

Conflict Weekly

A brief review of conflict and peace processes across the world

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(Since 2021, Ugandan and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) troops have been fighting the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) insurgency along the borders as part of "Operation Shujja."
Image Source: Chris Mamu, AP Photo)

Violence in Uganda, Migrant Crisis in the Mediterranean, State of the Climate in Europe, and Taliban Arms Management

IPRI Special Commentary

The Civil War in Myanmar:

Continuing Violence, the Battle of Attrition, and the Divide within ASEAN



An initiative by NIAS-IPRI and KAS India Office

Gender | Environment | Ethnic Violence

External Interventions | Armed Conflicts | Peace Processes



Uganda: Resurging insurgency

Anu Maria Joseph

In the news

On 18 June, Al Jazeera reported the killing of at least 41 people in western Uganda; according to the Ugandan government, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) are suspected of committing the attack. The ADF is a rebel group based in Uganda that has sworn allegiance to the Islamic State. The militants attacked the Lhubiriha secondary school in Mpondwe near the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) border.

In response to the attack, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni stated: "Their [ADF] action -- the desperate, cowardly, terrorist action -- will not save them." Ugandan police spokesperson Fred Enanga said: "As a country, we continue to stand by each other in the fight against terrorism. No matter how heinous the attack or how brutal or inhumane the methods used, the ADF will not be able to succeed in demolishing the solidarity of Ugandans in the fight against terrorism and extremism."

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the attack. He stated: "Those responsible for this appalling act must be brought to justice." He reiterated the importance of "collective efforts, including through enhanced regional partnerships, to tackle cross-border insecurity between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda and restore durable peace in the area."

Issues at large

First, a background to the ADF insurgency. The rebel groups - the National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (NALU) and the Uganda Muslim Liberation Army (UMLA), joined forces to form the ADF in 1995 opposing Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, whose government is alleged of the persecution of Muslims. The group was routed from its bases in the western Rwenzori region along the borders of Uganda and the DRC in the early 2000s, where its fighters had been raiding villages and schools. Since 2013, the ADF has been active in the eastern DRC. According to the UN Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO), they recruited 59 children and killed 1,066 civilians in the DR Congo's North Kivu and Ituri provinces between January 2019 and June 2020. The group continued its attacks in Uganda; in 2021, the Ugandan government blamed the group for suicide bombings in the capital Kampala.

Second, the failing "Operation Shujja." Following escalating rebel attacks in both countries in 2021, Uganda and the DRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2021 for a military operation, "Operation Shujaa," against the ADF in the eastern DRC. The operation aimed to neutralise the group's campaigns. Initially, the joint forces had made significant gains in dislodging the ADF from its bases in the Virunga forest. Subsequently, the group scattered into smaller groups as a tactic to overstretch the forces. However, most recently, the group has been conducting frequent attacks along the border regions of the DRC and Uganda.

Third, increasing insecurity in East Africa. In the previous quarterly report published in March, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, reiterated that more than 485 civilians were killed in the eastern part of the DRC between 1 December 2022 and 14 March 2023 in a series of attacks carried out by several armed groups, including March 23 (M23), ADF and

the Cooperative for Development of the Congo (CODECO). Most recently, on 12 June, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) reported that more than 45 people were killed in an attack by CODECO in an internally displaced person (IDP) camp in northeastern DRC. In Somalia, although President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud had announced an "all out war" against the Al-Shabaab militancy in August 2022, the group continues to expand its campaign in east Africa. On 5 June, 54 Ugandan soldiers were killed in an Al-Shabaab attack on the African Union base in Somalia.

In perspective

First, the attack in Mpondwe follows the previous week's ADF attack in Bukokoma village of the North Kivu province in the eastern DRC near the Ugandan border, resulting in the death of at least ten civilians. The increasing frequency of ADF attacks indicates that the group is gaining ground and strengthening its intentions to return to Uganda to establish an Islamic government.

Second, recent developments highlight insurgent groups active in East Africa are expanding across borders. While the groups are expanding towards relatively stable countries like Uganda and Kenya, Ethiopia's violence in Tigray and Sudan's ongoing conflict are potential grounds for them to escalate further.

