi Strip)* | CLA, DTA, UDP vs. government | secession | 1998 | ↘ | 1 |
| Niger (Tuareg/Agadez) | MNJ vs. government | autonomy, resources | 1999 | • | 3 |
| Nigeria (Christians - Muslims) | Christians vs. Muslims | system/ideology | 1960 | ↑ | 4 |
| Nigeria (MASSOB/Biafra)* | MASSOB vs. government | secession | 1967 | • | 2 |
| Nigeria (MEND, Ijaw/Niger Delta) | Ijaw, NDPVF, MEND vs. government | regional predominance, resources | 1997 | • | 4 |
| Nigeria (MOSOP, Ogoni/Niger Delta)* | MOSOP vs. Ogoni, government | autonomy, resources | 1990 | ↗ | 2 |
| Nigeria - Cameroon (Bakassi) | Nigeria vs. Cameroon | territory | 1961 | ↘ | 1 |
| Rwanda (various Hutu rebel groups) | Interahamwe, ex-FAR, FDLR vs. government | national power | 1990 | ↗ | 3 |
| Rwanda - France* | Rwanda vs. France | international power, other | 2004 | ↗ | 2 |
| Rwanda - Uganda | Rwanda vs. Uganda | international power, resources | 2000 | • | 2 |
| Senegal (MFDC-Sadio/Casamance) | MFDC-Sadio, MFDC-Badiate vs. government | secession | 1982 | • | 3 |
| Sierra Leone (AFRC, RUF, SMG)* | RUF, AFRC, SMG vs. government | national power, resources | 1991 | • | 2 |
| Somalia (Maakhir - Puntland)* | Maakhir vs. Puntland | other | 2007 | • | 2 |
| Somalia (Puntland - Somaliland) | Puntland vs. Somaliland | territory, regional predominance, resources | 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. TFG | system/ideology, national power | 2006 | • | 5 |
| Somalia (various rebel groups)* | warlords vs. TFG | national power | 1980 | • | 2 |
| South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal)* | IFP vs. ANC | regional predominance | 1990 | ↘ | 1 |
| South Africa (xenophobes - immigrants) | xenophobes vs. immigrants | regional predominance | 2008 | NEW | 3 |
| South Africa - Namibia* | South Africa vs. Namibia | territory, resources | 2000 | • | 1 |
| Sudan (Darfur) | JEM, SLM/A, SLM/A-AS, SLM, SLM/A-AW, SLM/A-MM, SLM/A-Unity, SFDA, JEM/PW, NMRD, DLM, RDFF, RUM, G19 vs. government, Janjaweed militias | regional predominance, resources | 2003 | • | 5 |
| Sudan (Eastern Front)* | Eastern Front vs. government | autonomy, resources | 2005 | • | 2 |
| Sudan (LRA - SPLM/A)* | LRA vs. SPLM, SPLA | regional predominance | 1994 | • | 3 |
| Sudan (SPLM/A / South Sudan) | SPLM/A vs. government of Sudan in Khartoum | territory, secession, resources | 1955 | ↗ | 4 |
| Sudan - Uganda* | Sudan vs. Uganda | international power, other | 1994 | • | 1 |
| Swaziland (opposition) | SFTU, SNAT, SFL, COSTATU, PUDEMO, SWAYOCO vs. government | system/ideology | 1998 | • | 3 |
| Swaziland - South Africa* | Swaziland vs. South Africa | territory | 1902 | • | 1 |
| Tanzania (CUF/Zanzibar) | CUF vs. regional government | secession | 1993 | • | 2 |
| Togo (opposition)* | UFC, CFD vs. government | national power | 2002 | • | 1 |
| Uganda (ADF, NALU) | ADF, NALU vs. government | national power, resources | 1987 | ↗ | 3 |
| Uganda (LRA) | LRA vs. government | national power, resources | 1987 | • | 3 |
| Uganda - DR Congo (Lake Albert)* | Uganda vs. DR Congo | territory, resources | 2007 | ↘ | 2 |
| Zimbabwe (opposition) | MDC-T, MDC-M 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 - Armed Forces of Cabinda (FLEC-FAC) and the government about the future status of the oil-rich enclave of Cabinda remained violent. FLEC-FAC, a faction opposed to the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding between FLEC and the government, continued its hit-and-run attacks on government forces. On March 3, a Portuguese worker and three soldiers were killed in a FLEC-FAC ambush. Despite these incidents, implementation of the peace memorandum continued. António Bento Bembe, a former rebel leader and now chairman of the Cabindan Forum for Dialog (FCD), highlighted the integration of former FLEC fighters into the Angolan Armed Forces (AAF) and the National Police as well as the extension of the special status of Cabinda. By 2008, 80 to 90 percent of former FLEC fighters had been demobilized or joined the army. (bs)

Burundi (Hutu - Tutsi)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1962 |
| Conflict parties: | various Hutu parties vs. various Tutsi parties | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

For the third year running, the national power conflict between Hutu and Tutsi in Burundi was carried out without the use of violence. From 2005 on, the country was ruled by the former Hutu rebel movement National Council for the Defense of Democracy – Forces for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD-FDD). On 12/19/07, the UN political mission BINUB was extended until December 2008. Meanwhile, the government lagged behind the scheduled creation of a transitional justice mechanism (a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a Special Court) supposed to deal with the war crimes committed in the civil war. Following repeated pressure by the UN, the government announced in October that the process of popular consultations on transitional justice, financed by the UN, was to start in January 2009. With the integration of many former Hutu rebel combatants, the domination of the Tutsi ethnic group in the Burundian army was overcome. However, in 2008 still only a few Hutu senior officers held positions on decision-making levels of the army. In April, hundreds of Burundian soldiers scheduled for demobilization refused to complete the process over financial issues, questioning whether the legal ethnic quota of 50 percent Hutu and 50 percent Tutsi in the make-up of the Burundian army had been respected in the selection of those to be demobilized. On August 14, the UNHCR set up a pilot-project model village where formerly displaced Hutu and Tutsi were resettled side by side to seek reconciliation after decades of ethnic violence. More than 450,000 Burundian refugees returned home since 2002. Nevertheless, more than 100,000 Burundian refugees still remained in Tanzania alone by mid-2008. According to the International Crisis Group, the peace process between the two ethnic groups might be threatened when the last active Hutu rebel group, the

Palipehutu-FNL led by Agathon Rwasa, participates in the general elections in 2010, as the rebels remained opposed to the ethnic quota system in the political system and the army. In June 2008, Palipehutu-FNL was denied recognition as a political party because of the ethnic reference in its name, in accordance with the Burundian constitution. The rebels dismissed the idea of a name change [→ Burundi (Palipehutu-FNL Rwasa)]. In addition, the worsening situation between Hutu and Tutsi in the DR Congo raised fears of renewed ethnically motivated violence in Burundi, especially considering that Congolese Tutsi rebel leader Laurent Nkunda was also recruiting Burundian Tutsi fighters [→ DR Congo (CNDP)]. (hlm)

Burundi (Palipehutu-FNL Rwasa)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↗ | Start: 2005 |
| Conflict parties: | Palipehutu-FNL faction led by Agathon Rwasa vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

The conflict concerning national power between the Hutu rebel movement Palipehutu-FNL, led by Agathon Rwasa, and the government of President Pierre Nkurunziza, also a Hutu, escalated. Sporadic fighting continued throughout the deadlocked negotiations on the implementation of the September 2006 ceasefire treaty during the first months of the year. In late December 2007 and early January, Rwasa's forces attacked military positions in the province of Bubanza, displacing more than 8,000 persons. In March, talks between the conflict parties in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, focused on renewed participation of the rebels in the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JVMM) they had left in July 2007, and on Rwasa's return from his exile in Tanzania. Other unresolved issues were to be dealt with by a Political Directorate (PD) to be established by South African chief mediator Charles Nqakula, whose mandate had been extended in February against Palipehutu-FNL's accusations of bias. The PD, comprised of representatives of both conflict parties as well as - among others - the AU, the EU, South Africa, and Tanzania, was established in spring. In March, the government and Palipehutu-FNL announced that negotiations would resume on April 1 and be completed by July. However, the date passed without any talks having begun. Instead, fighting resumed in the capital, Bujumbura, in the night of April 16 to 17. The rebels started shelling the capital with mortars in what the army described as a "major attack", claiming the lives of at least ten people. The next day, the army launched a counterattack, in which at least four soldiers and ten rebels died. According to Palipehutu-FNL, the army had started the fighting. Clashes in and outside the capital continued throughout April, killing more than 30 people altogether. The UN and the USA strongly condemned the fighting, which the US blamed entirely on Palipehutu-FNL. Both urged Palipehutu-FNL to return to the JVMM. Early in May, Palipehutu-FNL proposed to resume ceasefire talks with the government in mid-May. At the same time, the army killed 50 rebels in the heaviest fighting since the rebel's attack on Bujumbura, near Kabezi, 20 km south of the capital. Two

soldiers died as well, and 20,000 people fled the fighting. The army continued shelling rebel positions over the following days. On May 16, the rebels finally joined the peace talks. Agathon Rwaswa himself, however, remained in Tanzania, demanding full immunity from prosecution and a share of government jobs. After renewed pressure on both parties by the UN, the Palipehutu finally declared a conditional truce on May 23, demanding their fighters be given food. Three days later, the conflict parties signed a ceasefire deal coming into force the same day. On May 30, Rwaswa bowed to pressure, especially by Tanzania, and finally returned to Burundi. From then on Palipehutu-FNL participated in the JVMM, and no more fighting was reported. According to the BBC, the month's fighting had claimed more than 100 lives and forced about 40,000 people to flee. Early in June, Rwaswa flew to South Africa for peace negotiations with the Burundian government. On June 11, the conflict parties signed the Magaliesburg Agreement, committing them to resolve their differences through dialog. They also agreed on the recognition of Palipehutu-FNL as a political party and the integration of its fighters into the Burundian army. Five days later, the first cantonment site for the rebels was opened. In the ceremony, Rwaswa declared the armed struggle against the government to be over. However, disagreement remained on the allocation of government posts to Palipehutu-FNL. The rebels insisted on a 50 percent power-sharing deal, contravening the constitution as many of the posts in question were subject to elections. Moreover, the government refused to recognize Palipehutu-FNL as a political party if it did not change its name in line with the Burundian constitution's ban on ethnic connotations in party names. Palipehutu-FNL insisted on keeping its original name and demanded the constitution be changed accordingly, either by parliament or by referendum. Another issue was the release of imprisoned members of Palipehutu-FNL; the police and army had repeatedly arrested suspected rebels throughout the year, even after the ceasefire deal was signed. In a letter to President Nkurunziza of August 27, Rwaswa accused the Burundian security forces of plotting to assassinate him. Two days later, Rwaswa and Nkurunziza met to discuss the unresolved items, and agreed on the release of an unspecified number of detainees. By September, the disarmament of the rebels and their integration into the national army, both agreed in the ceasefire deal, had barely started. On November 6, Palipehutu-FNL again rejected a proposal to change its name made by international mediators trying to revive the stalled peace process. In the ceasefire deal, December 31 was set as deadline for the integration of Palipehutu-FNL into state institutions. (hlm)

Cameroon (insurgents/Bakassi)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 2006 |
| Conflict parties: | LSC, NDDSC, BAMOSD, BFF vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | autonomy | |

The security situation on the Bakassi Peninsula deteriorated in the wake of the implemented transfer of sovereignty from Nigeria to Cameroon [→ Nigeria -

Cameroon (Bakassi)] and in the context of the conflict in the Niger Delta [→ Nigeria (Niger Delta-Ijaw)]. In November 2007, the Liberators of Southern Cameroon (LSC) claimed responsibility for a deadly attack in which 21 Cameroonian soldiers had been killed. In an assault on June 9, unknown attackers abducted and later killed the Divisional Officer of Kombo Abedima, Felix Fony Morfan, as well as five policemen near the southern Bakassi town of Archibongin. In another attack, fighters of the Niger Delta Defense and Security Council (NDDSC) attacked a Cameroonian military installation at Munya, wounding three soldiers. On July 22, ten NDDSC fighters as well as two Cameroonian soldiers died in an attack near Kombo. At the end of July, the Bakassi Movement for Self-Determination (BAMOSD) issued a statement saying it would join forces with the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), a rebel group mainly active in Nigeria. On October 30, ten people, including seven French nationals, were abducted from a support vessel by the Bakassi Freedom Fighters (BFF). After the government had released 13 BFF fighters from custody, all hostages were released. (rs)

Central African Republic (various rebel groups)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↘ | Start: 2005 |
| Conflict parties: | UFDR, APRD, FIRCA, FDPC vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

The national power conflict between the Popular Army for the Restoration of the Republic and Democracy (APRD), the Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFDR), the Forces for the Unification of the Central African Republic (FIRCA), and the Democratic Front of the Central African People (FDPC), on the one hand, and the government, on the other, remained violent despite peace negotiations. The government was supported by the Multinational Force in Central Africa (FOMUC), a peace operation encompassing about 380 military and 170 police forces of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC). On July 12, the responsibilities for FOMUC shifted from CEMAC to the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), leading to the renaming of the mission into Mission for the Consolidation of Peace (MICOPAX). On January 28, the EU's foreign ministers, in accordance with a UN Security Council mandate of 11/25/07, decided to launch the deployment of the EU mission EUFOR CHAD/CAR consisting of 3,700 troops to CAR and the eastern regions of Chad. EUFOR was to work alongside the UN MINURCAT mission, a 350-men police and military training mission covered by the same resolution. Some 200 French troops stationed in northeast CAR were transferred to EUFOR, which reached Initial Operating Capability status on March 15. In late November 2007, APRD rebels attacked the Central African Armed Forces (FACA), killing one soldier and injuring four close to the borders to Cameroon and Chad. The latter's army became involved in the conflict between the CAR government and APRD when local peasants, feeling under pressure from nomadic cattle herders from Chad and CAR, began to support APRD in turn for protec-

tion. Chad's army, on the other hand, acted on behalf of the nomads and supposedly with the approval of CAR's government when it launched numerous cross-border attacks on villages in northwest CAR, primarily between Markounda and Maitoukoulou, displacing more than 1,000 people in January and February. In the most severe attack, six villages were burned down and five villagers killed on February 29. The attacks were linked to the conflict. From mid-December 2007 till mid-February 2008, approx. 6,000 people fled to southern Chad. On March 4 to 5, APRD rebels claimed to have killed five and wounded ten FACA soldiers in fighting near the town of Bocaranga in the northwestern border region. APRD and the government signed a ceasefire agreement in Gabon's capital, Libreville, on May 9. The APRD had been the last rebel group to sign a ceasefire agreement with the government after the FDPC and UFDR had already signed one on 02/02/07 and 04/13/07, respectively. On June 21, UFDR, APRD, and President François Bozizé signed a comprehensive peace accord dealing with the issues of reintegration programs and amnesty. On August 2, APRD and, on August 3, UFDR as well as FDPC withdrew from the ongoing peace negotiations, citing discontent with the draft amnesty laws, which were nevertheless enacted in September. On August 7, only days after APRD had left the peace talks, FACA and APRD engaged in clashes in the northeast CAR. Reports of clashes on August 11 and 14 near the Cameroonian border by APRD were denied by the government. In late August, CAR armed forces reportedly attacked APRD's main operating area in the country's northwest. A splinter group of UFDR called FIRCA seized the village of Am Dafok on the Sudanese border in September. The peace talks between APRD, UFDR and the government resumed in late October. On November 11, the government stated that FDPC had killed up to 14 government soldiers in an ambush near Sido, close to the Chadian border. Adding to the fragile security situation, the Lord's Resistance Army, a Ugandan rebel group, conducted several raids on border villages in the CAR, killing and abducting several hundreds of people [→ Uganda (LRA)]. (ng)

Chad (various rebel groups)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 5 | Change: ↗ | Start: 2005 |
| Conflict parties: | FUC, UFDD, UFDD-F, RFC, FSR, UFCD, UDC, MDJT, NA vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

The conflict over national power between a coalition of various rebel groups and the government escalated to a war. The deployment of the EU peacekeeping mission EUFOR CHAD/CAR as well as the UN mission MINURCAT to eastern Chad and the Central African Republic [→ Central African Republic (various rebel groups)] failed to deescalate the situation. After heavy clashes between the Union of Forces for Democracy and Development (UFDD), the Rally of Forces for Change (RFC), and the government in November, UFDD declared war on France and any other foreign forces in Chad on 11/30/07. The clashes continued until December 2007. On January 6, Chadian planes bombed rebel positions

in Goker and Wadi Radi in Sudan's Darfur region near the regional capital Geneina, causing further tensions between the two states [→ Chad - Sudan]. At least six rebels were killed. In late January, shortly after the EU's foreign ministers had decided on January 28 to launch EUFOR CHAD/CAR, the conflict escalated considerably. In an all-out offensive, a convoy of 300 vehicles carrying a total of 2,000 rebels of an alliance of UFDD, UFDD-Fundamental (UFDD-F), and RFC approached the capital N'Djamena from the eastern part of the country, reaching its outskirts on February 1 and entering the city the next day. Heavy fighting broke out as the rebels laid siege to the palace of President Idriss Déby. On February 3, 3,000 government troops equipped with helicopters and heavy tanks launched counterattacks on the rebels, forcing them to completely retreat by February 4. Already on February 1, France backed the Chadian government by reinforcing its contingent and flying in 150 troops from Gabon as a "precautionary measure". Fearing further attacks, 20,000 people fled to Cameroon, and another 1,000 to northern Nigeria. According to Déby, some 700 were killed in the fighting. The Red Cross reported more than 1,000 wounded, including many civilians, and some 30,000 refugees. Amid the unstable situation, Déby announced a countrywide state of emergency lasting from February 14 until March 15. Rights groups accused the president of using the crisis as a pretext for cracking down on the opposition [→ Chad (opposition)]. Chad accused Sudan of having backed the attack. After a temporary suspension, the EU peacekeeping force resumed its deployment to the eastern part of the country on February 12, and, on March 15, achieved Initial Operation Capability status. Following the repelled offensive, the alliance of rebels regrouped. Timane Erdimi left with his RFC, and Ahmat Soubiane, leader of the Front for the Health of the Republic (FSR), joined UFDD and UFDD-F in forming a new coalition called the National Alliance (NA) in late February. On March 28, the Union of Forces for Change and Democracy (UFCD), consisting of UFDD's vice president Adouma Hassaballah and RFC members, joined the NA. Later on, Abderaman Koulamallah, leader of the Democratic Union for Change (UDC), also joined, and by early August, the NA accepted the northern-based rebel group Movement for Democracy and Justice (MDJT) as another coalition member [→ Chad (MDJT)]. All opposing rebel groups dismissed the latest peace deal signed between Chad and Sudan on March 13, arguing that the security situation could only be improved by a comprehensive dialog between the government and the various rebel groups. From mid-March on, the government was engaged on and off in negotiations with RFC. Both conflict parties were led by members of the Zaghawa clan, i.e. Déby and his nephew Timane Erdimi, respectively. Throughout the remaining year, rebel groups continued attacking towns and refugee camps, e.g. in Am Zoer and Goz Beida, while the Chadian army fought back. No significant progress was made in the implementation of agreements between the two conflict parties. By September 15, the EUFOR mission had deployed 3,400 troops, its full operational capability. By October, aid or-

ganizations were assisting some 180,000 IDPs as well as 250,000 Darfuri refugees in eastern Chad. (jk)

Chad - Sudan

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 2003 |
| Conflict parties: | Chad vs. Sudan | |
| Conflict items: | international power | |

The conflict between Sudan and Chad concerning the support of rebel groups as well as the conduct of cross-border military operations remained violent despite two peace agreements in 2007 and another one in March 2008. On 12/28/07 as well as January 6, Chadian airplanes bombed areas in the Darfuri border region. The first attack hit the regions of Rijl al-Hazaya and Karmoula, the second the villages of Goker and Wadi Radi, all of them south of Geneina, the capital of West Darfur. Chad justified its action by claiming to have destroyed Chadian rebel shelters. In February, Chad accused Sudan of supporting a rebel attack on the capital, N'Djamena [→ Chad (various rebel groups)]. Chad threatened to use its rights to self-defense to repel future Sudanese-backed aggressions. Subsequently, both sides continued to accuse each other of supporting rebel groups in the respective other country, and threatened each other with military action. After mediation by Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, the two countries' presidents, Idriss Déby and Omar al-Bashir, signed a non-aggression agreement on March 13 in Dakar. They agreed to halt all activity by armed groups and to stop them from using their respective territory for the other's destabilization. The application of this agreement, the sixth peace deal brokered within five years, was to be monitored by a newly set up contact group comprising Libya, Congo, Senegal, Gabon, Eritrea, and officials from regional bodies. Immediately after the peace agreement was signed, both countries continued accusing each other of violating the new pact. On May 11, Sudan suspended diplomatic ties, accusing its neighbor of backing the Darfur rebel attack on Omdurman, next to the capital, Khartoum [→ Sudan (Darfur)]. The next day, Chad closed its border with Sudan, denying all accusations made. On June 17, Sudan's army attacked the Chadian military garrison in Adé, according to Chad. In July, due to the Contact Group's mediation, Sudan agreed to restore relations with Chad. Chad and Sudan resumed diplomatic relations on November 9. (jk)

Comoros (Anjouan, Moheli)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1997 |
| Conflict parties: | regional government of Anjouan vs. Union government on Grande Comore | |
| Conflict items: | autonomy | |

The autonomy conflict between the regional government of Anjouan, on the one hand, and the Union government on Grande Comore, on the other, continued. Sanctions against the regional government of Anjouan from 10/10/07 to 11/24/07, enforced by the Union government with the support of 200 AU soldiers, were first extended by 60, later by another 30 days. On February 20, the AU Peace and Security Council backed the Union government's position to use military force to restore the

Unions' authority on Anjouan, while negotiations continued with Anjouan's President Mohamed Said Bacar. On March 14, Tanzanian Foreign Minister Bernard Membe stated that all peaceful possibilities had been exhausted. The AU stationed a multi-national military force from Tanzania, Senegal, Libya, and Sudan, comprising about 2,000 soldiers, on Moheli, the island nearest to Anjouan. Libya, Sudan, Senegal as well as Tanzania agreed to provide personnel and military support. France offered transport support to deploy the AU troops. The envisaged military force of about 2,000 comprised 750 Tanzanian troops, 600 Sudanese soldiers, and 150 Senegalese, with the remainder of the forces from the Comoros and Libya. The Comoros' former colonial power, France, and the USA backed the military action. On March 18, dozens of local security forces loyal to Bacar were killed in an exchange of gunfire with government troops on Anjouan. On March 25, government and AU troops launched a seaborne assault against Mutsamudu, the capital of Anjouan, and took the airport within a few hours. Around Bacar's home, the coalition troops faced some resistance by Bacar's force of about 500 heavily armed and French-trained gendarmes. After a day, the AU troops routed Bacar's forces, and the colonel fled to the nearby French island of Mayotte. On March 31, the Union established an interim government on Anjouan to prepare legal presidential elections. On June 29, Moussa Toybou, backed by the central government, won the presidential 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. Following a power-sharing deal, FN leader Guillaume Soro had been appointed prime minister on 04/04/07. Late on 12/27/07, FN rebels and fighters loyal to former FN member Ibrahim "IB" Coulibaly engaged in a shootout in Bouaké in the rebel-controlled north. FN stated Coulibaly's forces had attempted to overthrow Soro, and that one person had been killed in the fighting and 20 arrested. In contrast, a spokesman of Coulibaly announced that FN had killed more than 60 in a purge of Coulibaly's followers. Coulibaly, coup plotter of 1999 and, allegedly, of 2003 as well as a former comrade of Soro's, had cut all ties with Soro in 2004. He was accused of being behind a rocket attack on Soro's plane in June 2007. On March 24 and 25, a civilian was killed during army riots in the western towns of Duékoué and Guiglo following the killing of a soldier by robbers. In mid-June, integrated ex-FN rebels rioted over delayed demobilization allowances in the northern stronghold Bouaké. On 12/22/07, both FN and government troops started disarming and retreated from their frontline positions. The government estimated that some 33,000 rebels and about 5,000 government troops would participate in the disarmament process the next three months. On July 30, the UN mission UN-OCI dismantled the last post in the former zone of con-

fidence, separating the rebel-controlled northern part of the country from the government-controlled south. The UN Security Council renewed the mandate of UNOCI twice for six further months in order to assist in the upcoming elections. In January, France decided to down-scale its Opération Licorne, working alongside UNOCI, from 2,400 to 1,800 troops due to the improved security situation. From December 2007 on, UNOCI had deployed 8,033 military personnel. Due to foot-dragging in voter registration, the Electoral Commission on April 14 set November 30 as date for the presidential elections, originally scheduled to be held in June. In August, a preliminary team of EU election observers arrived in Côte d'Ivoire. Voter registration got underway on September 15. Inter-party talks to supplement the previous year's Ouagadougou Accord were held on October 14. The Election Commission announced on October 20 that technical difficulties in the voter registration process made the presidential elections in November technically impossible and should therefore be postponed until 2009. On October 23 and 24, the registration process was suspended amid attacks on electoral offices. The presidential elections on November 30 did not take place. (sk)

DR Congo (Bundu dia Kongo)

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↗ | Start: 2000 |
| Conflict parties: | Bundu dia Kongo vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | autonomy, system/ideology | |

The conflict between the Bundu dia Kongo (Kingdom of Kongo, Bdk) movement and the government about the political orientation of the political system in the province of Bas-Congo escalated. Bdk demanded the creation of a political system and society based on indigenous cultural and social values, and the resurrection of the Kingdom of Kongo. From 2000 on, violent clashes occurred between state security forces and Bdk, peaking in 2007 when approx. 100 people were killed in Bas-Congo. In 2008, Bdk continued to establish a parallel judicial system under its control. At the beginning of the year, tensions increased again when six people were killed in clashes between security forces and Bdk in the Seke-Banza territory. On February 24, a man accused of sorcery was burned alive by Bdk followers in Kinkenge. The next day, Bdk members freed three prisoners in Luozi. On February 28, the government launched a massive police operation in the area, causing violent confrontations in the municipalities of Sumbi, Lufuku, Mbandakani, Mbata Siala, Luozi, and other locations. Approx. 100 people were killed and 150 alleged Bdk members were arrested. On February 29, Bdk followers refused to surrender to the police forces in Luozi. They were armed with stones, nuts, sticks, and pieces of wood fashioned in the shape of weapons, believing that their weaponry could be transformed, by spell or incantation, into heavy weapons. In clashes in front of the Bdk temple, seven Bdk members died. In reaction to these incidents, a MONUC Task Force of 266 troops was deployed to the region. On March 1, the leader of Bdk, Ne Muanda Nsemi, called for an international investigation into recent events. The same day, police fired on Bdk

members around barricades set on the main road of Lufuku, killing at least 35 persons. On March 3, some 300 Bdk members armed with stones and sticks gathered around the temple of Sumbi. At least 36 Bdk followers were killed when special police force units opened fire. On March 22, the government announced a ban of Bdk. A report by the MONUC Human Rights Division in May concluded that the Congolese police had applied an excessive use of force during the operation. This was denied by the government. In July, the MONUC Task Force was redeployed to Kinshasa. (rs)

DR Congo (CNDP)

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|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: • | Start: 2004 |
| Conflict parties: | CNDP vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | regional predominance, resources, other | |

The conflict over regional predominance between Laurent Nkunda's National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) and the government continued on the level of a severe crisis. The Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) were actively supported by the UN mission MONUC. Nkunda's forces in the Kivus belonged to the factions of the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) rebel alliance [→ DR Congo (MLC, RCD, UDPS)] that had refused to take part in the government's reintegration program of 2004. CNDP justified their armed struggle as defending the Banyamulenge ethnic group, related to Rwandan Tutsi, against the threat presented by Hutu militias in the eastern DR Congo [→ DR Congo (Interahamwe, FDLR)]. In early December 2007, fighting between the FARDC and CNDP in the area of the town of Nyanzale in North Kivu caused approx. 40,000 people to flee the area, adding to the 857,000 already displaced persons in the region. Government forces also attacked CNDP in the vicinity of the regional capital, Goma. As a result of this fighting, delivery of humanitarian aid to some 300,000 people was impeded. Late in December 2007, a large peace conference was scheduled, which was supposed to be attended by approx. 1,300 representatives of all conflict parties in the region. In the run-up to the conference, Nkunda declared a unilateral ceasefire on January 6, announcing that CNDP would attend in spite of not being invited. On January 23, the participating parties, including CNDP, signed a peace agreement. It provided for an immediate cessation of hostilities, disengagement of troops, creation of a buffer zone, return of displaced persons, an amnesty for insurgents, and for the prosecution of human rights violations. On February 23, Nkunda boycotted the meetings of the ceasefire monitoring group after MONUC had accused CNDP of killing some 30 civilians during the conference. On April 21, a timetable was agreed upon by the participants of the peace conference, providing for the integration of CNDP into the FARDC and the return of displaced people. The truce was violated on several occasions. On June 18, CNDP and FARDC clashed near the town of Rutshuru in North Kivu, leading to the dispatch of MONUC troops. In late August, FARDC and CNDP clashed again in the area of Rutshuru. The situation escalated in October when the CNDP launched a major offensive against government forces, capturing

Rumangabo, a major military base of the FARDC, on October 25. Amid retreating FARDC forces, the CNDP advanced up to 15 km near Goma. On October 29, the conflict parties agreed to a ceasefire. However, fighting as well as attacks on civilians continued. In November, Mayi-Mayi militias [→ DR Congo (Mayi-Mayi)] and Hutu rebels of the FDLR joined the government forces in heavy fighting with CNDP rebels. On November 6, CNDP killed at least 30 civilians in Kiwanja, allegedly while searching for FDLR fighters. Additional incidents were reported for Ngungu and Kanyabayonga, among others, from November 8 to 10. Another 250,000 people were displaced. In October and November, increased evidence emerged that most of the neighboring states, i.e. Uganda, Rwanda, and Angola, had become involved in the fighting, supporting either the government or rebel forces. However, this was denied by the states in question. These developments led to heightened fears of another regional confrontation along the lines of the Second Congo War between 1998 and 1999. On November 20, the UNSC authorized the reinforcement of MONUC by an additional 2,785 troops, raising the total to approx. 21,000. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) discussed the situation at an extraordinary summit in South Africa on November 9, offering military assistance to the Congolese government and MONUC. In addition, the EU discussed launching an EU mission to the affected regions, though no decisions had been made by the end of November. (pb)

DR Congo (FDLR, Interahamwe)

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|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1997 |
| Conflict parties: | FDLR, Interahamwe vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | regional predominance, resources, other | |

The conflict over national power and resources between the rebels of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and Interahamwe, on the one hand, and the UN-backed government, on the other, continued on a violent level. Both rebel groups were comprised of Hutu militias that had fled from Rwanda to the eastern provinces of the DR Congo after the genocide in 1994. FDLR rejected an agreement between DR Congo and Rwanda concerning their disarmament and repatriation to Rwanda. From 2001 to 2006, approx. 8,000 Hutu rebels had been repatriated. Nevertheless, the remaining FDLR fighters' presence remained a source of instability in the Great Lakes region. Over the past four years, Laurent Nkunda's Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) had justified his rebellion by citing the need to protect ethnic Tutsis in eastern DRC from the FDLR [→ DR Congo (CNDP)]. Rwanda accused the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) of collaborating with the FDLR. As the government announced forcible disarmament of FDLR beginning in mid-March, urging them to disarm voluntarily and to agree to repatriation to Rwanda, a senior Congolese official claimed on January 15 that 30 percent of the approx. 7,000-strong FDLR were Congolese nationals that could remain in DR Congo. FDLR missed the March 15 deadline. In late April and May, FARDC clashed with FDLR after aggressively moving into rebel-occupied areas. On August

5, 67 members of the Rally for Unity and Democracy (RUD) and the Popular Rwandan Rally (RPR), two splinter groups of the FDLR, joined the reintegration process. RUD and RPR numbered a combined force of about 400 fighters. (pb)

DR Congo (Ituri militias)

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|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1999 |
| Conflict parties: | Hema militia, Lendu militia vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | regional predominance, resources, other | |

