



Heidelberg, 10.03.20

**+++ Attention: This release is on holdback until Friday, March 13 2020, 12:00 (noon), UTC+1! +++**

## PRESS RELEASE

### 358 conflicts worldwide - the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research publishes the Conflict Barometer 2019

The Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIK) presents the 28th edition of its annual world report Conflict Barometer 2019. The Conflict Barometer contains in-depth analysis of political conflict dynamics worldwide, including violent as well as non-violent conflicts. The violent conflicts are differentiated between violent crises, limited wars and wars. Indicators of conflict means and consequences are used in order to assign an intensity to a particular conflict. The report is completed by conflict maps and graphs as well as accounts of conflict resolution. Moreover, spotlight articles analyse specific conflict dimensions and their influence on political realities.

In 2019, HIK observed a total of 358 conflicts worldwide. While 162 conflicts remained non-violent, 196 were fought violently. Compared to 2018, the overall number of full-scale wars decreased slightly from 16 to 15. Of these, the drug trafficking conflict in Brazil, two intrastate conflicts in the DR Congo, as well as the conflict spurred by Islamist groups in the Sahel zone escalated to wars. While eleven wars continued, five wars de-escalated to either limited wars or violent crises. In total, 23 limited wars were observed worldwide. The observation of four conflicts was ended either due to active settlement by the conflict parties or two-year-long inactivity.

The Middle East and Maghreb remained the region with the highest number of full-scale wars, taking place in Syria, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Turkey, and Afghanistan. Yet, Syria's inter-opposition conflict de-escalated to a limited war. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the number of wars as well as limited wars decreased slightly. Besides the two wars in the DR Congo and the transstate conflict in the Sahel zone, the two wars involving Islamist Boko Haram factions in Nigeria and al-Shabaab in Somalia continued. Two wars were fought in the Americas. Alongside the drug trafficking conflict in Brazil, fighting between drug cartels, vigilante groups, and the government in Mexico continued. Moreover, three limited wars took place, comprising inter-cartel violence in Mexico and another two conflicts in Colombia. The opposition conflict in Nicaragua, however, de-escalated to a violent crisis. For the second consecutive year, no war was observed in Asia and Oceania. At the same time, HIK observed five limited wars, including two intrastate conflicts in the Philippines, ongoing tensions between Pakistan and India, violence in Rakhine State in Myanmar, as well as the newly-escalated Papua conflict in Indonesia. In Europe, no war was recorded, whereas the limited war in the Donbas region in Ukraine continued.



In the course of the presentation of the data and a press conference, the Conflict Barometer 2019 will be published on Friday, March 13, 11am, at the Center for Asian and Transcultural Studies (Heidelberg University) in Heidelberg, Germany.

The HIIK is an independent, non-profit, and interdisciplinary organization which conducts research on the emergence, dynamics, and settlement of political conflicts worldwide. Founded in 1990, this year marks the institute's 30th anniversary. More than 200 conflict researchers are currently working voluntarily for the HIIK. The Conflict Barometer 2019 is open access and can be downloaded at [www.hiik.de](http://www.hiik.de) on March 13, 12 noon.

For further information please contact us via [info@hiik.de](mailto:info@hiik.de). Statistics, graphs, and maps can be provided on request.

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Press contact:

Mayely Müller, Head of the Department for Communication

Mail: [mmueller@hiik.de](mailto:mmueller@hiik.de)

Phone: 004915902484435