Greece: Migrant boat disaster and humanitarian crisis

Nithyashree RB

In the News

On 14 June, a fishing vessel carrying migrants from Tobruk, Libya, sank in the Ionian Sea, 80 kilometres southwest of Pylos, Greece. On 16 June, a statement from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) informed that the number of people onboard the fishing vessel was between 400 and 750. It stated: "So far 104 people have been rescued and 78 bodies retrieved, while hundreds remain missing and are feared dead." The UN Human Rights Office reported 500 people missing.

On 14 June, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stated: "Every person searching for a better life deserves safety and dignity." The UNHCR office in Greece stated: "We need more safe pathways for people forced to flee. They should not be left with impossible life-threatening choices." Following the incident, the Greek government arrested nine Egyptian citizens in Kalamata, Greece, and the Pakistani government arrested 14 suspects involved in the migrant shipwreck over human trafficking charges.

Issues at Large

First, migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea. Migrants and human traffickers use the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe. With stricter rules levied by EU-countries such as Greece, migrants embark on deadly routes to reach Europe. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), more than 20,000 people have died while attempting to cross the Mediterranean since 2014. Most passengers often travel in overcrowded and unseaworthy boats.

Second, maritime laws regarding rescuing victims of maritime accidents. Safeguarding life at



sea and providing assistance are crucial laws that countries and shipping vessels are bound to follow. In terms of European Union member states, the rescue operation should be carried out under the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) guidelines. However, in the current situation, the Greek Coast Guard has been criticized for failing to fulfill these obligations. Greece has faced criticism for its treatment of migrants in several similar instances. In July 2022, a boat carrying migrants sank when the Greek Coast Guard towed it away towards Turkey. In May 2023, a video sent to The New York Times confirmed Greece leaving migrants stranded on rafts in international waters.

Third, the lack of adequate legal mechanisms and a larger debate across Asia, Africa and Europe to deal with migration disasters across the Mediterranean. In the current context - three key actors can be identified- the source countries from Africa and Asia, the transit countries in northern Africa and Southern Europe, and the destination countries in central and Northern Europe. The legislation and mechanisms put in place to tackle these challenges have proven to be ineffective as evidenced by the ongoing occurrence of migrant disasters.

In perspective

The disaster underlines a larger problem. Despite the risk of drowning, dehydration, starvation and abuse by smugglers/human traffickers, migrants choose to embark on perilous journeys. There is a need for a wider debate at multiple levels and in different locations. In the EU, among those countries that are used as entry points in those countries in Africa, the migrants pursue their journey across the Mediterranean Sea and also from their countries of origin ranging from the Middle East to South Asia.

IPRI REVIEW

State of the Climate in Europe 2022: Four Takeaways

Akriti Sharma

In the news

On 19 June, the "State of the Climate in Europe 2022" report was published jointly by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (EUCCCS). The report underlines the new increase in temperature that Europe recorded in 2022 and its impact on the socio-economic fabric of the region. It reveals that Europe is the fastest-warming continent, and that 2022 has been a dreadful year.

Following are the four major takeaways of the report.

1. The rising regional temperature anomalies in land, sea, and rivers.

Europe has recorded high temperatures for a decade with temperatures rising at double the global average rate, making it the fastest-warming continent. In July, the UK recorded temperatures up to 40 degrees Celsius for the first time. The second warmest year recorded in the region was 2022, which was 0.9 degrees Celsius warmer than average. The average sea temperature was much higher, resulting in a heatwave in the Mediterranean Sea. Rivers recorded a below-average discharge; soil moisture had the second lowest percentage in the last 50 years. In 2022, precipitation levels were at 21-28 per cent, much less than average, and the year was 10 per cent drier. The Italian Alps were the worst affected with below-average snowfall. In the Arctic, the Norwegian archipelago Svalbard

recorded 1.4 degrees Celsius above average temperature.

2. Increase in extreme weather events

With exceptionally warm and dry conditions, extreme weather events are on the rise manifesting in more frequent wildfires and droughts. They resulted in the loss of vegetation and higher proneness to wildfire emissions. In total, 9,00,000 hectares of forests were burnt in EU countries. In 2022, Europe recorded 40 meteorological, hydrological, and climate-related hazards resulting in 16,365 reported fatalities and 156,000 people being directly affected. Out of the total extreme weather events, 67 per cent were flood- and storm-related, leading to a total of economic damage of about USD two billion, much less than the USD 50 billion total in 2021.