The conflict over regional predominance and resources between several militias and the government, backed by the UN Mission MONUC, was still carried out violently. The militias were based on the Hema and Lendu ethnic groups, respectively, and had been formed at the beginning of the conflict in the Ituri province between these two ethnicities in 1999 [→ DR Congo (Hema - Lendu)]. In 2006, the government and militia groups had signed an agreement proposing the integration of the militias into the army, and an amnesty was offered to the signatories. The government disarmed and demobilized 25,000 militia members, and 11,000 children associated with these armed groups rejoined their families. In 2008, the overall reconstruction process made progress in Ituri, as more areas became accessible for human relief agencies. On January 16, the Patriotic Front of Resistance in Ituri (FPRI), consisting of about 2,000 Lendu fighters unwilling to join the integration process, attacked the armed forces of the government (FARDC) and killed two soldiers. In response, the FARDC launched a small offensive, killing ten members of the FPRI at the end of January. The clashes displaced 2,600 civilians. The government accused the rebel group of getting supplies from Ugandan rebels [→ Uganda (ADF, NALU)]. On February 7, Mathieu Ngujolo, the former leader of the Front of Nationalists and Fundamentalists (FNI), was handed over to the ICC. Apart from Ngujolo, two other militia leaders from Ituri were on trial there on war crimes charges, i.e. Thomas Lubanga of the Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC) and FPRI leader Germain Katanga. On February 15, a Congolese court of appeal acquitted Yves Kahwa, former leader of the Party for the Unity and the Safeguard of the Integrity of Congo (PUSIC), who had been convicted of war crimes. In late February, FPRI and FARDC clashed again south of the provincial capital, Bunia. In June, the landmark trial against UPC's Lubanga was suspended ten days before the scheduled start of the trial due to insufficient disclosure of evidence against him. His trial was rescheduled for 01/26/09. From late September until mid-October, FPRI and the rebel Popular Front for Justice in Congo (FPJC), reportedly linked to the FPRI, launched several attacks on FARDC and villages in Ituri province. On September 30, FPRI ambushed a MONUC convoy. On October 7, 13 fighters died in clashes between FARDC and the FPJC. On October 8, FPJC militiamen raided Kombokabo village near Bunia. Fighting displaced over 7,000 persons. In early October, the government sent reinforcements to Ituri. (pb)

DR Congo - Rwanda

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 2002 |
| Conflict parties: | DR Congo vs. Rwanda | |
| Conflict items: | international power, resources | |

The conflict between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda over regional influence in eastern Congo, especially in the Kivu provinces, continued. On 11/09/07, both parties signed the Nairobi Agreement, entailing the extradition of the remaining genocide perpetrators from the Hutu ethnic group in eastern Congo by the DRC to Rwanda or the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda (ICTR) [→ DR Congo (FDLR, Interahamwe)]. In return, Rwanda agreed to stop supporting Tutsi general Laurent Nkunda and his National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) [→ DR Congo (CNDP)]. However, the implementation of the agreement remained difficult. In mid-March, Congolese Foreign Minister Mbusa Nyamwisi stated that the Rwandan Hutu rebels had been largely disarmed, and accused Rwanda of sabotaging their return. On September 19 and October 8, respectively, the Congolese government accused Rwanda of still supporting Tutsi rebel leader Nkunda and of intending to attack the town of Goma. Both claims were strongly refuted by Rwanda. On October 17, UN special representative Alan Doss announced that the claims would be investigated by the UN verification body. On October 18, the DRC withdrew from the Joint Monitoring Group, which was set up to implement the Nairobi Agreement. Nyamwisi claimed on October 29 that not the CNDP but Rwanda was the real aggressor. On November 1, the USA stated there was no proof for the Congolese allegations. Four days later, Rwanda announced that the conflict in eastern DRC was an internal problem as opposed to a bilateral one. (sw)

Eritrea - Djibouti

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|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↑ | Start: 1995 |
| Conflict parties: | Eritrea vs. Djibouti | |
| Conflict items: | territory | |

The border conflict between Eritrea and Djibouti turned violent. From February on, Eritrea built up its military positions in the Ras Doumeirah area in the Eritrea-Djibouti land region. Djibouti accused Eritrea of constructing positions on Djiboutian territory. Eritrea denied this. Military officials from both countries met to compare maps on April 24. Following the meeting, Djibouti sent troops to the border as well. Against the background of the increasing militarization of the border zone, Djibouti's President Ismail Omar Guelleh described the relations as very tense. However, the conflict parties repeatedly tried to solve their dispute by diplomatic means under Qatar mediation. On May 2, the AU Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) urged Djibouti and Eritrea to end their row. Later that month, the Arab League (AL) sent a fact-finding mission to the disputed border area on Djibouti's request. The AL Peace and Security Council contacted the chairperson of the AU Commission and the AUPSC to secure a joint Arab-African action to address the dispute. On June 10, Eritrean soldiers reportedly defected to Djibouti whereupon Eritrean officers demanded their

handing over. According to Djibouti's army, 35 of its soldiers were killed in the following encounter. The UN Security Council demanded the withdrawal of troops from the border. According to a UN fact-finding mission, only Djibouti had complied by the end of July. Guelleh blamed Eritrea for the failure of a diplomatic solution. Late in October, Security Council members urged both countries to find a peaceful solution to the crisis, and called on Eritrea to commit to a ceasefire, engage in diplomatic negotiations, and withdraw its forces to pre-conflict positions. (jd)

Ethiopia (OLF/Oromyia)

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|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1974 |
| Conflict parties: | OLF vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The secession conflict between the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and the government remained violent. The OLF claimed to have carried out several attacks on army posts and military convoys in the state of Oromyia, killing five soldiers on 12/21/08, 48 in January, 77 in March, and eight on May 15. According to OLF sources, the Ethiopian army organized and instigated the armed attack by a Gumuz ethnic militia on Oromo civilians from May 17 to 19, causing more than 400 casualties. On May 20, three civilians died in a bus bombing in the capital, Addis Ababa. Ethiopian authorities accused both the OLF and the secessionist Ogaden rebels [→ Ethiopia (ONLF/Ogaden)] of being responsible for the attack. On June 16, the OLF claimed to have killed 16 Ethiopian soldiers while repelling an attack in Wangalali Ebicha. On July 30, the OLF changed its entire executive committee because of internal disagreement over the organization's performance. The OLF allegedly killed six soldiers in the Western Zone on August 15. Security forces arrested several OLF leaders in Addis Ababa on November 6, accusing them of plotting terror attacks. On November 15, the government offered negotiations, which was rejected by the OLF. The following day, 94 Oromo, charged with supporting the OLF, were arrested by the government in various towns in Oromyia. (pg)

Ethiopia (ONLF/Ogaden)

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|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↓ | Start: 1984 |
| Conflict parties: | ONLF vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The secession conflict between the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) and the government remained violent. ONLF fought for the independence of the predominantly Muslim-inhabited Ogaden region, bordering on Somalia. Late in 2007, ONLF accused the government of committing human rights abuses in Ogaden. Refugees from Ogaden reported that government troops had been forcibly recruiting civilians to fight the rebels. In February, ONLF claimed that it had killed 43 soldiers. The government dismissed the claim. On June 12, the American Association for the Advancement of Science announced to have evaluated satellite images proving the destruction of towns and villages in Ogaden by government forces. On July 12, the Swiss branch of Doctors Without Borders (MSF) left Ogaden after its

activities had been massively impeded by the government. On July 13, security forces arrested eight rebels for the bombing of two gas stations and a bus, blaming the southern rebel group Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) [→ Ethiopia (OLF/Oromya)] and ONLF. On September 19, ONLF demanded that the UN Security Council provide for a corridor for relief supplies, stressing that a military blockade by the Ethiopian government was impeding the flow of supplies into Ogaden, with government forces pilfering the relief supplies. On September 28, three civilians were killed by a bomb in a hotel in Jijiga in Ogaden. The police blamed the attack on ONLF, who in turn accused the Ethiopian security forces. On October 30, ONLF rebels claimed to have killed 20 soldiers in the Ogaden region. (ng)

Ethiopia (TPDM)

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|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 2002 |
| Conflict parties: | TPDM vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | regional predominance | |

The conflict between the Tigray People's Democratic Movement (TPDM) and the Ethiopian government remained violent. In late 2007, the TPDM formed an alliance called Unity of Ethiopians for Democratic Change (UEDC) together with the Ethiopian People's Patriotic Front (EPPF) [→ Ethiopia (EPPF)] and two other militant groups to fight against the Ethiopian government. In late January, the TPDM military commander and chairman, Feseha Hailemariam, was assassinated in Eritrea. On February 26, TPDM claimed to have killed 68 soldiers in an attack around Adi Daro in northwestern Tigray. Assaults on army bases continued in August and September. On September 10, TPDM reportedly attacked a military post at Mereb Lekhe District in northern Ethiopia, killing eleven soldiers. (mg)

Ethiopia - Eritrea

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1998 |
| Conflict parties: | Ethiopia vs. Eritrea | |
| Conflict items: | territory, international power | |

The border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea remained unresolved. Ethiopia continued to disagree with 2002's legally binding border ruling of the Eritrea and Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC). Both Ethiopia and the USA accused Eritrea of supporting rebel and terrorist groups and fighting a proxy war against Ethiopia in Somalia and the Ogaden region in Ethiopia [→ Somalia (UIC); Ethiopia (ONLF/Ogaden)]. Eritrea denied these accusations. In November 2007, the EEBC had demarcated the border on map and closed its offices, leaving the actual demarcation to the two countries concerned. In violation of the terms of the border ruling, Eritrea built up its military forces in the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) by more than 2,500 troops and heavy military equipment, and both countries conducted military exercises along the border. On 12/27/07, the UN mission UNMEE called on both sides to show restraint after a shooting incident in the TSZ. A deadly bomb blast occurred on a bus in the Ethiopian-controlled town of Humera in March, blamed by Ethiopia on Eritrea. On

March 18, Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin declared his country's determination to solve the border dispute peacefully. On April 17, Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki claimed that no other border in Africa was as clearly defined as that between Eritrea and Ethiopia. On June 24, Eritrea accused Ethiopia of being behind a recent border dispute between Eritrea and Djibouti [→ Eritrea - Djibouti]. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the UN Security Council (UNSC) repeatedly urged the countries to abide by the 2000 peace accords. From December 2007 on, Eritrea severely restricted UNMEE by cutting off fuel and food supplies. Eritrea considered the mission's presence in the border zone as assisting Ethiopian occupation of Eritrean territory in connection with Ethiopia's failure to hand over the disputed town of Badme, which had been awarded to Eritrea by the boundary commission. Late in January, the UNSC renewed the mandate of UNMEE for six months and urged Eritrea to end its fuel blockade. Eritrea ignored the demand, paralyzing the operation on its side of the border. Consequently, the UN decided early in February to relocate UNMEE to Ethiopia. On February 14, Ban accused Eritrea of impeding the mission's relocation and of having threatened UNMEE personnel and seized equipment. On February 21, the UNSC condemned Eritrea's "systematic violations" of its resolutions. Eritrea's obstruction efforts left more than 100 peacekeepers stranded in the TSZ in late February. On April 30, the UNSC reiterated its condemnation of Eritrea's ongoing obstruction of UNMEE. On July 30, the council voted unanimously to end UNMEE, while stressing that the decision was without prejudice to the obligations of the two countries under the 2000 Algiers Agreement. On November 10, Ban warned against the possibility of a new war between Ethiopia and Eritrea following the peacekeepers' withdrawal. He urged the UNSC to make a swift decision on the future of UNMEE, most of which had already been removed, reducing the number of UN troops from approx. 1,700 in December 2007 to a mere 164 remaining in Eritrea in November 2008. No follow-up mechanism for the UN mission had been found by the end of November. (mh)

Guinea (opposition)

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|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 2006 |
| Conflict parties: | opposition, unions vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

The conflict between the opposition and trade unions, on the one hand, and government, on the other, remained violent. Unions postponed a nationwide general strike planned for January, which they suspended after negotiations with the government. On May 20, President Lansana Conté dismissed Prime Minister Lansana Kouyaté and subsequently appointed Ahmed Tidjane Souaré for this office, having removed several of Kouyaté's closest allies beforehand. By doing so, the President violated the centerpiece of the 2007 power-sharing agreement with the opposition and trade unions. Kouyaté had been appointed prime minister due to the unions' pressure. Therefore, his dismissal caused further civil protests. Throughout May, the government also

faced mounting protests within the army over demands for back pay. At least six people died in the protests. Following the unrest, Conté dismissed Defense Minister Arafan Camara and other top army officials on May 12. After another riot, Conté sacked recently appointed Defense Minister Mamadou Bailo Diallo on May 27, and made first payments. Prime Minister Souaré promised that none of the mutinous soldiers would be punished, and released soldiers who had been detained after the unrest in early 2007. Tensions eased after negotiations on June 1. Souaré presented his new cabinet with 36 ministers including new candidates, representatives of the former government, as well as opposition party members on June 19. Violent anti-government protest by police officers, teachers, and health workers continued in June and September, claiming at least ten lives. Elections, postponed again due to a lack of funding on August 29, were scheduled for March 2009 at the earliest according to the national election commission. (som)

Kenya (Mungiki sect)

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|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 2002 |
| Conflict parties: | Mungiki sect vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, regional predominance | |

The violent conflict between the banned traditionalist Mungiki sect and the government continued. On 12/19/07, alleged Mungiki members attacked Cooperative Development Minister Peter Ndwiga during an election rally. On April 11, police forces allegedly killed the wife of detained Mungiki sect leader Maina Njenga. From April 14 on, two days of violent protest by Mungiki members, followed by raids and lootings, caused at least 15 casualties in the capital, Nairobi, and nine other towns. The same day, the Kenya National Youth Alliance (KNYA), alleged to be the political wing of the Mungiki Sect, accused police of being responsible for extrajudicial killings of its members. The government deployed a special force to quell the uprising on April 17. Njenga called on his followers to cease the protests, on condition that police refrain from killing suspected Mungiki youths. On April 18, female members of the Mungiki protested against police brutality targeting sect members in Nairobi. A KNYA leader was shot dead near Nairobi on April 28. KNYA spokesman Njuguna Gitau Njuguna blamed the police for the killing. On May 1, Njenga called on sect members to end violence, and apologized for raids committed by Mungiki members in April. In early September, 43 suspected Mungiki members, detained since May 2006, were acquitted due to lack of evidence. (kaa)

Kenya (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↑ | Start: 1999 |
| Conflict parties: | ODM, Luo, Kalenjin, Luhyas vs. PNU, Kikuyu | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

The conflict between the opposition and the government over national power turned highly violent. President Mwai Kibaki's Party of National Union (PNU) was predominantly supported by Kikuyus, Kibaki's own ethnic group. Opposition candidate Raila Odinga, from the

Luo ethnic group, and his Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), were supported by the Luo, Kalenjin, and Luhyas. In the run-up to the presidential, parliamentary, and local elections, ethnic clashes flared up in Kuresoi, southwest Kenya, and Molo district in November 2007. On 12/27/07, the elections were held. While the votes were being counted, supporters of the two rival parties clashed with each other, followed by heavy clashes between police forces and supporters of Odinga. Three days after the election, the Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK) announced Kibaki as the winner. He was sworn in on the same day. ODM gained the majority in parliament, however. Odinga accused Kibaki and the ECK of electoral fraud on the same day. The EU election monitoring commission attested on 12/31/07 that significant irregularities had taken place during the elections. Mass demonstrations and ethnic violence between supporters of both government and opposition ensued, especially in Kisumu, Navaisha, Nakuru, Eldoret, and slum areas in Nairobi and Mombasa. The ethnic tensions, concentrated in Central, Rift Valley, and Western Province, claimed more than 800 lives in December 2007 and January 2008 alone; between December 2007 and March 2008, the violence caused a total of 1,500 casualties and between 300,000 and 600,000 IDPs. On January 1, opposition supporters attacked ethnic Kikuyu, 30 of whom were burned alive in a church after seeking refuge there. On January 2, the ECK stated that the PNU and ODM-Kenya, a splinter faction of the ODM created in August 2007, pressured the ECK to release the election results, despite the fact that the ECK had not yet determined the final results. On January 3, Kibaki and Odinga accused each other of ethnic cleansing against their respective supporters. Furthermore, Odinga accused Kibaki of using the outlawed Mungiki sect, comprised of Kikuyus, to fight opposition supporters [→ Kenya (Mungiki sect)]. Talks between the opponents started on January 8 but broke off again on January 10. Nevertheless, both parties agreed to mediation by an AU-backed panel led by Kofi Annan, which started in late January. On January 16, the EU, USA, and eleven other states threatened to cut aid if the parties failed to reach a political compromise to restore stability. On January 30, both conflict parties publicly renounced violence after the clashes between their respective supporters had intensified again at the end of January. Sporadic clashes continued until late in February. On February 28, Odinga and Kibaki signed the National Accord and Reconciliation Agreement, including a power-sharing deal between the PNU and ODM making Odinga first prime minister. This agreement was legalized by parliament on March 18. On March 4, both parties agreed on a constitutional review process, a commission of inquiry on post-election violence, an independent review committee to monitor the conduct and management of the elections, and a truth, justice, and reconciliation commission. On April 14, a coalition government was officially presented with a cabinet of 42 ministers. Three days later, Odinga was sworn in as prime minister. Kenya's parliament approved the Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC), created to probe human rights

abuses, on October 24. Philip Waki, chairman of the TJRC, which was finally set up in early April, compiled a list of persons involved in the post-election violence. This list, which remained sealed, presumably featured high-ranking government officials from both parties. On October 19, Waki handed over the list to former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, to be forwarded to the International Criminal Court if the new government failed to set up a tribunal for prosecuting the persons responsible for the post-election violence within sixty days. This tribunal was inaugurated by the cabinet on November 27. (kaa)

Kenya (SLDF)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↗ | Start: 2002 |
| Conflict parties: | SLDF, Soy, MF, Ndorobo, PRM vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | regional predominance | |

The conflict in Mount Elgon region between the Sabaot Land Defense Forces (SLDF), created by the Soy clan, and the government remained violent. Clashes between the two main clans of the dominant Sabaot community, the majority Soy and the minority Ndorobo clan, which founded the Moorland Forces (MF), about a contested allocation scheme of land by the authorities led to an intervention of the government [→ Kenya (ethnic groups)]. After a rapid deployment unit was sent to quell violence in Mt. Elgon, about 3,000 people fled their homes in late November. On January, suspected SLDF members shot dead seven people, injuring four others as well as burning down several houses in the Kalaha area in Saboti Constituency. On January, 24 suspected SLDF militiamen attacked Kapkaten village in Mt. Elgon, killing two people. On March 3, unknown raiders attacked villages in Mt. Elgon region, leaving six people dead. Two days later, the government launched a massive military operation against the SLDF including air raids in Cheptais Division, Mt. Elgon District, and Trans Nzoia District. The government sealed off the two districts, and deployed additional forces to the Ugandan border to prevent SLDF fighters from fleeing. Additionally, the army launched a massive military operation backed by five helicopters, several armored vehicles, and tanks against SLDF, MF, and the newly founded Political Revenge Movement (PRM) in Bungoma and Mt. Elgon District, starting on March 9. On March 14, Uganda handed over four suspected SLDF rebels and three rebels of PRM. Fighting intensified at Chebweki, a SLDF center of recruitment and training, from March 14 to 17. Security forces shelled the area and conducted air strikes, leaving 32 people dead. 600 people fled to neighboring Uganda. On March 17, the military started arresting males above the age of 15 in the Mt. Elgon area, and detained more than 100 alleged SLDF members. In the aftermath, SLDF, PRM, and MF moved towards West Pokot in Kenya and Kapchorwa and Bukwo Districts in Uganda. On March 26, police shot dead three suspected SLDF members and arrested 18 in the Chebweki area of Mt. Elgon. The same day, the government issued an ultimatum to all members of the rebel groups, demanding them to surrender their weapons by March

31. On the same day, 13 other SLDF suspects were arrested by police in Uganda. (kaa)

Mali (Tuareg/Kidal)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↗ | Start: 1989 |
| Conflict parties: | ATNMC, DAC vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | autonomy, resources | |

The conflict between the various Tuareg rebel groups and the government turned highly violent. Feeling marginalized, the Tuareg demanded greater autonomy as well as a reallocation of resources. The rebels were mainly located in the Kidal region, bordering Niger. Niger also faced a Tuareg insurgency [→ Niger (Tuareg/Agadez)]. Although peace negotiations started on 11/05/07 and the Northern Mali Tuareg Alliance for Change (ATNMC), led by Ibrahim ag Bahanga, released 36 military hostages, the conflict intensified on March 20 when Tuareg rebels attacked a military convoy near the border town Tin-Zaoutane. Three soldiers and five civilians were killed and 20 soldiers taken hostage. On March 26, Tuareg rebels raided the remote border town of Aguelhok. On April 2, fighting erupted south of Kidal when government forces clashed with Tuareg rebels on the road to Gao. The army employed helicopter gunships, leaving dozens of rebels dead. The next day, Tuareg rebels and the government agreed on a ceasefire. However, fighting continued. In a rebel attack on a military convoy on May 5, four Tuareg were killed. In the following weeks, Tuareg rebels attacked three army camps in the northeast of the country, leaving 16 soldiers and 17 rebels dead. From May 23 to June 4, the government launched a campaign against Tuareg rebels, killing 20. Due to the heavy attacks, approx. 1,000 Tuareg civilians fled into Burkina Faso. On July 19, Tuareg rebels attacked an army post in Tessalit, seizing several soldiers hostage. Two days later, Tuareg rebels and the government signed a Libyan-mediated ceasefire agreement in Algeria, breached again by Bahanga in September. Between mid-August and September 9, the Tuareg rebel group of the Democratic Alliance for Change (DAC) released 67 hostages. The increasing Tuareg violence triggered the creation of the anti-Tuareg militia Ganda Izo. A negotiation attempt by the government in November failed. (ng)

Niger (Tuareg/Agadez)

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|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1999 |
| Conflict parties: | MNJ vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | autonomy, resources | |

The conflict about autonomy between Tuareg rebels and the government in the region of Agadez remained violent. Uranium-rich Agadez bordered the Tuareg-inhabited region of Kidal in Mali [→ Mali (Tuareg/Kidal)]. According to the government, seven Tuareg civilians were killed in crossfire between soldiers and rebels of the Niger Movement for Justice (MNJ) on 12/11/07. In the capital, Niamey, a bomb exploding under a car killed three civilians on January 8. The government accused MNJ of being responsible for the attack. On January 21, MNJ attacked the town of Tanout, killing at least

three people, and took seven hostages. On February 21, President Mamadou Tandja extended the Agadez region's state of alert by another three months. MNJ released 25 hostages on March 10. Eight days later, MNJ killed at least one soldier and two guards in an attack on the town of Bani Bangou. The rebels claimed to have captured the village of Gougaram on March 29. A member of parliament was kidnapped by MNJ on May 14 near Tanout and released on May 25. After internal disputes, the political wing of MNJ broke apart from the armed fraction on May 26. A new Tuareg rebel group, the Front of Rallying Forces (FFR), was created on June 1. In Arlit, four French workers of a uranium mine were taken hostages by the MNJ on June 24 and released the following day. Heavy fighting between the rebels and soldiers near Arlit on June 26 killed at least seven rebels. MNJ claimed to have shot down an army helicopter and have killed 26 soldiers in the fighting. On October 8, three soldiers and one MNJ member died in a shootout in northern Niger. (pg)

Nigeria (Christians - Muslims)

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|---------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↑ | Start: 1960 |
| Conflict parties: | Christians vs. Muslims | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology | |

The conflict between Christian and Muslim communities in northern Nigeria escalated. On 12/11/07, at least six people were killed in violent clashes between Muslims and Christians in the northern central Nigerian city of Bauchi after disputes over the construction of a mosque. Some 3,000 people were forced to flee their homes. The government imposed a curfew. On February 2, accusations of blasphemy against a woman sparked a violent clash between a Muslim mob and the police in Bauchi. At least one person died. On February 6, violent protest erupted over alleged blasphemy by a student in Sumaila, 50 km east of Kano, leaving two policemen and one civilian dead. Police forces were put on alert in the town of Kano. Two days of massive clashes between gangs of Muslim Hausas and mostly Christian Beroms erupted on November 28 following a disputed local government chairmanship election. Demonstrations by the Hausa ethnic group turned violent when a rumor spread that their party candidate had lost the race to the ruling candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), predominantly supported by Christians. Raiding mobs of Christians and Muslims burned churches, mosques, and shops, killing at least 400 people and causing 10,000 to flee. Nigeria deployed troops and imposed a curfew on the capital of the central Plateau state. (de)

Nigeria (MEND, Ijaw/Niger Delta)

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|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 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 Ijaw rebel groups and the government concerning the distribution of oil revenues remained violent. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) launched frequent attacks on oil facilities throughout the

year. Late in December 2007, the militants suspended peace talks with the government, accusing the latter of lacking the will to reach an agreement. On April 1, the federal high court in Abuja charged detained MEND leader Henry Okah with arms-dealing, oil-bunkering, and treason. Okah had been arrested in Angola in 2007 and extradited to Nigeria in February. On May 26, MEND claimed responsibility for an attack on a major oil pipeline in Rivers State and killing eleven soldiers. MEND militants twice attacked oil facilities on June 11, leaving at least one person dead. On June 20, MEND fighters on speedboats attacked Shell's 120-km-offshore platform Bonga, shutting down ten percent of Nigeria's oil production for seven days. Two security guards were killed in an attack on oil facilities on June 30. MEND fighters bombed two Shell pipelines on July 29. In a military operation against MEND on August 6, Nigerian security forces razed down several houses in the Ijaw dominated community of Agge, Rivers State. Fighting between MEND fighters and the army near Port Harcourt killed twelve militants on August 17. On August 24, MEND accused army forces of shooting at a commercial transport boat in Bayelsa State, killing twelve civilians. In reaction, MEND fighters attacked Nigerian army bases in Bayelsa, Delta, and River State on August 30, claiming that 29 soldiers and six rebels had been killed. On September 10, President Umar Yar' Adua created a new Ministry of Niger-Delta Affairs to foster infrastructural development in the region. On September 13, the army launched a massive offensive with aircrafts on MEND rebel hideouts in the Rivers State, leaving at least 15 rebels dead. On the second day of the fighting, MEND declared an "oil war". Both army and rebels suffered heavy losses in the following days. From September 15 to 21, MEND fighters attacked several oil facilities in the Niger Delta, blowing up pipelines and destroying flow stations, causing a high number of casualties. Security forces claimed to have killed twelve rebels on September 18. MEND rebels agreed to a ceasefire on September 21. MEND complied with the agreement until November 22 when they launched an attack on an army post in the Bayelsa East District. (de)

Nigeria - Cameroon (Bakassi)

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 1 | Change: ↓ | Start: 1961 |
| Conflict parties: | Nigeria vs. Cameroon | |
| Conflict items: | territory | |

The conflict concerning the Bakassi Peninsula and the sea border between Nigeria and Cameroon diminished. In accordance with the 2002 ICJ ruling and the bilateral Greentree Agreement of 2006, Nigeria agreed to cede the peninsula, while Cameroon consented to most of Nigeria's maritime border claims. Nigeria announced the whole delineation and demarcation process of the common border was to be completed in 2009. However, the Nigerian Senate declared the Greentree Agreement void on November 17, stating it had been insufficiently informed about the results of negotiations. The Nigerian government, rejecting the Senate's allegation, proceeded with the implementation of the Greentree Agreement. In June and July, the security situation on the

peninsula deteriorated when Cameroonian officials and army posts were attacked by different groups opposed to the cession of the territory, resulting in the death of several people [→ Cameroon (insurgents/Bakassi)]. On August 13, the Nigerian Senate approved the handing over of the territory. On the following day, Nigeria officially transferred sovereignty to Cameroon. In the aftermath, approx. 100,000 out of 300,000 Nigerians in Bakassi left the territory by September, and were housed in makeshift camps in the Nigerian state of Akwa Ibom. (rs)

Rwanda (various Hutu rebel groups)

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|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↗ | Start: 1990 |
| Conflict parties: | Interahamwe, ex-FAR, FDLR vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

The conflict between oppositional Hutu groups and the Tutsi-led government escalated slightly. On 11/24/07, the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda (ICTR) announced it could not adhere to the 2008 expiry deadline. In February, the Lower House passed a controversial law on the propagation of what it termed "genocide ideology". On April 10, during the remembrance week of the genocide victims, armed men threw a grenade at the genocide museum in the capital, Kigali, killing one policeman and injuring another. At the same time, a car hit a Tutsi commemoration procession, killing one person. The authorities called on the population to stay calm. Between January and April, up to nine genocide survivors were murdered, allegedly by former genocide perpetrators. On April 29, the foreign minister declared the government was not interested in talks with the Hutu rebel group Interahamwe. The Hutu rebel group Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), on May 7, demanded an inter-Rwandan dialogue before returning to their homeland on the basis of the Nairobi Agreement. The Hutu rebels had relocated to DR Congo after the 1994 genocide. On May 14, Rwanda accused the FDLR of using their international networks to spread genocide ideology. The chief prosecutor of the ICTR on June 17 rejected the accusation that the court was exclusively targeting one ethnic group. (sw)

Rwanda - Uganda

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 2000 |
| Conflict parties: | Rwanda vs. Uganda | |
| Conflict items: | international power, resources | |

Relations between Rwanda and Uganda remained tense. In mid-December 2007, Uganda arrested 20 Rwandan refugees allegedly trying to join the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a DR Congo-based Hutu rebel group whose members were blamed for committing the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. FDLR seemed to be regrouping in Uganda, in the area of Kihito and Mpimbi, about 30 km from the Rwandan border. On May 16, Rwanda deployed troops near the Ugandan border. Two days later, a gunship helicopter violated Ugandan airspace. At a joint security meeting on May 20, the conflict parties discussed the airspace violation, and Uganda assured Rwanda that no rebel group

would use Ugandan territory to attack Rwanda. At the end of May, the Rwandan troops began to withdraw from the common border. In mid-September, Ugandan President Yoveri Museveni delivered a public speech praising the good relations with Rwanda. (sw)

Senegal (MFDC-Sadio/Casamance)

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|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1982 |
| Conflict parties: | MFDC-Sadio, MFDC-Badiate vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The 26-year-old conflict between the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) and the government remained violent. On 12/21/07, MFDC rebels shot dead a Senegalese peace envoy in his home in Manudaa. In February, the army started a demining program in Casamance to facilitate IDPs' return to their homes. On February 26, some 100 MFDC fighters ambushed 40 vehicles north of the Casamance capital, Ziguinchor, stealing money and beating up passengers. On March 20, MFDC insurgents kidnapped 15 villagers in Bissine, central Casamance, and released them two days later. On April 27, a soldier was injured by an exploding mine. Five days later, a bus drove over a land mine, leaving at least one passenger dead. In another attack on civilians, MFDC rebels captured 20 villagers near Ziguinchor on May 8, chopping off everyone's left ear. According to Senegalese authorities, rebels carried out attacks to prevent displaced persons from resettling near MFDC bases. On May 20, alleged MFDC gunmen attacked an army patrol near the Gambian border, killing two soldiers. (de)

Somalia (Puntland - Somaliland)

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|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1998 |
| Conflict parties: | Puntland vs. Somaliland | |
| Conflict items: | territory, regional predominance, resources | |

The conflict between the autonomous region of Puntland and the self-proclaimed independent state of Somaliland remained violent. Both sides claimed the oil-rich regions of Sool and Sanaag as part of their respective territory. While Somaliland stressed that both regions had belonged to the former colony of British Somaliland, Puntland argued on the basis of clan affiliation. Sanaag was not only contested by Puntland and Somaliland; splinter factions mainly of the Warsangali clan in four districts of Sanaag also declared their independence from Puntland and Somaliland on 07/01/07, forming the autonomous Maakhir State of Somalia [→ Somalia (Maakhir - Puntland)]. The conflict between Puntland and Somaliland began in 2003 when Puntland took control of Sool's provincial capital, Las Anod, and escalated in 2007 when the troops of Somaliland retook the city. Somaliland troops and troops loyal to Puntland clashed repeatedly over the course of the year: In January and February, Somaliland and Puntland forces engaged in fighting in Dhabansar and Gambare in Sool region, leading to at least ten to 50 deaths. In early June, troops from Puntland and Somaliland exchanged gunfire in the Calmadow Mountains of the Sanaag region. On July 9, Somaliland briefly seized the coastal town of Laasqorey

in the same region. Two Somaliland policemen were wounded in Las Anod in Sool region when a grenade was hurled into the police station on November 2. A new anti-Somaliland rebel group called Somali Unity Defense Alliance (SUDA) claimed to have killed three Somaliland soldiers in an attack on the central police office in Las Anod three days later. (ahe, sk)

