

Appendix 2A. Patterns of major armed conflicts, 1990–2005

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I. Global patterns

In 2005, 17 major armed conflicts were active in 16 locations throughout the world. The number of major armed conflicts has declined steadily since 1999, and the figure for 2005 is the lowest for the entire post-cold war period 1990–2005. The annual number of conflicts was substantially higher in the first half of the 1990s, ranging from 27 to 31, with 1991 the peak year.

No interstate conflict was recorded for 2005, but a low number of interstate conflicts is not a new phenomenon. In the 16-year period 1990–2005, only four of the 57 active conflicts were fought between states: Eritrea–Ethiopia (1998–2000); India–Pakistan (1990–92 and 1996–2003); Iraq–Kuwait (1991); and Iraq versus the USA and its allies (2003). The remaining 53 conflicts in the period were fought within states and concerned either control over government (30 conflicts) or control over territory (23 conflicts). The conflicts over government outnumbered the conflicts over territory in all years of the post-cold war period apart from 1993.

In 2005 external states contributed troops to the side of the government in three internal conflicts: the conflict between the Government of Afghanistan and the Taliban; the conflict between the Iraqi Government and numerous Iraqi insurgent groups; and the conflict between the Government of the USA and al-Qaeda.¹ The USA was also a major actor in the first two of these conflicts, making it the state that was most frequently involved in major armed conflicts in 2005.

II. Regional patterns

In 2005 Asia was the region with the highest number of conflicts, with seven active major armed conflicts. There were three conflicts in each of the three regions Africa, the Americas and the Middle East, and one in Europe. The regional distribution of major armed conflicts and locations over the period 1990–2005 is shown in tables 2A.1 and 2A.2, respectively. Figure 2A.1 displays the regional distribution and total number of conflicts for each year in this period.

¹ For information on the states contributing troops in these conflicts see table 2A.3. For background to the conflict between the USA and al-Qaeda and the complex issues affecting its coding in the database see Eriksson, M., Sollenberg, M. and Wallensteen, P., 'Patterns of major armed conflicts, 1990–2001', *SIPRI Yearbook 2002: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security* (Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2002), pp. 67–68.

* Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. For table 2A.3, Johan Brosche was responsible for the conflict locations Russia and Sudan; Kristine Eck for India and Nepal; Hanne Fjelde for Afghanistan; Erika Forsberg for the Philippines; Helena Grusell for Colombia and Peru; Joop de Haan for Turkey; Lotta Harbom for Sri Lanka and Uganda; Stina Högladh for Burundi; and Joakim Kreutz for Iraq, Israel and Myanmar.

Throughout the post-cold war period, *Africa* was one of the main arenas for major armed conflict. From 1990, 19 conflicts were fought in 17 locations in this region, only one of which was an interstate conflict—that between Eritrea and Ethiopia.² After 2000 there was a constant decline in the number of conflicts in Africa; in 2005 only three were recorded—the lowest figure for the region in the post-cold war period. The peak years were 1998 and 1999: 11 conflicts were active in Africa in both these years. The vast majority (15) of the 18 intra-state conflicts in Africa in the period 1990–2005 concerned governmental power.

The Americas (including North, Central and South America as well as the Caribbean) accounted for six major armed conflicts in the period 1990–2005.³ The number of conflicts in the region has decreased steadily from a peak in the first year of the period, when there were five active conflicts, until 1997–2000, when only two conflicts were registered. Since 2001 the same three conflicts have been active each year. Two of these, Colombia and Peru, were registered for each year in the entire period since 1990.⁴ All the region's conflicts were intra-state conflicts fought over governmental power.

