

Conflict Trends: A Global Overview, 1946–2023

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1.0 Introduction

In 2023, battle-related deaths from state-based conflicts more than halved from 2022, nonetheless 2023 was the third most violent year since 1989, only surpassed by 2021 and 2022. The dramatic increase in battle deaths over the past three years were mainly caused by three conflicts: The civil war in the Tigray region in Ethiopia, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the bombings of Gaza. Such a substantial global increase of large wars requires a re-examination of the trends and contexts in which conflict occurs. In this PRIO Paper, we provide an empirically grounded overview of global trends in conflict which we hope can help policy and decision makers, practitioners, and regional and country experts to further understand the contexts they are working in.

The analyses in this paper are based on the rich conflict data that is annually collected and published by the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP). We provide an overview of various aspects of conflict trends at the global level, particularly since 1989. We examine three types of violence that the UCDP collects data on: state-based conflicts, non-state conflicts, and one-sided violence. More specific definitions of these terms are laid out below.¹

1.1. Definitions

State-based conflict: A contested incompatibility over government and/or territory, where at least one party is a state and the use of armed force results in at least 25 battle-related deaths within a calendar year.

Non-state conflict: The use of armed force between organized groups, none of which is the government of a state, resulting in at least 25 battle-related deaths within a year.

One-sided violence: The use of armed force against civilians by the government of a state or by a formally organized group, which results in at least 25 battle-related deaths. Extrajudicial killings in custody are excluded.

Battle-related deaths: Fatalities caused by the warring parties that can be directly related to combat, including civilian losses.

War: A conflict or dyad which reaches at least 1,000 battle-related deaths in a calendar year.²

1.2 Executive Summary

State-based conflict

In 2023, the UCDP data recorded the highest number of state-based conflict since 1946, nonetheless we saw a halving of battle related deaths compared to the year before. However, despite this decrease, 2023 was the third most violent year since 1989, with approximately 122,000 battle deaths, only surpassed by 2021 and 2022. The number of battle deaths in 2023 was driven mainly by two conflicts, the ongoing invasion of Ukraine by Russia, with 71,000 battle deaths, and the devastating war between Israel and Palestine with 23,000 battle deaths incurred in less than three months of the conflict in 2023.

In 2023, 59 conflicts were recorded in 34 conflict-affected countries. Compared to 2022, this was an increase in the number of conflicts, yet a decrease in the number of conflict countries. This might seem like a contradiction, however, over the past decade we have seen an increase in countries that have more than two state-based conflicts. In 2023, as many as ten countries had two conflicts and eight countries had more than three conflicts. This might suggest that the conflict picture is becoming more complex with more actors involved. This is critical to how we understand and treat conflict.

Non-state conflict:

There were 75 non-state conflicts in 2023 which represented a decrease from the 84 non-state conflicts in 2022. Despite the decrease in the number of non-state conflicts, battle-related deaths from such conflicts were similar to 2022, around 21,000. Many of the non-state conflicts were low intensity, thus the number of conflicts was quite volatile from year to year since many of these conflicts only flared up occasionally. Nonetheless, the number of battle related deaths has been stable in recent years.

The Americas were for the first-time home to the greatest number of non-state conflicts numbering 36. Up until 2022, Africa was historically the region with the highest number but saw a large drop in 2023. Both Brazil and Mexico experienced 14 non-state conflicts in 2023, however Mexico remained the most violent country in terms of non-state conflicts, with almost 14,000 battle-related deaths. The 75 non-state conflicts recorded in 2023 affected 23 countries.

One-sided violence:

More than 10,200 fatalities from one-sided violence were recorded across 35 countries in 2023, a decrease from the 11,900 such fatalities in 2022. Non-state actors were responsible for the majority of fatalities from one-sided violence in 2023; 7,200 fatalities resulted from non-state actor perpetrated one-sided violence compared to 2,000 from government actors, which was halved from 2022. While this continued an already existing trend, the gap between the number of fatalities from one-sided violence perpetrated by non-state actors and that by state-based actors has widened. Despite this, thirteen governments were still responsible for violence against civilians in 2023.

2.0 State-Based Conflict

The UCDP categorizes four different types of state-based conflicts: colonial conflict; interstate conflict; civil conflict; and internationalized civil conflict. Of these, civil conflicts are the most common. Alongside state-based conflicts, conflicts waged between non-state actors have become increasingly common in the past decades. We discuss non-state conflicts in Section 3.

To be included in the data as a state-based conflict, there must be a contested incompatibility that concerns government control (for example between the Government of Mali and Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM)) and/or territory (for example between the Government of Israel and Hamas over Palestine), where the use of armed force between two parties results in at least 25 battle-related deaths in a calendar year. Battle-related deaths account for fatalities caused by the warring parties that can be directly related to combat.³ This measurement is important, as it provides us with information about the severity of a conflict and allows us to differentiate between conflicts and wars.

2.1 Global Trends in State-Based Conflict

The level of state-based conflicts has fluctuated over time. Figure 1 depicts the number and type of state-based conflicts between 1946 and 2023. The black line shows the number of battle-related-deaths per year.

