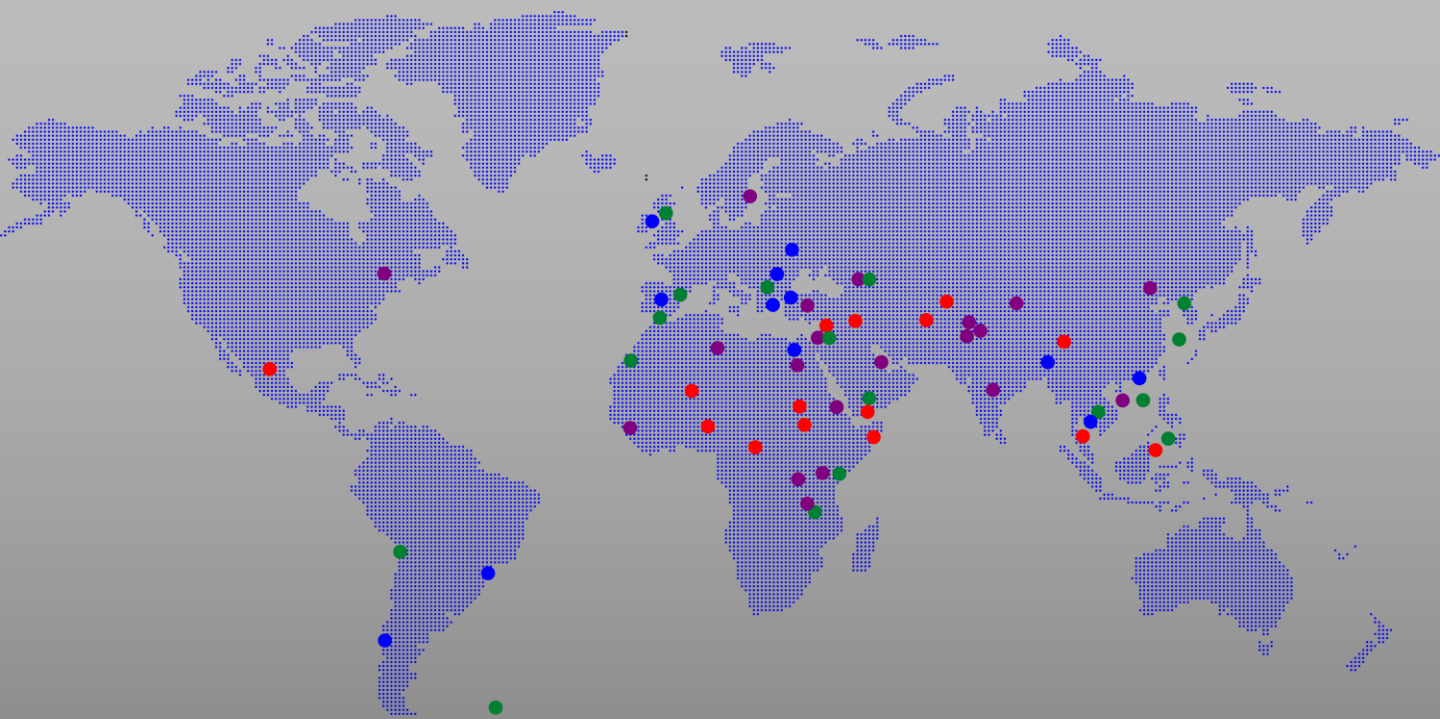


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CONFLICTS IN 2013

Institute for Cultural Relations Policy



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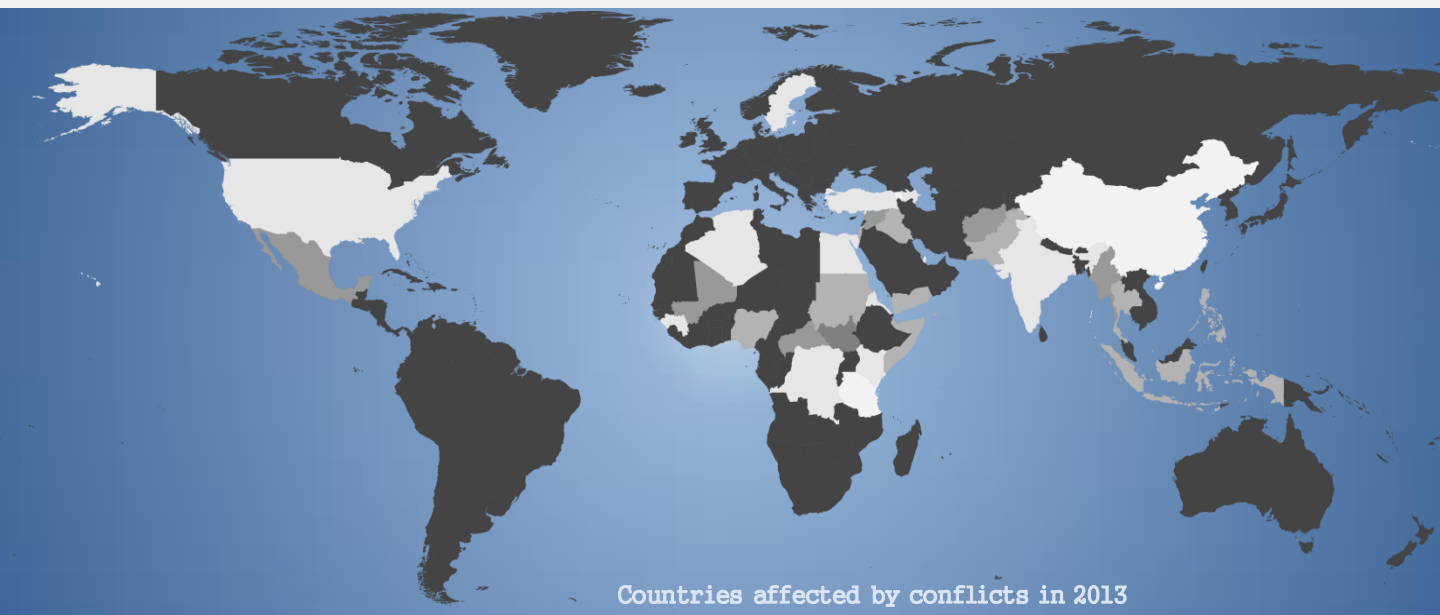
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The year 2013 witnessed many of the ongoing conflicts besides the ones that newly emerged. Ethnic clashes, political aggressions and riots have occurred in all populated continents. The ICRP's "Conflicts in 2013" publication aims at introducing key international events of paramount importance concerning major and local conflicts, terrorist attacks, protests, riots as well as border and territorial disputes which had been determining international or intercultural relations in 2013.

As the quote says, there are as many opinions as there are experts. Each research institute has its own focus, its own method of selection regarding the most important conflicts and world events. Our approach towards conflicts prioritises areas which were in focus of ICRP's monthly magazine, the Cultural Relations News & Background.

The magazine published by the Institute on a monthly basis covered all the incidents and stories narrated in this special edition. However, this annual analysis could evoke a different view on the topics explored earlier. It often proves useful if a summary is written after a certain amount of time, nevertheless in most cases the conflicts mentioned have not terminated. For a better understanding of the reported affairs, the in-depth articles are also supplemented with data sheets, timelines and maps.



Many of the international events are not included in this publication. The year 2013 – as well as the previous years – had so many affairs starting from civil wars in Northern Mali, Syria, Central African Republic, the war in Afghanistan, continuing with the insurgency in Egypt and the Philippines. In 2013 the ethnic conflict continued in Nigeria, Sudan, Kenya, India and Thailand, not mention similar conflicts elsewhere. The threat of war in the region of the South China Sea and growing tensions between Israel and Palestine were also likely to escalate. The ethnic disagreements in Europe – in the case of Catalonia, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Székelyföld – were, however, more moderate comparing to the ethnic clashes outside Europe. Besides ethnic conflicts riots and heavy protests broke out in Europe and Southern America due to primarily economic reasons. Political motives were also behind the protests in Egypt, Turkey, Ukraine and Russia.