Asia was the scene of 15 major armed conflicts in the period 1990–2005.⁵ While Africa had the highest total number of conflicts in the period, the annual totals were higher in Asia (see figure 2A.1). Over the seven-year period 1990–96 the number of conflicts in Asia fluctuated between 9 and 12, but since 1997 the number has slowly declined, reaching the lowest level in 2004, with six conflicts. In 2005 the number increased by one—the conflict between the Government of Afghanistan and the Taliban. Four of the Asian conflicts recorded for 2005—India (Kashmir), Myanmar (Karen), Sri Lanka (Eelam) and the Philippines—were active in all 16 years of the period. One conflict in the region, between India and Pakistan, was fought between states. Of the 14 intra-state conflicts in Asia, only six concerned governmental power, with the remaining eight concerning territory.

Europe accounted for seven major armed conflicts in the post-cold war period.⁶ Apart from the two years 1993 and 1994, Europe has been the region that annually experienced the lowest number of major armed conflicts.⁷ After an increase between 1990 (zero) and 1993–94 (four in each of the two years), brought about mainly by the

² The 19 major armed conflicts recorded for Africa for the period 1990–2005 were Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire), the Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ethiopia (Eritrea), Eritrea–Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Morocco (Western Sahara), Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Sudan (Southern Sudan) and Uganda. Note that in this appendix, when only the name of a country is given, this indicates that the conflict is over government. When the conflict is over territory, the name of the contested territory appears in parentheses after the country name.

³ The 6 major armed conflicts recorded for the Americas in 1990–2005 were Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru and the USA (the conflict between the US Government and al-Qaeda).

⁴ The third conflict in this category was that fought between the USA and al-Qaeda.

⁵ The 15 major armed conflicts recorded for Asia in 1990–2005 were Afghanistan, Cambodia, India (Kashmir), India (Punjab), India–Pakistan, Indonesia (East Timor), Myanmar (Kachin), Myanmar (Karen), Myanmar (Shan), Nepal, the Philippines, the Philippines (Mindanao), Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka (Eelam) and Tajikistan.

⁶ The 7 major armed conflicts in Europe in 1990–2005 were Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Herceg-Bosna), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska), Georgia (Abkhazia), Russia (Chechnya), the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Croatia) and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo).

⁷ In 1999 the Americas matched this level.

Table 2A.1. Regional distribution, number and types of armed conflicts, 1990–2005

Region	1990		1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005				
	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T					
Africa	6	3	7	3	5	1	5	1	6	1	5	1	3	1	4	1	9	2	9	2	9	2	7	2	7	1	6	1	5	1	5	1	3	0	
Americas	5	0	4	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	
Asia	4	8	3	7	4	7	4	6	4	5	4	6	4	5	3	5	3	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	4	3	4	
Europe	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	4	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Middle East	1	3	3	3	2	3	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	0	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	
Total G&T	16	14	17	14	14	13	14	15	15	14	14	13	12	11	11	8	16	10	14	11	14	11	13	10	13	9	11	9	11	9	11	8	10	7	
Total	30	31	31	27	29	27	29	29	29	29	27	27	23	23	19	26	26	25	25	25	23	23	23	22	22	20	20	20	19	19	17	17	17		

G = Government and T = Territory, the two types of incompatibility

Table 2A.2. Regional distribution of locations with at least one major armed conflict, 1990–2005

Region	1990		1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		
	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T			
Africa	8	9	9	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	6	4	4	5	5	11	11	11	11	9	9	8	8	7	7	5	5	5	5	3	3		
America	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Asia	8	8	8	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	6	6	
Europe	0	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Middle East	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Total	25	26	26	24	24	24	24	24	26	26	23	21	21	19	19	26	26	25	25	22	22	22	21	19	19	18	18	17	17	16	16	16	

Source: Uppsala Conflict Data Program.