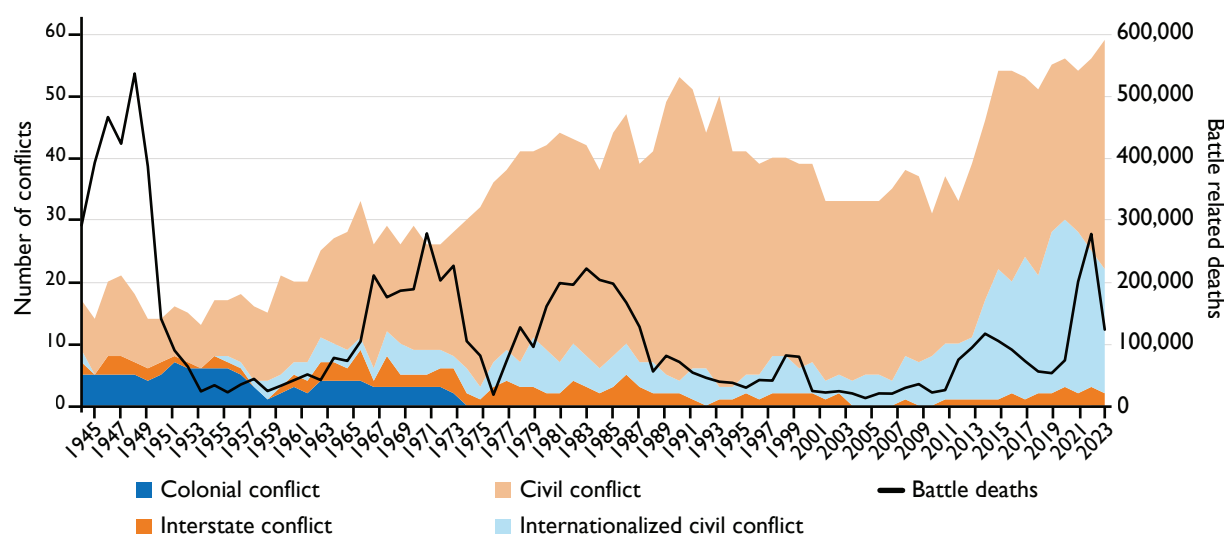


Figure 1: Number of state-based armed conflicts by conflict type, 1946–2023. Source: Lacina and Gleditsch Battle Death Dataset (2005), UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset, and UCDP Battle-Related Deaths Dataset (Pettersen, Davies, Engström, and Öberg, 2024).

Based on an analysis of state-based armed conflicts over time, we can identify three main trends. First, while the number of battle-related deaths declined between 2015 and 2020, there has been a substantial increase over the past three years. The three most violent years in terms of battle deaths since the end of the Cold War have been 2021, 2022 and 2023. Over this period in total almost 600,000 people were killed in conflict. This increase is driven by three wars: the war

between the Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which resulted in more than 286,000 killed in 2021 and 2022; the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, which resulted in more than 160,000 battle-related deaths in 2022 and 2023; and finally the war between Israel and Palestine in Gaza, resulting in more than 23,000 killed in three months in 2023. The latter two conflicts are still ongoing and we can expect high numbers of deaths in 2024 as well. In 2023, we also witnessed a brutal conflict in Sudan playing out in the capital Khartoum between rival factions of the military government in Sudan, resulting in more than 5,000 reported killed.

Second, following a decrease in state-based conflicts in the 1990s, **there has been a worrying increase in state-based conflicts over the past decade. More than 50 state-based conflicts have been recorded each year for the past eight years, peaking in 2023 with 59 conflicts.** The only other period since 1946 where more than 50 state-based conflicts have been recorded was during the early 1990s. The increase in the 1990s has two main explanations. Firstly, due to the Cold War, the United States and Soviet Union often supported different sides in civil wars. Thus, the warring parties had easier access to funding, and we saw an accumulation of civil conflicts during the 1980s and early 1990s. Secondly, we saw a number of conflicts as a consequence of the break-up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. However, with the end of the Cold War, the funding for civil wars dried up, and many of the conflicts related to the former Soviet Union were short lived, leading to a substantial decrease in conflict in the late 1990s and 2000s.

The increase in state-based conflicts since 2015 can in part be attributed to the expansion of the Islamic State (IS) across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. In many cases, IS has become involved in already ongoing conflicts, such as in the Boko Haram conflict in Nigeria, or the Mindanao conflict in the Philippines. However, these conflicts are recorded as separate conflicts in the UCDP dataset, meaning that the number of conflicts increases substantially. In 2023, IS was involved in conflicts in 12 different countries, which is the lowest since 2015, thus IS cannot explain the increase in the number of state-based conflicts from 2022 to 2023. This indicates that there is an increase in *other* non-state actors getting involved in conflicts. For example, the Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) group, a militant jihadist organization that was established as a merger of several Islamist groups in West Africa in 2017, has spread throughout West Africa and in 2023 it was represented in five West African countries.

The third main trend we identify from our analysis is that, while the dominant type of state-based conflict is civil conflict, **over the past decade, civil conflicts have become increasingly internationalized.** A civil conflict is regarded as internationalized if one or more third-party governments are involved in the conflict through contributing or deploying combat personnel in support of the objective of either side. The UN or regional Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) could count as such, depending on their mandates, but do not automatically make a conflict internationalized. In 2023, there were 59 state-based conflicts, 23 of which were internationalized civil conflicts, as shown in Figure 2. However, while this number is very high compared to the period before 2010, we actually see a decrease over the past two years. Since 2015, internationalized civil

conflicts have killed more people per year than civil conflicts without international involvement. However, in 2023 this was reversed. While the number of battle related deaths was still very high, most of these occurred in either the Russian-Ukraine conflict, which is not included here as it is not a civil war, or the attacks on Gaza, where there are no international actors involved.

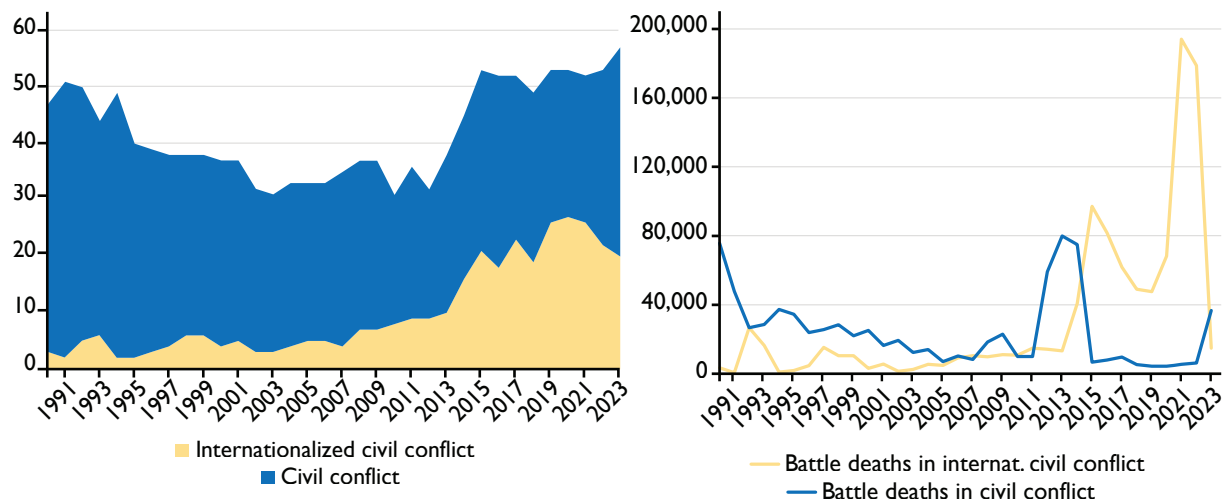


Figure 2: Civil conflicts with and without international involvement, including battle-related deaths, 1989-2023. Source: UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset and UCDP Battle-Related Deaths Dataset (Pettersson, Davies, Engström, and Öberg, 2024).