Somalia (UIC)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 5 | Change: • | Start: 2006 |
| Conflict parties: | UIC vs. TFG | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The war about national power and system between Islamist insurgents and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia continued for the third year running. The Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) consisted of various relatively independent groups, among them the al-Shabaab group. UIC continued to fight the TFG, backed by Ethiopian troops, and troops of the AU mission AMISOM. In 2008, the fighting spread from Mogadishu, where the main fighting had taken place in 2007, to other parts of the country, e.g. the Bay region, Galgaduud region, Mudug, and Hiiraan regions. Attacks on international aid workers increased significantly, leading to the withdrawal of a large number of international humanitarian staff. Over the course of the year, Islamist insurgents increasingly turned against AMISOM troops. After TFG President Abdullahi Yusuf had appointed Nur Hassan Hussein alias "Nur Ade" as the new prime minister in November 2007, the new government moved from its base in Baidoa to Mogadishu on January 20. Nevertheless, the parliament stayed in Baidoa. Throughout the year, violent clashes in Mogadishu on an almost daily basis, often centered on the Baraka market, claimed a high number of lives both among fighters and civilians. TFG and Ethiopian troops often responded to insurgent attacks from populated areas by shelling these spots. Violence peaked in April, June, and September, when fighting between the TFG, Ethiopian troops and AMISOM forces, on the one hand, and insurgents, on the other, left hundreds dead and caused several thousands to flee. Moreover, insurgents loyal to the UIC repeatedly seized control of several important towns in Somalia, including Jowhar and Dheere, in early 2008, and Somalia's third largest city, Kismayo, in August. The deteriorating situation caused the UN Security Council to extend the AMISOM mandate by six months on February 20. However, only 1,600 Ugandan and 600 Burundian troops of the originally earmarked 8,000 troops were sent since the first deployments in March 2007. The USA launched a missile attack in the southern Somali town of Dhoble targeting a suspected al-Qaeda member on March 3, which killed at least four civilians. On April 30, a US missile attack in the central Somali town of Dusamareb killed ten to 30 people, including a number of al-Shabaab leaders such as the military leader and suspected al-Qaeda member Aden Hashi Farah Ayro. In May, the TFG and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS), an opposition alliance of Islamists and other members of the opposition based in Eritrea, began peace talks in Djibouti attended by a UN envoy. Following UN-mediated

talks from May 31 to June 9, ARS and the TFG signed a peace deal. The treaty stipulated a 90-day-ceasefire to come into force after one month, and the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops within 120 days, given the timely deployment of a UN peacekeeping force. A hardliner faction of ARS, however, immediately rejected the peace deal due to its failure to establish a definitive deadline for the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops, resulting in a split within ARS. New ceasefires and deals were signed on August 18, October 26, and November 26, reaffirming these agreements, the last of which added propositions for power-sharing. However, TFG President Yusuf as well as al-Shabaab and the hardliner faction of ARS were not involved. The humanitarian situation in southern and central Somalia deteriorated. By August, the number of people requiring humanitarian aid had risen to about 3.2 million people. In March, the number of IDPs had already reached 745,000. Furthermore, the deteriorated security situation and disintegration of state authority led to an increasing number of pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden. Heavily armed Somali pirate gangs attacked approx. 100 vessels, hijacking 40, and thereby disrupting one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. On November 18, pirates captured the largest ship ever, the 300-meter-long Saudi-owned supertanker "Sirius Star". NATO and various states increased their patrols to prevent hijacking. On November 19, an Indian navy warship destroyed a suspected Somali pirate mother ship which originally had been a Thai fishing trawler. The Islamist insurgents condemned the capture of a Muslim-owned ship and sent fighters to Harardheere to attack the pirates. However, the Islamists, especially the al-Shabaab, seemed to fund their insurgency at least in part by taking a cut of pirates' ransom money and to use pirate ships for importing weapons and foreign fighters. (tb)

South Africa (xenophobes - immigrants)

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|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: NEW | Start: 2008 |
| Conflict parties: | xenophobes vs. immigrants | |
| Conflict items: | regional predominance | |

On the background of a deteriorating economic situation and high crime rates, tensions between parts of the South African population and different immigrant groups from neighboring countries erupted in a wave of xenophobic violence. Xenophobic incidents visibly increased from late 2007 on. In February and March 2008, attacks against immigrants in the townships of the capital, Pretoria, left 13 people dead and displaced 1,600 more. In May, a wave of anti-immigrant violence against Zimbabweans, Mozambicans, Malawians, Nigerians, and other African nationals was reported from seven of South Africa's nine provinces. Reportedly, in one case groups of men walked from house to house, asking the inhabitants whether they were Zulu or immigrants. Paul Verryn, bishop of the Central Methodist Church in Johannesburg, to which many immigrants had fled, accused the police of passivity and of having lost control completely. According to official police data, 22 immigrants were killed while approx. 6,000 people sought shelter in police stations, churches, and community centers. Two people were killed and approx. 40 injured during

an attack on May 11 when a crowd of locals attacked migrants, telling them to leave the country. President Thabo Mbeki condemned the acts of violence, which included xenophobic mobs robbing and raping immigrants. The violence soon spread to the city center and across the Gauteng region. On May 20, the xenophobic violence spread to townships in Mpumalanga, with mobs attacking Zimbabwean- and Somali-owned tuck shops. After the attacks had spread to the city of Durban, escalating with the murder of a Malawian, Mbeki deployed the army to quell violence against foreigners on May 21. This marked the first time that troops were ordered to quell internal unrest since the end of apartheid. Xenophobic incidents followed in North West province and the Free State on May 22. On May 26, Safety and Security Minister Charles Ngakula informed the public that the violence had abated and that the situation was under control. A total of 62 people had been killed and almost 700 wounded. At the beginning of June, the authorities started to close the refugee camps that had been set up by the government in the aftermath of the violent clashes. In the first week of June, Home Affairs Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula announced an ultimatum for foreign immigrants displaced to makeshift shelters around the country by the pogroms to return to their local homes or the countries from which they had come. However, she stated on June 20 that victims of the violence, including illegal immigrants, would not be forcibly reintegrated or deported. (ab)

Sudan (Darfur)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 5 | Change: • | Start: 2003 |
| Conflict parties: | JEM, SLM/A, SLM/A-AS, SLM, SLM/A-AW, SLM/A-MM, SLM/A-Unity, SFDA, JEM/PW, NMRD, DLM, RDFF, RUM, G19 vs. government, Janjaweed militias | |
| Conflict items: | regional predominance, resources | |

The conflict over regional predominance and resources in the province of Darfur between approx. 30 rebel factions, on the one hand, and the government and Janjaweed militia, on the other, continued to be carried out as a war for the fifth year running. From 2003 on, the conflict had caused more than 300,000 fatalities, 2.7 million displaced persons, and 4.7 million people depending on humanitarian aid. The conflict was characterized in 2008 by continuous heavy fighting in Darfur, leading to approx. 300,000 newly displaced persons, a rebel attack on Omdurman, and an increased number of attacks on humanitarian aid agencies. AMID was succeeded by UNAMIS. The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) applied for an arrest warrant against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. Most rebel movements continued to reject the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) of 05/05/06. Despite the persisting fragmentation among the rebel movements, attempts were made to overcome this pattern. In June, Ibrahim Madibu's Sudanese Liberation Movement - Peace Wing (SLM-Peace Wing), Abdul Rahman Musa's SLM-Free Will, Abdul Quasim Imam's SLM-Mother Movement, Abdul Rahim Abu Rishah's Justice and Equality Movement - Peace Wing (JEM-Peace Wing), and Hisham Nurin's

Popular Force for Democratic Rights, all signatories to the DPA, announced they would form an alliance. On the side of the non-signatory movements, on April 7, Khamis Abakr's SLM, Adam Bakheit's SLM-Field Leadership, Jibril Abdel-Karim's Movement for National Reformation and Development (MNRD), al-Zubaidi's United Revolutionary Front (URF), and Bahar Idriss Abu Garda's JEM formed the United Resistance Front (URF). However, the SLM (Khamis Abakr) as well as al-Zubaidi's URF on July 27 announced their withdrawal from the newly formed alliance. In addition, the Sudan National Liberation Movement (SNLM), in October, announced merging with the SLM (Abdel al-Nur). The hybrid AU-UN mission UN-AMIS took over operations from the AU mission AMIS on January 1. By November, 9,200 UNAMIS peacekeepers and 1,800 police had been deployed to Darfur, out of a projected size of 19,500 troops and 6,400 police. In February, the Sudanese Defense Forces (SDF) and Janjaweed militias started a major offensive in a JEM-held region north of El Geneina in northwest Darfur, leaving 100 dead and displacing 12,000. In May, fighting erupted between SDF and Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) in North Darfur. Air raids by government forces on a school in Shegeg Karo killed at least 13 civilians on May 3 and 4. On May 10, approx. 400 fighters as well as security forces were killed in a JEM attack against Omdurman, a city situated just across the river Nile from the capital, Khartoum. In the aftermath, the Sudanese government executed or extra-judicially killed approx. 500 individuals from Darfur, both civilians and JEM combatants, and arrested more than 4,000 people. On July 8, seven UNAMID staff were killed in an ambush on their convoy near the settlement of Shangil Tobaya in North Darfur, reportedly conducted by Janjaweed forces. The peacekeepers were also attacked, e.g. in May, July, and October, killing another four. In addition, a French EU-FOR soldier serving in Chad [→ Chad (various rebel groups)] was killed when he crossed the border to Sudan on March 4. On June 14, ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo applied to the ICC judges for an arrest warrant against President al-Bashir. This move was immediately criticized by several regional organizations, including the Organization for the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU. Heavy air raids by government forces continued throughout July, e.g. on the villages of Umu, Dobo, and Barkandia in the Jebel Marra region of West Darfur. On August 25, gunfights between displaced people and Sudanese police erupted inside the Kalma refugee camp near the capital of South Darfur, Nyala, leaving over 33 dead. On September 6, SDF launched a major military campaign in large parts of North Darfur in the areas of Kutum, El Fasher Rural, Tabit, and eastern Jebel Marra. In September, Minni Minawi, leader of the biggest faction signing the DPA in 2006, accused the government of having attacked his forces in Kolge, east of Jebel Marra. In an army offensive near Muhajariya, 80 km west of Nyala, 40 civilians were killed in October. On November 12, al-Bashir announced an unconditional ceasefire in Darfur. However, the rebel movements claimed that attacks by SDF continued. (lg)

Sudan (SPLM/A / South Sudan)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↗ | Start: 1955 |
| Conflict parties: | SPLM/A vs. government of Sudan in Khartoum | |
| Conflict items: | territory, secession, resources | |

The conflict between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) and the government of the National Congress Party (NCP) about the future status of Southern Sudan and the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was still carried out violently. Together, SPLM/A, representing Southern Sudan and NCP, representing Northern Sudan, formed the Government of National Unity (GNU). The conflict parties made some progress regarding the still contested issues of regional border demarcation, arrangement of a national census, and redeployment of troops. The national census, an essential precondition of the national elections to be held in 2009, was conducted in April and May, and the National Assembly passed a long-delayed election law on July 14. In November 2007, the SPLM/A withdrew from the GNU, accusing the ruling NCP of insufficiently implementing the CPA. Nevertheless, the SPLM/A continued to work within the constitutional bodies, and resumed its participation in GNU on 12/27/07. However, the dispute concerning the future status of the oil-rich district of Abyei in South Kordofan, part of the Transitional Areas, turned violent, causing numerous casualties and massive destruction. From December 2007 on, the number of clashes between SPLM/A forces and Misseriya Popular Defense Forces (MPDF) as well as Abyei Liberation Front (ALF), both from the Arab ethnic group of Misseriya, increased. The center of the clashes was South Kordofan, especially the Abyei region. SPLM/A repeatedly accused the NCP government in Khartoum of orchestrating or encouraging Misseriya groups aligned with the Sudanese government during the civil war to attack its forces. Clashes between SPLM/A and Misseriya forces in the areas of Meiram, Al Girinti, and Al Jurf left 75 people dead between December 2007 and January 2008. On March 2, heavy fighting between SPLM/A and ALF in the Dalibah area killed 43 people. Fighting continued throughout March, causing an additional 70 casualties. In May, the situation in Abyei escalated. The CPA had left the demarcation of the borders of the Abyei region to the international expert group Abyei Border Commission (ABC), and determined that the region's population should decide whether it wanted to belong to the North or to the South in a referendum to be held in 2011. However, when ABC had presented its findings in 2005, the government in Khartoum rejected the results. Between May 13 and 15, and once more on May 20, SPLM/A and the northern government forces of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) clashed in the regional capital of Abyei, leaving approx. 150 people dead and forcing all of the 50,000 inhabitants to flee. The city was completely destroyed. Under UNMIS mediation, the conflict parties agreed on a road map on June 8, foreseeing the withdrawal of both SAF and SPLM/A troops from the region and their replacement by Joint Integrated Units (JIU). In addition, the agreement provided for an interim administration for Abyei and granted UNMIS free

movement in the area. On August 8, Arop Mayak Mony Tock of the SPLM/A was appointed Chief Administrator for Abyei, as envisioned in the road map. In order to determine who the contested region belonged to, the conflict parties agreed to consult the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague. The PCA was given the mandate to draw up a list of arbitrators, from which each conflict party would choose two each. A fifth arbitrator would then be appointed by the arbitrators already chosen. This expert team would have the mandate to decide whether the ABC had exceeded its mandate in 2005. The conflict parties agreed that if the expert team confirmed this, it would have the power to come to its own border-ruling, whereas if it concluded that the ABC did not exceed its mandate, they would implement the ABC ruling. (mg)

Swaziland (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1998 |
| Conflict parties: | SFTU, SNAT, SFL, COSTATU, PUDEMO, SWAYOCO vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology | |

The conflict between opposition groups and the government of King Mswati III concerning the constitutional powers of the absolute monarch remained violent. From March 3 on, more than 16,000 textile workers held several days of peaceful strikes and marches, demanding better salaries. The police cracked down on the protesters, using teargas and batons, and leaving dozens injured. Considering the intensity of the police's violence, the Swaziland Manufacturing and Allied Workers Unions suspended the strikes. Meanwhile, the army was deployed to conduct random checks in homes and set up roadblocks. In August, General Secretary of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions (SFTU) Jan Sithole was arrested and harassed by the police. In the run-up to the first parliamentary election ever in Swaziland, in which political parties remained banned and just 55 unaffiliated candidates could be elected, the opposition dismissed the poll as a sham and called for a boycott. Police guarded the polling stations after pro-democracy activists had staged protests. Trade union leaders and pro-democracy activists tried to block the border to South Africa on September 18, calling for political reforms. The police detained many of the protesters, among them once more Jan Sithole. On September 19, two people were killed and one injured in a bomb explosion in Mbabane, near a palace of Mswati III. The government accused the oppositional People's Democratic Movement (PUDEMO) of being behind the attack. (jek)

Tanzania (CUF/Zanzibar)

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1993 |
| Conflict parties: | CUF vs. regional government | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The secession conflict between the Civic United Front (CUF) and the regional government of Zanzibar led by the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) continued. The two parties began negotiations towards a power-sharing deal in February. Early in 2008, the formation of a government of national unity failed as the CCM insisted on

holding a referendum on this issue. Some political pundits believed that CCM's decision to hold a referendum was a strategy to buy time ahead of the 2010 general elections. As this was a violation of the Muafaka reconciliation talks, the CUF threatened to ensure the election would be supervised by the UN. In May, residents of Pemba Island, a CUF stronghold, demanded secession from Zanzibar and Tanzania. The police arrested twelve Pemba Elders after they had presented a secession plea to the UN in the capital, Dar es Saalam. The CUF abandoned the reconciliation talks after several more weeks of arrests in Pemba. In August, President Jakaya Kikwete made a speech to the National Assembly in which he claimed Zanzibar's sovereignty had died with the proclamation of the union with Tanganyika in 1964. CUF secretary-general Seif Shariff Hamad likened the union with mainland Tanzania to a coat that had become uncomfortably small. The same month, both CUF and CCM legislators from the island criticized the army recruitment policy as discriminating against youths from Zanzibar. On October 24, CCM Publicity Secretary John Chiligati appealed to CUF to return to the negotiation table. CUF's Hamad rejected the proposition, saying power-sharing was the only solution to the long-running political squabbling in the island. (dbr)

Uganda (ADF, NALU)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↗ | Start: 1987 |
| Conflict parties: | ADF, NALU vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power, resources | |

While no confrontations between the National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (NALU) and the government were reported in 2008, the conflict between the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and the government over national power continued. The ADF, fighting the government since 2001, was mainly active in the western parts of Uganda with its rear bases located in the eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The UN classified the ADF as one of the Negative Forces destabilizing the Great Lakes region. On 12/04/07, the government accused the ADF of having planned a terrorist attack on the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, held in the Ugandan capital of Kampala in November 2007. The same month, the head of MONUC in Kampala, Oliamide Adedeij, announced that the UN was holding peace talks with ADF leader, Jamil Mukulu. This was denied by ADF External Coordinator Adams Lwanga, adding that Jamil Mukulu was unknown to the ADF and that the ADF was in fact headed by Sengooba Kyakoonye Mukongozzi. On January 21, the Ugandan armed forces started a crackdown on suspected rebel collaborators in western Uganda. In April, the ADF reportedly attacked and forcibly recruited civilians in the region of Irengete in the eastern DRC. In a similar attack on the Kibaale district in western Uganda, one person was killed and six abducted. At the end of July, Peter Onega from the Ugandan Amnesty Commission confirmed that he had met with Jamil Mukulu and Yusuf Kabanda, as well as ten other senior leaders of the ADF, in order to prepare peace talks with the government. (rs)

Uganda (LRA)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1987 |
| Conflict parties: | LRA vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power, resources | |

The power conflict between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the government continued. The conflict was characterized by an agreement on - but not the signing of - a peace agreement, discussions about the International Criminal Court (ICC) indictments of the LRA leadership, and an increased number of LRA abuses of civilians in Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). At the end of 2007, the deadlock in negotiations and rumors about Vincent Otti having been murdered raised fears about a collapse of the peace process. Otti, a high-ranking LRA commander, had been in charge of the negotiations with the government. On January 21, Joseph Kony, leader of the LRA, confirmed that Otti had been killed on his order. Nevertheless, Kony reiterated his willingness for peace negotiations. Talks were resumed in Juba, South Sudan, on January 31. In February and March, LRA forces abducted approx. 150 civilians from the villages of Bambouti, Gbassigbiri, Ligoua, and Obob in the prefecture of Haut-Mbomou in the CAR, close to the Ri-Kwangwa area in southern Sudan where LRA forces had been encamped since the Cessation of Hostility Agreement in 2006. In a similar event, on March 16, LRA forces raided Ezo county in southern Sudan, abducting some 20 people and killing several others. On February 19, the conflict parties reached an agreement, which served as an annex to the Agreement on Accountability and Reconciliation agreed upon the year before. According to this annex agreement, minor offenses committed during the civil war were to be assigned to traditional justice practices, while war crimes were to be tried at a special division at the Ugandan High Court (UHC). In addition, the parties agreed on Uganda requesting the UN Security Council to defer ICC investigations against the LRA. In reaction, ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo stated that the establishment of a special division at the UHC would not automatically lead to a repeal of war crime charges, an action that only ICC judges can adjudicate. On October 28, the ICC initiated pre-trial procedures in order to determine if Kony should be tried by the UHC or the ICC. Two days later, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni confirmed that Kony would not be extradited to the ICC if he signed the final peace agreement. Nevertheless, Kony moved his headquarters from the DRC to the CAR, 80 km from the Sudanese border, in March. On March 28, South Sudan's Vice President Riek Machar, chief negotiator in the Juba peace talks, announced that the final peace agreement would be signed by the LRA in Ri-Kwangwa on April 3, and by the Ugandan government in Juba on April 5. This date was later postponed to April 10. However, Kony failed to attend the signing ceremony. Instead, he demanded the arrest warrants against him and the LRA leadership be lifted as a precondition to signing the peace agreement. On May 26, the Ugandan government announced that it had set up a special division as envisioned in the annex peace agreement. In early June, LRA forces at-

tacked a military base of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in the villages of Nabanga and Yamba near the Congolese border, killing 14 soldiers as well as several civilians. Army representatives of the DRC, Sudan, and Uganda subsequently discussed military options against the LRA. On June 24, eight of twelve members left the LRA negotiating team, citing frustration over Kony's refusal to sign the peace agreement. In September, LRA forces raided the Congolese villages of Bitima, Bayote, Bangbi, Kiliwa, Nawenanga, and Namibia in Dungu Territory in the province of Haut Uelé, abducting approx. 300 people. On November 4, the mediating parties issued an ultimatum to Kony to sign the peace agreement by November 30. (rs)

Zimbabwe (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 2000 |
| Conflict parties: | MDC-T, MDC-M vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

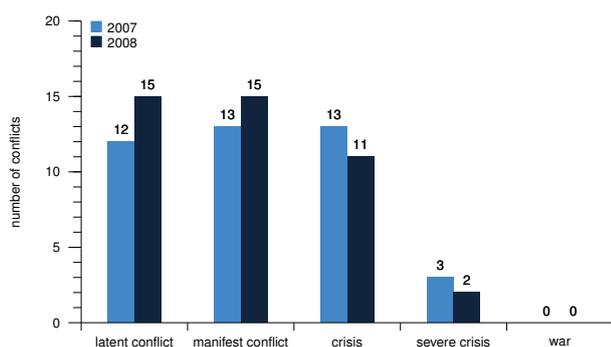
The power conflict between the opposition and the government of President Robert Mugabe and his ruling party Zimbabwe National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) remained violent. On 12/13/07, Mugabe was elected presidential candidate by all regional branches of his ZANU-PF. In early February, the two factions of the divided opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change led by Morgan Tsvangirai (MDC-T) and the MDC led by Arthur Mutambara (MDC-M), respectively, failed to reach an accord on a common presidential candidate and combined lists for parliamentary as well as local polls. MDC-M formed an electoral alliance with Mugabe's dismissed inner-party rival Simba Makoni, and withdrew from the presidential race. The relatively peaceful elections on March 29 were considered free and fair by observers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Observers from the USA or the EU, however, were barred from monitoring the polls. The final results of the parliamentary elections were published on April 2. The two MDC factions won a majority of votes in parliament, marking the first time since independence that ZANU-PF had lost its majority in the lower house. While MDC-T announced that its presidential candidate Tsvangirai had won a majority of votes, according to its own calculations, the results of the presidential elections were not published. In early April, pro-government militias as well as security forces launched violent attacks on opposition members and their supporters, causing several deaths throughout the country and more than 1,000 refugees. Supporters of the opposition were allegedly abused in torture camps. On May 2, the electoral commission eventually released the final

results. The figures indicated that Tsvangirai had won the plurality but not the majority of votes, necessitating a run-off between him and Mugabe scheduled for June 27. Attacks on opposition supporters commenced. The situation in Mashonaland East was especially grave, accounting for more than half of the reported cases of political violence. After a seven-week tour to gain international support, Tsvangirai returned to Zimbabwe on May 24. His return, originally scheduled for May 16, was postponed due to fears of assassination attempts. On June 1, MDC-M leader Mutambara was arrested. Tsvangirai was arrested five times over the course of June, and the number of displaced rose to 200,000. On June 22, Tsvangirai announced his pull-out from the presidential run-off. One day later, he sought refuge in the Dutch embassy after police had raided MDC-T's headquarters. The elections were nevertheless held. ZANU-PF supporters allegedly forced people to go out and vote. Mugabe was declared winner and sworn in on June 29. On August 12, Human Rights Watch stated at least 163 opposition activists and supporters were killed during the violent anti-opposition campaign. Following Mugabe's election, political violence abated. From July 24 on, negotiations on a power sharing deal mediated by South African President Thabo Mbeki and the SADC were held between ZANU-PF, MDC-T, and MDC-M in Pretoria. The talks often stalled with Tsvangirai having in mind a predominantly ceremonial role for the president while Mugabe tried to gain most of executive powers. Mugabe also tried to sideline MDC-T by striking a deal with MDC-M. On September 15, all parties signed a power-sharing deal dividing executive powers so as to give ZANU-PF 15, MDC-T 13, and MDC-M three ministerial posts. The accord was followed by discordance regarding the allocation of key ministries. With ZANU-PF being in charge of the army, the MDC factions demanded control of the Ministry of Home Affairs controlling the police. On October 11, ZANU-PF claimed all key ministries including Defense, Foreign Affairs, Justice, and Local Government. Tsvangirai threatened to withdraw from the talks. On November 9, SADC tried to break the deadlock by proposing shared responsibility for the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, by November 30, a united government of the three parties had not been formed. In 2008, Zimbabweans were also afflicted by the country's catastrophic economic situation, an official inflation rate of 231 million percent, and an outbreak of cholera in August, resulting in almost 10,000 cases and over 400 deaths. Over the course of the year, a total of more than 2,000,000 people fled to South Africa, sparking xenophobic riots in the country [→ South Africa (xenophobes - immigrants)]. (sk)

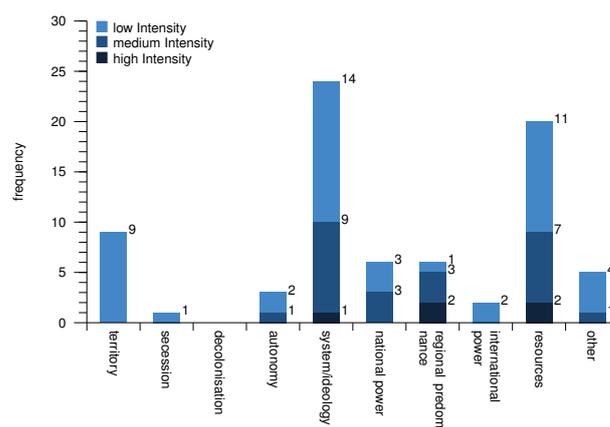
The Americas

In the region of the Americas, the total number of conflicts increased by two from 41 to 43, with two conflicts being settled in 2007 already, and four new conflicts erupting on the level of a crisis [→ Chile (Mapuche); Nicaragua (various opposition groups); Panama (opposition); Peru (opposition)]. Compared to 2007, the number of highly violent conflicts decreased by one from three to two [→ Colombia (FARC); Mexico (drug cartels)]. The conflicts in the Americas slightly deescalated in total, with violent conflicts decreasing and non-violent conflicts clearly increasing. Altogether, 16 conflicts deescalated, whereas only seven conflicts escalated regarding their intensity. In comparison with 2007, nine violent conflicts turned non-violent, and only two non-violent conflicts turned violent. One conflict was finally settled in 2008. In contrast, the level of crime increased drastically, e.g. in Brazil, Haiti, and especially in Mexico [→ Mexico (drug cartels)]. The three main Mexican drug cartels seemed to take control over large parts of the continent's drug business. At the same time, the Mexican government intensified its struggle against the cartels. With more than 5,400 casualties, this was the bloodiest conflict in the region. However, Colombia was the country with most violent conflicts, numbering four in total, including one highly violent conflict [→ Colombia (FARC)]. FARC rebel violence had considerably decreased, however, due to a number of successful military and non-military campaigns by the government this year. As in 2007, Colombia's fight against FARC rebels was accompanied by spill-over effects and cross-border violations of Ecuadorian territory, leading to a manifest conflict not only between Colombia and Ecuador [→ Colombia - Ecuador], but also between Colombia and Venezuela [→ Colombia - Venezuela (system)] after Colombia had executed a combined air and ground attack against FARC rebels on Ecuadorian territory on March 1. As in previous years, the insecure and tense economic situation in various countries of Central and South America presented the main source of instability in the Americas. System/ideology consequently remained the dominant conflict item, immediately followed by resources, both in violent and non-violent conflicts.