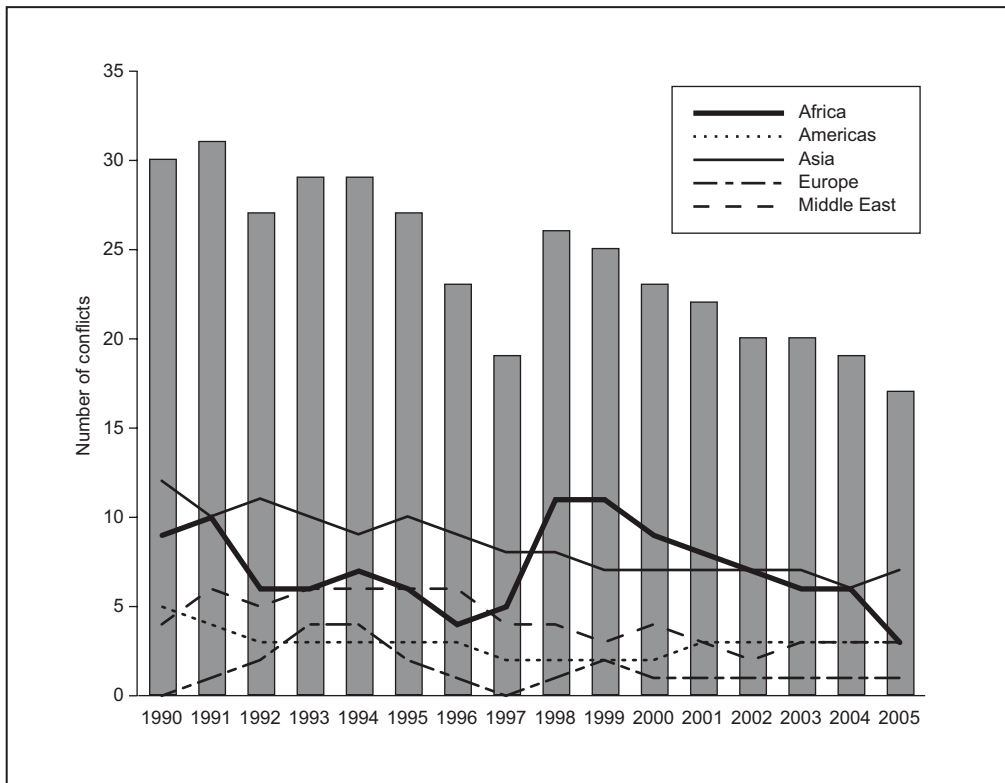


Figure 2A.1. Regional distribution and total number of major armed conflicts, 1990–2005

conflicts in the Balkans, the number again dropped to zero in 1997. Since 2000, the only active conflict in Europe has been that between the Government of Russia and the Republic of Chechnya. The seven conflicts fought in Europe over the 16-year period have all been intra-state conflicts. In contrast to the situation in other regions, they were all fought over territory.

For *the Middle East*, a total of 10 major armed conflicts were registered for the period 1990–2005.⁸ The lowest number was recorded for 2002, when two conflicts were active. The number then increased to three in 2003 and remained at that level in 2005. Only one conflict was active in all years of the period, that between the Government of Israel and Palestinian groups. However, it is worth noting that the protracted conflict in Turkey (Kurdistan) has been registered for all years of the period since 1992. There have been two interstate conflicts in the region: that between Iraq and Kuwait, and that between Iraq and the US-led coalition. Eight of the major armed conflicts were intra-state: three of these conflicts were fought over governmental power and five over territory.

⁸ The 10 major armed conflicts in the Middle East in 1990–2005 were Iran; Iran (Kurdistan); Iraq; Iraq (Kurdistan); Iraq–Kuwait; Iraq–USA, UK and Australia; Israel (Palestine); Lebanon; Turkey (Kurdistan); and Yemen.

III. Changes in the table of conflicts for 2005

Conflicts added to the table in 2005

One conflict was added to the table for 2005: that between the Government of Afghanistan and the Taliban. A major armed conflict was last recorded in Afghanistan in 2001, when the United Islamic Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (UIFSA, commonly referred to as the Northern Alliance) toppled the Taliban government with the support of a US-led multinational coalition. By 2003 the Taliban was able to regroup and reorganize, and it took up arms against the new Afghan regime. In 2005 the conflict escalated markedly and resulted in more than 1000 battle-related deaths. What was initially widely believed to be temporary violence related to the run-up to the September elections is now viewed as an escalation of the conflict.