One country can have several conflicts. Figure 3 shows the total number of conflicts (black line) and the number of countries affected by conflict per year (blue bar). Between 1997 and 2012, the ratio of countries and conflicts was rather stable, with the number of conflicts slightly higher than the number of countries, indicating that some countries experienced more than one conflict per year. However, after 2012, we saw an increase in the gap between the two, a greater number of conflicts per year in a lesser number of countries. In 2023, 59 conflicts affected 34 countries, thus an increase in number of conflicts and a decrease in conflict countries. This suggests that we do not see a general increase in conflict, but that some countries experience more conflict. This is clear in Figure 4, which indicates the number and share of countries with more than one conflict. In 2023, more than half of the conflict countries experienced more than one conflict, and seven countries experienced three or more conflicts within their borders.

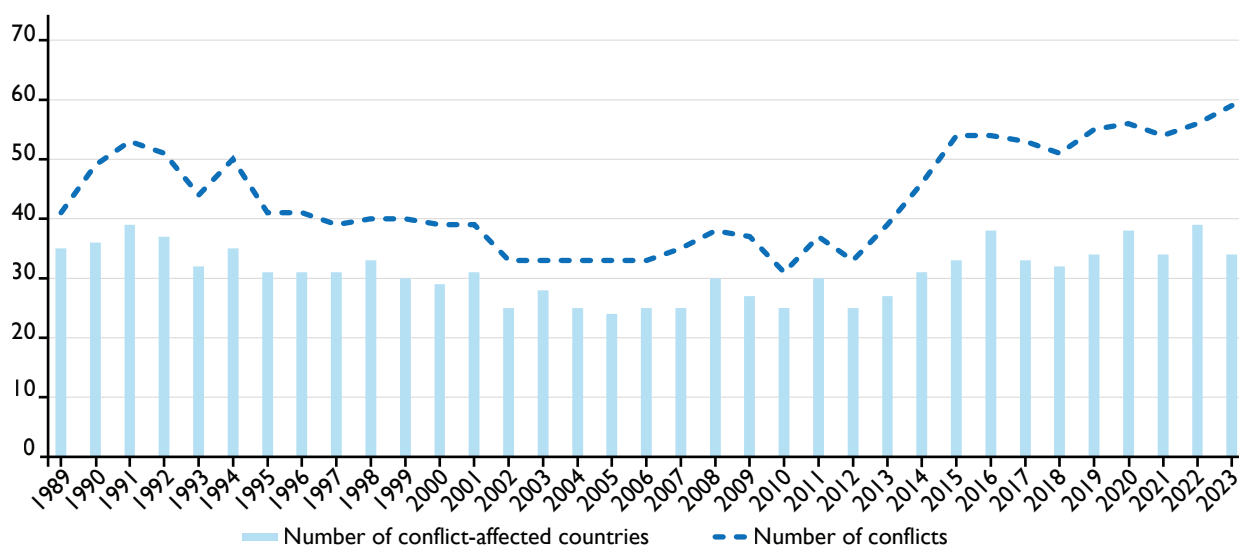


Figure 3: Number of conflicts and conflict-affected countries, 1989-2023. Source: UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset and UCDP Battle-Related Deaths Dataset (Pettersson, Davies, Engström, and Öberg, 2024).

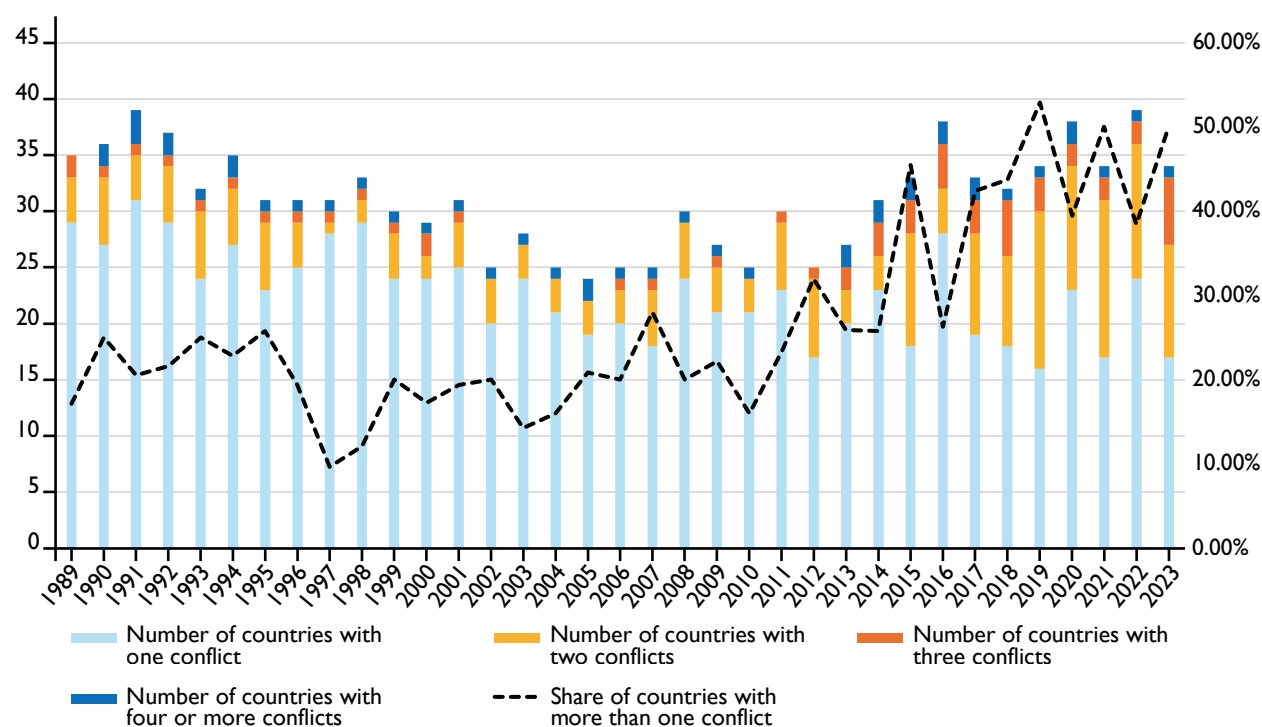


Figure 4: Number of conflict countries, number of conflicts with countries and share of countries with more than one conflict, 1989-2023. Source: UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset and UCDP Battle-Related Deaths Dataset (Pettersson, Davies, Engström, and Öberg, 2024).