Conflict Intensities in the Americas in 2008 compared to 2007



Frequency of Conflict Items in 2008 in the Americas by Intensity Groups



Overview: Conflicts in the Americas in 2008

| Name of conflict ¹ | Conflict parties ² | Conflict items | Start | Change ³ Int. ⁴ |
|--|--|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| Argentina (Piqueteros)* | Piqueteros vs. government | system/ideology | 2001 | ↘ 1 |
| Argentina - Iran (AMIA)* | Argentina vs. Iran | other | 1992 | ↘ 1 |
| Argentina - United Kingdom (Falkland Islands)* | Argentina vs. United Kingdom | territory, resources | 1945 | • 1 |
| Belize (opposition)* | opposition vs. government | system/ideology | 2005 | END 1 |
| Bolivia (opposition) | opposition vs. government | autonomy, system/ideology, national power, resources | 1983 | • 3 |
| Bolivia - Chile (access to sea)* | Bolivia vs. Chile | territory, resources | 1945 | • 1 |
| Brazil (MST)* | MST vs. government | resources | 1995 | ↘ 2 |
| Canada (AFN)* | AFN vs. government | resources, other | 1995 | ↘ 1 |
| Canada (Bloc Québécois/Quebec)* | Bloc Québécois, Parti Québécois vs. government | secession | 1945 | • 1 |
| Chile (Mapuche) | Mapuche groups vs. government | resources, other | 2008 | NEW 3 |
| Chile (opposition)* | opposition vs. government | system/ideology | 2006 | ↓ 1 |
| Chile - United Kingdom (Antarctica)* | Chile vs. United Kingdom | territory, resources | 2007 | • 1 |

| Name of conflict ¹ | Conflict parties ² | Conflict items | Start | Change ³ | Int. ⁴ |
|--|--|---|-------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Colombia (AUC) | AUC vs. government | system/ideology, regional predominance, resources | 1995 | ↗ | 3 |
| Colombia (ELN)* | ELN vs. government | system/ideology, regional predominance, resources | 1964 | ↘ | 2 |
| Colombia (FARC - ELN)* | FARC vs. ELN | system/ideology, regional predominance, resources | 2006 | ↘ | 3 |
| Colombia (FARC) | FARC vs. government | system/ideology, regional predominance, resources | 1964 | • | 4 |
| Colombia (various indigenous groups) | various indigenous groups vs. government | system/ideology, resources | 2005 | ↑ | 3 |
| Colombia - Ecuador | Colombia vs. Ecuador | international power | 2005 | • | 2 |
| Colombia - Venezuela (Monjes islands)* | Colombia vs. Venezuela | territory, resources | 1945 | • | 1 |
| Colombia - Venezuela (system) | Colombia vs. Venezuela | system/ideology, international power | 2004 | • | 2 |
| Costa Rica - Nicaragua (Rio San Juan)* | Costa Rica vs. Nicaragua | territory | 1945 | ↘ | 1 |
| Ecuador (opposition)* | opposition vs. government | system/ideology | 1980 | ↘ | 2 |
| Guatemala (various opposition groups)* | rightwing militant groups vs. leftwing militant groups | system/ideology, national power | 1960 | ↘ | 2 |
| Guatemala - Belize (territory)* | Guatemala vs. Belize | territory | 1981 | • | 1 |
| Haiti (opposition) | Aristide followers vs. Aristide opponents | national power | 1986 | • | 3 |
| Mexico (APPO)* | APPO vs. government | system/ideology | 2006 | ↘ | 2 |
| Mexico (drug cartels) | drug cartels vs. government | regional predominance, resources | 2007 | • | 4 |
| Mexico (EPR/Guerrero)* | EPR vs. government | autonomy, system/ideology | 1995 | ↘ | 2 |
| Mexico (EZLN/Chiapas)* | EZLN vs. government | autonomy, system/ideology, resources, other | 1994 | ↘ | 2 |
| Mexico (opposition)* | opposition vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 2006 | • | 2 |
| Nicaragua (various opposition groups) | various opposition groups vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 2008 | NEW | 3 |
| Nicaragua - Colombia (sea border) | Nicaragua vs. Colombia | territory, resources | 1945 | • | 2 |
| Panama (opposition) | opposition vs. government | system/ideology | 2008 | NEW | 3 |
| Paraguay (opposition) | opposition vs. government | system/ideology, resources | 1989 | • | 3 |
| Peru (opposition) | opposition vs. government | system/ideology, resources | 2008 | NEW | 3 |
| Peru (Shining Path) | Shining Path vs. government | system/ideology, regional predominance | 1980 | • | 3 |
| Peru - Chile (border)* | Peru vs. Chile | territory, resources | 1945 | ↗ | 2 |
| Uruguay - Argentina (Uruguay River)* | Uruguay vs. Argentina | resources | 2006 | ↘ | 1 |
| 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 | ↘ | 1 |
| USA - Venezuela (system)* | USA vs. Venezuela | system/ideology | 2001 | • | 2 |
| Venezuela (opposition)* | opposition vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 2000 | ↘ | 2 |

¹ ² ³ ⁴ cf. overview table for Europe

Bolivia (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1983 |
| Conflict parties: | opposition vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | autonomy, system/ideology, national power, resources | |

The system conflict concerning autonomy, the new constitution, and the reallocation of profits from the country's resources between the opposition movement of the wealthy eastern lowland provinces and the government

of President Evo Morales and its indigenous supporters continued. On 12/09/07, the Constituent Assembly approved the text of a new national constitution. The rightwing opposition, which had boycotted the session, criticized the vote as illegal. The governors of the departments of Santa Cruz, Beni, Pando, and Tarija, who did not accept the new constitution, announced an autonomy referendum for Santa Cruz. Despite the National Electoral Court (NEC) declaring the referendum illegal,

the citizens of Santa Cruz overwhelmingly voted in favor of autonomy on May 4. The central government refused to acknowledge the ballot. From June 1 to 22, referenda in Beni, Pando, and Tarija also brought results in favor of autonomy. Several of Morales's indigenous supporters were injured at election rallies. In a national recall referendum on August 10, called by Morales in response to the crisis, the president received overwhelming support. Because the referendum also saw the opposition prefects approved, the political deadlock continued, however. On August 19, anti-Morales activists held general strikes in the eastern provinces to protest against the president's plans to divert energy revenues towards his national pension scheme. The strikes were accompanied by clashes between the police, protesters, and Morales supporters. Morales deployed the army to the region to protect government-owned oil and gas installations. On September 3, the opposition governors threatened to set up road blocks and cut off natural gas exports. In Beni, militant rightwing groups threatened to occupy military posts and expel the regional army chief if he failed to submit to the regional governor's command. On September 2, the NEC invalidated a presidential decree calling a constitutional referendum for December 7. After anti-government protesters had seized gas and oil installations, causing a pipeline explosion in Tarija on September 10, the government deployed additional troops. On September 11, almost 30 indigenous supporters of President Morales were killed in a massacre in Pando. The government declared a state of emergency there, which remained in effect for over two months. The army detained Governor Leopoldo Fernández, whom Morales accused of hiring gunmen to massacre pro-government supporters. Morales also expelled the US ambassador on September 11, accusing him of conspiring to dissolve the country. On September 15, the Union of South American Nations leaders expressed their full support for Morales, saying they would not tolerate any attempt at a coup or rupture of institutional order. From September 12 on, opposition leaders struck a more conciliatory note, seeking negotiations and offering to remove roadblocks. Talks between the government and the opposition lead to an agreement on October 20 which foresaw holding the constitutional referendum on 01/25/09 as well as important changes to the original constitution draft and elections in December 2009. (eg, aog)

Chile (Mapuche)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: NEW | Start: 2008 |
| Conflict parties: | Mapuche groups vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | resources, other | |

A violent new conflict erupted between indigenous Mapuche groups and the government over natural resources, e.g. water and forest. On January 3, Matías Vatrileo Quezada, a 22-year-old Mapuche student, was killed during a farm occupation in the town of Vilcún, presumably by police forces. The incident provoked violent protests by Mapuche groups. On January 4, two trucks were burned in the southern region of Temuco. The same day, two forestry company helicopters were at-

tacked while landing. Increasing international pressure forced the government to set up a commission on Mapuche affairs. Nevertheless, on August 6, a bomb exploded at the Brazilian embassy in the capital, Santiago, which was attributed to Mapuche groups. Previously, Mapuche militants had been bombing banks and offices of international companies operating in Mapuche areas. On October 16, five government officials were attacked by an armed Mapuche mob. (cr)

Colombia (AUC)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↗ | Start: 1995 |
| Conflict parties: | AUC vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, regional predominance, resources | |

The conflict concerning regional predominance and the orientation of the political system between the rightwing paramilitaries of the United Self-Defense Force (AUC) and the government once more turned violent. The peace process between the AUC, the umbrella organization of the paramilitary forces, and the government had led to the demobilization of, in total, approx. 30,000 AUC fighters by 2007. However, in 2008 the former paramilitary groups appeared to start to rearm and recruit new fighters, especially in poor neighborhoods. Those unwilling to enlist were threatened or killed. According to a Colombian NGO, approx. 270,000 citizens were forced from their homes between January and mid-2008 due to attacks and the presence of new drug-financed paramilitary groups and FARC [→ Colombia (FARC)]. On April 29, police forces killed Victor Manuel Mejía Munera, one of the country's most important drug lords and leader of a newly established paramilitary splinter group, together with two of his bodyguards in the northern province of Antioquia. Furthermore, President Álvaro Uribe extradited more than 30 former AUC leaders to the USA over the course of the year, arguing that they were disrespecting peace terms, e.g. concerning possession of weapons and their continued involvement in drug business. After Colombian paramilitary forces had conducted an attack in the Ecuadorian border town of Borbón on November 2, in which one Ecuadorian died [→ Colombia - Ecuador], Ecuador sent troops to its border with Colombia on November 6. (ijh)

Colombia (FARC)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: • | Start: 1964 |
| Conflict parties: | FARC vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, regional predominance, resources | |

The conflict concerning regional predominance and the political system between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the government remained highly violent. In comparison to the previous year, however, FARC violence considerably decreased due to a dramatic loss of strength. Over the course of the year, the rebel group was seriously hit by a string of combined military and police actions aiming to eliminate leading FARC figures and thereby weaken the rebel group's morale and logistic capabilities. On February 11, military forces killed Pérez Contreras, leader of the

group's 35th Front. A combined air and ground attack of the Colombian forces on March 1 killed Raúl Reyes, FARC's deputy commander, together with at least 25 other guerrillas on Ecuadorian territory. The incident caused a diplomatic crisis between Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela [→ Colombia - Ecuador; Colombia - Venezuela (system)]. Military forces succeeded in securing Reyes's computer from the site, which contained important strategic information. On March 5, Iván Ríos, another key leader and member of the FARC secretariat, was killed by one of his subordinates for the official reward placed on Ríos's head. FARC's founder and highest-ranking leader, Manuel Marulanda, died of a heart attack on March 26. Guerrilla leader "El Paisa" and another eight FARC rebels were killed on September 22. Finally, "Felipe Rincón" and a further four guerrilla members were killed in a military attack on a jungle camp in the province of Meta on October 29. Moreover, FARC suffered rising desertion and massive infiltration by state forces. For instance, on May 18, the leader of the 47th Front surrendered to the police. According to official sources, approx. 1,500 FARC rebels surrendered or deserted between January and mid-June alone. Consequently, experts estimated that FARC severely lost manpower, leaving approx. 9,000 fighters. On July 2, an undercover military action succeeded in freeing long-held high-profile hostage Ingrid Betancourt and 14 other hostages. Millions of people demonstrated in the capital, Bogotá, and around the world on February 4 and July 20 to demand the end of FARC violence and the freeing of remaining hostages. FARC renewed its claim for a demilitarized zone and an exchange of prisoners. President Álvaro Uribe offered a certain area as demilitarized zone, which FARC rejected as being too small. The group sporadically released hostages to signalize its readiness for talks and to keep up pressure on Uribe. On January 10, FARC released two hostages after a process of mediation by Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez. Another four high-profile hostages were released on February 27. FARC conducted a series of bombings in the second half of the year. On August 15, a FARC bomb killed five people and injured 40 in Ituango in the northwestern department of Antioquia. Another ambush in the southwestern city of Cali killed a further five and injured at least 20 people. On September 17, two bombs exploded in Bogotá. Another bomb attack in the town of Neiva in the southwestern province of Huila killed one person and injured eight on October 12. Finally, FARC on October 16 offered peace talks. (jjh)

Colombia (various indigenous groups)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↑ | Start: 2005 |
| Conflict parties: | various indigenous groups vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, resources | |

The conflict over resources and the orientation of the political system between the Guambianos and various other indigenous groups, on the one hand, and the government, on the other, escalated to a crisis. Between October 13 and 15, approx. 22,000 indigenous protesters clashed heavily with police forces on various occasions in the southwestern departments of Cauca

and Valle del Cauca. Three indigenous supporters died, and another 140 as well as ten policemen were injured. Initially, the indigenous groups had been holding protests against the loss of their native lands and the killing of more than 20 members of their tribes since the beginning of 2008. They believed paramilitary groups and Colombian military forces to be responsible for these incidents. President Álvaro Uribe, however, claimed that the protesters were infiltrated by FARC rebels [→ Colombia (FARC)], and announced that no further outbreak of violence would be tolerated. After a meeting between Uribe and leaders of the indigenous groups on November 2 failed to yield any results, a new protest march attended by 5,000 indigenous people was launched in the city of Cali on November 10. The march was aimed to lead to the capital, Bogotá, and inspire as many indigenous protesters as possible. (jjh)

Colombia - Ecuador

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 2005 |
| Conflict parties: | Colombia vs. Ecuador | |
| Conflict items: | international power | |

The conflict between Colombia and Ecuador over border violations continued. On 12/13/07, Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa announced that 11,000 army forces, a quarter of the army's total strength, had been deployed along the border to Colombia. A combined air and ground offensive of Colombian forces targeted a FARC camp near the town of Santa Rosa, Ecuador. Operation Fénix, which involved the use of helicopters, light attack aircrafts, cluster bombs, and military squads, resulted in the death of FARC's vice Chief Raúl Reyes and 25 suspected rebels on March 1 [→ Colombia (FARC)]. It later transpired that an Ecuadorian citizen was among those killed in the raid. In reaction, Correa heavily protested and suspended diplomatic relations with Colombia, expelling Colombia's ambassador from the Ecuadorian capital, Quito. Furthermore, he mobilized troops in the border region. On March 3, Colombia declared its regret over the border violation but claimed that Ecuadorian authorities had ties with FARC. Correa strongly refuted the accusation. In the aftermath, both sides held talks mediated within the OAS framework and by former US President Jimmy Carter. On March 8, both presidents shook hands at the Rio Group summit in the Dominican Republic. However, an Ecuadorian military helicopter crossed the Colombian border on March 30, and was intercepted in Colombian air space by two Black Hawk helicopters. The Ecuadorian authorities apologized for the incident, claiming a navigation mistake. Despite that incident, both presidents agreed to restore low-level diplomatic relations immediately and without preconditions on June 6. (cgb, jjh)

Colombia - Venezuela (system)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 2004 |
| Conflict parties: | Colombia vs. Venezuela | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, international power | |

The system conflict between Colombia and Venezuela continued. On January 13, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez demanded that Colombia reclassify the leftwing

guerrillas FARC and ELN [→ Colombia (FARC); Colombia (ELN)] as belligerent rather than terrorist organizations. The Colombian authorities strongly rejected Chávez's demand. Chávez condemned Colombia's Operation Fénix of March 1 as a violation of Ecuador's territorial sovereignty [→ Colombia - Ecuador], and warned Colombian President Álvaro Uribe that a comparable action on Venezuelan territory would inevitably lead to war. Before, Chávez had deployed ten battalions of troops, virtually the entire army, to the Venezuelan-Colombian border. On March 4, Uribe threatened to take action against Chávez at the International Criminal Court for "sponsoring and financing genocide". However, only four days later, Chávez and Uribe shook hands at the Rio Group summit in the Dominican Republic. On June 8, Chávez urged FARC to end its four-decade armed struggle. In an effort to improve bilateral relations, Chávez and Uribe met for a three-hour talk on July 11. (cgb, fs)

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 as supporters and opponents, respectively, of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who had been removed from office on 02/28/04. Aristide's opponents included former members of the army, which had been dissolved under Aristide in 1995. His supporters consisted of gangs from Cité Soleil, a shantytown located in the capital, Port-au-Prince. Since 2004, the UN mission MINUSTAH had been trying to establish security and stability in the country. After a considerable decrease of violent clashes from March 2007 onwards, a UN peacekeeping base in the city of Les Cayes was attacked on April 3 by demonstrators protesting against rising food expenses. At the same time, protesters looted and burned stores, threw rocks, and randomly shot at peacekeepers. As the protests spread throughout the country, demonstrators tried to break into the presidential palace in Port-au-Prince, demanding President René Prével's resignation. They also burned a UN vehicle and ransacked shops. At least five people were killed in these riots, among them one UN peacekeeper. On April 12, the Senate dismissed Prime Minister Jacques Édouard Alexis. The first two candidates for his succession proposed by Prével, i.e. Ericq Pierre and Robert Manuel, were both rejected by the Chamber of Deputies. On July 23, Prével suggested Michèle Pierre-Louis, who was approved by the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate on July 17 and 31, respectively. On July 15, Aristide's 55th birthday, thousands of his supporters clashed with the police after trying to storm the barricades near the National Palace. The demonstrators demanded the return of Aristide and protested against rising food prices. On July 29, approx. 200 ex-soldiers occupied former military buildings in Cap-Haïtien and Ouaminthes, demanding payment of 14 years of owed service pay and the reinstatement of the armed forces. The protest ended peacefully the next day after the UN

had mediated talks on a surrender of the ex-soldiers. On August 25, protests against rising food prices resumed in Les Cayes's La Savane slum but were dispersed by UN peacekeepers and Haitian police. Haiti experienced a growing number of kidnappings in 2008. On October 13, the UN Security Council extended MINUSTAH's mandate by a further year. (mgm)

Mexico (drug cartels)

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: • | Start: 2007 |
| Conflict parties: | drug cartels vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | regional predominance, resources | |

The regional predominance conflict between the three main drug cartels, Baja California Tijuana cartel (also called Arellano Félix cartel), Sinaloa, and Golfo, on the one hand, and the government, on the other, continued on a highly violent level. Drug gangsters and security forces clashed heavily almost daily throughout the year. For example, both on 12/30/07 and September 6 seven policemen were killed in ambushes. Frequently, dozens of heavily armed gangsters attacked police stations and other state institutions. Early in May, three of Mexico's top anti-crime investigators were killed in a series of assassinations, among them Roberto Velasco Bravo, the head of the organized crime unit at the Federal Investigation Agency. On February 15, a bomb attack in Mexico City targeted a senior anti-drugs policeman, who survived. On September 15, Mexico's national holiday, hit men of the Golfo gang, Los Zetas, threw two grenades on a party in the center of the western city of Morelia, killing seven and injuring over 100. Members of drug cartels frequently conducted executions and torture, even of police officers. On September 29, for instance, security forces found 16 dead bodies in the city of Tijuana, twelve of which had been dumped next to a primary school. Seven of the victims had had their tongues cut out. Security forces arrested several members of the three major drug cartels in June and October, among them logistics boss Gustavo Rivera Martínez, Filiberto "The Bitch" Parra Ramos, and Eduardo Arellano Félix, all of the Arellano Félix (Tijuana) cartel. Wenceslao Álvarez, the Golfo gang's logistics boss, was arrested on October 13, and the leader of Los Zetas, Jaime González Durán, was arrested in the northeastern city of Reynosa on November 10. Edgar Guzmán, a son of the Sinaloa gang's leader Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, was killed in a shootout with rivals. In other instances, security forces seized rotary anti-aircraft machine guns, a vehicle equipped with a smoke machine, and a device to spray spikes onto the road behind, as well as a 30-meter-long semi-submarine loaded with nearly six tons of cocaine. On July 16, police forces confiscated four car bombs in the state of Sinaloa, and 26 million US dollars on September 18. Over the course of the year, President Felipe Calderón gradually deployed 11,700 extra troops and police forces to states affected by gang-related violence, increasing the total number of troops to more than 40,000. The increasing level of violence led to several resignations of high-ranking officers, who fled across the border into the USA. In late May, the entire administration staff and police of the northern city of Villa Ahumada

surrendered and fled. On May 28, Mexico's attorney general, Eduardo Medina Mora, announced that military forces would continue fighting drug-related violence for another two years. The next day, General Rodolfo Cruz López, commander of the Federal Preventive Police, demanded the use of 7.62mm machine guns in order not to be outgunned by gangsters. Edgardo Buscaglia, a UN adviser, claimed on June 25 that criminal gangs were in control of half of Mexico's municipalities. According to Guillermo Valdés, head of the intelligence service, drug cartels were threatening the country's democratic institutions, including Congress. On September 8, Calderón announced an increase of almost 40 percent in security and justice expenditure for next year's budget. On August 31, up to 500,000 people protested against drug-related violence in Mexico City. In 2008, up to 5,400 people were killed, a dramatic increase compared to 2007. (fs)

Nicaragua (various opposition groups)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: NEW | Start: 2008 |
| Conflict parties: | various opposition groups vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

A national power and system conflict erupted between political and civil opposition groups and the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) of President Daniel Ortega in 2008. On July 16, more than 30,000 demonstrators demanded an end to the rise in the cost of living and Ortega's policy of undermining democracy. Previously, the authorities had banned two opposition parties and postponed regional and municipal elections in a northern opposition stronghold region. In the run-up to the elections, the Supreme Electoral Court excluded Eduardo Montealegre, leader of the oppositional Nicaraguan Liberal Alliance (ALN-PC) and competitor for the mayor's office in the capital, Managua. The decision triggered demonstrations by opposition parties and civil society groups. In late September, supporters and opponents of Ortega repeatedly clashed. On October 22, the EU expressed concerns over the oppression of NGOs by the government. After the FSLN's victory in regional and municipal elections on November 9, the opposition accused the FSLN of fraud, demanded the result be annulled and stated its intention to contest the results by all necessary means. The following day, militant FSLN supporters and supporters of defeated opposition parties clashed in the outskirts of Managua, leaving two people dead and six injured. On November 16 and 17, a protest march against the election results in León was stopped by armed FSLN supporters. Several protesters were injured in the ensuing clashes, including one of Montealegre's bodyguards. Another demonstration in Managua on November 19 was blocked by thousands of armed Sandinista supporters. One person was killed and four journalists injured. On November 26, Montealegre called on the opposition to unite against President Ortega. (lc)

Nicaragua - Colombia (sea border)

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1945 |
| Conflict parties: | Nicaragua vs. Colombia | |
| Conflict items: | territory, resources | |

The conflict between Nicaragua and Colombia over the San Andrés and Providencia islands as well as three atolls continued. The Nicaraguan military was put on alert on 12/11/07. Two days later, the ICJ ruled that the disputed islands belonged to Colombia. However, Colombia maintained its military presence in the area around the three atolls Roncador, Quitasueño, and Serrana. The latter had explicitly not been included in the court's ruling. Following a Colombian naval encroachment on a Nicaraguan fishing boat on February 2, Nicaragua demanded on March 5 that the UN monitor the withdrawal of all Colombian forces in the region. The demand remained unanswered. Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega threatened to enforce his claims by all means necessary with Venezuelan help. (lc)

Panama (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: NEW | Start: 2008 |
| Conflict parties: | opposition vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology | |

A new violent conflict concerning the political system erupted in February between trade unions, led by the construction workers' union Suntracs, and the government. After a Suntracs member had allegedly been killed by the police at a rally for safety standards on February 12, approx. 40,000 people demonstrated the next day. The protest turned violent. The day's clashes between protesters and the police left ten police officers injured, while 193 demonstrators were arrested. On February 14, the trade unions demanded the sacking of the interior minister, Daniel Delgado, and police chief Rolando Mirones. By then more than 470 workers had been arrested in demonstrations. Two days later, the government passed a decree providing for improved health and safety standards for construction workers. However, the unions announced they would continue their protests. On September 4, a nationwide strike paralyzed most of the country's construction and transport industry. The strike was called for by an umbrella group including Suntracs, teachers, doctors, and indigenous groups. (eg)

Paraguay (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1989 |
| Conflict parties: | opposition vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, resources | |

The conflict over land reform between several farmers' organizations, indigenous groups, and landless people, on the one hand, and the government, on the other, continued on a violent level. On April 14, homeless people demonstrated for the construction of 3,000 new houses. Clashes with police forces left at least 20 people injured. In late May, violent unrest erupted when Paraguayan peasants fired shots at a Brazilian-run farm. The protesters had originally been demanding land for landless people. A wave of land occupations in mid-June put new pressure on President-elect Fernando Lugo to

fulfill his promise of an integral agrarian reform. In the following weeks, the largest peasant umbrella organization coordinated a wave of farm occupations in half of the country's departments. On June 26, 40 armed peasants stormed a 4,000-hectare-farm in the north, taking several hostages. Some organizations of the landless announced further farm invasions for August 16, the day after Lugo's inauguration. Owing to increasing tensions in the country's rural areas, the government took measures to improve the security situation on October 17. On October 3, for instance, a peasant had been killed in clashes between peasant groups and police forces. On November 1, however, landless groups approved talks with the government to reach a solution to the conflict. (jjh, fs)

Peru (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: NEW | Start: 2008 |
| Conflict parties: | opposition vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, resources | |

A violent new conflict erupted in Peru in 2008. Various opposition groups consisting of farmer and mining unions, mineral-rich provinces, indigenous tribes, and students protested against rising food prices and the free-market policies of President Alan García, demanding better public services, higher wages, and fair tax redistribution. On February 18, a national strike turned violent, resulting in four deaths, thousands of injuries, and more than 700 arrests. The government announced a state of emergency in eight provinces. On March 20, one policeman was killed and at least five wounded in a protest by oil workers in northern Peru, held after indigenous protesters had taken several company workers as hostages earlier that month. Thousands of people blocked roads in Moquegua, a mining region in southern Peru, on June 12. One week later, the protests turned violent after police forces had tried to break up the demonstration. 38 police officers were injured and at least 48 taken hostage by protesters. On July 9, a one-day nationwide strike organized by the General Confederation of Workers of Peru turned violent. Protesters set fire to the headquarters of the regional government of Madre de Dios, attacked its staff, injuring 21 police officers, and looted the building. Three days later, six miners sustained gunshot wounds in a clash with police forces in the northern region of La Libertad. On October 2, protests erupted in three mineral-rich regions. Protesters once again clashed with police forces and took the mayor of Oyón hostage. Further demonstrations took place in several cities on October 7, demanding the resignation of the government due to corruption allegations. The entire cabinet resigned on October 10, and Yehude Simon, a leftist provincial governor, took over as prime minister on October 15. On October 28, thousands of protesters in Moquegua province took three officers hostage and wounded four. Simultaneously, they blocked highways and demanded that Congress redistribute mining revenues in favor of their province. At least 40 people were injured when police forces clashed with protesters. The same protest spilled over into four other provinces on October 29. In San Martín, protesters set a police station on fire and took

25 officers captive. In the province of Tacna, protesters cut the water supply to the neighboring province of Moquegua in order to force Congress to reconsider a law of tax redistribution favoring Moquegua. Additionally, 2,000 protesters set a government office in Tacna on fire and attacked a tax office, the local office of the ruling Peruvian Aprista Party, and a local radio station. Following clashes between protesters and police which left three dead and 39 civilians and 27 police forces wounded, the government declared a state of emergency in southern Peru several days later. (mgm)

Peru (Shining Path)

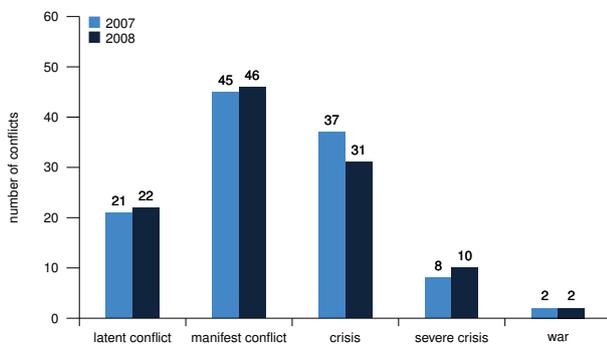
| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1980 |
| Conflict parties: | Shining Path vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, regional predominance | |

The conflict between the leftwing rebel group Shining Path and the government continued to be carried out violently. The remaining rebels were split in two factions, the Huallaga Regional Committee (CRH), and the Central Regional Committee (CRC). While the CRH, numbering approx. 100 fighters, operated in northern Peru, the CRC was active in the south, especially in the two main river valleys in the region of Apurímac and Ene (VRAE), and consisted of an estimated 300 fighters. Both factions were accused of involvement in drug-trafficking and providing drug gangs with gunmen. On 12/24/07, the rebels killed two officers and injured one. On February 15, suspected rebels were arrested in several northern regions. A police officer was killed and at least six others wounded in a jungle ambush by suspected rebels on March 23. Several days later, a group of rebels was arrested in Huánaco. Rebel leader Félix Mejía Asencio alias "Comrade Mono" had been caught and two rebels killed earlier that month. On April 17, police forces arrested Daisy Palomino Salazar, the alleged partner of CRH commander Filomeno "Comrade Artemio" Cerrón Cardoso. Drug traffickers and suspected rebels killed two civilian scouts working for the army in the VRAE on May 1. On May 19, a Special Forces unit killed Juan Laguna Domínguez alias "Comrade Piero", the CRH's second-in-command. In August, the army launched an offensive over months with approx. 1,000 soldiers in the VRAE, the country's principal coca-growing and cocaine-processing region, to crack down on the Shining Path. In mid-September, police forces arrested Eladio Claudio Laguna alias "Comrade Muro". "Comrade Artemio" rejected an ultimatum to surrender. In early October, fighting in the VRAE left one soldier and five rebels dead. 18 soldiers were injured and 15 suspected rebels arrested. The army confiscated arms, explosives, and chemicals used in cocaine production. On October 8, one soldier was killed in an ambush in Vizcatán. One day later, the worst attack by Shining Path rebels for ten years killed at least 13 soldiers and two civilians in an ambush near Tintaypunco in VRAE. Only five days later, the third attack in October killed two soldiers and wounded five. In another incident, approx. 40 Shining Path rebels killed four policemen in an attack, firing machine guns and throwing grenades on a police patrol on November 26. (mgm)

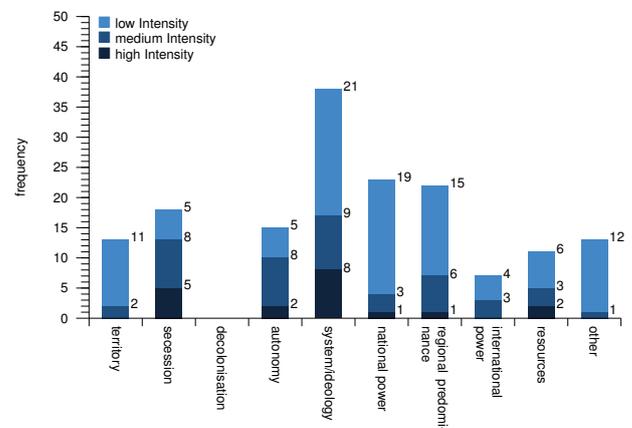
Asia and Oceania

With a total of 111 conflicts, the region of Asia and Oceania accounted for nearly a third of the world's conflicts. Most conflicts concerned system/ideology, followed by national power, regional predominance, and secession. The most violent conflicts were fought over system/ideology and secession, while conflicts regarding territory and international power were comparatively peaceful. Compared to the previous year, the number of conflicts on each intensity level remained quite stable. In 2008, two wars could be observed: The war between the Tamils and the government of Sri Lanka [→ Sri Lanka (LTTE)] persisted. Whereas last year's war in Waziristan [→ Pakistan (North and South Waziristan)] deescalated, Pakistan's conflict with Islamic militants escalated to war level [→ Pakistan (Islamists)]. All in all, Asia saw eight serious crises in 2008. While the overall situation in Myanmar concerning opposition as well as ethnic conflicts deescalated, the situation in the Philippines worsened, with two of last year's crises becoming serious crises [→ Philippines (MILF), Philippines (CPP, NPA)]. With 60 conflicts, Asia's flashpoints were clearly situated in South Asia. Especially in the second part of the year, heavy fighting flared up in Pakistan, claiming more than 2,000 lives by November. Pro-Taliban militants aiming for the imposition of Sharia law condemned the alliance between the new democratically elected government and the USA. Simultaneously, the increasing tensions over violations of Pakistan's sovereignty by the USA attracted widespread attention [→ USA - Pakistan]. Apart from the ongoing conflict with leftwing extremists [→ India (Naxalites)], India's major cities Delhi, Bangalore, and Mumbai were hit by Islamic militant attacks [→ India (Islamists)]. The highly violent Mumbai incident in November caused a deterioration of Indian-Pakistani relations as India blamed the attacks on Lashkar-e-Toiba [→ India - Pakistan]. With three volatile conflicts, the situation in Thailand gained worldwide attention. At least two Cambodian soldiers died in an exchange of gunfire with the Thai military near a temple complex when the long-standing border conflict escalated in October [→ Thailand - Cambodia (border)]. In addition, Thailand's capital, Bangkok, was in turmoil again when pro- and anti-government protesters clashed in September. Government buildings were besieged and the main airports blockaded [→ Thailand (opposition)]. Meanwhile, the Islamic insurgency in Thailand's southern border provinces continued unabated [→ Thailand (Muslim separatists/southern border provinces)]. The internal situation of the People's Republic of China was tense due to the country hosting the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing. Besides the violent events in Xinjiang [→ China (Uighurs/Xinjiang)], the international focus was on the violent crisis in Tibet. Protests and riots by Tibetans in March and April met with executive coercion and the deployment of troops on the part of the government [→ China (Tibet)].

