



# PRESS RELEASE

Heidelberg Institute for  
International Conflict Research

# | 2015

*Heidelberg, February 26, 2016.* The Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIK) presents with the *Conflict Barometer 2015* its current data and analyses on global conflict events of the year 2015. According to its methodology, the HIK counted **409** conflicts in 2015, **223** of which were violent. The number of wars remained at **19** while the limited wars decreased to **24**.

Compared to 2014, the HIK registered three conflicts that escalated to a war. In Turkey, heavy fightings between the PKK and the government led to the ending of a two-year-long ceasefire. In the Philippines, heavy clashes between BIFF militants and the government erupted. Moreover, intercommunal violence over cattle and arable land in South Sudan also escalated to a war. Further 16 conflicts continued on war level.

Nearly a quarter of the world's political conflicts were observed in Sub-Saharan Africa. Boko Haram conducted a significantly higher number of attacks in neighboring countries of Nigeria, changing its tactics. In total, more than 12,000 conflict-related deaths and 2.4 million IDPs and refugees were reported. Further five wars were registered in Sudan and South Sudan. Heavy clashes also occurred between the conflict parties in the Central African Republic and in Somalia. Besides its activities in Somalia, the Islamist group al-Shabaab significantly increased its attacks in Kenya.

In the Middle East and Maghreb, In addition to the wars in Syria and Iraq, the HIK further observed highly violent conflicts in Afghanistan, Turkey, Yemen, and Libya.

The governments of Syria, Iraq and several other countries were supported by an international coalition in the fight against the so-called Islamic State (IS). However, the group extended the scope of its influence in 2015 by conducting attacks for instance in Afghanistan, France, and Bangladesh, among others, and consolidating its control over areas in most states of the Maghreb.

In Asia and Oceania, more than 90 percent of the conflicts were carried out on a low-violent or non-violent level. In total, six highly violent conflicts were observed in Myanmar, the Philippines, and Pakistan. On the Korean Peninsula, tensions arose after two South Korean soldiers had been wounded in several landmine explosions south of the Demilitarized Zone.

Besides the continuing war on drugs in Mexico, the Americas region witnessed in 2015 violent conflicts between governments, on the one hand, and opposition as well as indigenous groups, on the other.

In Europe, the number of conflicts rose in 2015 but most of them remained non-violent.

The sole highly violent conflict in the region, namely the war in Ukraine over the control of the Donbas region between separatists and the government, continued with more than 4,000 fatalities.

Board: Christopher Becker, Sara Engelberg, Jason Franz, Jasper Linke, Johannes Nickl  
Bergheimer Straße 58 | 69115 Heidelberg | T+49 (6221) 54 31 98 | F +49 (6221) 542896 | info@hiik.de | www.hiik.de bank  
details: Sparkasse Heidelberg | BLZ 672 500 20 | account 240 69 50

IBAN: DE71672500200002406950 | SWIFT-BIC: SOLADES1HDB | creditor-identifier: DE79HIK00000581032

In sum, seven new conflicts were registered in 2015, of which three reached the level of a violent crisis in both the Republic of Congo and Serbia concerning clashes between opposition and government, as well as in Nicaragua over the conflict between indigenous groups and the government.

In 2015, the HIIK counted 75 interstate, 280 intrastate, and 55 substate conflicts. Most of the conflicts between two or more states were conducted on a non-violent level. The countries most frequently engaged in interstate conflicts in 2015 were the US (12), Russia (8), Turkey (6), Iran (5), Japan (5), and the PRC (5).

*Since 1991, the HIIK is dedicated to the research, documentation, and evaluation of intra- and interstate political conflicts worldwide. The annually published „Conflict Barometer“ contains an overview of the current developments of violent and non-violent conflicts. The latest edition can be downloaded free of charge at [www.hiik.de/en](http://www.hiik.de/en) (as of February 26, 2016 at 12 p.m.).*

Contact: Sara Engelberg | Tel.: (+49) 6221 54 31 98 | Mail: [info@hiik.de](mailto:info@hiik.de)

Board: Christopher Becker, Sara Engelberg, Jason Franz, Jasper Linke, Johannes Nickl  
Bergheimer Straße 58 | 69115 Heidelberg | T+49 (6221) 54 31 98 | F +49 (6221) 542896 | [info@hiik.de](mailto:info@hiik.de) | [www.hiik.de](http://www.hiik.de) bank  
details: Sparkasse Heidelberg | BLZ 672 500 20 | account 240 69 50

IBAN: DE71672500200002406950 | SWIFT-BIC: SOLADES1HDB | creditor-identifier: DE79HIK00000581032