2.2 Trends in Conflict Intensity

Typically, the cumulative number of battle-related deaths globally is driven by a few high-intensity conflicts, which we refer to as wars. While there are significantly more conflicts than wars, the number of battle-related deaths from wars far exceeds the number of battle-related deaths from conflicts.

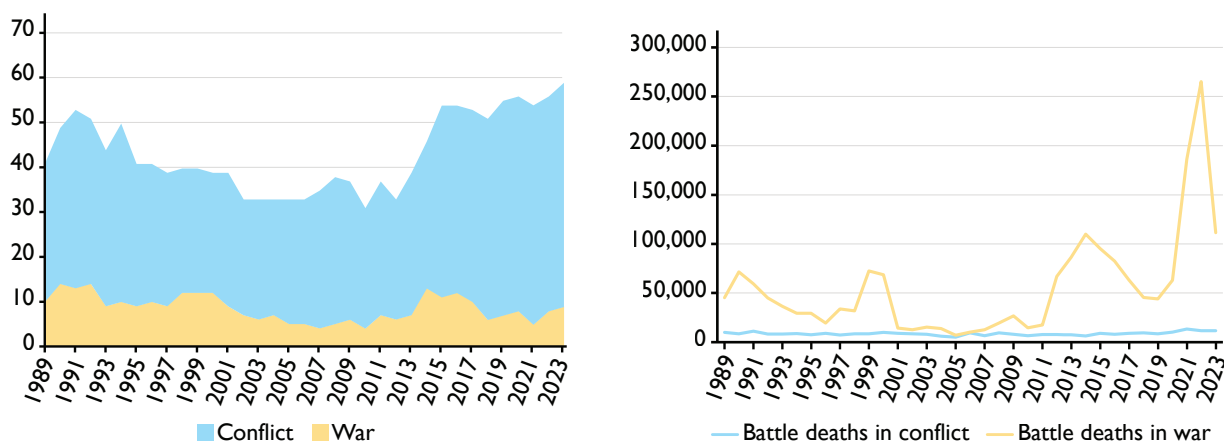


Figure 5: Number of conflicts, wars, and battle-related deaths resulting from each, 1989-2023. Source: UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset and UCDP Battle-Related Deaths Dataset (Petterson, Davies, Engström, and Öberg, 2024).

In Figure 5, we differentiated between conflicts and wars. The number of wars peaked in 2014, with a total of 13 wars, or almost 30% of the total number of violent conflicts. Since 2018, the proportion of wars has been in decline. However, in 2022, this trend turned, and we saw an increase in wars again. This trend continued in 2023, with nine wars. These nine wars included Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Israel, Myanmar, Nigeria, Russia and Ukraine, Somalia, Sudan and Syria. Notably, for the first time since 2015, the conflict in Yemen was no longer categorized as a war.

In Figure 6, we differentiated between battle-related deaths in 2022 from those in 2023 at country level. This highlights the significant decrease in the number of battle-related deaths in 2023 as well as the shift in the most intense conflicts. In 2022, Ethiopia (blue) and Ukraine (orange) were the two most dominant conflicts. In 2023, Ukraine continued to dominate and together with Israel/Palestine (yellow) escalated to be the two conflicts with the greatest number of battle-related deaths.

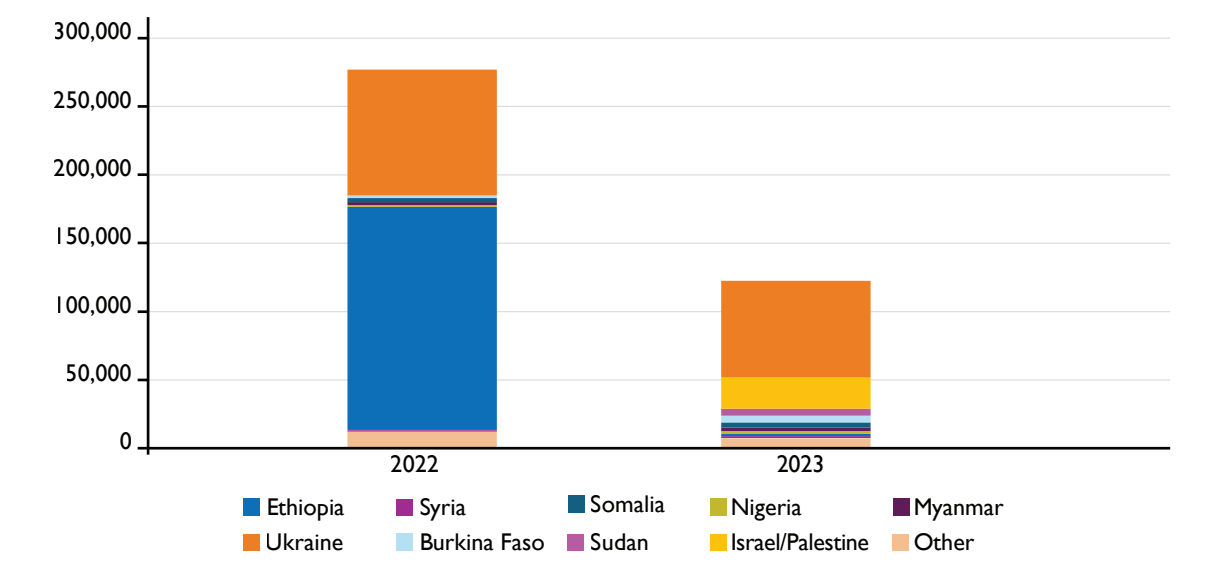


Figure 6: Share of battle-related deaths in 2022 and 2023. Source: UCDP Battle-Related Deaths Dataset (Pettersson, Davies, Engström, and Öberg, 2024).

2.3 Regional Variation in State-Based Conflict

To gain a more historical perspective of the relative share of state-based conflicts in the world, we show regional variation in state-based conflict trends between 1946 and 2023 in Figure 7. Africa remains the region with the most state-based conflicts per year in 2023 (28), followed by Asia (17), the Middle East (10), Europe (3), and the Americas (1). Compared to ten years ago, the number of conflicts in Africa has nearly doubled, from 15 in 2013 to 28 in 2023. The earlier decrease in the number of conflicts in the Middle East have reversed with an increase from eight to ten from 2022 to 2023. In 2022, slightly more than 5,000 battle-related deaths were recorded in the Middle East, the lowest since 2011. However, in 2023 the number was back up at almost 26,000. It is noteworthy that most 23,000 of these were registered in the Israel-Palestine war. Thus, we see that while the violence in the Middle East continues it is now driven by a different conflict than previously. On the one hand, this gives hope that fatalities resulting from extreme violence in complex conflicts such as in Syria can diminish, on the other hand, it is a continuing concern that we see new extremely violent conflicts emerging more often than previously.