Conflict Intensities in Asia and Oceania in 2008 compared to 2007



Frequency of Conflict Items in 2008 in Asia and Oceania by Intensity Groups



Overview: Conflicts in Asia and Oceania in 2008

| Name of conflict ¹ | Conflict parties ² | Conflict items | Start | Change ³ | Int. ⁴ |
|--|--|-----------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Bangladesh (AL - BNP) | AL vs. BNP vs. government | national power | 1991 | ↘ | 2 |
| Bangladesh (JMB)* | Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh vs. government | system/ideology | 2005 | ↘ | 2 |
| Bangladesh (PCJSS - UPDF)* | PCJSS vs. UPDF | regional predominance | 1997 | ↘ | 1 |
| Bangladesh (PCJSS, UPDF/Chittagong Hill Tracts)* | PCJSS, UPDF, tribes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts vs. government | autonomy | 1971 | • | 2 |
| Bangladesh - India* | Bangladesh vs. India | territory, resources, other | 1971 | • | 2 |
| Bangladesh - Myanmar* | Bangladesh vs. Myanmar | resources, other | 1991 | ↘ | 1 |
| Cambodia (CFF)* | CFF vs. government | national power | 2000 | • | 1 |

| Name of conflict ¹ | Conflict parties ² | Conflict items | Start | Change ³ | Int. ⁴ |
|---|---|---|-------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Cambodia (SRP - CPP, FUNCINPEC)* | SRP vs. CPP, FUNCINPEC | 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 | regional predominance | 2004 | • | 2 |
| China (Taiwan) | Taiwan vs. China | territory, secession, system/ideology, national power | 1949 | • | 2 |
| China (Tibet) | Tibetan government-in-exile, Tibetan separatists vs. government | secession, system/ideology | 1912 | • | 3 |
| China (Uighurs/Xinjiang) | ETIM, Uighur separatists vs. government | secession, system/ideology | 1990 | • | 3 |
| China - India* | China vs. India | territory, international power | 1947 | • | 1 |
| China - Vietnam et al.* | China vs. Vietnam vs. Malaysia vs. Philippines vs. Brunei vs. Singapore vs. Indonesia | 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 (ATTF, ULFA, NLFT - Biharis, Bengalis)* | ATTF, ULFA, NLFT vs. Biharis, Bengalis | regional predominance | 1981 | • | 3 |
| India (Bodos - Santhals)* | NDFB, Bodos vs. Santhals | regional predominance | 1994 | • | 2 |
| India (DHD - HPC-D)* | DHD vs. HPC-D | regional predominance | 1986 | • | 1 |
| India (Dimasa/Assam) | DHD, Black Widow vs. government | autonomy | 1980 | • | 3 |
| India (Hindus - Christians) | VHP, Bajrang Dal, Hindus vs. Christians | system/ideology | 1999 | ↗ | 3 |
| India (Hindus - Muslims)* | Hindus vs. Muslims | regional predominance | 1853 | ↗ | 3 |
| India (Hmar/Mizoram, Manipur, Assam)* | HPC-D, HNA vs. government | autonomy | 1986 | • | 3 |
| India (HNLC, ANVC, PLFM/Meghalaya)* | ANVC, HNLC, PLFM vs. government | secession | 1995 | • | 3 |
| India (Islamists) | JeM, HuJI, LeT, IM, SIMI vs. government | system/ideology | 2001 | ↗ | 4 |
| India (Kashmir) | Kashmiri and Pakistani insurgent groups vs. government | secession | 1947 | • | 4 |
| India (LTTE)* | government vs. LTTE | other | 1987 | • | 1 |
| India (MPLF, ZRA, KCP/Manipur) | MPLF, ZRA, KCP vs. government | secession | 1964 | ↗ | 4 |
| India (Nagas - Kukis)* | KNF, KLA, KNA vs. NSCN, UNPC | regional predominance | 1947 | • | 3 |
| India (Naxalites) | CPI-M vs. government | system/ideology | 1997 | • | 4 |
| India (NLFT/Tripura) | NLFT vs. government | secession | 1980 | • | 3 |
| India (NSCN-K - NSCN-IM)* | NSCN-K vs. NSCN-IM | regional predominance | 1988 | • | 3 |
| India (NSCN/Nagaland) | NSCN-IM, NSCN-K, NSCN-U vs. government | secession | 1947 | • | 3 |
| India (PULF)* | PULF vs. government | system/ideology | 1993 | • | 3 |
| India (Sikhs - DSS) | Sikhs vs. DSS | system/ideology, regional predominance | 2007 | • | 3 |
| India (Sikhs)* | Sikhs, ADP, KLF, BKI vs. government | autonomy | 1929 | • | 2 |
| India (ULFA, NDFB/Assam) | ULFA, NDFB vs. government | autonomy | 1979 | • | 3 |
| Indonesia (Dayak - Madurese)* | Dayak vs. Madurese | regional predominance | 1997 | • | 1 |
| Indonesia (GAM/Aceh) | GAM, Partai Aceh, KPA vs. government | autonomy, resources | 1953 | ↗ | 3 |
| Indonesia (Jemaah Islamiyah) | Jemaah Islamiyah vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1981 | • | 2 |
| Indonesia (Muslims - Christians/Moluccas)* | Muslims, Laskar Jihad vs. Christians | system/ideology, regional predominance | 1998 | ↘ | 2 |
| Indonesia (Muslims - Christians/Sulawesi)* | Muslims vs. Christians | regional predominance | 1998 | ↘ | 2 |
| Indonesia (OPM/Papua) | OPM vs. government | secession, resources | 1949 | • | 3 |
| Indonesia (RMS, FKM/Moluccas)* | RMS, FKM, Laskar Jihad vs. government | secession | 1950 | • | 2 |

| Name of conflict ¹ | Conflict parties ² | Conflict items | Start | Change ³ Int. ⁴ |
|--|---|---|-------|---------------------------------------|
| Indonesia - Timor-Leste* | Indonesia vs. Timor-Leste | other | 2002 | • 1 |
| Japan - China (Senkaku/Diaoyutai Islands) | Japan vs. China, Taiwan | territory, resources | 1972 | • 2 |
| Japan - Russia (Kuril Islands) | Japan vs. Russia | territory | 1945 | • 2 |
| Japan - South Korea (Dokdo/Takeshima Islands) | Japan vs. South Korea | territory | 1945 | • 2 |
| Kazakhstan (opposition) | opposition vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 2004 | • 2 |
| Kyrgyzstan (opposition) | opposition vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 2005 | • 2 |
| Laos (Hmong, Royalists)* | Hmong, Royalists vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1975 | ↘ 2 |
| Malaysia (KMM)* | KMM vs. government | system/ideology | 1998 | • 1 |
| Malaysia (Malays - Chinese and Indian minorities)* | Malays vs. Indian minority, Chinese minority | regional predominance | 1946 | ↘ 1 |
| Malaysia (opposition) | DAP, PKR, PAS, Pakatan Rakyat, Hindraf vs. government | national power | 1998 | • 2 |
| Malaysia - Indonesia, Philippines (immigrants) | Malaysia vs. Indonesia, Philippines | other | 1998 | • 2 |
| Maldives (MDP)* | MDP vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 2003 | ↘ 1 |
| Myanmar (Arakan Army, NUFA/Rakhine State)* | Arakan Army, NUFA vs. government | secession | 1948 | • 2 |
| Myanmar (CNA, CNF/Chin State)* | CNA, CNF vs. government | secession | 1988 | ↘ 2 |
| Myanmar (KIA, KIO/Kachin State)* | KIA, KIO vs. government | autonomy | 1961 | • 2 |
| Myanmar (KNPP, KnA, KNLP/Kayah State)* | KNPP, KnA, KNLP vs. government | autonomy | 1948 | • 3 |
| Myanmar (KNU, KNLA/Karen State, Kayah State) | KNU, KNLA vs. government, UWSA, DKBA | secession | 1948 | ↘ 3 |
| Myanmar (MNLA, NMSP, MRA, HRP/Mon State, Karen State)* | MNLA, NMSP, MRA, HRP vs. government | secession | 1948 | ↘ 2 |
| Myanmar (opposition) | NLD, ABFSU, ABSDF, NCGUB, NULF, AABBM vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1962 | ↘ 3 |
| Myanmar (Rohingyas, ARNO/Rakhine State) | Rohingyas, ARNO vs. government | other | 1948 | • 2 |
| Myanmar (SSA-S, SSNA, SSA-N/Shan State) | SSA-S, SSNA, SSA-N vs. government, UWSA, NDAA-ESS | autonomy | 1952 | • 3 |
| Myanmar (UWSA, UWSP/Shan State)* | UWSA, UWSP vs. government | autonomy | 1988 | ↘ 2 |
| Nepal (CPN-M)* | CPN-M vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1990 | ↘ 2 |
| Nepal (Madhesis/Terai) | Madhesis vs. government | autonomy | 2006 | • 3 |
| Nepal (opposition) | pro-democracy parties, CPN-M vs. King Gyanendra, NDA | system/ideology, national power | 2002 | ↗ 3 |
| Nepal - Bhutan* | Bhutan vs. Nepal | other | 1985 | • 2 |
| North Korea - South Korea | North Korea vs. South Korea | territory, system/ideology, international power | 1948 | • 2 |
| North Korea - USA, South Korea, Japan | North Korea vs. USA, South Korea, Japan | system/ideology, international power | 1990 | • 2 |
| Pakistan (BLA, BRA, BLF/Balochistan) | BLA, BRA, BLF vs. government | secession, resources | 1998 | • 4 |
| Pakistan (Islamists) | Islamists vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 2001 | ↗ 5 |
| Pakistan (North and South Waziristan) | Taliban, foreign militants vs. government | autonomy, system/ideology | 2002 | ↘ 4 |
| Pakistan (opposition) | opposition, PPP vs. government | national power | 1998 | • 2 |
| Pakistan (Sunnites - Shiites) | militant Sunni muslims vs. militant Shia muslims | system/ideology, regional predominance | 1998 | • 4 |
| Pakistan - India | India vs. Pakistan | territory, international power | 1947 | ↗ 3 |
| Philippines (Abu Sayyaf/Mindanao) | Abu Sayyaf vs. government | secession, system/ideology | 1991 | • 3 |
| Philippines (CPP, NPA) | NPA vs. government | system/ideology | 1968 | ↗ 4 |

| Name of conflict ¹ | Conflict parties ² | Conflict items | Start | Change ³ | Int. ⁴ |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Philippines (MILF/Mindanao) | MILF vs. government | autonomy, system/ideology, resources | 1977 | ↗ | 4 |
| Philippines (MNLF/Mindanao)* | MNLF vs. government | autonomy, system/ideology, resources | 1969 | • | 3 |
| Singapore (Jemaah Islamiyah)* | Jemaah Islamiyah vs. government | system/ideology | 1999 | • | 1 |
| Singapore - Malaysia* | Singapore vs. Malaysia | territory, international power | 1963 | • | 1 |
| Solomon Islands (opposition)* | opposition vs. government | national power, resources | 1998 | • | 2 |
| Sri Lanka (Buddhists - Hindus, Muslims, Christians)* | Buddhists vs. Hindus, Muslims, Christians | regional predominance | 1948 | • | 2 |
| Sri Lanka (Jamiyathul Ulama - Sufis)* | Jamiyathul Ulama vs. Sufis | regional predominance | 1978 | ↘ | 2 |
| Sri Lanka (LTTE - EPDP)* | LTTE vs. EPDP | regional predominance | 1986 | • | 2 |
| 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. SLMC, Muslims | regional predominance | 1976 | ↘ | 2 |
| Sri Lanka (LTTE-East - LTTE) | LTTE-East (Karuna Faction) vs. LTTE | regional predominance | 2004 | • | 3 |
| Sri Lanka (Sinhalese nationalists)* | Sinhalese nationalists, conservative Buddhist clergy, JHU vs. government | system/ideology, other | 1948 | ↘ | 1 |
| Sri Lanka (SLMC)* | SLMC vs. government | other | 1981 | • | 1 |
| Sri Lanka (Upcountry Tamils)* | Upcountry Tamils vs. Sinhalese nationalists, government | regional predominance, other | 1948 | • | 1 |
| Tajikistan (opposition)* | opposition vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1997 | ↘ | 2 |
| Thailand (Muslim separatists/southern border provinces) | Muslim separatists vs. government | secession, system/ideology | 1902 | • | 4 |
| Thailand (northern hill tribes)* | northern hill tribes vs. government | regional predominance | 1955 | • | 1 |
| Thailand (opposition) | PAD vs. PPP, government | national power | 2006 | ↗ | 3 |
| Thailand - Cambodia (border) | Thailand vs. Cambodia | territory, international power | 1954 | ↑ | 3 |
| Thailand - Myanmar* | Thailand vs. Myanmar | territory, other | 1948 | • | 1 |
| Timor-Leste (opposition)* | CNRT vs. FRETILIN | national power | 2006 | • | 2 |
| Timor-Leste (veterans) | Loromonu veterans vs. Lorosa'e, government | other | 2006 | • | 3 |
| Timor-Leste - Australia* | Timor-Leste vs. Australia | resources | 2002 | • | 1 |
| Tonga (opposition) | opposition vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1970 | • | 2 |
| USA - Pakistan | USA vs. Pakistan | international power | 2003 | ↑ | 3 |
| Uzbekistan (IMU)* | IMU vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1991 | • | 2 |
| Uzbekistan (opposition) | opposition vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 2005 | • | 2 |

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

Bangladesh (AL - BNP)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: ↘ | Start: 1991 |
| Conflict parties: | AL vs. BNP vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

The conflict over national power between the two major opposition parties, the Awami League (AL) and the Bangladesh National Party (BNP), de-escalated. The military-backed caretaker government took over power on 01/11/07 and declared a state of emergency which was in force throughout the year, restricting civil rights and political activities. The planned general elections were postponed and an anti-corruption campaign

launched. Thus, two former prime ministers, BNP's Khaleda Zia and AL's Sheikh Hasina, were arrested and faced trials on charges of extortion, corruption, and abuse of power. The trials were opened in January. Both politicians were convicted of corruption. On November 24, Bangladesh's Election Commission postponed elections announced in May, and set December 29 as the new date for general elections. The government eased the state of emergency in order to enable some political activity in the run-up to the election. Local elections took place in some parts of the country on August 4, which the AL won with a clear majority. In June, a Bangladesh

court granted Hasina permission to go abroad for medical treatment. While she left the country to go into exile, Zia rejected this offer. On September 9, the High Court granted bail to Zia, and, on September 11, she left prison. A bail plea by Hasina was rejected. Due to the terms of her release it was not clear whether she would be arrested if she decided to return to the country. (cs)

China (Taiwan)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1949 |
| Conflict parties: | Taiwan vs. China | |
| Conflict items: | territory, secession, system/ideology, national power | |

The conflict between the Chinese government in Taipei on the island of Taiwan and the Chinese government in Beijing eased slightly. While the government in Taipei continued to view itself as the government of the Republic of China, the People's Republic of China still considered Taiwan a breakaway province and strongly opposed the island's aspirations to formal independence. The situation slightly eased following the change of presidency in Taiwan from pro-independence Democratic Progress Party incumbent Chen Shuibian to Guomindang's Ma Ying-jeou in spring. Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, met with Vincent Siew, Vice President-elect of the Republic of China, in April, and with Guomindang chairman Wu Poh-hsiung in late May. Both sides declared their willingness to build mutual trust. Two rounds of negotiations between Taipei's Mainland Affairs Council and Beijing's Chinese Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits in June and November produced major agreements on economy and tourism. The agreement included the initiation of direct passenger flights, an extension of the number of tourists allowed to visit each other's soil, and the admission of direct cargo flights and shipment. On September 17, the application of the government in Taipei for participation in the UN was turned down for the 16th consecutive time. Following the approval of a major arms sale to the government in Taipei by the US Department of Defense in October, the government in Beijing indefinitely postponed military meetings with the USA. On November 28, the government in Beijing executed a man accused of having spied for the government in Taipei. The USA and the EU voiced their concerns. (gm)

China (Tibet)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1912 |
| Conflict parties: | Tibetan government-in-exile, Tibetan separatists vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession, system/ideology | |

The conflict between Tibet and China over the province's status remained violent. On March 10, several hundred monks staged protests against China's Tibet policy in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa. The next day, hundreds of monks from the Tibetan principal monasteries of Drepung, Sera, and Ganden held peaceful rallies. Police used tear gas to disperse the protesters and arrested dozens. Chinese security forces surrounded and sealed the monasteries. Simultaneously to the protests in Lhasa from March 10 on, Tibetans protested in Kath-

mandu, Nepal, and Dharamsala, India, the seat of the Tibetan government-in-exile. In Kathmandu, Nepalese police violently cracked down on the protests. On March 15, anti-Chinese demonstrators rioted in Lhasa, setting cars and shops on fire. Quickly deployed troops and tanks backed the security forces in the following clashes. Whereas the state media reported ten people dead, the Tibetan government-in-exile quoted at least 80 fatalities. At the same time in Xiahe, in the province of Gansu, riot police broke up a protest of hundreds of monks. 19 died according to the Tibetan government-in-exile. On March 16, more than a thousand monks demonstrated, and about 200 Tibetan protesters burned down a police station in the province of Sichuan. The ensuing clashes with security forces left seven demonstrators dead. In Machu, Gansu province, hundreds of Tibetans demonstrated and set fire to Chinese shops. On March 17, Chinese authorities conducted house-to-house searches and arrested suspected Tibetan protesters. At the same time, more than a hundred people surrendered to the police in response to a Chinese ultimatum. In Garze, Sichuan province, security forces killed three Tibetan demonstrators the following day. Protests continued in the Tibetan-populated areas of China until early in April, leaving one policeman and eight civilians dead. Throughout the violent demonstrations, China censored international media. The Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism and Tibet's head of state in exile, repeatedly urged an end to the violence and rejected China's accusations of being responsible for the unrest. Among others, the EU, the USA, and the UN voiced concerns about the incidents in Tibet, and demanded dialog. In the aftermath of the clashes in March, China detained more than 1,000 Tibetans for participating in the demonstrations. Some of them were sentenced to jail, while most were released in June. In the run-up to the Olympic Summer Games in August, Tibetan expatriates and sympathizers all over the world repeatedly protested against China's Tibet policy. Nepalese officials arrested more than 2,000 Tibetan protesters between May and August, significantly hardening its position towards Tibetan refugees. Neither athletes nor politicians boycotted the Olympic Games, although this had been considered in many western countries. Early in May, Chinese officials and representatives of the Dalai Lama held day-long talks, followed by a meeting of a Chinese top official with envoys of the Dalai Lama on July 1, both without a breakthrough. In a third round of talks early in November, China ruled out an autonomous status for Tibet, and maintained its military control over Tibet established in March. The Dalai Lama, who had admitted the failure of his policy to restore Tibet's autonomy in October, demanded a rethinking of the Tibetan strategy. In a meeting of more than five hundred Tibetan exile leaders in Dharamsala in mid-November, a majority voted to follow the Dalai Lama and his middle-way policy towards China but at the same time temporarily stop talks with China. A significant minority supported a shift to pursuit of outright independence. On November 23, the Dalai Lama announced that he would continue his political activities until his death. Protesting against the planned meeting of French President Nicolas

Sarkozy with the Dalai Lama early in December, China canceled a summit with the EU scheduled for December 1. (jd)

China (Uighurs/Xinjiang)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1990 |
| Conflict parties: | ETIM, Uighur separatists vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession, system/ideology | |

The conflict between the Uighurs, the Muslim minority in the autonomous region of Xinjiang, and the government gained new momentum in the run-up to the Beijing Olympic Summer Games. Throughout the first half of the year, Chinese authorities foiled several terrorist plots including an attempted airplane crash in March, broke up two terrorist rings, and arrested various suspects in Xinjiang. On January 27, in a raid in Urumqi, the provincial capital of Xinjiang, police killed two people with suspected ties to the separatist East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), who had allegedly planned an attack on the Olympic Games. Assaults killed nineteen policemen in two attacks on border posts in the town of Kashgar on August 4 and 12. Officials blamed ETIM for at least one of the incidents. After bombings on government buildings and a police station in Kuqa County on August 10, seven militants and a security guard died in the following gunfight. On August 28, militants killed two policemen and injured two others in a gunfight. In the course of the investigation in the attacks, police shot dead six suspected militants. Authorities arrested more than 500 Uighurs in Xinjiang, according to the World Uighur Congress. The latter criticized the government for its policy towards the minority. Uighurs protesting against their situation, e.g. in March in Hotan, had to undergo reeducation. In October, China appealed for international help in pursuing eight alleged ETIM activists. (jd)

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, a DHD delegation discussed overcoming the stalemate in the peace talks with Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil, and renewed demands for a Dimaraji state to be established from the North Cachar (NC) Hills and Karbi Anglong districts of Assam and Dimapur district in Nagaland [→ India (NSCN/Nagaland)]. In June, the government extended its Suspension of Operation Agreement with the DHD by another six months. On January 31, suspected BW militants shot dead a senior leader of the Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC). After BW militants had killed three people in an attack on a railway station on March 24, BW unilaterally declared a three-month ceasefire, which it proceeded to breach on May 11 by killing eight railway construction workers at Thoibasti. Security forces shot dead twelve BW insurgents in a gun-

fight on May 10. On May 18, the government of Assam decided to set up a local Unified Command Structure for an improved fight against BW in the NC Hills district. On October 30, BW insurgents killed at least seven police personnel at Langlai. The retaliatory fire left three militants dead. BW insurgents assassinated two DHD cadres in September and October, maintaining the upper hand in the NC Hills district of Assam. In total, at least 68 people - insurgents, Indian security forces, and civilians - were killed. (jd)

India (Hindus - Christians)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↗ | Start: 1999 |
| Conflict parties: | VHP, Bajrang Dal, Hindus vs. Christians | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology | |

The conflict between Hindu and Christian groups escalated to a violent level. The conflict began in early 1999 when a mob of Hindu extremists burned to death a Christian missionary and his two sons in the Indian state of Orissa. Rightwing Hindu groups, the Bajrang Dal and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), accused Christian groups of forcing low-caste Hindus to convert. Christian leaders denied this, stating they were only proselytizing willing converts seeking to escape the Hindu caste system. The conflict turned violent again in late December 2007 when Hindu hardliners attacked up to a dozen Christian churches, leaving at least four people dead and more than 25 injured. On January 2, Indian Home Minister Shivraj Patil visited Kandhamal district, the center of the violence. Clashes following the assassination of Hindu leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati by unknown gunmen on August 23 claimed the lives of at least eleven people. Thousands of Catholic schools were closed across India in protest against continuing anti-Christian violence. On August 27, Pope Benedict XVI condemned the deadly violence between Hindus and Christians, and called for peaceful coexistence. In September, Hindu extremists destroyed more than 20 churches. On October 1, the state government of Orissa imposed a curfew in Kandhamal district. In total, more than 80 people died in clashes from December 2007 on. On October 13, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called urgent measures to tackle religious violence at a key meeting held in New Delhi. (jp)

India (Islamists)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↗ | Start: 2001 |
| Conflict parties: | JeM, HuJI, LeT, IM, SIMI vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology | |

The system conflict between various Islamic militant groups and the government escalated. The insurgents increased the frequency of their attacks, committing more than a dozen bombings throughout the country. A total of 340 people died over the year. Indian security forces killed approx. five terrorists in three clashes by September. On May 13, a chain bomb attack by a group calling itself Indian Mujahideen caused 63 deaths and injured over 200. Militant Islamists conducted serial bomb blasts in Delhi, the capital, leaving at least 20 people dead and 90 injured on September 13. A confer-

ence of about 6,000 Muslim clerics, scholars, and community leaders issued a fatwa in November condemning every instance of terrorism. Almost 200 people were killed and more than 300 injured in a series of coordinated attacks across the city of Mumbai, the financial center of India, from late November 26 to early November 29. The casualties included 121 Indian civilians, 17 policemen, and 34 foreigners. The Deccan Mujahideen, a hitherto unknown Islamic militant group, claimed responsibility. All in all, the militants attacked ten landmark places in Mumbai on the night of November 26. Four armed men entered the Taj Mahal Hotel, two others the Oberoi Trident Hotel, another two the Jewish Nariman House, and two more went by taxi to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station. Seven other attacks targeted the Leopold Cafe, the Cama Hospital, the Metro Adlabs movie theater, and the Mumbai police headquarters. Another explosion went off at Mazagon docks in Mumbai's port area, and a car bomb near the airport. On early November 29, the police announced it had gained control of the Taj Mahal hotel. One terrorist, who was captured alive, was suspected of being a member of Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Toiba [→ India (Kashmir)]. According to government sources, India's intelligence services had warned of imminent terrorist attacks on Mumbai beforehand. As a consequence, police had deployed personnel near major hotels in Mumbai. However, the security measures had been lifted a week before the attacks. Home Minister Shivraj Patil and National Security Adviser Mayankote Kelath Narayanan resigned on November 30 amid criticism of their handling of the Mumbai attacks. The incident led to a deterioration of Indian-Pakistani relations, with India blaming the attacks on Lashkar-e-Toiba [→ India - Pakistan]. The assailants were reported to have entered Mumbai by sea from the Pakistani port of Karachi. However, Pakistan denied any involvement in the attacks. (ar, kaz)

India (Kashmir)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: • | Start: 1947 |
| Conflict parties: | Kashmiri and Pakistani insurgent groups vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The secession conflict between Kashmiri and Pakistani insurgent groups, on the one hand, and the government, on the other, in the Indian-administered state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) continued. Clashes between militants and security forces occurred on a daily basis. Tensions increased in June when the J&K state government decided to transfer 40 hectares of forest land to the Hindu-founded Amarnath Shrine Board, sparking the biggest Muslim street protests in the Kashmir Valley for several years. Five people died and hundreds were wounded. In July, Muslim separatist militants systematically attacked civilians, in particular Amarnath pilgrims. The protests subsided for a while when the government dropped the contentious plans. Hindu protesters subsequently blocked the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway to Himachal Pradesh, establishing an economic blockade on Muslim areas. In reaction, Muslims staged anti-Indian protests passing into riots. At the beginning of

August, a curfew was imposed, and troops as well as police patrolled the streets. Muslim groups called a general strike and initiated protests on August 6. Thousands of Muslims took to the streets to break the economic blockade of the valley. Hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris peacefully demonstrated for J&K's separation from India. Senior member of the separatist All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Sheikh Abdul Aziz was killed on August 11 when security forces opened fire to stop the protesters, injuring approx. 230. From October on, at least 40 protesters were killed and hundreds injured by security forces in the ongoing clashes. At the end of August, almost 100 leaders and members of the APHC were detained or put under house arrest by the police. Muslim extremists reacted with various assaults on civilians and military personnel. 13 militants and one soldier were killed during a drawn-out gun battle in the Kagnan-Bandipore belt. In 2008, the conflict claimed approx. 500 lives. (kld)

India (MPLF, ZRA, KCP/Manipur)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↗ | Start: 1964 |
| Conflict parties: | MPLF, ZRA, KCP vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The secession conflict between various rebel groups in the Indian state of Manipur and the government continued. Besides fighting the government, interethnic and interfactional clashes between some 40 different armed groups continued throughout the year. Under the label Manipur People's Liberation Front (MPLF), the following different ethnic Meitei groups jointly fought for an independent state: United Liberation Front (UNLF), People's Liberation Army (PLA), and People Liberation Army of Kangleipak (PREPAK). The Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) aimed to establish an egalitarian society in an independent Manipur, and the Zomi Revolutionary Army (ZRA) was fighting to unite all Zomi people in one state of the Indian Union, operating mainly near the border to Myanmar. Clashes between the different rebel groups and government forces continued on a daily basis. In early January, the Manipur government sought to counter the insurgency by tripling the sum of money for surrendering militants. In an encounter near the Myanmar border on February 23, soldiers of the Assam Rifles (AR), an Indian paramilitary force, killed six suspected UNLF militants. However, UNLF stated that none of their cadres had been killed. On March 8, PREPAK militants threw a bomb into the Manipur Legislative Assembly and later stated their intention to continue such attacks. One week later, up to six soldiers were reported killed and various barracks destroyed when more than 100 UNLF cadres attacked a base of the AR. On October 21, a rickshaw bomb killed at least 17 and injured some 20 people near the AR headquarters in the state capital, Imphal. However, no groups claimed responsibility for the attack. The same month, security forces announced to have cleared the Dingpi area near the Myanmar border of militants following a ten-month operation. To finance their activities, militant groups extorted money from businesses, public facilities, temples as well as individuals, and carried out abductions for ransom. This frequently

led to the shutdown of whole business branches, e.g. in the beginning of September, when hundreds of shops in Imphal shut down due to demands for an annual payment by militants. The public expressed their resentment by staging demonstrations and strikes. Besides carrying out attacks on government forces, militant groups enforced their own moral code on the public. Capital and corporal punishment, bombing of houses and shops, and public parading were among the means employed against alleged rapists, drug traders, sellers of tobacco products, oil agents charging exorbitant prices, and people who refused to give the militants money. According to a research institute, the rebellion had claimed the lives of over a hundred civilians, over ten security personnel, and some 300 insurgents by the end of November, marking the highest peak since 1997. (thw)

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), also called Naxalites, and the government continued on a high level of violence. The Naxalites, reportedly comprising approx. 3,500 armed militants, controlled large swathes of Indian rural areas from Nepal and Bangladesh in the northeast to central India, known as the "Red Belt". In the area under their control, they collected taxes and recruited fighters for their combat operations, mostly from the tribes. As in the years before, Naxalite activity centered in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand. Further establishing their envisioned Compact Revolutionary Zone from Nepal to Andhra Pradesh in the south, the Naxalites increasingly focused on the state of Orissa and expanded their activities to Maharashtra and West Bengal. From November 2007 on, almost daily encounters between security forces and the Naxalites as well as frequent bomb attacks left a total of up to 600 people dead. The biggest single attack consisted of an ambush on security forces on June 29 in which 35 people were killed. The CPI-M also attacked Salwa Judum, an anti-Naxalite counterinsurgency movement active in rural central India, killing an estimated 40 civilians by November. In addition to the automatic weaponry and landmine technology maintained by a technical squad they already possessed, the Naxalites improved their weaponry and training skills, actually outgunning the security forces in some states, especially in Orissa. (kaz)

India (NLFT/Tripura)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1980 |
| Conflict parties: | NLFT vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The secession conflict between the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the government was still carried out violently. On 11/24/07, Assam security forces killed three NLFT militants in a counterinsurgency operation in West Tripura. On February 23, elections to

the 60-member Tripura State Legislative Assembly concluded peacefully. 60,000 security forces were deployed across the four districts of Tripura. NLFT and Indian security forces clashed again on April 4, leaving two militants dead. On April 26, a railway laborer was killed and an engineer abducted by a group of 15 NLFT militants. Two rebels were killed in a counterinsurgency operation in South Tripura late in June. On September 27, security forces arrested four NLFT militants extorting money from villagers in North Tripura. (ar)

India (NSCN/Nagaland)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1947 |
| Conflict parties: | NSCN-IM, NSCN-K, NSCN-U vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The secession conflict between the factions of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), NSCN-Khaplang (NSCN-K), and NSCN-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM), on the one hand, and the government, on the other, remained violent. A new faction, the NSCN-Unification (NSCN-U), had appeared in November 2007, opposing the NSCN-IM. All parties shared the aim of an independent state in northeast India called Greater Nagaland. The ideological basis of NSCN-K primarily consisted of nationalist secessionism, while NSCN-IM also envisioned a Christian-Maoist state. The NSCN-U's primary goal was reunification of the various NSCN factions. All NSCN factions lost about 30 members each through clashes and assassinations from November 2007 on. The central government frequently held talks with the NSCN-K and the NSCN-IM on observing the 2002 ceasefire. (kaz)

India (Sikhs - DSS)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 2007 |
| Conflict parties: | Sikhs vs. DSS | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, regional predominance | |

The crisis between adherents of the Sikh religion and the religious community Dera Sacha Sauda (DSS) eased. In 2007, riots had been sparked by DSS leader Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh's having allegedly dressed as Guru, one of the sacred beings of Sikhism. Amid repeated Sikh demonstrations against the DSS leader, Singh's personal bodyguard opened fire inside Nirmal Lifestyles Mall at Mulund, Mumbai, on June 20, killing one Sikh protester. The police arrested three people involved in the shooting. Earlier that month, police forces in Jammu arrested three people allegedly belonging to a new militant formation named Panj Pardhani Group, and confiscated a large quantity of arms and ammunition. The group was accused of planning to kill two DSS preachers, among them Singh. (ct)

India (ULFA, NDFB/Assam)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1979 |
| 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. In April, the central government called for talks with ULFA on the precondition of a stop of violence on the part of ULFA, but ruled out negotiations on ULFA's main objective of sovereignty. ULFA stated its only precondition for peace talks with India were UN mediation and holding the talks on neutral ground. From January to October, ULFA militants and security forces were regularly involved in hostile encounters, leaving reportedly 50 militants and three troops dead. On March 15, suspected ULFA activists threw a grenade into a gathering crowd in Jonai, Dhemaji district, killing four people and injuring more than 50. Eight more civilians and one policeman died in ULFA activities throughout the year. While NDFB threatened to pull out of the ceasefire in April, it agreed to extend the Suspension of Operations for three months during a tripartite meeting with representatives of the central government and the government of Assam on May 30. On September 30, the ceasefire between the central government and the NDFB was extended by three months. Throughout the year, approx. 50 NDFB activists were arrested. On October 30, nine simultaneous blasts in Dispur, the capital of Assam, Guwahati, and the districts of Kokrajhar, Barpeta, and Bongaigaon killed between 81 and 84 people and left 200 to 300 injured. In November, police found a NDFB lieutenant currently in jail responsible for the bombings. (jd)

Indonesia (GAM/Aceh)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↗ | Start: 1953 |
| Conflict parties: | GAM, Partai Aceh, KPA vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | autonomy, resources | |

The conflict between the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and the government, concerning the status of the Aceh province, re-escalated to a violent level. Tensions rose due to upcoming legislative elections in April 2009. In January, a draft law which recommended splitting Aceh into two new provinces provoked strong opposition by the GAM-affiliated governor of Aceh, Irwandi Yusuf. After Irwandi had ordered banners propagating the split to be taken down in villages throughout Central Aceh, 430 village heads set out to Jakarta to demonstrate in support of the bill in late February. On March 1, an angry mob, allegedly led by former pro-Jakarta militia members, attacked an office of the Aceh Transitional Committee (KPA), a successor organization of GAM, in Meurah Pupok village, Central Aceh. Five KPA members were killed. After a soldier from North Aceh was abducted on September 28, the Indonesian military, suspecting the kidnappers to be former GAM militants, abducted two KPA leaders in Peureulak, East Aceh. The present situation was also characterized by rising tensions between various former GAM factions. Armed members of the KPA killed Teungku Badruddin, a former commander of GAM's military wing, in Sawang, North Aceh. Badruddin had accused the KPA of taking advantage of the 2005 Helsinki Peace Deal to seize control of the province. In September, tensions rose between the Partai Aceh, the successor of the GAM Party, and other rival local parties when grenades exploded in front of three shared Par-

tai Aceh and KPA offices, and four local party buildings burned down. (nr)