3. Record-breaking melting of glaciers and ice sheets

The European Alps recorded the loss of ice glaciers by five square kilometres of area, which in terms of height will equal to 5.4 times the height of the Eiffel Tower. One of the causes of the alpine ice loss was due to a lack of winter snow and warmer summers. However, in 2022, glaciers in southwestern Scandinavia benefitted from the above-average number of winter snow days, witnessing a slight gain in ice.

4. Scope for hope in the renewable energy sector

The report specifically focussed on the renewable energy sector due to its potential for low-carbon energy transitions. It highlighted the significance of solar, wind, and nuclear energy as a solution to Europe's climate crisis. Through the European Green Deal 2020, the EU has agreed to increase the binding renewable energy target from 32 per cent to at least 42.5 per cent by 2030. However, there is still a long way to go to achieve these goals. The report also highlights the use of climate services and their role in achieving net zero through climate information in decision-making, data collection, monitoring, analysis, and predictions.

In perspective

The impact of climate change in Europe is visibly increasing and affecting the security of water, -food and energy in the region. Weather anomalies are an alarm for the impending climate crisis. Some of the most affected industries include the food and winter tourism industries. The region must be prepared enough to address and manage more intense impacts of climate change in the future, and this demands special attention from all sections of society, from the EU to national governments up to civil society.

Being one of the primary greenhouse gas emitters and the fastest warming region, Europe has no other choice but to scale up its climate action. Even though the report solely focuses on the renewable energy sector as a hopeful mitigation to the crisis, climate adaptation is necessary.

IPRI REVIEW

Taliban's Arms Regulation System: Five Takeaways

Ryan Marcus

On 20 June, the Centre on Armed Groups released a Small Arms Survey report, "Taliban Arms Management Practices." During the usurpation of the Republic of Afghanistan in



August 2021, significant caches of US-procured weapons were abandoned and came into Taliban possession. However, the now incumbent Taliban regime lacks an arms management policy.

Most commanders in Kabul, Herat, Kandahar and other parts of Afghanistan have claimed ownership of arms and distributed them within their provinces. Additionally, internal rivalry within the Taliban has posed a major threat to stability and security, hindering the Taliban's operations. The internal rivalry has resulted in a loss of control over weapon circulation amongst the factions.

The following are five takeaways from the Small Arms Survey report:

1. Emerging arms circulation challenges

During the takeover in August 2021, the Taliban acquired more than 300,000 light arms, 26,000 heavy weapons and 61,000 military vehicles. However, it lacked the system to manage them. The Taliban government lost track of frequent transactions of weapons between local Taliban units and commanders. Due to the absence of a centralised weapons inventory, militants obtain their weapons from their commanders.

2. Lack of a uniform system for weapon regulation

The Taliban's approach was driven by securing its ranks. Taliban are still transforming their insurgency forces into coherent state security forces and dismantling the Mahaz system, autonomous and localized fighting groups. It lacks institutional capacity, coherence and digitalisation. During the transformation, some republic officials are retained in their posts in weapon management. The absence of a uniform system to regulate weapons has caused the Taliban to lose control over their circulation.

3. Divergences within the ranks of the Taliban

Tensions have occurred between competing factions in the Taliban. The internal division hinders several militants from registering weapons and they consider them as personal property. Local factions refuse to comply with the Taliban policies. A UN report stated that the Taliban officials dispute amongst themselves. This results in noncompliance of officials and militants regarding registering weapons.

4. Decentralised structures

The local officials often challenge the policies implemented by the central authorities. A decentralised system has left local authorities running regular affairs in a manner that is not aligned with official policy positions. The subnational management of weapons varies from province to province. Most of the day-to-day administration is carried out by local officials due to a lack of uniformity by the central authorities. The reporting line between local officials and central authorities is often unclear in the weapon management.

5. Variation in provincial management of weapons

There are differences in the provinces on how the weapons are managed. For example, in the northern province of Kunduz, following the collapse of the Republic of Afghanistan, Taliban militants seized caches of weapons and ammunition from Kunduz checkpoints and stationed militants at the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) base to disembark the arms at their storage units. The documentation of weapons began after the takeover of the Taliban in August 2021. The Taliban imposed a strict policy regarding the distribution of

weapons in the province of Helmand.