Figure 8 provides a global overview of state-based conflict events in 2023. State-based conflict events (blue dots) are concentrated in Ethiopia, Ukraine, Gaza and Myanmar, as well as several other countries in Africa.

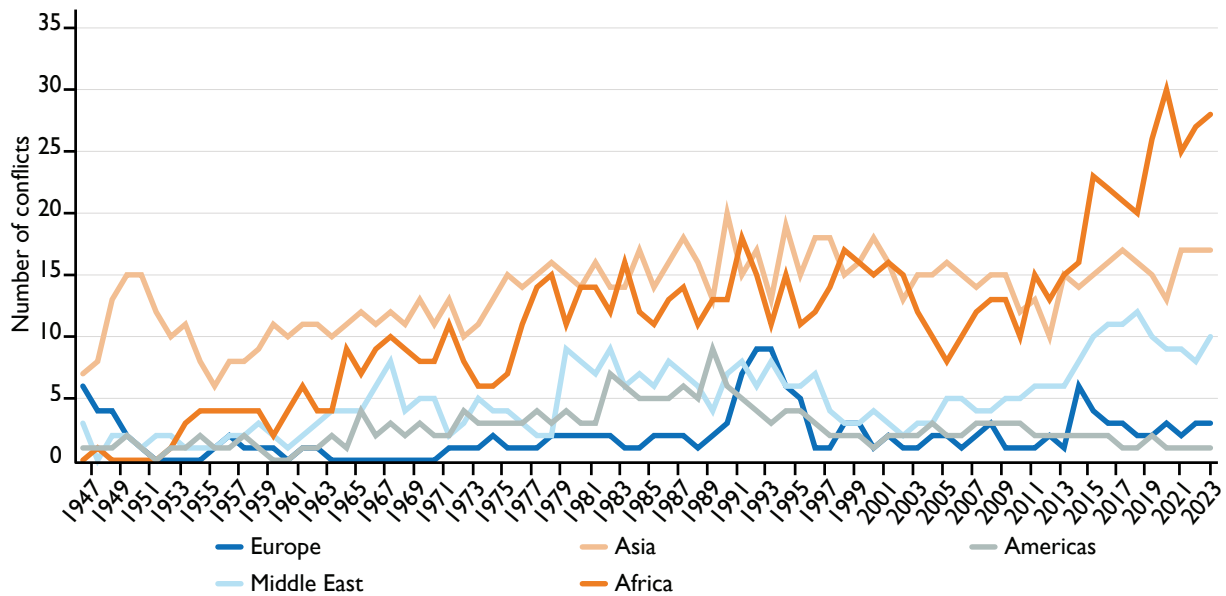


Figure 7: Number of countries with state-based armed conflict by region, 1946-2023. Source: UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset (Pettersson, Davies, Engström, and Öberg, 2024).

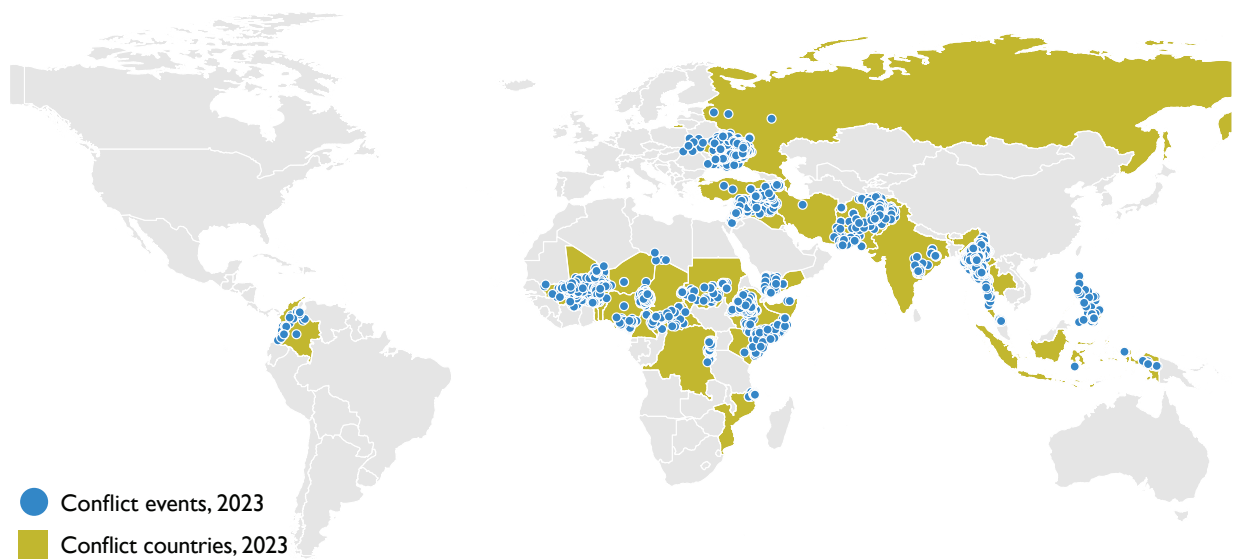


Figure 8: State-based conflict events and conflict-affected countries, 2023. Source: UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset (GED) (Pettersson, Davies, Engström, and Öberg, 2024).

3.0 Non-State Conflicts

Conflicts do not have to involve the government of a state to cause considerable human suffering. In fact, a significant level of contemporary violence takes place between groups without governmental links. Organized groups come in multiple forms, as discussed below.

3.1 Global Trends in Non-State Violence

There has been an increase in non-state conflicts throughout the past ten years, as shown in Figure 9. In 2023, 75 non-state conflicts occurred, a slight decrease from the 84 in 2022. As Figure 9 indicates, the number of non-state conflicts has stabilized at a considerably higher level than we saw a decade ago. The UCDP categorizes three types of non-state groups: (i) *formally organized groups*, which are any non-governmental group of people who have announced a name for their group and use armed force against another similarly organized group; (ii) *informally organized groups*, which are composed of supporters of political parties; and (iii) *informally organized groups* who often identify through a communal conflict, organized around a common identity, such as religious, ethnic, national, tribal or clan lines.