We do not claim that these conflicts were solely the main determinants of the international relations in 2013. The year 2013 also brought new political and religious leaders, international cooperation and economic trade agreements. However, the conflicts will likely have long-run and extensive effects remaining long time in the mind of people.

CIVIL WAR IN MALI

A civil war erupted at the beginning of 2012 in Mali, a country which is home to numerous ethnic groups. The Tuareg rebellion in the northern part of the country converted into a war of independence against the Malian government. The aim of the fighting groups was to secede the Sahara desert region of Azawad from Mali. Their militant organization, called National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (NMLA) declared independence for the region in April 2012.

Tuareg separatist groups had been struggling for independence in Northern Mali since the early 1990s. At the beginning, these fights had been caused by the political and economic problems. Later certain ethnic groups, such as the Songhai, started to criticise the government, that it was unable to protect inhabitants from Tuareg and Arab rebels. As the threatened groups organised militant units, those fights later turned into an ethnic war.

In March 2012, Malian soldiers who were displeased with the management of the operations have seized the power from the government. The leader of the coup d'état, Armadou Sanogo, was an officer of the army. After the coup, he proclaimed himself the leader of the National Committee for Recovering Democracy and Restoring the State (CNRDRE) and declared the suspension of the constitution. Consequently, the international community condemned the coup. Additionally, the United States and the World Bank suspended the aids to Mali. The West African Economic and Monetary Union managed to make an agreement with the junta. Sanogo and President Armadou Toumani Touré accepted to resign and give the power to the Speaker of National Assembly, Dioncounda Traoré. The government authority became divided

between civilian governance with the president and the prime minister on the one side, and a military junta on the other. During the conflict of Touré and Sanogo, the Tuareg forces captured Kidal, the capital of the region. On 6 April the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (NMLA) declared the independence of Azawad. The Malian army was forced to retreat from the region. The de facto independent state of Azawad however had to cope with deep social and ethnic problems. Islamic groups supported the introduction of Sharia law in Azawad. Soon after the Malian withdrawal, the anti-secessionist National Liberation Front of Azawad (NLFA) was formed to defend the territory from alleged Tuareg domination. Consequently, in October, thousands of people marched to the streets of Bamako, the capital of Mali, asking intervention from West-African countries against the Islamic groups. United States and France started talks with Algeria to take part in the joint intervention. Algeria faced with a complex problem as around 50,000 Tuaregs live in the country, who would discourage the intervention. At the same time Algeria had to take into account of the risk of a failed state next to its borders.

The United States and the member states of the European Union were planning a military intervention in Mali. These states feared that the area could become a future base for terrorists. The United States and France would send drones and Germany offered to train Malian security forces. The mentioned powers had to wait for the consent of United Nations Security Council. The United Nations asked African regional organisations to make a plan for military intervention in 45 days. Western powers reminded that they are not

intending to send troops to Mali. Rather their governments would support Malian army with air strikes and logistics. Meanwhile, West African leaders agreed to send 3,000 troops to take control in Northern Mali under the aegis of ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States).

In January 2013, Mali has experienced a mounting crisis arising that began with the return of the NMLA from fighting in Libya on Muammar Gaddafi's side. The NMLA allied with several Islamist groups, including Ansar Dine, Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (Mujao), al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the Signed-in-Blood Battalion and the Islamic Movement for Azawad (IMA). The rebels have taken control over the key towns of Gao, Kidal,

that the territory would become a haven for terrorist groups. On 10 January, the Malian troops started a counter-offensive to retake control over Konna, a strategic central city separating the north and the south. On the same day, Mali's government declared state of emergency and appealed to France for urgent military aid. On the following day, 11 January, in response to Mali's cry for help, French President François Hollande announced France's support and sent French soldiers to join Mali's fight against Islamist "terrorist elements". He said that this joint operation would last "as long as necessary" to protect the citizens of Mali and also the French nationals living in the country. The French prompt decision to intervene came on behalf of the whole international