SPECIAL COMMENTARY

The Civil War in Myanmar: Continuing Violence, the Battle of Attrition, and the Divide within ASEAN

Bibhu Prasad Routray

Continuing Violence

Between 16 and 21 June 2023, at least 53 Myanmar troops including pro-military militia forces were killed in attacks by the People's Defence Force (PDFs) in the regions of central-upper Sagaing, central-western Magwe, south-western Tanintharyi, and Mandalay in the east bank of Irrawaddy river as well as the state of Karen. The biggest of coordinated PDF(s) attacks took place in Tanintharyi town on 17 June targeting a military detachment near Thamee Hla village by the Kaw Thoo Lei Army (Tanintharyi), an ethnic Karen resistance group, in which at least 30 soldiers were allegedly killed.

On 18 June, ten soldiers were killed in a PDF attack on a military gunboat in the Irrawaddy river in Myingyan town of the Mandalay region. Other attacks included an ambush on a military logistics detachment in the town of Kalewa, Sagaing on 16 June and a landmine attack by the PDF in the town Shwebo, Sagaing region on the same day. The PDFs used drones to drop bombs on pro-military militia facilities in the pro-regime village of Mar Lal Taw in Sagaing

On 19 June 2023, a People's Defence Force (PDF) faction named Urban Owls claimed to have shot dead Ye Khine, Yangon International Airport's security chief in Yangon. Sources in the Urban Owls said that Ye Khine detained multiple pro-democracy activists, including artists and striking government staff while they tried to leave the country. Ye Khine's murder symbolises the very latest in the ongoing attritional civil war in Myanmar between the ruling military junta and the parallel National Unity Government (NUG).

The prolonged War of Attrition

The attacks described above provide a glimpse into the military's expansive operations against the opposition groups, which in the recent past has focused on the state of Kayah with the objective of gaining control over the strategically located town of Moeba. Although incidents like the airstrike that killed more than 100 people in April 2023 in the region of Sagaing have not been repeated, sustained attacks have continued to claim civilian lives. According to the Karenni Human Rights Group, 33 civilians were killed and 13 others were injured in the fighting in and around the town of Moebye on the border to the states of Shan and Kayah between 27 May and 15 June. Artillery attacks by the military have also been reported from the states of Karen and Bago claiming civilian lives. Amidst contrasting claims of normalcy by the junta and battlefield victories by the NUG, the direction and ultimate outcome of the military contestation between the two remains an area of intense interest.

The state is in a more advantaged position in the prolonged wars between the state and the insurgencies resistance groups operating without external support as it has access to enormous resources and military hardware and is inclined to use indiscriminate violence to oppress the opposition. The Myanmar military has imported at least USD one billion in arms and raw materials to manufacture weapons since the military coup in February 2021. While



Russia supplies the bulk of weapons for the Tatmadaw (military of Myanmar), the Justice for Myanmar, a group of activists campaigning for justice for the people of Myanmar, on 20 June said that Swedish weapons manufactured by an Indian company under licence are also being exported to Myanmar. These included FFV-447 projectile fuzes designed with Swedish 84 mm Carl Gustaf recoilless rifles. The Swedish rifles which were sold to India and had been resold by New Delhi to Myanmar. Between 2017 and 2021, India was the third-largest supplier of weapons to Myanmar.

The opposition, on the other hand, must scourge perennially for international support, finances, military and to continue fighting. So far, the NUG and the PDF with the trickle of support from largely unknown entities successfully withstand the onslaught of the Tatmadaw and hold on to sizable areas. However, the attacks and fatalities they claim to inflict on the troops and pro-state militia may not be enough to shake the foundation of the military-run state in the long run.

Cracks within the ASEAN

The Tatmadaw's refusal to implement the suggested plans under the 'five-point consensus' to halt violence has peeved the ASEAN member states, who in October 2021 decided to exclude Myanmar from any of the group's proceedings. However, some members of the consensus-driven blocs, in their individual capacities, have hardly shown much commitment to such a resolution. The latest to deviate was Thailand. On 19 June, the military-backed government of Thailand hosted an informal dialogue in Pattaya to discuss a proposal for the regional bloc to "fully re-engage Myanmar at the leaders' level". Representatives from Laos, Cambodia, India, China, Brunei, and Vietnam, as well as Myanmar, attended the convention, while Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore abstained. Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a former coup leader himself, claimed that direct talks were necessary to protect his country. However, the leader of the Move Forward Party, Pita Limjaroenrat, who won the recent general election in Thailand, has said that he is committed to ASEAN-led solutions for Myanmar and distanced himself from the retiring government's talks with Myanmar's junta.