The rise in non-state conflicts is driven by a substantial increase in the number of conflicts between formally organized groups. The number of communal conflicts has also increased gradually in recent years, while the number of non-state conflicts between informally organized groups is stable and remains at low levels (fewer than two per year generally). Figure 9 shows the number of battle-related deaths per non-state group organization type. In total, more than 21,000 battle-related deaths from non-state conflicts were recorded in 2023, which is approximately the same level as in 2022.

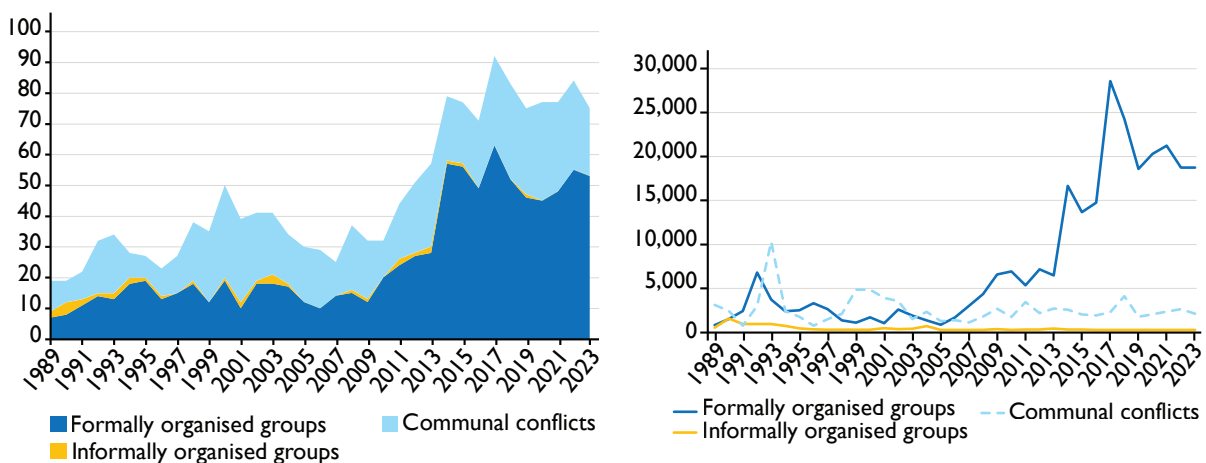


Figure 9: Non-state conflicts by conflict type and battle-related deaths in non-state conflict by organization type, 1989-2023. Source: UCDP Non-State Conflict Dataset (Pettersson, Davies, Engström, and Öberg, 2024).

3.2 Regional Variation

Figure 10 shows the variation in the number of non-state conflicts by region between 1989 and 2023. The Americas were for the first time the region most severely affected by non-state conflicts. The Americas have experienced a sharp increase in the number of non-state conflicts since 2017. This increase was mainly due to an increase in violence between drug cartels in Mexico, but also increasingly in Brazil. In total, these two countries accounted for more than 19,000 non-state conflict battle deaths in 2023. On the other hand, Africa has experienced a sharp decrease in non-state conflicts. Historically, Africa has been the region most prone to non-state conflicts but has in the past six years seen a decrease. While Africa and the Americas were both home to the highest number of non-state conflicts, they were characterized by different types of non-state actors. Non-state conflict in the Americas was most likely to be between highly organized actors, while in Africa we saw a higher number of communal conflicts. The Middle East, which experienced the largest increase in the 2010s, has since seen a sharp decline in the number of non-state conflicts. Europe and Asia have relatively low levels of non-state conflicts.

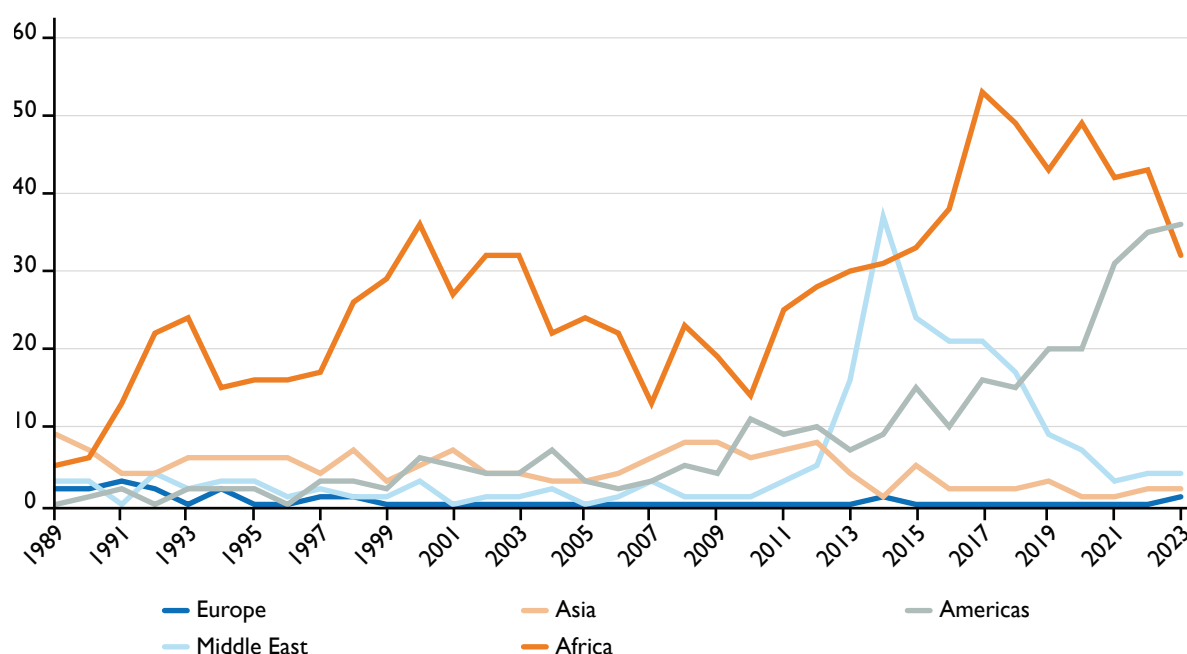


Figure 10: Total number of non-state conflicts by region, 1989-2023. Source: UCDP Non-State Conflict Dataset (Pettersson, Davies, Engström, and Öberg, 2024).

4.0 One-Sided Violence

Civilians are often the hardest hit by violence in ongoing conflicts, regardless of whether the conflict is state-based or non-state. As the UCDP excludes extrajudicial killings in their definition of one-sided violence, government-perpetrated violence is likely to be under-reported.