Indonesia (Jemaah Islamiyah)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1981 |
| Conflict parties: | Jemaah Islamiyah vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The conflict between Jemaah Islamiyah, an Islamist militant network fighting for a pan-south Asian caliphate state, and the government continued. In mid-December 2007, alleged Jemaah Islamiyah leader Zarkasih and self-proclaimed Jemaah Islamiyah military leader Abu Dujana went on trial in Jakarta after they had been arrested in August 2007. They were both sentenced to 15-year prison terms on April 21. On July 2, Indonesian police arrested at least nine suspected terrorists in Palembang, Sumatra, and seized more than twenty homemade bombs and ammunition. Another five suspects with relations to local militant networks on Java and Sulawesi were arrested on October 22, following a house raid in Jakarta. On August 6, Amrozi Nurhasyim, Ali Ghufron alias "Mukhlas", and Imam Samudra, three Jemaah Islamiyah militants sentenced to death for the 2002 bomb attack on two night clubs in Bali, appealed against the method of their forthcoming execution. However, a constitutional court rejected the appeals in late October, and the three convicts were executed on November 8. The execution provoked a rally of up to 1,000 angry supporters at the funeral of Amrozi and Ali Ghufron in their hometown of Tenggulun, East Java. (nr)

Indonesia (OPM/Papua)

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1949 |
| Conflict parties: | OPM vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession, resources | |

The conflict between the Free Papua Movement (OPM), fighting for the independence of Indonesia's province of West Papua, and the government continued on a violent level. On September 12, militants fired mortar grenades at a road leading to the Grasberg mining complex near Timika. Two days later, a bomb exploded near Timika's Moses Kilangin International Airport. OPM claimed responsibility for both attacks. From late September to late October, several thousand people rallied in Jayapura on various occasions to demonstrate for Papuan self-government. On September 23, Indonesian police arrested 18 people for raising the forbidden Morning Star flag, a symbol of independence used by the OPM. A month later, authorities detained a further 15 protesters and set up road blocks to stop about 2,000 Papuans from attending a demonstration in Jayapura. (nr)

Japan - China (Senkaku/Diaoyutai Islands)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1972 |
| Conflict parties: | Japan vs. China, Taiwan | |
| Conflict items: | territory, resources | |

The territorial conflict between Japan, on the one hand, and the Chinese governments in Beijing and Taipei, on the other, remained tense but on a non-violent level. Both Japan and the government in Taipei reaffirmed their

territorial claims on the Senkaku/Daiyutai Islands, situated on the edge of the East China Sea. When a Japanese coast guard vessel rammed a Taiwanese fishing boat on June 10, the government in Taipei reacted by temporarily recalling its special representative in Tokyo and closing down the Committee of Japanese Affairs. The eleventh round of negotiations between Japan and the government in Beijing brought no solution to the territorial question. However, by signing an agreement on shared exploitation of gas fields in the East China Sea, Beijing implicitly recognized the extension of Japan's Exclusive Economic Area in the East China Sea to the area around the disputed islands. Nevertheless, the government in Beijing criticized new Japanese geography school books marking the islands as an integral part of Japan, and blocked their import and use in Japanese schools in China. (kaz)

Japan - Russia (Kuril Islands)

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1945 |
| Conflict parties: | Japan vs. Russia | |
| Conflict items: | territory | |

The territorial conflict between Japan and Russia over the Kuril Islands remained non-violent. Japan maintained its claims on the Southern Kuril Islands, whereas Russia reaffirmed its sovereignty rights over the disputed territory. On 12/13/07, Russian coast guard vessels seized four Japanese fishing boats in the contested area, causing diplomatic tensions. On 11/05/07, the Japanese prime minister and the Russian deputy prime minister had announced the beginning of a new round of negotiations on the issue, resulting in ongoing talks beginning on February 6 with no conclusions by November. Another incident occurred when a Russian strategic bomber entered Japanese air space on February 9, prompting serious protests by Japan. (kaz)

Japan - South Korea (Dokdo/Takeshima Islands)

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1945 |
| Conflict parties: | Japan vs. South Korea | |
| Conflict items: | territory | |

The conflict between Japan and South Korea over the islands known as Dokdo in Korean and Takeshima in Japanese continued. In July, South Korea recalled its ambassador from Tokyo and summoned Japan's ambassador in Seoul after claims of Japan's sovereignty over the islands had allegedly appeared in a Japanese guideline book for school teachers. Soon afterwards, advertisements for Japanese condoms were removed from South Korean underground trains. (ct)

Kazakhstan (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 2004 |
| Conflict parties: | opposition vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The conflict regarding the political system between the opposition and the government of President Nursultan Nazarbayev continued on a non-violent level. Between October 2007 and June 2008, the access to several opposition media websites was blocked for longer pe-

riods. In addition, some opposition newspapers were prevented from printing their issues. Opposition media representatives accused the government of censorship and pressure against independent media. Kazakhstan was to occupy the OSCE chairmanship in 2010. However, both opposition and international criticism concerning the lack of democratic principles in elections and with regard to the judiciary system remained. On February 29, one of the leading opposition parties, Nagyz Ak Zhol (True Bright Path), renamed itself Azat (Freedom). Furthermore, opposition parties and NGOs developed proposals to liberalize the party system and called for broad changes in the election law. (em)

Kyrgyzstan (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 2005 |
| Conflict parties: | opposition vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The system conflict between the opposition and the government of President Kurmanbek Bakiyev persisted. Following the dissolution of parliament on 10/22/07 by Bakiyev, new elections were held on 12/16/07. Several opposition party campaigners were beaten up shortly before the elections. Owing to alleged electoral fraud and irregularities, the opposition demanded the election be declared invalid. Two days after the election, 70 members of the oppositional Ata-Meken (Fatherland) Socialist Party went on a hunger strike to force a recount of the votes. The authorities detained several election protesters. Prior to a protest march in the region of Issyk-Kul on April 26, the police detained several members of the opposition, ostensibly for the sake of protecting Kyrgyzstan's territorial integrity. In June, a criminal case was launched against an opposition newspaper because of allegedly false news coverage. Opposition representatives demanded an end to the obstruction of the freedom of the press. Starting in October, various opposition groups called for constitutional reforms. Moreover, radical opposition factions declared their intention of ousting the government in the near future by constitutional means. On November 6, opposition leader Ismail Isakov called on the government to resign. (em)

Malaysia (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1998 |
| Conflict parties: | DAP, PKR, PAS, Pakatan Rakyat, Hindraf vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

In the national power conflict between the pro-democracy opposition and the government, the opposition managed to achieve some success following the general elections in March, which had not been entirely free and fair. Nevertheless, the opposition broke the two-thirds majority of the ruling coalition of Barisan Nasional for the first time in more than 30 years. The losses forced Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi to announce that he would transfer power to his successor Najib Razak in March 2009. Following the election, the three opposition parties in parliament, i.e. the Democratic Action Party (DAP), Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR), and Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS), joined forces to form a new po-

litical coalition called Pakatan Rakyat. Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, who was facing yet another sodomy trial, claimed that Pakatan Rakyat would be able to take over power in September. By the end of November, however, the opposition had not been able to realize the promise. The government imprisoned well-known blogger Raja Petra Kamaruddin under the Internal Security Act in September. Opposition parliamentarian Teresa Kok, a journalist, and another blogger were arrested later that month but all three of them were released shortly afterwards. In October, the government declared the Hindu Action Rights Force (Hindraf) an illegal organization. One month later, Kamaruddin was released from jail by court order. (sg)

Malaysia - Indonesia, Philippines (immigrants)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1998 |
| Conflict parties: | Malaysia vs. Indonesia, Philippines | |
| Conflict items: | other | |

The conflict concerning illegal immigration to the Malaysian state of Sabah between Malaysia, on the one hand, and the Philippines and Indonesia, on the other, continued. In March, the Malaysian government coalition, Barisan Nasional, lost its two-thirds majority in parliament in the general elections [→ Malaysia (opposition)]. In June, Malaysia announced plans to deport thousands of illegal immigrants living in Sabah back to their countries of origin, in most cases the Philippines and Indonesia. Both the Philippines and Indonesia criticized the plan. Following the deportation of more than 2,000 immigrants, a Philippine fact-finding body observing the detention centers in Sabah stated that illegal Filipino immigrants, among them women and children, had been severely beaten by the police. However, the state-founded Human Rights Commission of Malaysia blamed the Philippine Embassy for being responsible for the Filipinos' protests against ill treatment because of slow processing. Malaysian authorities estimated the number of illegal immigrants in Sabah at approx. 130,000, but local politicians put the figure as high as 500,000. (sg)

Myanmar (KNU, KNLA/Karen State, Kayah State)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ▼ | Start: 1948 |
| Conflict parties: | KNU, KNLA vs. government, UWSA, DKBA | |
| Conflict items: | secession | |

The conflict between the Karen National Union (KNU) and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), on the one hand, and the government, the United Wa State Army (UWSA), and the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), on the other hand, continued. In December 2007, the KNLA attacked a passenger bus carrying DKBA soldiers which was heading for the Thai-Burmese border. Eight people died in the attack. In February, KNU Secretary-General Pado Man Shar died after being shot by two unknown gunmen. In June, fighting erupted between the KNLA and the DKBA near the Thai border. In September, the DKBA forcibly recruited villagers to increase its forces for a military offensive against the KNLA. Several hundred soldiers of the Burmese army also joined the DKBA. Two days of heavy

fighting at the beginning of November led to the internal displacement of hundreds of Karen villagers, who fled from their homes along the border with Thailand. (gp, ree)

Myanmar (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ▼ | Start: 1962 |
| Conflict parties: | NLD, ABFSU, ABSDF, NCGUB, NULF, AABBM vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The system and power conflict between various opposition groups and the government deescalated. After the government's violent crackdown on civil and clerical protesters last autumn, Human Rights Watch stated that more than 2,000 political prisoners remained in Burmese prisons. At the end of 2007, UN human rights envoy Ibrahim Gambari estimated the number of the year's fatalities as at least 31. Myanmar's government raised the official number of casualties to 15. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon warned that the international community's patience with Myanmar's government was running out. The government continuously arrested political activists demanding democratic reforms and the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD). Both the government and the NLD rejected several mediation offers by Gambari. On May 10, the government held a referendum on the constitution. The opposition had called for a boycott of the referendum. Foreign criticism focused on the lack of international monitors at the election. The government reported an affirmation of 92.4 percent for the constitution. On May 25, the government extended Suu Kyi's house arrest by another year. On September 19, however, NLD's Win Tin, one of Myanmar's most prominent political detainees, was released after 19 years in prison. In the run-up to the constitutional referendum, two small explosions went off on April 22, causing material damage but no injuries. The government blamed an exiled group named Vigorous Burma Student Warriors. With the 2007 protests' anniversary nearing, two people were killed and ten wounded by two explosions northeast of Rangoon on September 11. On September 25, a bomb exploded in the center of Rangoon, leaving at least four people injured. (gp, ree, ct)

Myanmar (Rohingyas, ARNO/Rakhine State)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1948 |
| Conflict parties: | Rohingyas, ARNO vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | other | |

The conflict between Myanmar's Muslim minority, the Rohingyas, represented by the Arakan Rohingya National Organization (ARNO), and the government of Myanmar continued. The Rohingyas demanded recognition as an indigenous ethnic minority and the right to remain in their settlement areas in Rakhine (Arakan) State. In September, Burmese forces arrested more than 100 Rohingya people traveling to Rangoon to seek work. Most of them faced six-month prison sentences. (gp, ree)

Myanmar (SSA-S, SSNA, SSA-N/Shan State)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1952 |
| Conflict parties: | SSA-S, SSNA, SSA-N vs. government, UWSA, NDAA-ESS | |
| Conflict items: | autonomy | |

The secession 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, the United Wa State Army (UWSA), and the National Democratic Alliance Army - Eastern Shan State (NDAA-ESS), on the other, continued. In November, Myanmar's government got the USWA, KDA (Kachin Defense Army), and SSA-S to sign a written statement saying Aung Suu San Kyi had no leadership role among ethnic nationalities. On January 21, fighting broke out between an SSA-S patrol and soldiers of the Burmese army's Light Infantry Battalion 517. Five days later, soldiers of the Burmese army's Light Infantry Battalion 292 fought SSA-S troops again. Myanmar's army arrested three headmen of villages close to the clashes. Seven Burmese army soldiers and one member of the SSA-S died in the fighting. (gp, ree)

Nepal (Madhesis/Terai)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 2006 |
| Conflict parties: | Madhesis vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | autonomy | |

The autonomy conflict between the Madhesis and the government was still carried out violently. Altogether, 14 armed groups fought in different parts of Terai, engaging in strikes, abductions, and killings almost on a daily basis. The government responded by imposing curfews. Nine insurgent groups did not succeed in nominating a supreme leader in talks held in India in May and September. After the adoption of a proportional electoral system for the Constituent Assembly (CA) elections on April 10, Madhesi parties participated in the election. One party, the Madhesi People's Rights Forum, won 52 of 601 seats in the CA and became the fourth strongest party in Nepal. In August, it entered a coalition government with the Communist Party of Nepal - United Marxist-Leninist and the Communist Party of Nepal - Maoist [→ Nepal (CPN-M)]. In October, the new government formally offered talks to all armed groups, two of which had not yet responded by the end of November. (ls)

Nepal (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↗ | Start: 2002 |
| Conflict parties: | pro-democracy parties, CPN-M vs. King Gyanendra, NDA | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

Whereas the conflict between various parties demanding a transition to a parliamentary system and Nepal's erstwhile head of state, King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, came to an end, radical Hindu monarchists violently opposed the new status quo. On 12/28/07, Nepal was declared a republic by an act of the interim parliament. This parliament was dominated, on the one hand, by the democratic opposition, seeking the completion of the country's transition towards democracy,

and by the Communist Party of Nepal - Maoist (CPN-M), on the other [→ Nepal (CPN-M)]. On May 28, the Constituent Assembly, elected in April, formally abolished the monarchy, ending the monarchic system after more than 200 years. The election in July resulted in Ram Baran Yadav becoming the first President of Nepal. In August, Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal, alias Prachanda, was elected prime minister. A newly formed militant Hindu group known as Nepal Defense Army (NDA), which had announced the start of a guerrilla war in September 2007, committed several bomb attacks in spring, e.g. at the Maoist central office in the capital, Kathmandu. (ls)

North Korea - South Korea

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1948 |
| Conflict parties: | North Korea vs. South Korea | |
| Conflict items: | territory, system/ideology, international power | |

The conflict concerning international power and ideology between North Korea (NK) and South Korea (SK) remained tense but non-violent. On February 25, SK's new president, Lee Myung-bak, proposed a tougher stance towards NK. In the following months, the relations deteriorated as NK criticized Lee for his new approach, expelled eleven South Korean workers, test-fired short-range missiles as well as ship-to-ship missiles into the Yellow Sea, and accused SK's navy of a border violation. In July, Lee, amid growing domestic pressure, stated his intention of engaging in talks with NK and resuming food aid. In addition, six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear program continued [→ North Korea - USA, South Korea, Japan]. However, the row between the two countries persisted, as a South Korean tourist was shot dead on July 11 by a North Korean soldier after entering a restricted zone near a North Korean tourist resort. A few days after the incident, NK rejected Lee's earlier proposal to engage in bilateral talks. On August 3, NK announced it would expel South Korean workers from the tourist resort. In October, a South Korean court sentenced a North Korean woman to a five-year prison term for charges of espionage. At the end of the same month, NK officially protested against the South Korean activists' practice of dropping leaflets on NK's territory by means of gas balloons. The leaflets highlighted the issues of imprisoned South Koreans as well as the disputed state of health of NK's leader Kim Jong-il. (thw)

North Korea - USA, South Korea, Japan

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1990 |
| Conflict parties: | North Korea vs. USA, South Korea, Japan | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, international power | |

The system and power conflict between North Korea (NK), on the one hand, and the USA, South Korea (SK), and Japan, on the other, continued. NK missed the deadline for providing a complete documentation of its nuclear program at the end of 2007. However, NK shut down the Yongbyon reactor, as agreed in February 2007. The USA put diplomatic pressure on NK through direct talks, strengthened its ties with SK, and urged China to pressurize NK. Subsequently, in June NK handed over

documents about nuclear activities, and demolished the main reactor tower on June 27. Shortly afterwards, the six-nation talks on the nuclear program continued after a nine-month break. The talks resulted in the establishment of a verification mission to survey the process of obstructing NK's nuclear-weapons capabilities. However, the process came to a halt when NK banned the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) from accessing the Yongbyon reactor on September 24. Furthermore, NK began to reconstruct the facility in reaction to the USA's decision not to take NK off its terrorism blacklist. After the USA had removed NK from this list on October 11, NK once more granted access to the facilities two days later. Japan had criticized the USA for taking this step. NK subsequently demanded that Japan be excluded from the talks. Amid growing concern about North Korea's missile capabilities, Japan, in January, announced plans to establish a missile shield for its capital, Tokyo, and the USA pursued plans to install missile defense facilities in Poland and the Czech Republic [→ USA - Russia (missile system)]. In June, following a nine-month suspension, Japan and NK held bilateral talks on the abduction of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s and reparations for Japan's colonization of Korea. As a result, Japan announced the partial lifting of sanctions against NK which were imposed in 2006 after NK's nuclear test and renewed in April 2008. In return, NK promised to reexamine the case of the abducted Japanese nationals. (thw)

Pakistan (BLA, BRA, BLF/Balochistan)

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: • | Start: 1998 |
| Conflict parties: | BLA, BRA, BLF vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession, resources | |

The self-determination conflict between various Baloch insurgent groups and the government concerning the status of the Pakistani province of Balochistan continued on a highly violent level. Throughout the year, tribal insurgents like the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) regularly clashed with both, security forces and other Baloch rebel groups. Although Balochistan's governor, Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi, had announced a stop to military operations against insurgents on May 2, security forces were repeatedly reported as continuing their operations equipped with armored personnel carriers, helicopters, and heavy weaponry. The insurgents also fought with heavy arms, rocket launchers, anti-aircraft guns as well as anti-tank and anti-personnel mines. The heaviest clashes left at least 43 people dead, among them 33 militants, in Dera Bugti District on July 19-20. Twelve militants and three security personnel were killed on July 26 after insurgents had fired long-range weapons at the troops, who returned the fire. Moreover, the insurgents conducted regular bombings of pipelines and railway lines; reportedly 230 blasts in total. On September 1, the BLA, the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), and the Balochistan Republican Army (BRA) announced a unilateral ceasefire. However, violent clashes resumed on September 27, leaving 25 militants dead. Most government offers for talks were rejected by the insurgent groups. Nevertheless, the number of talks be-

tween the conflict parties increased compared to 2007. As a consequence, the Balochistan state government released several prisoners and removed the names of some Baloch political leaders from the Exit Control List, the government's blacklist prohibiting individuals from traveling abroad. In October, the governmental Balochistan Reconciliatory Committee announced plans for reconciliation with regional political groups, rebuilding national institutions, and reallocating resources. (jp)

Pakistan (Islamists)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 5 | Change: ↗ | Start: 2001 |
| Conflict parties: | Islamists vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The system and power conflict between Islamists and the government escalated to a war, with more than 2,000 people killed by November. The fiercest fighting occurred in Bajaur, an agency of the semi-autonomous Pakistani Federally Administered Tribal Areas, and in Swat Valley in the North West Frontier Province. Throughout the year, militant extremists increased the number and scope of suicide attacks in northern Pakistan and the capital, Islamabad, claiming numerous lives. Peace talks in Swat in early May between pro-Taliban militant Maulana Fazlullah and the government led to a temporary deescalation only. Militants fought to impose Sharia law and threatened to fight until all government troops were withdrawn from the valley. In the first week of August, at least 94 militants, 14 soldiers, and nearly 28 civilians were killed in Swat Valley, according to army sources. The army's military means included air strikes, helicopter gunships, and artillery fire. After militants had repeatedly attacked the army, heavy fighting erupted in the agency of Bajaur in early August. On October 25, the Pakistani army announced the recapture of Bajaur, which had been held by pro-Taliban militants for more than two months. According to army sources, nearly 1,500 insurgents and 73 security forces were killed. The militants did not comment on the incident. Heavy clashes continued until the end of November. 300,000 people fled eastward from Bajaur, and about 20,000 for Afghanistan. On September 20, a suicide attack on the Marriott Hotel in the capital, Islamabad, killed at least 53 people and injured more than 266. A little-known Pakistani militant group, Fidayeen-e-Islam, claimed responsibility for the attack. Earlier that month, shortly after his inauguration, Pakistan's new President Asif Ali Zardari had declared fighting terrorism a top priority. Zardari's wife, opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, had been assassinated in Rawalpindi on 12/27/07. The then government had blamed Islamists for the attack [→ Pakistan (opposition)]. (ar)

Pakistan (North and South Waziristan)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↘ | Start: 2002 |
| Conflict parties: | Taliban, foreign militants vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | autonomy, system/ideology | |

The system conflict in North and South Waziristan between Taliban and foreign militants, on the one hand, and the government, supported by pro-government

tribes, on the other, deescalated but remained highly violent. North and South Waziristan are two agencies of the semi-autonomous Pakistani Federal Administered Tribal Areas. Approx. 750 casualties were reported in the observed period of time. The Taliban tried to force the army to withdraw from the tribal areas by launching rocket attacks on army barracks, assassinating both suspected spies and tribal elders acting as peace brokers, taking hostages, conducting roadside bombings and suicide attacks on army checkpoints. Despite the existence of various sub-groups among the tribal militants, the umbrella group Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan under the leadership of Baitullah Mehsud emerged as a leading actor in the fight against the central government. The fiercest fighting broke out in January, when hundreds of militants captured a paramilitary fort of pro-government militias in South Waziristan, killing 22 soldiers and taking several others hostage. Subsequently, the Pakistani army launched a major offensive backed by tanks and gunship helicopters. Altogether, more than 300 fatalities were reported in January alone. While the army's use of military means including heavy weaponry decreased in comparison to 2007, several missile attacks from unmanned US army drones in September, October, and November claimed the lives of tribal militants and foreign militants as well as civilians [→ Afghanistan (Taliban)].

(sdi)

Pakistan (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1998 |
| Conflict parties: | opposition, PPP vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

The national power conflict between opposition parties and the government continued, but deescalated after the parliamentary elections in February. On 12/27/07, unknown perpetrators assassinated Benazir Bhutto, former prime minister and leader of the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP), during an election campaign rally in Rawalpindi. On February 18, the two main opposition parties PPP, with its leader Asif Zardari, Bhutto's widow, and the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N), led by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, won the parliamentary elections and formed a coalition on March 9, lacking the two-thirds majority needed to impeach President Pervez Musharraf. After increasingly exerting pressure on Musharraf from the end of March on, the coalition announced on August 7 that Musharraf would be required to face a vote of confidence in the National Assembly. In case of his failure, impeachment would immediately proceed. On August 18, Musharraf quit as Pakistani president. Zardari was sworn in as his successor after winning the presidential elections on September 6. However, two days after Musharraf's resignation a dispute over the reinstatement of judges and a disagreement over the presidential successor opened up cracks in the coalition, which had been fragile since its formation. On August 20, Sharif withdrew his party from the ruling coalition, deepening a remaining political crisis.

(jd)

Pakistan (Sunnites - Shiites)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: • | Start: 1998 |
| Conflict parties: | militant Sunni muslims vs. militant Shia muslims | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, regional predominance | |

Sectarian violence between Sunni and Shia militants in Pakistan continued on a high level, claiming more than 200 lives. The heaviest fighting between Sunni and Shia groups flared up in Kurram Agency, located in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas in northwestern Pakistan. In early January, hundreds of Pakistani families fled across the border to Afghanistan after 14 days of heavy clashes between the rival groups. The militants used mortars and missiles. The sectarian clashes intensified again in April, leaving at least 50 persons dead and more than 100 others injured. The Pakistani army intervened, using heavy artillery against both groups. Sunni and Shia groups agreed on a truce on September 12, mediated by a local Jirga and the administration. However, clashes continued in other parts of Kurram, leaving at least four people dead on September 13. Sporadic sectarian violence also erupted in the North West Frontier Province, especially in the Dera Ismail Khan District. On November 21, at least six people were killed when a bomb exploded at the funeral of a Shia cleric murdered the day before. (sdi)

Pakistan - India

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↗ | Start: 1947 |
| Conflict parties: | India vs. Pakistan | |
| Conflict items: | territory, international power | |

The conflict between Pakistan and India over the Kashmir region and international power escalated. The conflict parties committed various ceasefire violations at the Line of Control (LoC). However, Pakistan was ready to resolve outstanding issues. At the end of July, India and Pakistan accused each other of breaking the ceasefire along the LoC again. In the worst ceasefire violation, Indian and Pakistani troops on July 30 exchanged gunfire for 14 hours, killing at least one Indian soldier. Both countries claimed the other side had crossed the LoC before. On August 2, the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan met in Colombo, Sri Lanka, focusing on the recent violence in Kashmir [→ India (Kashmir)]. The talks eased the crisis. Pakistan's new President Asif Ali Zardari and India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh held talks at the UN plenary meeting on September 29, deciding to resume peace negotiations and consolidate the ceasefire agreement of 2003. Furthermore, new confidence-building measures were implemented. Despite the continuing unrest in Indian-administered Kashmir, the chambers of commerce of both parts of Kashmir in mid-October discussed opening trade across the border in Kaman Post. The Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road crossing the LoC opened the first time in 60 years on October 21. After the terrorist attacks in Mumbai on November 26, India stated the assailants were rooted in Pakistan [→ Indian (Islamists)]. India suspected the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Toiba behind the attacks, stating that all of the militants had been Pakistanis. Pakistan announced its full support for India

but urged it to present evidence for its allegations. On November 30, more than 1,000 demonstrators protested in Lahore, Pakistan, against a possibly imminent war between India and Pakistan. (kld)

Philippines (Abu Sayyaf/Mindanao)

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1991 |
| Conflict parties: | Abu Sayyaf vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession, system/ideology | |

The crisis concerning secession and ideology between the Islamist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), supposedly linked to al-Qaeda and Jemaah Islamiyah, and the government continued. On 12/15/07, an ASG official died in an encounter with the military in Tawi-Tawi province. An ASG gunman was killed in clashes in Sulu province late in March. On April 13, the Armed Forces of the Philippines recalled hundreds of its soldiers from Sulu, claiming the ASG was already weakened. From April 20 to May 1, the Marines overran a suspected ASG camp in Sulu, leading to several casualties. On June 8, a team of journalists and a university professor were seized by Abu Sayyaf militants in Sulu. One of the hostages was released some days later; the rest were released on June 17 after a ransom had been paid. The following day, the military started an operation against the abductors. On August 19, a Marine officer was killed by the ASG in Sulu. Police forces killed a militant and captured three after a gun battle in Sulu on October 10. On November 5, government troops captured a sub-leader of the ASG. (sus)

Philippines (CPP, NPA)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | 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), on the one hand, and the government, on the other, continued on a violent level. In addition to engaging in armed clashes with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the NPA repeatedly attacked the infrastructure as well as mining and logging companies throughout the year. NPA members burned and stole equipment belonging to the mining firms, and bombed power pylons. Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announced the defeat of the communist insurrection by the end of her term in 2010. From May to October, the AFP routed several NPA camps. According to the government, NPA numbered at least 5,400 fighters deployed throughout the country. In early December 2007, some 400 residents of Tago and Cagwait fled their villages after week-long clashes between the AFP and rebels. On 12/16/07, three Marines in Palawan were killed. Meanwhile, the government declared a holiday truce from 12/16/07 to January 6. Nevertheless, NPA fighters raided a police headquarters in Hinabangan town, killing a militiaman and seizing several weapons. On January 12, two NPA rebels were killed and one was wounded in a shootout in Pila town. On

January 28, a soldier died in clashes between the AFP and some 50 heavily armed NPA rebels in Davao Oriental province. The CPP ordered its military wing NPA to intensify tactical offensives against government troops and installations. Late in February, four insurgents were killed and a number of firearms were seized in several clashes. In early March, three soldiers were killed and seven injured in an NPA attack against an army post in Davao City. Four soldiers were killed and three wounded when anti-personnel landmines planted by the rebels exploded in Samar province two days later. On April 5, four soldiers and one insurgent were killed in clashes in Tubo. The military had been fighting the NPA in the area since March 24. A few days later, two rebels were killed in an encounter in Basey town. In early May, the NPA ambushed an army convoy, killing three and wounding several soldiers in President Roxas town in North Cotabato province. In mid-May, three insurgents were killed in several clashes. Meanwhile, the NPA claimed responsibility for the killings of three village officials in Mindanao, accusing them of being AFP spies. In June, three rebels and six soldiers were killed in several encounters with and ambushes by the NPA. After 30 NPA fighters had raided two police outposts on Siargao Island on June 28, NPA and police forces repeatedly clashed, killing two officers and injuring four. The army pursued the assailants over the next days, killing 15 rebels and wounding twelve. On July 3, three people were killed and ten others injured as rebels hurled a grenade at a bakery in the town of Nabunturan. In mid-July, the AFP sent additional troops, battle tanks, and artillery to eastern Mindanao to address the rise in NPA attacks. On August 30, the army killed three rebels in a gun battle in the province of Compostela Valley. On September 18, three insurgents were killed in clashes in the province of Negros Oriental. Two rebels and a militiaman were killed in an encounter on October 13, when some 60 NPA rebels attacked a military patrol base in Pantukan town in Compostela Valley province. Six soldiers were killed and two wounded in fighting with the NPA in Compostela Valley on October 24. In November, several rebels and soldiers were killed and wounded in clashes between the AFP and NPA. According to the government, the NPA had conducted 104 liquidations from January to October this year. 94 of the victims were civilians. Additionally, the NPA conducted 34 raids, 14 kidnappings, five robberies, 66 arson incidents, and ten bombings. (ve, sus)

Philippines (MILF/Mindanao)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↗ | Start: 1977 |
| Conflict parties: | MILF vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | autonomy, system/ideology, resources | |

The conflict between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the government concerning autonomy, ideology, and resources escalated to a severe crisis. On 12/15/07, MILF broke off the peace talks with the government on territorial issues when the government insisted on the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE) being subjected to a plebiscite in order to decide on its future political status. On 12/18/07, Marines and MILF fighters clashed in Tipo-Tipo town, leaving two soldiers

and two rebels dead. From March 8 to 11, more than 10,000 MILF members assembled for an expanded Central Committee meeting to discuss the stagnation of the peace process. Due to the lack of progress in the talks, Malaysia partially withdrew its personnel from the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team in May. On May 25, MILF rebels under Commander Hudli Maya, aided by members of the Abu Sayyaf group [→ Philippines (Abu Sayyaf/Mindanao)], attacked a military facility in Basilan. Two combatants were killed and 17 Marines wounded. On June 2, MILF ordered its followers to boycott the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), scheduled for August 11. On June 25, several rebels and soldiers died in clashes when MILF fighters attacked two outposts in Sarangani province. The same day, MILF bombed a utility pole in Bagontapay village and fired rocket-propelled grenades at a power facility in Matalam. The following day, fighting erupted anew in Maguindanao. On June 27, some 30 MILF fighters belonging to Commander Umbrá Kato attacked camps of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit in North Cotabato. MILF's chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal stated that the commanders had acted without authorization of the MILF hierarchy but claimed they did so out of frustration with the stagnating peace process. From July 24 to 27, the government and MILF met in Malaysia and signed a communiqué on the contentious issue of the Moro ancestral domains. However, the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD), scheduled for August 5, was prevented by the Supreme Court. On August 10, the military launched offensives to drive out 500 to 800 MILF commanded by Kato after they had failed to retreat from 22 villages in North Cotabato which they had occupied the days before. The military engaged rebel positions with aerial attacks, artillery, and mortars. The week-long clashes forced some 130,000 villagers to flee and left at least eight dead. The military continued its air and ground operations for weeks. Meanwhile, MILF chief Ibrahim Murad refused to surrender Kato to the authorities. On September 8, clashes resumed with the military mounting ground and air assaults against MILF in Maguindanao. At least six civilians and seven rebels were killed. In October, 13 rebels and a soldier were killed in renewed air strikes and skirmishes in North Cotabato and Maguindanao. On November 13, MILF welcomed calls by the Organization of the Islamic Conference for the resumption of peace talks but made the signing of the MOA-AD a precondition. Between July and November, more than 60 civilians and at least 30 soldiers were killed and approx. 600,000 displaced in North Cotabato and in the ARMM provinces. (sus)