Conflicts removed from the table in 2005

Three conflicts were removed from the table for 2005: those in Rwanda, Sudan (Southern Sudan) and Algeria.

There was no fighting between the Government of Rwanda and the Hutu rebel group Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR, or the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda) in 2005. In March the FDLR, which is based on Congolese territory, declared that it was willing to cease military action against Rwanda and return home. The group now aims to establish itself as a political party, which the Government of Rwanda opposes. No deal on repatriation was reached during the year, and FDLR forces remain on Congolese territory.

The protracted conflict between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), ongoing since 1983, came to a halt with the signing on 9 January 2005 of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.⁹ The death of SPLM Chairman John Garang only weeks after he had been sworn in as First Vice-President on 9 July was a great blow to the peace process. However, no fighting took place between Sudanese government forces and former SPLM/A rebels. Salva Kiir Mayardit, deputy leader of the SPLM/A, was elected as Garang's successor and took up the position as Sudan's First Vice-President and President of Southern Sudan. In December an important milestone in the implementation of the peace agreement was reached, when a new constitution for Southern Sudan was signed.

In Algeria, the long-running conflict between the government and Groupe islamique armé (GIA, or the Armed Islamic Group) seemed to be over by early 2005. In late 2004 GIA leader Nourredine Boudiafi was captured by the Algerian authorities and in January 2005 the Algerian Interior Ministry declared that this, coupled with the death of another GIA leader in July 2004, had led to the 'almost

⁹ For the Comprehensive Peace Agreement see the website of the United States Institute of Peace at URL <http://www.usip.org/library/pa/sudan/cpa01092005/cpa_toc.html>.

total collapse' of the rebel movement.¹⁰ In line with this, no casualties were reported for this conflict in 2005.¹¹

Changes in intensity of conflict

Four of the 17 major armed conflicts that were active in 2005 showed an increase in intensity compared to 2004.¹² In two of these conflicts—Myanmar (Karen) and Sri Lanka (Eelam)—the battle-related deaths increased by more than 50 per cent.

The conflict between the Government of Myanmar and the Karen National Union (KNU) increased in intensity after a year of only sporadic ceasefire violations in 2004. In 2005, following a reshuffle within the ruling junta, negotiations between the parties became increasingly difficult and subsequently broke down. However, it should be noted that, while the violence escalated greatly in relative terms, the conflict is still one of the least intensive of the conflicts in 2005.

In the wake of the December 2004 tsunami in South-East Asia, there were cautious hopes that the disaster might bring the parties in the Sri Lankan conflict closer together. However, the optimism was quickly dampened as the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) failed to come to an agreement on distribution of the humanitarian aid that flowed into the country. No talks on substantial conflict issues were held during the year. Instead, there was a marked escalation of violence between the parties in 2005. In November, the former Prime Minister, Mahinda Rajapakse, won the Sri Lankan presidential elections and the positions of the parties seemed to be far apart. By late December the Norwegian-led truce monitoring mission warned that war might not be far away.

Nine conflicts exhibited a decrease in intensity in 2005 compared to 2004: Israel, Uganda, Sudan, USA–al-Qaeda, Burundi, Iraq, Nepal, Philippines and Russia (Chechnya)—the first four by more than 50 per cent.

In Israel, the parties agreed to a ceasefire in February 2005. Even though there were numerous breaches of the truce, it led to a marked decrease in violence. In Uganda, the protracted conflict between the government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) continued in 2005, albeit on a much lower scale than the previous year. In the last two months of 2004 a process was initiated to lead to peace talks, and by the end of the year there were high hopes that a formal ceasefire agreement would be signed. However, at the last minute the consultations broke down, and both parties resumed armed operations in 2005. The process suffered another setback in February, when the LRA's chief negotiator, Sam Kolo, surrendered to the Ugandan Army. The rebels continue to be based in Sudan, but they are coming under increased pressure as a consequence of the peace agreement for Southern Sudan. In Sudan's Darfur region, the conflict between the government and two rebel groups—the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)—con-

¹⁰ Agence France-Presse, 'Algeria's deadliest armed group virtually wiped out', 4 Jan. 2005.