4.1 Global Trends in One-Sided Violence

Overall, fatalities from one-sided violence slightly decreased in 2023 compared to 2022, but they were still relatively high compared to the last decade. Figure 11 shows the number of actors who perpetrated one-sided violence per year by actor type, categorized as either government or non-state actor (left), as well as the number of fatalities resulting from one-sided violence (right). While government-driven one-sided violence was at its highest for almost 20 years in 2021 with more than 5,600 fatalities, we saw a decrease in the past two years, reaching just above 2,000 fatalities in 2023. This decrease can partly be explained by the ending of the war in Ethiopia, as well as fewer observed fatalities linked to one-sided violence by Russia compared to 2022. Fatalities from non-state actors on the other hand increased in 2023 and are at the highest point since 2015, reaching more than 8,200 fatalities.

Over time the number of actors perpetrating one-sided violence has increased since the 2000s, however in 2023 we saw a small decrease both for government actors and non-state actors, going from 49 actors in total in 2022 to 42 in 2023.

Alongside government-perpetrated one-sided violence and state-based conflict, non-state groups perpetrated one-sided violence in several countries. The Democratic Republic of Congo was one of the countries with the highest number of actors that resorted to one-sided violence, particularly in the eastern regions of the country. Further, we also saw that several transnational Islamist groups such as IS, JNIM and JAS (former Boko Haram), accounted for a large share of the fatalities particularly in West Africa.

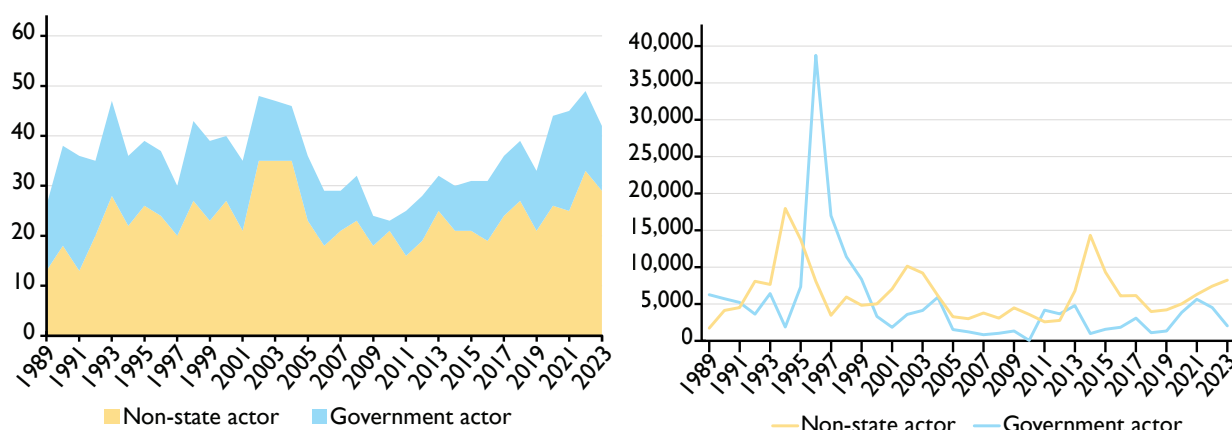


Figure 11: Incidents of one-sided violence including number of perpetrators and fatalities, 1989-2023.⁴ Source: UCDP One-Sided Violence Dataset (Pettersson, Davies, Engström, and Öberg, 2024).

4.2 Regional Variation

There is variation in the use of one-sided violence between the five regions. Figure 12 shows the number of groups that conducted one-sided violence in each region between 1989 and 2023. We saw that, similar to the number of non-state conflicts, Africa hosted the greatest number of such groups (23). Comparatively, the Americas (12), Asia (4), Europe (1) and the Middle East (2) were home to groups which perpetrated one-sided violence. However, this did not account for the scale at which they did so.

The number of groups using one-sided violence was stable in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Americas between 2022 and 2023. Conversely, the number of armed groups using one-sided violence in Africa decreased from 31 to 23. This was because four non-state groups in DR Congo had not registered fatalities in 2023. Furthermore, four African governments (Central African Republic, Eritrea, Sudan and South Sudan) reportedly did not engage in one sided violence. While the Americas were stable from 2022 to 2023 with 12 actors perpetrating violence, we saw a sharp increase over the past five years in this region. In 2023, fatalities caused by one-sided violence in Haiti tripled from 2022 to 2023. This wave of violence was instigated by the assassination of President Jovenel in 2021, which created political turmoil and increased the growth of violent non-state actors.

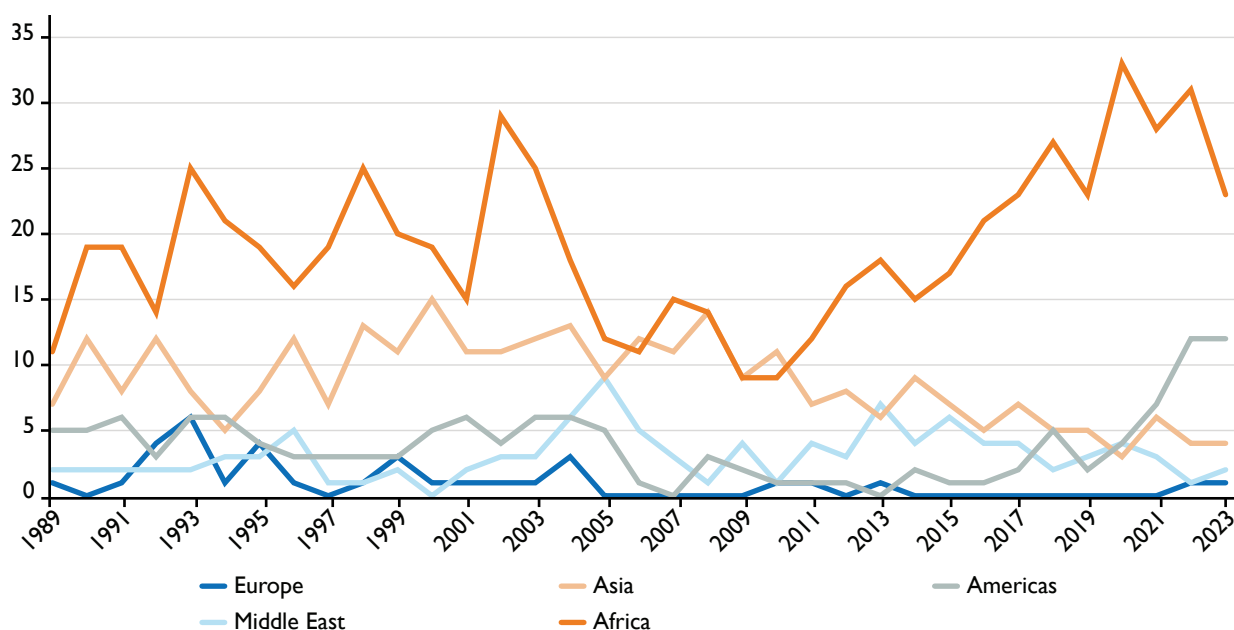


Figure 12: Number of actors who used one-sided violence by region, 1989-2023. Source: UCDP One-Sided Violence Dataset (Pettersson, Davies, Engström, and Öberg, 2024).