and Timbuktu in northern Mali and imposed Islamic sharia law there. Tensions escalated when the Islamists took over Konna, a government town in the country's centre with the intention to enter further south. It caused great fears among regional states and international communities as this al-Qaeda-linked military coalition had already possessed two-thirds of Mali (roughly the size of France) and dreaded

community, according to French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius. Regarding international reactions, the United States of America, Britain and the African Union expressed support for the French move, but UN officials claimed that no UN-mandated intervention is to be expected before September due to formal procedures. As the fights continued and the crisis deepened in Mali, the West African leaders hosted a

summit on 19 January in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The aim of the summit was to call for greater international involvement in order to terminate this intolerable and serious situation. As a result, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), of which Mali is a member state, promised 5,800 troops, Chad 2,000 troops and Nigeria 900–1,200 soldiers to resolve the conflict once and for all.

At last, the intervention to Mali was organised. François Hollande declared Mali intervention successful. Also French Defence Minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian announced on February 2, 2013, that France intended to withdraw its troops from Mali within weeks declaring the mission a successful intervention, despite continued clashes in the West African nation. Subsequent to the French withdrawal, the job of the African army was to secure the towns in the northern region and pursue Islamist militants into their mountain retreats near Algeria's border. Britain and the United States were hoping that Mali would be able to hold democratic elections in July. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized the need to establish a UN peacekeeping force in Mali in order to replace French troops. The ECOWAS troops were unable to complete their mission successfully in the Northern part of Mali. This resulted in fears of possible reprisal attacks of Islamic extremists. A senior Pentagon official besides criticising the ECOWAS also expressed his strong disapproval of the partial withdrawal of French troops. He hoped that the recently submitted UN resolution which aimed at enhancing the stabilisation of major cities, restoring democratic governance, promoting national unity and re-establishing order all across the country would ease slashes. Not only the US and European leaders were afraid of terrorist reprisal, but also refugees, who fled the country when insurgences broke out. Some 270,000 people have been displaced and further 170,000 fled to neighbouring countries mainly Burkina

Faso, Mauritania and Niger, according to the United Nations. The circumstances of those who were displaced at Mbera camp – one of the most numerous refugee camps – were gradually improving. According to UN reports, aliment resources were sufficient and water supplies were steady in the camp, though it was a question of time till when they can maintain such promising improvements.

Despite many challenges, finally, after a long negotiation period, the Malian government signed a ceasefire with the Tuareg rebels, providing a fragile, but still fairly peaceful moment in the country's life since the rebellion started. As the peacekeeping mission named AFISMA was going to be replaced by UN directed mission, MINUSMA, the Security Council called the Member States to provide the resources that were undersupplied. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon assured the local government that any possible help will be provided from the UN. The peacekeeping force was planned to be some 12,000 troops strong. It is indeed an important mission for the UN, because nearly half of the troops of MINUSMA are partly deployed by the ECOWAS countries, meaning that the current peacekeeping force, upholding the ceasefire in Mali, is composed of neighbouring countries' soldiers. The task of the peacekeeping force is to maintain the relative peace between the governmental and the northern separatist forces. The elections were held on 28 July and 11 August resulting the victory of Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta. With the vastness of the territory and the odds against the UN peacekeeping mission, it is still not sure whether MINUSMA will be successful as planned or will not meet up to the expectations. UN officials are in the opinion that if the Member States called upon, can provide the necessary resources and can cooperate efficiently, MINUSMA can be successful despite these odds.

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CIVIL WAR IN SYRIA

Almost two and a half year ago broke out the deadly violence in Syria. Since the outbreak, it transformed into a civil war causing up to 100,000 undifferentiated deaths according to the United Nations, 4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 1.5 million refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries. The riots are rooted in the movement known as the Arab Spring which spread from Tunisia across the Arab world and transformed from demonstrations for freedom into protests against the establishment. The Syrian aspiration toward abroad created a spill-over effect of which Syrian president Assad, whose father already had ruled the country for over 30 years, warned that the conflict will even spread further if the government could not be held up. Direct neighbours of Syria are Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Israel and Lebanon which are affected in multiple ways by the turmoil.