¹¹ It should be noted that the situation in Algeria was far from stable in 2005, with numerous deaths in the fighting between Algerian forces and the rebel Group Salafite pour la prédication et le combat (GSPC, or Salafiste Group for Preaching and Combat). However, since the fighting between the GSPC and the government never reached the threshold of 1000 battle-related deaths in any calendar year, this conflict is not defined as a major armed conflict and is therefore not included here.

¹² The 4 higher-intensity conflicts are Colombia, Myanmar (Karen), Sri Lanka (Eelam) and Turkey (Kurdistan).

tinued, but on a lower scale. However, there was a significant increase in warlordism and banditry in the region, and the population continued to suffer. Very little fighting occurred in the conflict between the USA and al-Qaeda. The few incidents that did take place were reported mainly from the Pakistani region Waziristan, a tribal area on the border with Afghanistan.

Three conflicts showed no change in intensity from 2004: the conflict between the Government of Peru and Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path); between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF); and between the Government of India and Kashmiri insurgents.

In 5 of the 17 active major armed conflicts in 2005 there were more than 1000 battle-related deaths: Afghanistan, Colombia, India (Kashmir), Iraq and Nepal.

In Colombia, both the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC, or the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN, or National Liberation Army) continued their armed struggle against the government. FARC refused to negotiate and there was a slight escalation of violence. The ELN, on the other hand, was engaged in a tentative process that may lead to substantive talks in 2006. The conflict between the Government of India and Kashmiri insurgents continued unabated in 2005. This was the seventh consecutive year in which the Kashmir conflict resulted in more than 1000 battle-related deaths. Despite a slight de-escalation of the violence in Iraq, the conflict reached a level well above 1000 battle-related deaths: it was the most deadly conflict in 2005, and attacks continued on a daily basis. In Nepal, fighting continued between the government forces and the Communist Party of Nepal–Maoist (CPN-M). However, in September the rebels declared a three-month unilateral ceasefire, which they subsequently extended. Thus, there was a marked de-escalation of the conflict during the last four months of the year.

Table 2A.3. Conflict locations with at least one major armed conflict in 2005

Location	Incompat- ibility ^a	Yr formed/ yr stated/ yr joined/ yr entered ^b	Warring parties ^c	Total deaths ^d (incl. 2005)	Deaths in 2005 ^e	Change from 2004 ^f
Africa						
Burundi	Govt	1991/ 1991/1991/ ..	Govt of Burundi vs Palipehutu–FNL	>7 100	<300	–
Palipehutu–FNL: Parti pour la libération du peuple Hutu–Forces nationales de libération (Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People–National Liberation Forces)						
Sudan	Govt	2003/ 2003/2003/ 2003	Govt of Sudan vs SLM/A vs JEM	>5 700	<500	--
SLM/A: Sudan Liberation Movement/Army JEM: Justice and Equality Movement						
Uganda	Govt	1987/ 1987/1988/ 1991	Govt of Uganda vs LRA*	<9 400	>700	--
LRA: Lord's Resistance Army * Note that in the early years of its existence the LRA used a number of different names, principally the Ugandan Christian Democratic Army (UCDA).						
Americas						
Colombia	Govt	1964/ 1966/1966/ .. 1964/1965/ ..	Govt of Colombia vs FARC vs ELN	>42 000*	>1 200	+
FARC: Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) ELN: Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army) * This figure includes deaths involving other parties than those listed above in the fighting since 1964, although a vast majority of the deaths can be attributed to FARC and, to a lesser extent, the ELN.						
Peru	Govt	1980/ 1980/1980/ 1981	Govt of Peru vs Sendero Luminoso	>28 000	<25	0
Sendero Luminoso: Shining Path						