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 was carried out as a full-scale war for the third year running. Heavy fighting at sea, in the air, and on the ground contin-

ued throughout the year. Thousands of people were reportedly killed. The government formally withdrew from the 2002 ceasefire agreement with the LTTE in February. Since mid-2006, troops and rebels had fought regularly despite the deal still technically being in place. Fighting in 2008 displaced more than 250,000 people. 230,000 of them remained in the rebel areas, which were still attacked by government forces as from November on. The Sri Lankan military claimed that it had advanced deeper into LTTE territory in the North. Furthermore, it announced the capture of strategically important towns and rebel strongholds, e.g. the Mallavi town center on September 2, a Tigers defensive line near the rebels' administrative headquarters in the northern town of Kilinochchi on October 22, and Pooneryn on November 15. On January 8, the government announced a ban for foreign and local aid workers in rebel-held areas in the north, citing security concerns. The Sri Lankan army reported its heaviest losses in a single day when, late in May, 165 soldiers died and 20 went missing in combat on the Jaffna peninsula located in the far north of the country. Also, 52 Tamil Tigers were killed, according to the government army. The rebels put their losses at 16 and claimed to have killed more than 100 soldiers and wounded about 500. Sri Lankan troops killed 115 Tamil Tiger rebels in fighting at the beginning of August. Seven soldiers died as government forces continued their advance into northern rebel territory. The air force struck in Kilinochchi district and in the east. Sri Lanka's navy reported a sea battle with Tamil Tigers near the fishing port of Nachchikuda in northwestern Sri Lanka in mid-September, destroying seven small rebel boats and three larger crafts, and killing at least 25 rebels. More than 40 boats were involved. Suspected Tamil Tigers conducted several bombings. The worst hit the Colombo-Panadura train in a suburb of the capital, Colombo, late in May. Eight people died and more than 70 were injured. Suppayya Paramu Thamilselan, a well-known political LTTE leader, died in a Sri Lankan air force raid in November 2007. He was the most senior Tamil Tiger leader to be killed in recent years. (ps)

Sri Lanka (LTTE-East - LTTE)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 2004 |
| Conflict parties: | LTTE-East (Karuna Faction) vs. LTTE | |
| Conflict items: | regional predominance | |

The conflict about regional predominance between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Karuna faction of the LTTE (LTTE-East) continued violently. On February 23, a suspected LTTE suicide bomber killed two people in the eastern district of Batticaloa when he ran his bicycle into two motorcyclists. In a bombing of a cafe in the town of Ampara on May 8, eleven people were killed and more than 20 others wounded. The government blamed the LTTE for the assault. In the first elections to be held in eastern Sri Lanka in more than ten years, the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP) party, founded by renegade LTTE leader Vinayagamoorthi Muralitharan, alias Colonel Karuna, won every local council election in and around Batticaloa city on March 9. Karuna was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment

for identity fraud by a UK court on January 25. He returned to the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, in July after completing the prison sentence, and in October he was sworn in as a legislator in the country's parliament. The TMVP allied itself with the ruling coalition. In November, Karuna announced that the LTTE-East would disarm within months and integrate into the regular security forces. (ps)

Thailand (Muslim separatists/southern border provinces)

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: • | Start: 1902 |
| Conflict parties: | Muslim separatists vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession, system/ideology | |

The secession conflict in Thailand's southern border provinces Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat continued on a high level of violence. Against the background of the political upheaval in Bangkok [→ Thailand (opposition)], the military expanded its presence and increased the number of paramilitary rangers to 9,000 as well as the number of checkpoints. Nevertheless, separatist violence continued unabated. For instance, at least eight Thai soldiers died in a roadside ambush on a military vehicle allegedly conducted by Islamic militants on January 14. One day later, a bomb exploded in a market in the province of Yala, wounding at least 39. The army blamed the militants for the attack. On July 17, a self-proclaimed representative of eleven Muslim insurgent groups publicly announced a unilateral ceasefire. However, the credibility of the spokesman could not be verified. In September, a former Thai army commander met with representatives of the Pattani Malay Consultative under mediation of the Indonesian government. The meeting did not yield any results, as the government rejected Indonesia's assistance, declaring the situation in the south an internal conflict. On November 4, a week after new Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat had visited the predominantly Muslim southern districts, claiming the five-year-long insurgency had eased, a bomb attack near a local government office in the province of Narathiwat killed one person and injured at least 71. Throughout the year, the conflict claimed the lives of some 600 people. (ml)

Thailand (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↗ | Start: 2006 |
| Conflict parties: | PAD vs. PPP, government | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

The national power conflict between the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) and the People Power Party (PPP) turned violent. In December 2007 the PPP, regarded as the successor organization of Thaksin Shinawatra's Thai Rak Thai party, won the first general election. Samak Sundaravej became the first new prime minister since the coup which had ousted Prime Minister Thaksin in 2006. The PAD held rallies demanding the government's resignation, condemning it as a puppet administration of Thaksin. On September 9, the Constitutional Court disqualified Prime Minister Samak from office. Nevertheless, the PAD sought the demission of the

PPP government headed by new Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat. In September, as thousands of pro- and anti-government demonstrators clashed in Bangkok, the PPP government declared a state of emergency. In October, 16 people were killed and hundreds injured in the most intense anti-government protests in 16 years. An increasing number of PPP supporters, mainly poor peasants from northern Thailand, rallied for Thaksin's return and against a possible new military coup or the tampering with of election results. In November, PAD protesters became targets of small bomb attacks. From August 26 on, the PAD besieged Government House and the parliament for weeks. Starting on November 26, they also occupied Bangkok's main airport to prevent Prime Minister Somchai's return from a summit in Peru. Another major airport was occupied the following day. The government declared a state of emergency at the airports. The head of the army called for new elections but the government refused, stating it had received the electorate's backing only a few months ago. (ml)

Thailand - Cambodia (border)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↑ | Start: 1954 |
| Conflict parties: | Thailand vs. Cambodia | |
| Conflict items: | territory, international power | |

The conflict over international power and territory between Cambodia and Thailand turned violent. The crisis centered on the Prasat Preah Vihear temple. According to a 1962 ICJ ruling, the site belonged to Cambodia. However, the surrounding area remained contested. On July 7, the temple was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Thailand's Foreign Minister Nopadon Pattama had supported Cambodia's bid for enlistment. Pattama resigned on July 10, after having been criticized by Thailand's constitutional court for not hearing the parliament on the issue, and by the opposition for backing down on the territorial dispute. Some days later, the Cambodian military temporarily arrested three protesters from Thailand at the temple site, and accused Thailand's military of violating the border. By July 17, both sides had deployed hundreds of troops to the area, causing a military stand-off. Bilateral talks on August 14 resulted in an agreement to reduce the number of troops in the disputed area. However, the confrontation escalated into a firefight on October 15, leaving two Cambodian soldiers dead. Both sides played down the incident and held talks on the military and the political level the next day. Both sides declared their willingness to solve the conflict peacefully and agreed upon establishing joint border patrols. (lr)

Timor-Leste (veterans)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 2006 |
| Conflict parties: | Loromonu veterans vs. Lorosa'e, government | |
| Conflict items: | other | |

The conflict concerning national power between disgruntled veterans, mainly consisting of sacked Loromonu soldiers, and the government continued. On February 11, President Ramos-Horta was severely injured in an assassination attempt. Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão

was able to escape unharmed another attack on his motorcade later the same day. The attacks were carried out by a group of deserted soldiers, led by former Major Alfredo Reinado, who was killed in the attack. Australian-led peacekeeping troops began searching for rebel soldiers shortly after the attacks. The search was partly successful, as several rebels surrendered, among them Reinado's successor, Gastão Salsinha. In addition, four men were arrested in Indonesia for suspected involvement in the attacks, and extradited to Timor-Leste. Meanwhile, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd underlined his government's commitment to the peacekeeping mission by sending an additional 350 troops. In addition, a state of emergency, lasting for over 50 days, was imposed after the attacks. (thw, di)

Tonga (opposition)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1970 |
| Conflict parties: | opposition vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The conflict about the introduction of a parliamentary monarchy in the Kingdom of Tonga continued. In parliamentary elections in April, the pro-democracy opposition won all of the nine seats assigned by popular vote, out of a total of 33 seats. King George Tupou V, who had been enthroned on August 1, would surrender his role in day-to-day governmental affairs, in preparation to the envisaged transition to democratic rule in 2010, as the Lord Chamberlain announced prior to the coronation. (ct, us)

USA - Pakistan

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↑ | Start: 2003 |
| Conflict parties: | USA vs. Pakistan | |
| Conflict items: | international power | |

The conflict over violations of Pakistan's sovereignty by the USA escalated. The conflict had started in early January 2003 when a Pakistani provincial assembly condemned for the first time US air strikes on Pakistani soil near the Afghan border as a violation of the country's sovereignty. The US Department of Defense announced that US air strikes in the Afghan-Pakistan border region were legitimate as US forces in Afghanistan were coming under attack from pro-Taliban militias and acting in self-defense [→ Afghanistan (Taliban)]. Diplomatic tensions rose when US attacks on Pakistani territory increased in 2008. Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani

demanded that the USA not act unilaterally against Islamic militants in Pakistan. On July 29, US President George W. Bush reassured that the USA still considered Pakistan a key ally in its fight against terrorism. On September 3, US ground forces crossed the Pakistani border to attack Taliban positions. When US helicopters tried to penetrate Pakistan's airspace, Pakistani paramilitary soldiers fired into the air, causing the helicopters to turn back. On September 25, Pakistani troops reportedly opened fire on two US helicopters covering a US and Afghani patrol a mile inside Afghanistan. In reaction, the US ground forces fired on a hillside near the Pakistani checkpoint. According to Pakistan, the helicopter also returned fire. The Pakistani troops in turn shot at a hillside, causing it to collapse onto the US and Afghani patrol, to which the coalition forces responded by returning fire. However, in early September, the USA and Pakistan had reached a tacit agreement allowing unmanned Predator aircraft to attack suspected insurgents in western Pakistan. After subsequent US missile strikes in various tribal agencies of Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas in August, September, and October, the Pakistani parliament adopted a resolution on October 23 calling on the government to defend its sovereignty and expel foreign fighters from the region. (ar)

Uzbekistan (opposition)

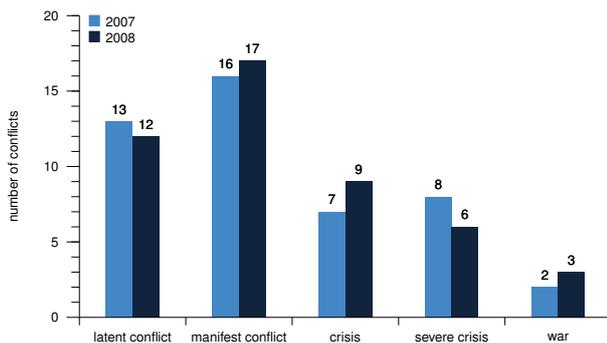
| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 2005 |
| Conflict parties: | opposition vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The conflict between the opposition and the government over national power and the orientation of the political system continued on a non-violent level. On 12/23/07, President Islam Karimov won the presidential elections which were harshly criticized by the OSCE as failing to meet democratic standards. On April 15, dissident Yusuf Juma was sentenced to five years of forced labor after taking part in a protest in the run-up to the elections. According to human rights organizations, political prisoners continued to face physical and psychological torture. On October 13, the EU lifted its sanctions against Uzbekistan due to the abolition of the death penalty, the introduction of the right of habeas corpus, the ratification of the International Labor Organization's child labor convention, and the release of a number of political prisoners in February, June, and November. (dfr, fs)

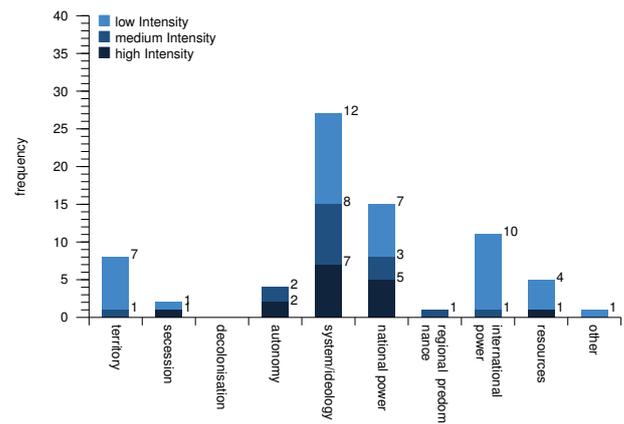
Middle East and Maghreb

The total number of conflicts monitored in the Middle East and Maghreb was 47, compared to 46 in 2007. One new conflict emerged [→Mauritania (AQIM)]. Nine highly violent conflicts were counted in the region in 2008, compared to ten the year before. However, the number of wars among them rose from two to three. Therefore, again a third of the rising number of wars was fought in the Middle East and Maghreb. One of them, Afghanistan (Taliban), had already been classified as a war in 2007 and 2006, and was the conflict with the highest number of casualties in the region. The two other wars, i.e. Iraq (al-Sadr group) and Turkey (PKK/KONGRA-GEL/Kurdish areas), escalated to war from the level of a severe crisis in 2007. Both were conducted at least in part on Iraqi soil, as Turkey launched a large-scale operation against PKK strongholds in northern Iraq, thereby extending the conflict zone beyond its own borders. In addition, Iraq was still affected by the severe crisis between various insurgent groups and the government [→ Iraq (insurgents)], that had been a war in 2007, as well as by the severe crisis between al-Qaeda in Iraq and the government [→ Iraq (al-Zarqawi group/AQI)]. Therefore, Iraq was once again the country affected by the highest number of highly violent conflicts. Four other conflicts in the Middle East and Maghreb were on the level of a severe crisis [→Iran (PJAK/Kurdish areas); Israel (PNA, al-Fatah, Hamas/Palestine); Lebanon (religious groups); Yemen (Believing Youth Movement)]. With seven, a clear majority of the highly-violent conflicts in the region were fought out over questions of ideology or the orientation of the political system, among other items, and five over national power. System/Ideology was clearly the prevalent item, with 27 cases, followed by national power with 15. Both items were pursued violently in more than half of the cases. The overall number of crises increased from seven to nine, compared to the year before. Nevertheless, more than half of the conflicts in the Middle East and Maghreb, i.e. 29 out of 47, were non-violent. 17 of these were manifest, twelve latent conflicts. Altogether, 31 out of 47 conflicts remained on the same level of intensity in 2008. As eight conflicts escalated, the same number deescalated in the region.

Conflict Intensities in the Middle East and Maghreb in 2008 compared to 2007



Frequency of Conflict Items in 2008 in the Middle East and Maghreb by Intensity Groups



Overview: Conflicts in the Middle East and Maghreb in 2008

| Name of conflict ¹ | Conflict parties ² | Conflict items | Start | Change ³ | Int. ⁴ |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Afghanistan (Taliban) | Taliban, Hezb-e-Islami vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1994 | • | 5 |
| Algeria (AQIM) | AQIM vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1989 | ↘ | 3 |
| Algeria (Berbers/Kabylia) | Berbers vs. government | autonomy, system/ideology | 1963 | ↑ | 3 |
| Bahrain (Shia opposition)* | Shia opposition groups vs. government | national power | 1975 | • | 2 |
| Egypt (Islamic groups) | Muslim Brotherhood vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1992 | • | 2 |
| Iran (People's Mujahideen)* | People's Mujahideen vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1965 | • | 1 |
| Iran (PJAK/Kurdish areas) | PJAK vs. government | autonomy | 1979 | • | 4 |
| Iran (PRMI/Sistan-Balochistan) | PRMI vs. government | autonomy, system/ideology | 1979 | • | 3 |
| Iran (reformists - conservatives) | reformists 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 | ↗ | 5 |

| Name of conflict ¹ | Conflict parties ² | Conflict items | Start | Change ³ | Int. ⁴ |
|---|---|--|-------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Iraq (al-Zarqawi group/AQI) | al-Zarqawi group/AQI vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 2003 | • | 4 |
| Iraq (insurgents) | insurgents vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 2004 | ↘ | 4 |
| 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 (al-Fatah - Hamas) | al-Fatah vs. Hamas | system/ideology, regional predominance | 1994 | ↘ | 3 |
| Israel (Hezbollah) | Hezbollah vs. Israel | system/ideology | 1982 | • | 2 |
| Israel (PNA, al-Fatah, Hamas/Palestine) | PNA, al-Fatah, Islamic Jihad, Hamas 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 (al-Qaeda) | al-Qaeda vs. government | system/ideology | 2005 | ↗ | 3 |
| Jordan (militant group)* | militant group vs. government | system/ideology | 2006 | ↘ | 1 |
| Jordan - Israel (water)* | Jordan vs. Israel vs. | resources | 1945 | • | 1 |
| Lebanon (Fatah al-Islam) | Fatah al-Islam vs. government | system/ideology | 2006 | ↘ | 3 |
| Lebanon (religious groups) | Hezbollah vs. religious groups vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1975 | ↗ | 4 |
| Lebanon - Israel (water)* | Lebanon vs. Israel | resources | 2001 | • | 1 |
| Libya - USA* | Libya vs. USA | system/ideology, international power | 1964 | • | 1 |
| Mauritania (AQIM) | AQIM vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 2007 | NEW | 3 |
| Mauritania (coup plotters) | military vs. government | national power | 2003 | ↗ | 2 |
| Morocco (AQIM)* | AQIM vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 2003 | ↘ | 2 |
| Morocco (POLISARIO Front/Western Sahara)* | POLISARIO Front vs. government | secession | 1975 | • | 2 |
| Morocco - Algeria* | Morocco vs. Algeria | territory, international power | 1963 | • | 2 |
| Morocco - Spain (Ceuta and Melilla)* | Morocco vs. Spain | territory | 1956 | ↘ | 1 |
| Morocco - Spain (Parsley Island)* | Morocco vs. Spain | territory | 2002 | • | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia (Islamists)* | Islamists vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1990 | ↘ | 2 |
| Saudi Arabia (reformers)* | reformers, MIRA vs. government | system/ideology | 2001 | • | 1 |
| Syria - Israel | Syria vs. Israel | territory, international power, other | 1967 | ↘ | 2 |
| Syria - Lebanon* | Lebanon vs. Syria | 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 | ↗ | 5 |
| Turkey - Iraq | Turkey vs. Iraq | international power | 1979 | • | 2 |
| Turkey - Syria* | Turkey vs. Syria | resources | 1983 | • | 1 |
| Yemen (Believing Youth Movement) | Believing Youth Movement vs. government | system/ideology | 1998 | ↗ | 4 |
| Yemen (Islamic Jihad) | Islamic Jihad of Yemen, Army of Aden-Abyan, Yemeni Soldiers Brigades vs. government | system/ideology, national power | 1994 | ↑ | 3 |

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

Afghanistan (Taliban)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 5 | Change: • | Start: 1994 |
| Conflict parties: | Taliban, Hezb-e-Islami vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The war between the Taliban and the government, supported by US and NATO forces, over national power and the orientation of the political system continued. Violence soared, with more than 5,400 people killed

throughout the year, making it the bloodiest year since the beginning of the war in 2001. Not only the fatalities of coalition forces reached a new peak with 261 soldiers killed, the months of June to September being the worst with 158 fatalities, but also the number of civilian fatalities rapidly increased with approx. 1,400 civilians killed. A US air strike on August 27 in the west killed 90 civilians. Additionally, the number of suicide attacks remained on a high level, the most devastating being

a series of attacks from February 17 to 19 which left 116 dead. An attack on the Indian embassy in the capital, Kabul, on July 17 killed 41 people. On October 19, Taliban insurgents killed 27 people, a number of whom they beheaded. The Afghan National Army captured the town of Musa Qala on 12/07/07, marking its first large-scale operation. Additionally, a senior al-Qaeda leader, Abu Laith al-Libi, was killed, and another key Taliban commander, Mansoor Dadullah, was captured in early February. However, the Taliban regained ten percent of the Afghan territory in February. The eastern provinces experienced an especially severe increase of insurgency attacks by 40 percent compared to 2007. On June 13, the Taliban raided a Kandahar prison, freeing up to 1,000 inmates, at least a third of whom were Taliban fighters. In reaction, the coalition forces launched a large-scale operation on June 18. In other provinces, however, US troops were obliged to retreat. On August 15, they were forced to withdraw from a strategically important district of the Ghazni province due to repeated heavy attacks by insurgents. On August 20, French troops suffered heavy losses when ten soldiers were killed and another 21 injured in a Taliban ambush near Kabul. On September 3, the NATO-led Operation Eagle's Summit succeeded in transporting a turbine through Taliban territory to the Kajaki Dam in Helmand province in order to provide electricity to the region in a long-term attempt to oust the Taliban from the region. The coalition forces increasingly concentrated on fighting opium production in order to lastingly cut off the Taliban's financial resources. Pakistan considered Afghan refugee camps on its territory to be refuges of Taliban militants [→ Pakistan (North and South Waziristan)]. However, Pakistan agreed to postpone their closure and extended the deadline for the repatriation of two million refugees to Afghanistan beyond 2009. This prevented a further destabilization of the situation in Afghanistan. In the wake of heavy fighting on the eastern Afghan border, however, the war spilled over onto Pakistani soil in September when US-led coalition troops targeted Taliban hideouts [→ Pakistan - USA]. The same month, the Afghan president's brother met with former Taliban leaders in Saudi Arabia for informal talks. However, offers of direct peace talks on the part of President Hamid Karzai were rejected by Taliban leader Mullah Omar on November 18. (tse)

Algeria (AQIM)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change:  | Start: 1989 |
| Conflict parties: | AQIM vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The conflict between the al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the government over national power and ideology remained violent. In the second half of the year, violence intensified. The militants conducted multiple attacks, countered by the army and peaking in August. Most of the victims were civilians. On 12/11/07, twin car bombs targeting the UN headquarters and the Constitutional Court in the capital, Algiers, killed more than 30 people, including 17 UN employees. Security forces arrested six people allegedly connected with these attacks on February 7. On Jan-

uary 2, an al-Qaeda suicide bomber drove into a police station in Naciria, east of Algiers, killing four policemen. On April 1, security services claimed to have foiled a plot to assassinate Prime Minister Abdelaziz Belkhadem and his family. The assassination order was supposedly passed down by al-Qaeda leaders in Europe and Algeria. Bomb explosions injured three policemen in the Ain El Bey region on April 18, and five security officers in the Isser district of Boumerdès province the following day. In August, the government launched a military campaign against AQIM. More than 20 rebels were killed by the army in heavy fighting in the Kabylia region and the mountains of Bouguentas that month. AQIM responded with several suicide car bombings targeting facilities of the gendarmerie between August 10 and 20, killing 63 people and leaving more than 100 injured. On August 21 and 22, road bombs exploding near police patrols in Lakhdaria and in Tébessa wounded two civilians. One Islamist surrendered to the authorities and disclosed detailed plans for al-Qaeda attacks to be conducted in Algiers during Ramadan. In September, further attacks and counterattacks took place. Security forces killed al-Qaeda regional leader Selami Abdelkader in Tadmaït on September 3. On September 26, three AQIM members were killed in Stah Guentis by security forces. Two days later, three soldiers died in a suicide car bombing near a military barracks in Delys. Within hours of the attack, two terrorists were killed and ten others injured during a security sweep near the scene. On October 8, a suspected terrorist was arrested in the center of Algiers with a quantity of explosives. (im)

Algeria (Berbers/Kabylia)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change:  | Start: 1963 |
| Conflict parties: | Berbers vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | autonomy, system/ideology | |

The conflict concerning autonomy between Berber groups and the government continued. While the situation remained calm in the Berbers' main settlement area, Kabylia, tensions erupted in the oases. From May 16 to 18, ethnic clashes between youth gangs of Mazabite Berbers and Arabs in the city of Berriane, Ghardaïa province, left two people dead and 30 injured. Hundreds were forced to flee, when the rioters set fire to dozens of houses, shops, cars, and buses. The violence peaked on May 17 when security services lost control of the situation. On May 18, hundreds of police and paramilitary gendarme reinforcements backed by water canons entered the town and arrested 28 persons. Following three months of peace, ethnic clashes resumed between rival youth gangs in Berriane on July 22. Several stores and houses were destroyed in the riots before security forces were able to restore order. The police made ten arrests. Two weeks later, five of those suspected of involvement in the ethnic clashes in July were sentenced to several years in prison. (im)

Egypt (Islamic groups)

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1992 |
| Conflict parties: | Muslim Brotherhood vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The manifest conflict concerning the orientation of the political system and national power between the Muslim Brotherhood and the government continued. The Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest opposition group, remained formally banned but fielded independent candidates in the 2005 parliamentary elections, in which it won a fifth of the seats. Ahead of the municipal elections on April 8, more than 800 members of the Muslim Brotherhood were arrested, and only 20 candidates were permitted to compete for a total 52,000 seats. Consequently, the Muslim Brotherhood boycotted the elections. On April 14, 25 Brotherhood members were jailed for up to ten years for belonging to an illegal group, violating the constitution, and obstructing the authorities. At the end of May, parliament extended the state of emergency imposed in 1981 by another two years. Egyptian police detained 21 members of the Muslim Brotherhood on August 27. On October 15, twelve men were arrested in raids in Fayoum province for suspected involvement in an attempt to bring medical supplies to Gaza earlier that month [→ Israel (PNA, al-Fatah, Hamas/Palestine)]. Earlier in the same month, police had detained more than 30 activists organizing a convoy of medical supplies to Rafah, the only border crossing in the impoverished Palestinian coastal strip not controlled by Israel. Egypt refused to open the Rafah crossing permanently, a policy strongly criticized by the Muslim Brotherhood. (khz, sz)

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 highly violent level. PJAK was considered an offshoot of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK/KONGRA-GEL) [→ Turkey (PKK/KONGRA-GEL/Kurdish areas)]. During a visit to Iraq on March 2, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called for Iran, Iraq, and Turkey to join forces to combat the threat posed by the PKK/KONGRA-GEL and PJAK [→ Turkey - Iraq; Iraq - Iran]. In mid-April, Iran and Turkey signed a memorandum of understanding, aimed at cooperation on the issue. On April 8, Iran claimed the killing of a senior PJAK leader. On May 11, the Iranian military shelled border villages in Kurdish northern Iraq, targeting PJAK members. Additionally, PJAK fighters and Iranian forces clashed at the common border with Iraq without any casualties being incurred. According to Kurdish sources, the military started an operation in the village of Lesgardiens on May 23. The next day, three members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and nine PJAK fighters died in the clashes. According to PJAK, 92 soldiers and Iranian counter-guerrillas as well as seven PJAK fighters were killed between May 25 and June 2. In early June, twelve

PJAK members and four border guards were killed in another clash near the Iraqi border. Two militants were killed and three others wounded in clashes with the military on June 13. A few days later, PJAK fighters killed three policemen in an ambush in northwestern Iran. The PJAK claimed to have killed 51 soldiers, IRGC members, and Iranian counter-guerrillas, as well as destroying eleven military vehicles in July. In early August, eleven PJAK members, including two senior leaders, were killed in military operations, and seventeen others were captured. According to the military, an unspecified number of PJAK members were also killed in the shelling of targets in the Kandil Mountains near the Iran-Iraq border. On October 7, four PJAK militants were killed in a clash in western Iran. On October 17, three IRGC members were killed by PJAK members. On November 16, four PJAK members were arrested and several others killed in clashes with Iranian forces in the west of the country. (mb)

Iran (PRMI/Sistan-Balochistan)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1979 |
| Conflict parties: | PRMI vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | autonomy, system/ideology | |

The conflict concerning autonomy and ideology between the Sunni Balochis, organized in the People's Resistance Movement of Iran (PRMI), also known as the Iranian Army of God (Jundullah), and the Shia government continued on a violent level. On May 31, Pakistan agreed to extradite the detained brother of PRMI leader Abdolmalek Rigi to Iran. Subsequently, the militants kidnapped 16 police officers in an attack on a checkpoint in the southeastern city of Saravan on June 12. The insurgents demanded the release of 200 PRMI members from prisons. After an ultimatum had expired, they killed four abducted police officers over the following two weeks. Meanwhile, on June 16, PRMI assassinated a state prosecutor. After having attacked a governmental institution, killing one civilian and injuring a policeman, a PRMI fighter was killed by the police in Zahedan, the capital of Sistan-Balochistan province on June 20. On July 22, Iran asked Pakistan to cooperate on the issue of Iranian border guards who had been taken hostage by a Balochi group operating in Pakistan [→ Pakistan (BLA/Balochistan)]. Iran executed two convicts for being members of PRMI on August 4, one of them a journalist. In early September, PRMI released one of the policemen abducted in June. On October 18, four PRMI militants, one of them high-ranking, were killed in clashes with the military in Sistan-Balochistan. Four top PRMI members were killed in clashes with government forces on November 2. (sus)

Iran (reformists - conservatives)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1993 |
| Conflict parties: | reformists vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

The conflict over national power between reformists and conservatives in Iran remained manifest. In the run-up to the parliamentary election on March 14, the Guardian

Council excluded 1,700 candidates, mostly reformists, from participating in the ballot. As a consequence, reformist politicians could only compete for about ten percent of the votes, according to reformists. In the first round of the elections, 209 out of 290 seats were filled. At least 130 members of parliament were considered to be conservatives. According to the government, the voter turnout was 60 percent. Backed by protests from the EU and the US uttering doubts that the elections were free and fair, Iranian reformists demanded the vote to be recounted. On April 25, the run-off elections took place. Under Iranian election law, candidates needed at least 25 percent of the vote to be elected outright in the first round. The second round of elections took place to decide over the remaining seats. The final results showed that conservatives had won about 200 seats. Reformists took about 50 seats and independents obtained about 40. Thus, the conservatives retained their majority in the parliament and the Guardian Council. (ptr)

Iran - Israel

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1979 |
| Conflict parties: | Iran vs. Israel | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, international power | |

The conflict between Iran and Israel continued. Israel perceived Iran's nuclear program as a threat, as Iran did not recognize Israel's right to exist. Israel accused Iran of supporting the militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah against Israel [→ Israel (PNA, al-Fatah, Hamas/Palestine); Israel (Hezbollah)]. High-ranking Israeli officials repeatedly stated that Israel would prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Israel launched a new intelligence satellite on January 22 to collect further data on Iran's nuclear activities. Other military activities included the biggest defense exercise in Israel's history between June 1 and 7. Israel supposedly planned a military strike against Iran's nuclear sites but had been discouraged by the USA. On October 3, Israel installed two missile shields in the Negev desert against Iranian missile attacks. (hk)

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 over Iran's nuclear program continued. Additionally, the USA accused Iran of helping to finance and arm Shia militia groups in Iraq [→ Iraq (al-Sadr group); Iraq (insurgents)]. Tensions between Iran and the USA rose when three US Navy ships confronted five Iranian speedboats while passing through the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf on January 6. That month, the International Atomic Energy Agency was allowed to inspect an advanced centrifuge development site in Iran. However, as Iran was still withholding information on its nuclear program, the UN Security Council passed a resolution on March 3, setting a 90-day period for Iran to comply. The same month, the UN tightened economic and trade sanctions. On August 5, the deadline for Iran to stop its nuclear enrichment program expired and the EU also imposed further sanctions

against Iran. Iran claimed to require enriched uranium for civilian purposes. On September 26, the UN Security Council passed new sanctions against Iran. The USA did not rule out military action, and Iran announced it was prepared to defend itself. In the run-up to the US presidential elections, Democratic candidate Barack Obama announced he would hold unconditional talks with Iran if elected. Following Obama's victory, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad, in an unprecedented gesture, sent a congratulatory note. Obama nevertheless made it clear that he considered the development of Iranian nuclear weapons unacceptable. (hk)