Dodging the Sanctions

Media reports on 21 June indicated that the US is planning to impose new sanctions on Myanmar, this time on the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank and Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank With a bid to cut off finances to the junta. A junta spokesperson, however, sought to play down the possible impact of the sanctions. Contrasting viewpoints have come to the fore, weighing the impact of wide-ranging sanctions. While these may have economically squeezed the Tatmadaw to an extent, shreds of evidence point to the military's undiminishing ability to survive.

Amid Western sanctions, the military-run government's survival has depended critically upon a variety of assistance from a select group of countries. While countries sharing borders with Myanmar, such as India and Thailand, are concerned about the 'instability near home', countries like Russia and China are using their anti-US position to dig deep into Myanmar's economy and politics. On 15 June, Myanmar's electricity minister Thaung Han who attended the International Economic Forum in St Petersburg, an annual conference for the discussion of global commerce, economic development, political concerns and social issues, signed a memorandum of understanding with NovaWind, a subsidiary of Russia's state-owned nuclear firm Rosatom, and two Russian companies on wind-power feasibility studies.

Tailpiece

The civil war in Myanmar seems to continue into the second half of 2023. The junta's own definition of stability has proven to be an iron wall to the NUG's main demand for the return of democracy. There isn't likely to be a winner either in the conflict any time soon.

Issues in Peace and Conflict This Week:

Regional Roundups

Rishika Yadav, Sneha Surendran, Jerry Franklin, Ryan Marcus, Femy Francis, Rashmi Ramesh, Harini Madhusudan, Padmashree Anandan and Akriti Sharma

East and Southeast Asia

North Korea: Two short-range ballistic missiles fired

On 15 June, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles after Pyongyang warned of its "inevitable" response to live-fire drills by South Korea and the United States. The missiles were fired when the national security adviser to US President Joe Biden, Jake Sullivan, was meeting his South Korean and Japanese counterparts in Tokyo. A joint statement by the US, Japan, and South Korea read: "These launches are clear violations of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions, and demonstrate the threat (that North Korea's)... unlawful weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs pose to the region."

Myanmar: Five suspects killed during military interrogation

On 21 June, Myanmar Now, referring to local sources, reported that five men suspected of involvement in an attack on a police station in Myanmar's Bago Region died during a military interrogation. At least 34 people were arrested on suspicion following the 27 April attack on the police station in Waw township's Nyaung Khar Shey village in the district of Bago.

South Asia

Pakistan: FIA to investigate human traffickers

On 20 June, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) detained more than five human traffickers in Gujrat, Gujranwala and Lahore and registered cases against more than two dozen suspects. The FIA stated that a four-member team had been organised in major cities nationwide to track the human traffickers, and three inquiries had initiated a probe into the Pakistani smugglers' involvement. Pakistani Minister of Interior, Rana Sanaullah Khan, stated that special legislation would be passed to prosecute those involved in human smuggling following the FIA cracking down on the traffickers.

Afghanistan: Public execution by the Taliban

On 20 June, Al Jazeera reported that the Taliban had publicly executed a murder convict in the eastern province of Laghman. The court stated that the punishment was declared following the approval of the supreme religious leader and hearing by three courts.

Afghanistan: UN terms Taliban treatment of women as gender apartheid

On 20 June, Reuters reported on Richard Bennett, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan who termed the Taliban treatment of women as gender apartheid. Taliban spokesperson, Zabihullah Mujahid, stated that Richard Bennett's statement is a part of Western propaganda. The UN's explanatory addition to the term 'gender apartheid' is "economic and social sexual discrimination against individuals because of their gender or



sex."

Central Asia, The Middle East, and Africa Iran: Talks with US officials

On 18 June, Al Jazeera reported that US and Iranian officials had conducted closed-door negotiations in Muscat on Iran's nuclear programme and further on the release of US prisoners. The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' spokesperson Nasser Kannani confirmed that the Muscat negotiations were not intended to be separate from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The US government has denied having held informal talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Israel-Palestine: Cycle of violence continues

On 19 June, Israeli forces raided the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank aiming to arrest two suspects belonging to the Palestinian Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement. They were met with strong resistance, which resulted in an exchange of fire, killing five Palestinians, including a teenager, and injuring at least 91 people.

On 20 June, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on Israel to immediately put a halt to the settlement activities, describing it as a root cause for continued violence. On the same day, two Palestinian attackers opened fire at a restaurant and gas station in an Israeli settlement in the West Bank killing four settlers. Following the shooting, Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian villages, torched homes and destroyed property.