Location	Incompat- ibility ^a	Yr formed/ yr stated/ yr joined/ yr entered ^b	Warring parties ^c	Total deaths ^d (incl. 2005)	Deaths in 2005 ^e	Change from 2004 ^f
USA	Govt	2001/ 2001/2001/ 2001	Govt of USA, Multinational coalition* vs al-Qaeda	>3 700	<25	--

* Note that reliable information regarding which states contributed troops to the multinational coalition is sensitive and hard to find. Thus, this list should be seen as preliminary. In 2005, the following countries contributed combat troops to the multinational coalition: Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and the UK. For background and the origins of this intra-state conflict see *SIPRI Yearbook 2002*, pages 67–68.

Asia

Afghanistan	Govt	1990/ 1994/1994/ 2005	Govt of Afghanistan, Multinational coalition* vs Taliban	..	<1 300	n.a.
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* Note that reliable information regarding which states contributed troops to the multinational coalition is sensitive and hard to find. Thus, this list should be seen as preliminary. In 2005, the following countries contributed combat troops to the multinational coalition: Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and the UK.

India	Terr.	1977/ 1977/1984/ 1990	Govt of India vs Kashmir insurgents	>28 000	<1 100	0
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Myanmar	Terr.	1948/ 1948/1948/ 1948	Govt of Myanmar vs KNU	>20 000	25–100	++
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KNU: Karen National Union

Nepal	Govt	1996/ 1996/1996/ 2002	Govt of Nepal vs CPN-M	<7 800	<1 400	–
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CPN-M: Communist Party of Nepal–Maoist

Location	Incompat- ibility ^a	Yr formed/ yr stated/ yr joined/ yr entered ^b	Warring parties ^c	Total deaths ^d (incl. 2005)	Deaths in 2005 ^e	Change from 2004 ^f
Philippines	Govt	1968/ 1968/1969/ 1982	Govt of the Philippines vs CPP*	20 000– 27 000	>200	–
	Terr.	1968/ 1981/1986/ 2000	vs MILF	>37 500	25–100	0

CPP: Communist Party of the Philippines

MILF: Moro Islamic Liberation Front

* Note that the CPP was previously listed as the New People's Army (NPA), the name of the armed wing of the CPP.

Sri Lanka	Terr.	1976 1976/1975/ 1989	Govt of Sri Lanka vs LTTE	60 000	25–100	++
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LTTE: Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Europe

Russia	Terr.	1991/ 1991/1991/ 1995	Govt of Russia vs Republic of Chechnya	40 000– 70 000	<700	–
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Middle East

Iraq	Govt	2003/ 2003/2003/ 2004	Govt of Iraq, Multinational coalition* vs Iraqi insurgents**	>13 100	>5 500	–
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* The US-led multinational coalition in Iraq included combat troops from Albania, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Georgia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of), Moldova, Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, the UK, Ukraine and the USA.

** These included, e.g., the Tanzim Qa'idat al-Jihad fi Bilad al-Rafidayn (Organization of Jihad's Base in the Country of the Two Rivers), the Jaish Ansar Al-Sunna (Army of Ansar Al-Sunna), and Al Jaysh al-Islami fi Iraq (Islamic Army of Iraq).

Israel	Terr.	1964/ 1964/1964/ . .	Govt of Israel vs Palestinian organizations*	<14 300	<200	--
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* These included Fatah (Movement for the National Liberation of Palestine), Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement), Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Location	Incompat- ibility ^a	Yr formed/ yr stated/ yr joined/ yr entered ^b	Warring parties ^c	Total deaths ^d (incl. 2005)	Deaths in 2005 ^e	Change from 2004 ^f
Turkey	Terr.	1974/ 1974/1984/ 1992	Govt of Turkey vs PKK*	<30 100	<200	+

PKK: Partiya Karkeren Kurdistan: Kurdistan Worker's Party

* Note that PKK has changed names three times in as many years. In 2002 PKK changed its name to Kadek (Kurdish Freedom and Democracy Congress). In November 2003, the name was changed to the Conference of the People's Congress of Kurdistan (KONGRA-GEL). Finally, in April 2005, the group reverted back to its old name, the PKK.