The Syrian President's call for support was targeted to the leaders of the region which rule their countries in a similar way and show a great interest to keep the political power structure as it is. The request was attended by the wish of keeping foreign influences, in particular the influence of the USA, as low as possible. The only solution according to Assad would have been a dialogue with only Syrians excluding a foreign intervention. However, foreign powers, namely Russia and the US, had different visions on that. Russia's position and support for Assad's regime is quite clear. Russia was and is advocating for a sovereign Syrian solution. Moscow stated that there had been no use of chemical weapons in Syria. The S-300 deal (about an air defence missile system) was contrasted by the fear of an al-Qaida takeover. Assad's demission would have first lead to

a vacuum of power and then to a hostile takeover by al-Qaida connected rebels. According to the USA, there were long-lasting discussions about an intervention led by Washington. Their measures just focused on the support for Syrian refugees in Jordan as a civil engagement. But the US stayed cautious because of the possible Syrian property of chemical weapons. Mistakes of the past in Iraq should not be repeated and however they would have been supported by France, UK and Israel verifying the Syrian use of chemical weapons.

Several scenarios had been discussed, for example one possibility was "to establish a humanitarian corridor that is 80 kilometres wide and 50 kilometres deep (31 by 50 miles) and a contingent of 40,000 to 50,000 soldiers would be necessary" in cooperation with a non fly-zone over Syria. A consensus dominated over the nature of measurements: it should be large-scaled and sustainable over a long period. Problematic would only be the number of troops to secure Syrian chemical weapons depot which would require 75,000 soldiers. A possible buffer zone could be erected along the Syrian-Jordanian border. At the same time, western leaders discussed about providing weapons to the rebel Syrian free army. But it can not be guaranteed that these weapons would not fall into the wrong hands.

Moreover, the situation with Syrian refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries aggravated day by day. For example, on February 15th, 2013, it was reported that there have been more than 40,000 Syrians fleeing to seek shelter in neighbouring countries. Syrians moved from the warzone to safer places in Syria and neighbouring countries. The new wave of displacement

added to an estimated 2.5 million people already uprooted within Syria, many living in squalid conditions in schools and other public buildings converted into shelters, according to the UN. The countries in which there is huge inflow of Syrian refugees are Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. These neighbouring countries have better economic conditions compared to Iraq. The uprising in Syria has now become one of the longest on-going internal conflict with the most casualties in the region. That raises concerns for the violation of human rights and other loss of properties to those who are being displaced to neighbouring countries.

However, a much more serious concern was raised regarding Syria and that was the use of chemical weapons. On 16th March

potential harm they pose to civilians. The HRW report is based on field investigations conducted after two cluster bomb attacks outside Homs and Aleppo killed 11 civilians and injured over 25, along with hundreds of Internet videos posted online by activists detailing similar attacks. This was not the first HRW report calling attention to Syria using cluster munitions. The international community had become increasingly concerned about the possible use of chemical weapons in Syria. This fact contributed to the division of the attitude of world powers towards a war-torn country. The US Secretary of State John Kerry said that the Obama administration supported efforts by Middle Eastern nations to send arms to the opposition in Syria, and had had discussions with foreign



2013, the Human Rights Watch (HRW) report on Syrian Civil war raised signals, that Syrian regime was expanding its use of widely banned cluster bombs. According to the report, the Syrian military used cluster munitions in 119 locations across Syria, dropping at least 156 bombs over the last six months and killing dozens of civilians. The use of these munitions is prohibited under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), which Syria had neither signed nor ratified, because of the

officials to emphasize that those arms should go to moderate forces rather than to extremists. His comments also signalled a more transparent effort to coordinate military assistance for the opponents of President Bashar al-Assad. The United States also supported a plan by Britain to supply the armed Syrian opposition with nonlethal equipment, which might include vehicles, night vision equipment and body armour. The British government was expected to announce that assistance soon.