On 21 June, Israeli drones attacked the Jenin refugee camp and hit a vehicle. Three people were killed in the air raids, which are said to be part of a joint operation by the military and intelligence. The Israeli military issued a statement: "It identified a terrorist cell inside a suspicious vehicle after the cell carried out a shooting adjacent to the town of Jalamah."

Mali: Foreign Minister calls for withdrawal of UN peacekeeping mission

On 16 June, Al Jazeera reported that the Malian Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop stated that the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), a peacekeeping force, should be withdrawn from Mali "without delay" as the violence and insecurity has surged since their deployment. Al Jazeera quoted MINUSMA head El Ghassim Wane affirming that "conducting UN peacekeeping operations without the country's consent is nearly impossible." Mali's military rulers have imposed operational restrictions on peacekeepers; more than 300 peacekeepers have been killed since the beginning of the mission in 2013.

Europe and the Americas

Ukraine: Continuing offensive in the south

On 14 June, Ukrinform reported on Ukrainian spokesperson Natalia Humeniuk's comments on Russian shelling in southern Ukraine. In an interview with United News of India, Humeniuk said the shelling had decreased in southern Ukraine. She added that the number of Russia's troops' attacks had reduced to 38 from 60 by 14 June. According to her, shelling continued in the flood-hit areas in Kherson. She commented that Russia had launched missiles from the Black Sea towards the Odesa region. She added that the Ukrainian Air defence units shot down three Kalibr cruise missiles and nine Shahed drones fired towards the region of Odesa and Donetsk region.

Russia: No grounds to extend grain deal

On 21 June, the Kremlin Press Secretary, Dmitry Sergeyevich Peskov, announced that Russia sees no prerequisites to prolong the grain deal 2022 that allows Ukrainian grain to be exported through the Black sea. The agreement is due to expire in July. Signed in July 2022, the UN and Turkey mediated agreement provided the safe shipment of Ukrainian grain through the Black sea corridors. In exchange, the West was obliged to remove sanctions imposed on Russian food exports and chemical products such as fertilisers following the war. Initially, the deal lasted 120 days, after which Russia agreed to an extension despite repeatedly claiming that the US and EU had not kept their promises. Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister, Sergei Alexeyevich Ryabkov, claimed on 20 June that there could be further consultations with the UN to save the deal.

Honduras: Deadly riots in women's prison

On 20 June, brutal prison riots in a women's prison in Honduras left around 41 women dead. President, Xiomara Castro, blamed the Mara street gangs for the violence, terming the event "monstrous." The violence is believed to be a reaction to the government's efforts to curb the influence of street gangs. The matter of how gang members got hold of weapons is under investigation.

Haiti: Amnesty International speaks for Haitian refugees

On 20 June, on account of International Day of Refugees, Amnesty International called upon countries across the Americas to stop their racist treatment of Haitian refugees. who are often subjected to racist, xenophobic and gender-based violence apart from a lack of access to basic necessities. Haiti has been facing increased gang violence since July 2021 with state institutions essentially failing to exert control.

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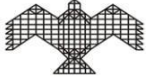
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About NIAS-International Peace Research Initiative(IPRI)

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The International Peace Research Initiative (IPRI), initiated in 2018 at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), is a part of the Conflict Resolution and Peace Research Programme at the School of Conflict and Security Studies.

IPRI undertakes research on various issues relating to peace with special emphasis on radicalisation, sustainable peace, gender roles in peacebuilding and global protest movements. IPRI researches are published as briefs, reports and commentary.

About Konrad Adenauer Stiftung



The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is a political foundation. Established in 1955 as “Society for Christian-Democratic Civic Education,” in 1964, the Foundation proudly took on the name of Konrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. KAS cooperates with governmental institutions, political parties and civil society organizations, building strong partnerships along the way. In particular, KAS seeks to intensify political cooperation in the area of development cooperation on the foundations of its objectives and values. Together with the partners, KAS makes a significant contribution to the creation of a global order that empowers every country to determine its own developmental priorities and destiny in an internationally responsible manner.

KAS has organized its program priorities in India into five working areas: Foreign and Security Policy; Economic, Climate, and Energy Policy; Rule of Law; Political Dialogue focused on Social and Political Change; and Media and Youth. The India Office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation takes great pride in its cooperation with Indian partner institutions that implement jointly curated projects and programmes.

About Conflict Weekly



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