Note that, although some countries are also the location of minor armed conflicts, the table lists only the major armed conflicts in those countries. For the definitions, methods and sources used see appendix 2B.

The conflicts in table 2A.3 are listed by location, in alphabetical order, within 5 geographical regions: Africa—excluding Egypt; the Americas—including North, Central and South America and the Caribbean; Asia—including Oceania, Australia and New Zealand; Europe—including the Caucasus; and the Middle East—Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and the states of the Arabian peninsula.

^a The stated general incompatible positions—'Govt' and 'Terr.'—refer to contested incompatibilities concerning *government* (type of political system or a change of central government or its composition) and *territory* (control of territory, secession or autonomy), respectively. Each location may have 1 or more incompatibilities over territory, if the disputed territories are different entities. There can be only 1 incompatibility over government in each location as, by definition, there can be only 1 government in each location.

^b 'Year formed' is the year in which the original party in a major armed conflict—in conflicts where several parties have fought over the same incompatibility—first stated the incompatibility. 'Year stated' is the year in which *the active group* stated its incompatibility. 'Year joined' is the year in which the use of armed force began in the conflict between the active warring parties. 'Year entered' is the year in which the fighting between the government and the warring party for the first time reached the threshold of 1000 battle-related deaths in a single calendar year and was therefore entered in the database. In connection with the major data revision carried out by the UCDP (see appendix 2B, *SIPRI Yearbook 2005*), it became evident that the years listed in the tables for the early and mid-1990s sometimes referred to the start of the entire conflict and sometimes referred to the year in which the active group had stated its incompatibility. Although these years are often the same, there are also instances in which they are not. Therefore, in order to code this variable more stringently, 'Year formed' now refers to the start of the armed conflict itself, while the other 3 years listed in the table ('Year stated', 'Year joined' and 'Year entered') refer to the active warring party.

^c An opposition organization is any non-governmental group which has publicly announced a name for the group as well as its political goals and has used armed force to achieve its goals. Only those parties and alliances that were active during 2005 are listed in this column. Alliances are indicated by a comma between the names of warring parties.

^d The figures for total battle-related deaths refer to those deaths caused by the warring parties which can be directly connected to the incompatibility since the start of the conflict. This

figure thus relates to the 'Year formed' variable. In the instance of intra-state conflicts, it should be noted that the figures include only battle-related deaths that can be attributed to fighting between the government and parties which were at some point listed in the table (i.e., groups that have crossed the threshold of 1000 battle-related deaths in a year). Information that covers a calendar year is necessarily more tentative for the last months of the year. Experience has also shown that the reliability of figures improves over time; they are therefore revised each year.

^e Numbers over 100 are as far as possible rounded to the nearest hundred. Thus, figures ranging between 101 and 150 are presented as >100, while figures ranging between 151 and 199 are presented as <200. Figures between 1 and 24 are presented as <25, while those between 25 and 100 are presented as 25–100.

^f The 'change from 2004' is measured as the increase or decrease in the number of battle-related deaths in 2005 compared with the number of battle-related deaths in 2004. Although the symbols are based on data that cannot be considered totally reliable, they represent the following changes:

- ++ increase in battle deaths of >50%
- + increase in battle deaths of >10–50%
- 0 stable rate of battle deaths ($\pm 10\%$)
- decrease in battle deaths of >10–50%
- decrease in battle deaths of >50%
- n.a. not applicable, since the major armed conflict was not recorded for 2004.