Persian Gulf nations have been sending military and other aid to the rebels for more than a year, but weapons shipments to the rebels increased significantly in the last few months as Saudi Arabia financed the purchase of infantry weapons from Croatia, which were sent to the rebels via Jordan. A major question was, whether these efforts would be enough to turn the tide against Assad. The flow of weapons has not stopped the Syrian military from firing missiles at its opponents or bombing them and also use of different clustered bombs which, according to President Obama, would be considered as the "red-line" for US and other major countries for the military intervention in Syria.

Despite several months of lamentable incidents, slight progress could be traced in negotiation processes. While Syrian opposition groups seemed to be still disorganised and indecisive, international actors, both supporters of the regime (Russia and Iran) and backers of the rebels (US, UK, France, Turkey) gave the impression of being fully committed to make an end of the bloodsheds. A number of leaders and prominent officials of countries engaged in the Syrian conflict entered into individual dialogues and came to a fruitful conclusion concerning how to make the opposition and the rebels sit together at the same negotiation table at Geneva 2 peace talks, proposed by the US. Russia has proven to be an obstacle in previous peace talks, though the initiative of both Moscow and Washington to set up a temporary government with the help of significant international allies of opposing sides in Syria gave considerable hopes to those who are determined to resolve the conflict as soon as possible. While John Kerry and Sergey V. Lavrov, the Russian Foreign Minister announced on 7 May in Moscow that the two countries were about to launch new diplomatic campaign in cooperation on the crisis; three days later in Sochi David Cameron also declared that he and the Russian President Vladimir Putin could point out their common aims

concerning Syria in spite of their several conflicts. The PM of the UK said to the Guardian that both of them are intended to "stop Syria from fragmenting, let the Syrian people choose who governs them, and prevent the growth of violent extremism." Even though, the leaders of super powers and other international actors involved in Syria made significant attempts to enhance a viable resolution at Geneva 2, there are still seemingly insurmountable obstacles both in the international arena and within the internal affairs of Syria that may hinder the prospects of the proposed peace negotiations. The participation of rival sides at the Geneva 2 peace talks was at least questionable. Neither the Assad regime, nor the chiefs of resistance groups expressed willingness to compromise. The Syrian PM did not want to give up his position; meanwhile the opposition claimed that its members will not attend the peace conference unless Assad vows to resign. Despite greatly optimistic expectations of international actors, the discussions would probably be locked in stalemate as a result. However, at least international supporters of the two differing poles in Syria showed that it is not impossible to enter into diplomatic dialogues.

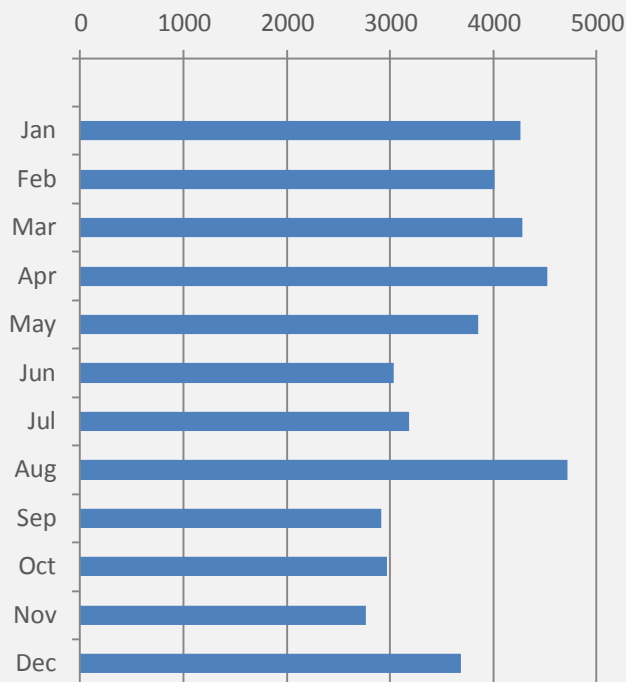
On the other side, investigations on the usage of chemical weapons resulted in complete stalemate. On one hand, David Cameron is assured that Assad-supporters deployed chemical weaponry, while on the other hand a UN representative gave voice to his suspicion of rebels using nerve gas. Despite the uncertainties both London and Paris are constantly urging the EU to lift its arms embargo against Syrian rebels in order to respond "properly" to the assumed illegal actions of the regime. Consequently, the pro-Assad Putin administration also refused to halt backing the Syrian government with missiles. Thus, this very scandal seemingly culminates into a vicious, irresolvable circle of problems.