Iraq (al-Sadr group)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 5 | Change: ↗ | Start: 2004 |
| Conflict parties: | al-Sadr group vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The conflict over national power and the orientation of the political system between Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and his followers, on the one hand, and the government, supported by the US-led coalition forces, on the other, escalated to a war in March but eased later in the year. Following the strategic withdrawal of British troops from Basra, completed on 12/16/07, intense fighting between government forces and members of al-Sadr's Mehdi Army erupted in March. On March 23, a barrage of rockets and mortars hit the heavily fortified Green Zone in the capital, Baghdad, killing up to 15 civilians. The USA assumed Iranian involvement in the incident [→ Iran - USA]. On March 24, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki started the major offensive Operation Knights' Assault, sending some 30,000 Iraqi troops and police to Basra. British and US air and land forces supported the military crackdown. Within the first three days, at least 100 people were killed and about 300 injured. Mehdi Army members stormed the main military base in Basra while several other government facilities came under intensive attack. The fighting soon spread to other predominantly Shia provinces and also reached Baghdad and Sadr City, the biggest Shia suburb. The Iraqi army, backed by US helicopter gunships and tanks, engaged Mehdi Army fighters in several raids in Sadr City. About 440 militants and civilians as well as 20 US soldiers were killed in the first four weeks. Fierce clashes in the southern city of Kut from March 28 to 30 killed 45 people and injured 87. On May 10, a truce between the two sides ended the fighting that had killed a total of up to 1,000 people and wounded at least 2,500. In early June, al-Sadr initiated a demonstration with thousands protesting against an envisaged agreement between the government and the USA to replace the UN mandate expiring on December 31. The al-Sadr group feared that the draft would allow for permanent US military bases in Iraq. On July 3, Iraqi troops raided the southeastern Maysan province, a Mehdi Army stronghold. 200 militants surrendered to the police, and another 354 wanted suspects were captured. Additionally, large quantities of heavy arms and ammunition were confiscated. In late July, al-Sadr called on the government not to sign a security pact with the USA. On August 8, al-Sadr announced plans to largely demilitarize his organization,

with only a small armed wing remaining. These fighters would also lay down arms when the US-led coalition forces left the country. On August 28, al-Sadr extended the ceasefire declared in May indefinitely. A senior cleric loyal to al-Sadr was killed in Basra on September 20. In mid-October, a member of the Sadrist Movement in parliament was killed in a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad. Also in mid-October, tens of thousands of al-Sadr supporters protested in a mass rally in Baghdad against a planned new security pact with the USA which would allow the US troops to stay in Iraq until the end of 2011. Al-Sadr, on November 14, threatened to resume attacks on US troops unless such an agreement was avoided. However, the Iraqi cabinet signed the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with the USA on November 16. The spokesman for Sadr's 30-member parliamentary bloc announced they would attempt to block the agreement in parliament. However, parliament approved the treaty on November 27. SOFA established that coalition forces would withdraw from Iraqi cities by 06/30/09 and leave the country by 12/31/11. Moreover, a referendum to be held in mid-2009 could require the coalition forces to completely withdraw by mid-2010. (db)

Iraq (al-Zarqawi group/AQI)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: • | Start: 2003 |
| Conflict parties: | al-Zarqawi group/AQI vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The system and national power conflict between the al-Zarqawi group, or al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), and the government, supported by the US-led coalition forces, was still carried out with the use of systematic violence. Whereas the number of female suicide bombers in Iraq increased significantly from eight in 2007 to at least 30 in 2008, the total number of attacks decreased dramatically. Al-Zarqawi lost support and safe havens as more and more Sunnis turned against the organization and joined "Awakening Councils". These pro-government paramilitary groups, initiated in 2005, numbered up to 100,000 fighters and were paid by the USA until November 11, when the Iraqi government took them on their payroll. In addition, US and Iraqi forces killed or arrested many leading AQI ranks throughout the year. Several senior Awakening Council leaders were killed by AQI, among them at least five of their top ranks. Having been driven out of their former stronghold, Anbar province, many AQI members fled to northern and eastern Iraq, mainly to Diyala province and the city of Mosul. AQI retained a strong presence in Diyala province, despite a major offensive by US and Iraqi forces in January. In December 2007, the US military had killed or captured 40 AQI fighters. On March 23, a suicide bomber in Mosul killed 13 soldiers and wounded a total of 42 people. Four civilians were killed and four others kidnapped by suspected AQI members near Baquba on April 3. Later that month, al-Qaeda deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahiri called on all Muslims to join the "battlefields of jihad", especially in Iraq. In early May, a double suicide bombing near Baghdad killed at least 35 people during a wedding procession. The USA blamed AQI for the attack. In a military operation against AQI in Mosul started on May

15 about 1,100 people were arrested. At least 38 people were killed in two suicide attacks in western Anbar province on June 26, among them 20 members of local Awakening Councils holding an anti-AQI conference. In late June and in Mid-October, the Iraqi police discovered alleged AQI prisons containing 18 corpses showing signs of torture. 150 suspected AQI members were arrested in a major crackdown on AQI in Mosul in mid-July. On July 29, US and Iraqi troops launched a new offensive in Diyala province in order to wipe out the AQI groups there. Also in Diyala province, a female suicide bomber with suspected AQI links killed at least 22 people on September 19, most of them police officers celebrating the release of a colleague with suspected links to the Mehdi Army [→ Iraq (al-Sadr group)]. On October 15, the US military killed the second-in-command of al-Qaeda, Abu Qaswarah, in an operation in Mosul. US troops carried out a cross-border attack into Syria in pursuit of AQI supporters, killing eight people on October 26 [→ Syria - USA]. The day before, AQI leader Abu Ayyub al-Masri claimed responsibility for an attack, apparently referring to the June 2007 assault on Glasgow International Airport. (db)

Iraq (insurgents)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ▼ | Start: 2004 |
| Conflict parties: | insurgents vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The conflict between several insurgent groups, on the one hand, and the government, supported by the US-led coalition forces, on the other, remained highly violent but nevertheless deescalated to a severe crisis. The insurgency was partly contained. From 2005 on, some 100,000 tribesmen and former insurgents joined "Awakening Councils" financed by the Iraqi government [→ Iraq (al-Zarqawi group/AQI)]. In mid-January, police in the city of Basra killed Abu Mustafa al-Ansari, the leader of the radical Shia organization Soldiers of Heaven. At least 50 members of the group were also killed in Basra and Nasirijah. From March 18 to 23, a national reconciliation conference was held in the capital, Baghdad, but produced no results due to the boycott by the biggest Sunni parliamentary faction and the Shia parliamentary al-Sadr bloc. On April 3, ten police officers died in two bombings in Diyala province. A bomb killed four US Marines in Anbar province on May 4. On May 12, 18 people were killed and 28 suffered injuries in Baghdad in several bomb blasts and rocket attacks. Eleven police recruits were shot dead west of the city of Mosul on May 20. In June and July, at least 77 people were killed, and about 100 wounded in several bombings, mainly in Diyala province, Mosul, and Baghdad. On July 19, the main Sunni Muslim bloc rejoined the government after its withdrawal in 2007 because of a row over power-sharing. In late July, three suicide bombers killed up to 32 Shia pilgrims and wounded at least another 102 in Baghdad. On August 3, thousands of Arabs and Turkmen held a rally in the northern city of Hawija to protest against moves to incorporate the oil-rich region of Kirkuk into the Kurdish Region. 25 Kurds were killed in a suicide attack in a protest on the same issue in late July. On September 24, the

national parliament passed a law demanding provincial election to be held by 12/31/09. These elections could not take place due to unsolved ethnic tensions in Kirkuk. Therefore, Kirkuk was excluded from this law. After a period of relative calm, the number of attacks against US and Iraqi forces once more increased in October and November in the wake of negotiations between the USA and Iraq on an agreement on the presence of US troops [→ Iraq (al-Sadr group)]. (db)

Israel (al-Fatah - Hamas)

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ▾ | Start: 1994 |
| Conflict parties: | al-Fatah vs. Hamas | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, regional predominance | |

The conflict over regional predominance between the Palestinian National Liberation Movement (al-Fatah) and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in the Palestinian territories deescalated. On 12/31/07, eleven people died in renewed clashes between the rival Palestinian factions al-Fatah and Hamas in the southern Gaza Strip. Talks on a possible reconciliation between both sides in Sanaa, Yemen, in mid-March were inconclusive. In June, another round of talks was held in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, also without substantial progress. On July 26, Hamas forces in Gaza detained 160 al-Fatah supporters after an explosion at a Gaza beach had killed six people, among them five Hamas members. Hamas blamed the incident on the al-Fatah supporters, but al-Fatah denied any involvement. In ongoing fighting between the two factions the following days, at least eleven people were killed and up to 88 were injured. As a result, Israel allowed 180 members of a beleaguered clan loyal to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, leader of al-Fatah, to enter its territory from the Gaza Strip on August 2. On November 8, Hamas announced it would boycott Egypt-brokered reconciliation talks with al-Fatah in Egypt's capital, Cairo. Moreover, Hamas accused Abbas of arresting hundreds of its members in the al-Fatah-controlled West Bank. The next day, Egypt postponed the reconciliation talks. On November 23, Abbas stated that early Palestinian elections would be held in 2009 if both rival parties failed to reconcile by the end of the year. (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 remained a manifest conflict. On January 7, unknown actors fired two rockets into northern Israel from Lebanon without causing damage. It was the first cross-border rocket attack since the end of the war between Hezbollah and Israel in 2006. On February 12, Imad Mughniyeh, a top commander of Hezbollah, was killed in a car bombing in Syria. Hezbollah blamed Israel for the assassination but Israel denied any responsibility for the killing. On July 16, in a deal unofficially mediated by Germany, Israel and Hezbollah swapped prisoners in

exchange for the remains of two Israeli soldiers that had been abducted by Hezbollah in a cross-border raid into Israel in 2006. The Israelis handed over five Lebanese prisoners and the corpses of 200 Lebanese and Palestinian fighters. Among the prisoners was a well-known Lebanese fighter convicted for the killing of several Israelis in 1979, whose warm welcome by Hezbollah led to long-lasting discussions about the exchange in Israel. (hl)

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

| | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: • | Start: 1920 |
| Conflict parties: | PNA, al-Fatah, Islamic Jihad, Hamas vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | secession, system/ideology, resources | |

The conflict between the various Palestinian groups and the Israeli government concerning the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state continued on the same level, albeit reaching a violent peak in March. Throughout the year, Hamas, which controlled the Gaza Strip, and Israel repeatedly clashed. This contributed to the stagnation of the peace process between Israel and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, whose al-Fatah party controlled the West Bank. In December 2007, continuous rocket fire from the Gaza Strip into southern Israeli territory resulted in clashes between the Israeli army and members of Hamas, killing 20 people. On January 15, at least 18 Palestinians, including 13 militants, died in an Israeli raid into the Gaza Strip to prevent the incessant rocket fire. The day before, Hamas had been excluded from talks between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in Jerusalem on the core issues of borders, Jewish settlements, the status of Jerusalem, and the return of Palestinian refugees. Israel closed its border crossings to the Gaza Strip and cut off fuel supplies needed for power generation. On January 23, Palestinian militants destroyed parts of the border wall between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, enabling tens of thousands of Palestinians to enter Egypt to buy food, fuel, and other supplies. The border remained open for several days until Egyptian border police managed to close the breaches. On October 4, Egypt sent 1,200 additional security personnel to the border area to prevent a possible new breach of the crossings. In the first suicide attack in more than a year, an Israeli woman was killed by a Hamas militant in the southern town of Dimona on February 4. Afterwards, Israeli forces engaged Hamas and other militant groups in an ongoing series of combined air and ground operations in the Gaza Strip until early March. At that time, Palestinian militants increased the number of rockets and mortars fired into Israel. On March 2, the UN Security Council met in an emergency session at the request of Libya on behalf of the Palestinian Authority. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon condemned the actions of both parties, i.e. Israel's excessive and disproportionate use of force in the Gaza Strip, and Palestinian groups' rocket attacks on Israel. After over a week of continuous fighting in which 125 people died, most of them Palestinians, Hamas set out preconditions for a truce with Israel. Hamas killed three Israeli troops in an ambush in the northern Gaza Strip. Israeli forces reacted

with air strikes. These clashes killed at least 22 people. On June 18, Israel and Hamas agreed to end months of fighting with a six-month truce brokered by Egypt. The deal also envisaged a partial reopening of Gaza's borders with Israel, the return of the captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, and the reopening of the main crossing to Egypt, Rafah. On August 3, Israel allowed 180 Abbas supporters, besieged by Hamas, to enter its territory from the Gaza Strip [→ Israel (al-Fatah - Hamas)]. In early October, four days of violent clashes between Jewish and Arab Israelis erupted in the city of Acre. The violence broke out after Israelis had attacked an Arab motorist whom they accused of violating their religious feelings by playing loud music on Yom Kippur, a Jewish holiday. In November, fighting erupted again in the Gaza Strip. At least 15 Palestinians, mostly members of Hamas, were killed in Israeli attacks, while rocket fire into southern Israel intensified and injured several Israelis, among them six soldiers in late November. Israel repeatedly closed its border crossings with the Gaza Strip, interrupted by short periods of opening. These events put a serious strain on the June truce between Hamas and Israel. (hl)

Israel - Lebanon

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: • | Start: 1967 |
| Conflict parties: | Israel vs. Lebanon | |
| Conflict items: | territory, international power | |

The conflict between Israel and Lebanon over international power and the territory of the Shebaa Farms continued. Throughout the year, Israel violated Lebanon's territorial sovereignty by land, sea, and air on several occasions, without meeting with resistance by Lebanon. However, the Lebanese army fired anti-aircraft rounds against Israeli fighter jets early in 2008. Israel continued to occupy the village of Ghajar at the Israel-Lebanon border. In mid-June, Israel offered direct peace talks. However, Lebanon made the return of the Shebaa farms a precondition. In addition, Lebanon demanded the release of Lebanese prisoners and the provision of maps showing mines and cluster bombs planted in the 2006 war. Israel accused the UN mission UNIFIL of ignoring violations of the UN resolution, ruling out armed Hezbollah presence in southern Lebanon. UNIFIL in turn cited Israel's violation of Lebanese air space. In August, the UN Security Council extended the mandate of UNIFIL until August 2009. (tz)

Jordan (al-Qaeda)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↗ | Start: 2005 |
| Conflict parties: | al-Qaeda vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology | |

The conflict between al-Qaeda and the government turned violent. The trial of Nidal Momani, Sattam Zawahreh, and Tharwat Darraz, all accused of plotting to assassinate US President George W. Bush when he visited the country in 2006, ended on May 15 when the State Security Court sentenced them to 15 years in prison. Mohammad Jaghbeer, accused of involvement in an attack on the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad in 2003, was sentenced to death on 11/06/07. The trial of twelve

pro-al-Qaeda militants charged with recruiting people to fight the US-led coalition forces in Iraq began on April 13. Two days later, the inmates of a prison protested against the segregation of al-Qaeda-linked detainees, resulting in heavy riots. At least three people died and another 30 people were injured. Radical cleric Abu Qatada, a key figure in al-Qaeda-related terrorism in the UK, won an appeal against deportation from the UK. Since 2007, he had been fighting his extradition to Jordan, where he had been convicted for terrorist attacks. (ts)

Lebanon (Fatah al-Islam)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↘ | Start: 2006 |
| Conflict parties: | Fatah al-Islam vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology | |

The conflict between the Sunni Fatah al-Islam and the government concerning the political system deescalated to a crisis. Fatah al-Islam had been considerably weakened in 2007 by losing its base in the Palestinian refugee camp Nahr al-Bared. On January 8, Fatah al-Islam leader Shaker al-Absi, who had managed to escape from Nahr al-Bared, threatened revenge attacks against the army. On January 11 and 12, three Fatah al-Islam members were arrested, including high-ranking militant Nabil Rahim, allegedly linked to al-Qaeda. On May 31, Fatah al-Islam killed one soldier in a bomb attack in the northern city of Abdeh, near Nahr al-Bared. The government accused Fatah al-Islam of conducting two bomb attacks in the northern city of Tripoli on August 13 and September 29, killing 21, nine of them soldiers. Following a suicide bomb attack that had killed 17 civilians in the Syrian capital, Damascus, on September 27, the Syrian state television showed ten alleged members of Fatah al-Islam who confessed to being responsible for the attack. Syria and the Future Movement of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri subsequently traded mutual accusations of supporting Fatah al-Islam [→ Syria - Lebanon]. On November 11, the Lebanese Forces Movement, a Christian militia, stated that Fatah al-Islam had set up a fortified bunker-base in the southern Palestinian refugee camp of Ain el-Hilweh. (db)

Lebanon (religious groups)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↗ | Start: 1975 |
| Conflict parties: | Hezbollah vs. religious groups vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The political rivalries between different religious groups and the government concerning national power and the orientation of the political system escalated to a highly violent level. However, the intensity decreased after a peak of violence in May. The conflicts between Syria and Lebanon [→ Syria - Lebanon] and Israel and the Syrian-backed Shia Hezbollah [→ Israel (Hezbollah)] had an impact on the conflict. Throughout the year, politically motivated bomb attacks and assassinations destabilized the country. The vacancy of the presidency symbolized the inability of the different factions to find a compromise. The Arab League (AL) mediated several times in order to break this deadlock. AL Secretary General Amr Mousa travelled to Lebanon and Syria several

times. On January 8, two UNIFIL peacekeeping soldiers were slightly wounded after a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in south Lebanon. Hezbollah continued to claim an increased share in a national unity government. On May 6, the government declared it would shut down a Hezbollah-owned telecommunication network, accusing Hezbollah of trying to set up a state-within-a-state. One day later, a general strike organized by the Hezbollah-led political opposition in the capital, Beirut, turned violent when Hezbollah sympathizers and government supporters exchanged gunfire. The following days, fighting spread to other parts of Beirut. Hezbollah took control over large parts of the city, including some major Sunni neighborhoods. Violent clashes erupted between Sunni government supporters and an Hezbollah-linked Alevite group in the northern city of Tripoli on May 10. Fighting in Beirut ceased when the government decided to revoke measures it had taken to curb Hezbollah's communications network and Hezbollah agreed to hand over the areas to the army. Nevertheless, Hezbollah and allied Druse groups clashed with the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) of Druse Walid Jumblatt, loyal to the government, in the district of Aley in central Mount Lebanon region some days later. Hezbollah deployed heavy artillery and rockets to defeat the PSP in their stronghold. On May 17, the rival factions held talks in Qatar and agreed on a deal to end the political crisis in Lebanon on May 21. Between 37 and 62 people had been killed in the fierce fighting over the previous weeks, causing destabilization. The Qatar deal covered the election of the Commander of the Armed Forces, Michel Suleiman, a Christian, as president and the formation of a national unity government. One week later, after 18 months of political uncertainty, Suleiman has been sworn in as president. On July 11, the national unity government was formed after seven weeks of disputes in which politically motivated bomb attacks and assassinations continued. The new government gave the Hezbollah-led former opposition effective veto power over major decisions but kept on Sunni Prime Minister Fouad Siniora. It also recognized Hezbollah as an armed force in the national defense. However, a national dialogue started between political leaders on the issue. On September 24, Sunni Saad al-Hariri, leader of the parliamentary majority, held talks with five Hezbollah leaders in the first direct meeting between the factions in two years. On October 27, Hezbollah's Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah held talks with al-Hariri. This meeting was the first between the two leaders since Israel's 2006 war in Lebanon. (kv)

Mauritania (AQIM)

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: NEW | Start: 2007 |
| Conflict parties: | AQIM vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

A new conflict emerged in December 2007 between the al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the government, concerning national power as well as system and ideology. On 12/24/07, four French tourists were shot dead and one injured by the AQIM. Three days later, AQIM gunmen killed three soldiers in a desert clash, forcing the cancellation of the annual trans-

Saharan Dakar rally. On February 1, al-Qaeda gunmen opened fire on the Israeli embassy in the capital, Nouakchott, wounding three bystanders. In the following months, especially in April, the police arrested dozens of people suspected to be linked to AQIM in manhunts. On April 6, the police clashed with Islamists in Nouakchott in the hunt for AQIM members. A policeman and a suspected Islamist militant were killed. In another police operation, two civilians were injured. Following the coup d'état on August 6 [→ Mauritania (coup plotters)], the country's new military ruler, Abdel Aziz, vowed on August 11 to crack down on militants. The next day, the leader of AQIM, Abu Mus'ab Abd al-Wadoud, called for a jihad in Mauritania. On September 15, twelve soldiers were killed in an AQIM ambush near Zouerat, close to the border to Western Sahara. (sl)

Mauritania (coup plotters)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: ↗ | Start: 2003 |
| Conflict parties: | military vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | national power | |

The power conflict between the military and the government escalated, with the second coup in two years taking place. On August 6, the military overthrew President Mohamed Abdallahi, the country's first democratically elected leader, who had taken office in 2007. After the bloodless coup, the putschists formed a High Council of State and appointed General Abdel Aziz as leader. The move came after Abdallahi had tried to dismiss several senior army commanders, among them Aziz. Many politicians backed the coup, accusing the government of corruption. The coup drew international condemnation, and the USA and the EU demanded an immediate return to constitutional government. The AU suspended Mauritania's membership until the restoration of a constitutional government. After the new military rulers had used tear gas to disperse dozens of protesters on August 6, hundreds demonstrated in support of Aziz in the capital, Nouakchott, the next day. The same day, the leading putschists promised to hold free and transparent elections as soon as possible. On September 1, the High Council of State unveiled a new government, keeping four key ministers who had served under Abdallahi. This announcement followed negotiations with political parties. However, the main opposition party refused to join the new government. In response to international pressure, the military leadership released Abdallahi on November 6. (sl)

Syria - Israel

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: ↘ | Start: 1967 |
| Conflict parties: | Syria vs. Israel | |
| Conflict items: | territory, international power, other | |

With talks resuming, the conflict between Israel and Syria over the return of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights deescalated to a manifest conflict. On May 21, Israel and Syria confirmed holding indirect talks, mediated by Turkey, in order to reach a comprehensive peace agreement. In September, Syria provided a six-point document as groundwork for a peace pro-

posal concerning the extent of Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Four rounds of talks were held in 2008. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) announced that samples taken from Al-Kibar in Syria contained traces of uranium. Al-Kibar, a former military site that had been bombed by Israel in 09/06/07, was suspected of being a nuclear reactor under construction. On November 17, the IAEA considered the traces of uranium inconclusive for the existence of a reactor. Syria stated that the only explanation for these traces was that they were contained in the missiles used to destroy the building, and also denied any covert nuclear program. (hl)

Syria - USA

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 2003 |
| Conflict parties: | Syria vs. USA | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, international power | |

The conflict between Syria and the USA over armament control and both countries' influence in Lebanon remained on the same level. In the view of the USA, Syria continued to undermine Lebanon's sovereignty. In late February, the USA ordered a warship to take position off the coast of Lebanon in a show of support for the country's embattled government [→ Lebanon (religious groups)]. The same month, US President George W. Bush, accusing Syria of sponsoring and harboring terrorists, ordered expanded economic sanctions against senior Syrian officials and their associates, freezing their assets. The sanctions were further extended on May 8, barring flights to Syria and imposing a ban on the export of all goods except food and medicine to Syria. On October 6, the USA announced it would support Lebanon with military aid. On October 26, US troops crossed the Syrian border from Iraq by helicopter, killing seven civilians and one suspected al-Qaeda associate in a firefight. The border area was a major crossing point for fighters, weapons, and money traveling into Iraq to fuel the Sunni insurgency and al-Qaeda in Iraq [→ Iraq (insurgents); Iraq (al-Zarqawi group/AQI)]. The USA neither confirmed nor denied the incident but accused Syria of allowing militants to cross the Iraqi border. Syria subsequently demanded that US and Iraqi envoys condemn the aggressive act, and ordered the closure of the American School and a US cultural center in the capital, Damascus. On October 30, thousands of people demonstrated in Damascus to protest against the US action. (hl)

Turkey (PKK/KONGRA-GEL / Kurdish areas)

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 5 | 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 escalated to war. PKK/KONGRA-GEL reportedly had up to 5,000 fighters, 3,000 of them in Kurdish northern Iraq. In the largest military build-up since 1997, Turkey moved tanks to the Iraqi border in November 2007, adding to 100,000 troops, backed by helicopter gunships and fighter jets, already positioned

there. On 12/01/07, the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) launched a cross-border operation into northern Iraq with special forces, fighter jets, and helicopters, which were supported by US real-time intelligence [→ Turkey - Iraq]. 14 PKK/KONGRA-GEL militants and one soldier were killed in two-day clashes on Mount Küpeli in the city of Sirnak since 12/04/07. Some 50 warplanes bombed PKK/KONGRA-GEL targets in northern Iraq close to the border with Turkey as well as strongholds in the Kandil Mountains further away from the frontier on 12/16/07. Two days later, the TSK launched an overnight operation with ground forces entering northern Iraq. On 12/22/07, Turkish warplanes started a two-day bombing of areas in northern Iraq. According to the TSK, the two large-scale air strikes hit more than 200 targets and killed more than 150 militants. In clashes between Turkish troops and PKK/KONGRA-GEL fighters on Küpeli in late December, eleven militants were killed. A bomb blast in the city of Istanbul killed one person and injured seven others on 12/25/07. Turkey blamed PKK/KONGRA-GEL. On January 3, a car bomb in the city of Diyarbakir killed five people, four of them children, and injured approx. 100 people, including military personnel driving by the street at the time of the explosion. PKK/KONGRA-GEL claimed responsibility for the bombing. On February 22, the TSK launched an eight-day major ground offensive into Kurdish northern Iraq. According to the Turkish media, Operation Sun involved up to 10,000 Turkish troops entering Iraq. At least 240 PKK/KONGRA-GEL fighters and 27 soldiers were reportedly killed. Turkish warplanes and artillery periodically shelled and bombed PKK/KONGRA-GEL positions in northern Iraq, killing 25 rebels in March. The clashes in southeast Turkey also continued. In April, 17 soldiers and at least 20 militants died. On May 9, PKK/KONGRA-GEL fighters attacked a military base, killing at least six soldiers. The TSK launched a ground and aerial counterattack against suspected PKK/KONGRA-GEL positions and killed approx. 20 rebels. The same month, at least ten militants were killed in fresh air strikes against PKK/KONGRA-GEL targets in northern Iraq. In mid-July, the Turkish military started a fresh large-scale operation along the border with Iraq to prevent Kurdish fighters from crossing. Approx. 50 PKK/KONGRA-GEL members and nine soldiers were killed. On July 27, two bombs in a shopping district in Istanbul killed 17 people and injured some 150. PKK/KONGRA-GEL denied any responsibility. On August 11, another bombing in the east left nine soldiers dead. In several clashes in the southeast in August and September, at least eleven militants and five soldiers died. On October 3, PKK/KONGRA-GEL members attacked a military outpost in the Semdinli region, employing heavy artillery and killing 17 soldiers. At least 23 rebels died when troops returned fire. On October 10, parliament extended the TSK mandate to carry out operations against Kurdish rebels in Iraq. The same month, the TSK launched several air strikes against PKK/KONGRA-GEL hideouts in northern Iraq, and ground operations in southeast Turkey. At least 49 militants and six soldiers died. According to official numbers of the Turkish military, the conflict claimed the lives

of 32,000 rebels, 6,482 soldiers, and 5,560 civilians from 1984 to September 2008. (sw)

Turkey - Iraq

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Intensity: 2 | Change: • | Start: 1979 |
| Conflict parties: | Turkey vs. Iraq | |
| Conflict items: | international power | |

The conflict between Turkey and Iraq concerning Turkey's violations of Iraq's territorial sovereignty continued. Turkey claimed 4,000 PKK/KONGRA-GEL militants were operating from Iraqi territory [→ Turkey (PKK/KONGRA-GEL/Kurdish areas)]. Throughout the year, the Turkish military launched several air strikes and ground operations against rebels in northern Iraq. Iraq strongly condemned the violations of its sovereignty, and urged Turkey to hold talks with PKK/KONGRA-GEL. On 12/22/07, Massoud Barzani, President of the Kurdish Regional Government in Iraq, equated aerial strikes against PKK/KONGRA-GEL in northern Iraq with attacks against Arbil, the capital of Kurdish northern Iraq. On May 1, a Turkish delegation visited Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, for talks with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani of the Kurdish Regional Government. It was the first senior official contact between Turkey and Iraqi Kurds in years. On July 10, Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Baghdad to meet al-Maliki. Turkey and Iraq signed an agreement committing the two countries to maintain a high-level strategic dialogue. However, Turkish troops continued to carry out cross-border operations. On October 14, a new round of talks to discuss cooperation against the PKK/KONGRA-GEL began in Baghdad, this time also including Massoud Barzani. (sw)

Yemen (Believing Youth Movement)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 4 | Change: ↗ | Start: 1998 |
| Conflict parties: | Believing Youth Movement vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology | |

The system conflict between the Believing Youth Movement and the government escalated to a severe crisis. The Believing Youth Movement consisted of Shia rebels belonging to the Zaidi branch of Shia Islam and was led by members of the al-Houthi family. President Ali Abdullah Saleh accused Iran of supporting the al-Houthi rebels. Despite a Qatar-mediated peace conference in June 2007, sporadic fighting and bombings broke out in northern Saada province in late 2007, and intensified in January 2008 when heavy clashes left 47 people dead on both sides. On February 1, the rebels and the government signed a peace treaty that had been negotiated in Doha, Qatar, in 2007. However, the clashes continued throughout the month. At least eleven soldiers were killed in ambushes by the rebels in northern

Saada province in late April. 18 people were killed and more than 60 wounded in a massive bomb attack outside a mosque in the city of Sadaa on May 2. The rebels denied any involvement. Two days later, the government started an offensive to regain control over a military camp held by the rebels in the Haydan district of Saada province. 19 rebels were killed in fierce fighting. According to the ICRC, approx. 100,000 people were directly affected by the May clashes, with at least 40,000 internally displaced persons in Saada city alone. As fighting moved closer to the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, in late May, heavy artillery and air strikes were used to prevent the rebels from entering the city. On July 14, the two warring sides reached an agreement that lifted a blockade by the rebels of the Sanaa-Saada highway. On July 17, President Saleh unilaterally declared the end of the fighting. Only after the withdrawal of some government troops from Sadaa province in late July, did Believing Youth Movement leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi accept a ceasefire proposal by the government on August 10. In mid-August, both sides exchanged over 150 captives as a confidence-building measure. (db, hm)

Yemen (Islamic Jihad)

| | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| Intensity: 3 | Change: ↑ | Start: 1994 |
| Conflict parties: | Islamic Jihad of Yemen, Army of Aden-Abyan, Yemeni Soldiers Brigades vs. government | |
| Conflict items: | system/ideology, national power | |

The conflict between several al-Qaeda-linked groups and the government over the orientation of the political system and national power turned violent. Throughout the year, in several raids in different provinces including the capital of Sanaa, security forces arrested dozens of suspected al-Qaeda-followers. At least two al-Qaeda associated groups, the Yemeni Soldiers Brigades and Islamic Jihad, were responsible for several assaults, attacks, and bombings of various targets ranging from tourists to western establishments, e.g. housing complexes and embassies. On January 18, three people were killed in an attack on a tourist convoy, allegedly by members of an al-Qaeda-affiliated group. On April 30, the Yemeni Soldiers Brigades attacked the Italian embassy with two mortars, causing no injuries. The US embassy was subject to bombings twice, once by the Yemeni Soldiers Brigades on March 18, and by the Islamic Jihad on September 17. In the latter incident, 16 people were killed, among them the six assailants. On August 29, the police arrested a leading figure of the Army of Aden-Abyan in the southern province of Abyan. Following the arrest, a gun battle broke out between police forces and militants, injuring at least three policemen. (hm)

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 conis.uni-hd.de

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Imprint

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We would like to thank all external proofreaders of this edition for their help and their valued suggestions!

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ISSN 1616-931X

10 €