Conclusion

In this PRIO Paper, we have provided an overview of trends in state-based conflicts, non-state conflicts, and one-sided violence at the global level between 1946 and 2023. We have disaggregated the global data to the regional and country level to gain a better understanding of today's conflict patterns.

What does the data tell us about state-based conflicts in 2023? Fifty-nine state-based conflicts were recorded in 34 conflict-affected countries, resulting in more than 122,000 battle-related deaths throughout the year. In 2023, there was a significant decrease in the number of battle-related deaths from state-based conflicts compared to 2022, but it was still the third most violent year since 1989. Two wars were the driving forces behind the high numbers of battle deaths: the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the Israel-Palestine war. Although the war in Ukraine has gotten less attention due to the Israeli war on Gaza, and there seems to be some fatigue in willingness to help, the number of battle deaths were almost as high as in 2022.

We saw a decrease in the number of non-state conflicts, from 84 in 2022 to 75 in 2023. Despite the decrease in the number of such conflicts, battle-related deaths from non-state conflicts remained fairly stable at around 21,000 fatalities. Historically Africa has been the region with most non-state conflicts, but in 2023 the Americas surpassed Africa. This was a result of a continuing trend in the Americas: We saw non-state conflicts related to gangs and drug cartels increasing in both Brazil and Mexico. Mexico continued to be the most violent country in terms of non-state violence, accounting for about two thirds of all non-state battle-related deaths in 2023, with more than 13,700 fatalities. These deaths were related to the high levels of violence between drug cartels in the country.

More than 10,200 fatalities from one-sided violence were recorded in 2023. While non-state actors were responsible for the majority of fatalities from one-sided violence, thirteen governments perpetrated one-sided violence as well. One-sided violence was often committed in state-based conflicts. This was the case in both Russia's invasion of Ukraine and in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, similarly to non-state conflicts there was an increase of one-sided violence in the Americas in countries which do not have state-based conflicts, particularly such as Haiti, but also Brazil and Mexico.

Despite the substantial decrease in battle related deaths, 2023 turned out to be one of the most violent years since the end of the Cold War. We saw a record high number of conflicts at 59, the highest since 1946. However, the number of countries that experienced conflict has decreased from 39 to 34. This could suggest that the conflict landscape is becoming increasingly more complex, with more conflict actors operating within the same country. The trends within non-state conflicts support this assumption, as we saw a rise over the past decade, and an increasing number of transnational non-state actors such as IS and JNIM. This development made it progressively more difficult for both internal organizations and third-party actors, such as aid organizations, to manoeuvre in the conflict landscape.

State-based Conflict-Affected Countries by Region

Africa

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Togo

Americas

- Colombia

Asia

- Afghanistan
- India
- Indonesia
- Myanmar
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Thailand

Europe

- Azerbaijan
- Ukraine
- Russia

Middle East

- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel/Palestine
- Syria
- Turkey
- Yemen

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Notes

1. We should note the limitations of our PRIO Papers in the Conflict Trends Reporting series. We rely on UCDP data because it is the best available data when it comes to armed violence, yet some caveats remain. First, while we provide an overview of trends in data, we do not provide causal explanations for particular trends (although we highlight existing research results). Second, UCDP's data on one-sided violence faces two criticisms: coding source bias and inaccuracy in reported numbers, both of which present limitations to the data. Coding is based on news reports as well as reports from human rights organizations and UN reports. Open-source information can be subject to manipulation by governments. Moreover, it is difficult to obtain quality data on violence in detention centres and on extrajudicial killings, and thus such deaths are by definition excluded from UCDP's data on one-sided violence. Additional information on extrajudicial killings can be found in the Political Terror Scale (PTS), which is the most widely used data source on this topic. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch should be consulted for country-specific reports.
2. Unless otherwise noted, we often use the term 'conflict' to refer to both armed conflicts (with a minimum of 25 battle-related deaths per year) and wars (armed conflicts with more than 1,000 battle-related deaths per year) for simplicity's sake. The exception is when we examine conflict intensity, which is when we distinguish between 'conflict' and 'war'.
3. Battle-related deaths do not account for the significant number of indirect deaths from conflict, such as those resulting from famine, lack of health facilities or collateral damage. Numbers from indirect deaths are difficult to verify due to the lack of reliable data.
4. Figure 11 excludes one-sided fatalities related to the genocide in Rwanda due to the magnitude of the one-sided violence. The UCDP one-sided violence data has registered 768,619 fatalities in Rwanda in 1994 at the hands of the Rwandan Government.

Conflict Trends: A Global Overview, 1946–2023

This PRIO Paper examines global conflict trends between 1946 and 2023 using data from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP). In 2023, 59 state-based conflicts were recorded in 34 countries, the highest number of conflicts registered since 1946. The wars in Ukraine and Gaza were the primary contributors to the more than 122,000 battle-related deaths in 2023, despite a substantial decrease from the previous year, 2022

is third most violent year since the end of the Cold War. Non-state conflicts decreased compared to previous years. In 2023, 75 non-state conflicts were recorded resulting in approximately 21,000 battle-related deaths. The Americas is the region with the highest number of non-state conflicts, and Mexico remains one of the most violent countries in terms of non-state conflicts, with almost 14,000 battle-related deaths. One-sided

violence against civilians was recorded in 35 countries in 2023. Non-state actors remain the drivers behind fatalities resulting from one-sided violence, however, thirteen governments were responsible for one-sided violence against civilians in 2023. While battle related-deaths decreased in 2023, we see an increase by non-state actors in several countries, thus making the conflict landscape more complex and difficult to navigate.