While there are efforts to advance

political dialogues and bring them to a successful end, the number of dead Syrian people crossed the mark of 100,000, of which almost one third were civilians. The conflict affects the whole country: The economy broke down, unemployment and inflation rose enormously and the UN predicts a humanitarian crisis, most likely in terms of a famine. Comparisons to the Rwanda genocide are made because there are estimated 5,000 Syrians dying every month while refugees are fleeing in large scales to neighboring countries posing a risk of spillover-effects to the wider Middle-East. Like already prophesied, at least 6.8 million Syrians require urgent humanitarian assistance risking a famine crisis and accused the government and opposition of "systematically and in many cases deliberately" failing their obligation to protect civilians. "The security, economic, political, social, development and humanitarian consequences of this crisis are extremely grave and its human impact immeasurable in terms of the long-term trauma and emotional impact on this and future generations of Syrians, we are not only watching the destruction of a country but also of its people."

From all the attacks on civilians, the worst was the chemical weapon attack in August. Based on US intelligence reports, no less than 1,429 people were killed on 21st August near Damascus during this mentioned attack. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's administration completely denied the accusations, stating "terrorists" are to blame, referring to the country's rebel militants. Saying that the US claim is "full of lies," the Syrian government have allowed UN chemical weapons experts to exploit the attack site and conduct a thorough search for traces of chemical substances between 25th and 30th August. John Kerry said that the use of chemical weapons is a "moral obscenity" that could not go unanswered, and that Syrian actions are "not the behaviour of a government that has nothing to hide." President Barack Obama also backs military

action in Syria, but first he would ask for approval from the Congress. On the other hand, Russia said that an intervention in Syria would have "catastrophic consequences" for the whole region and called on the international community to show "prudence" over the crisis. Besides, Turkey, that stood on the rebel groups side, has been accused by Syrian President Bashar Hassad of harbouring "terrorists" along its border. Turkey absolutely denied Syria's accusations, saying that it has never allowed Syrian rebels to prepare and launch attacks against the Syrian president's regime on Turkish territory. After Syria agreed with the destruction of its chemical weapons, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which is the UN's chemical weapons watchdog, conducted the elimination of Syria's stockpiles of poison gas, for what it was awarded by the Nobel Peace Prize.



Casualties of the Syrian Civil War in 2013

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WAR AND TERRORISM IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan, the second most populous Islam country with nearly 200 million people was heavily hit by sectarian violence. About 20 per cent of the population is Shia Muslim and they are frequently targeted by pro-Sunni groups all across the country. 2012 has been the most violent year so far, more than 400 people were killed in attacks and the first two months of 2013 claimed roughly 200 lives just in the region of Quetta. On 10 January, a double suicide bombing attack on a pool club in the city's Alamdar Road killed about a hundred people and 9 smaller scale actions were reported in January and February.

The armed conflict among the fundamentalists and armed forces of Pakistan began in 2004, when Pakistan became the forefront ally in the war against terrorism. Pakistan started the search for militants of different fundamentalist groups such as Al-Qaeda and Taliban, mostly in the Northeast region. It is the battleplace among the armed forces of Pakistan and the militants who were considered as religious fundamentalists. The joint border between Afghanistan and Pakistan is almost 900 kilometres long. The militant groups that are present in the Northwest are mostly fundamentalist and anti-western. Fundamentalists in the area believed that Pakistani armed forces are pro-USA and that is the reason they have started war against those who were supporting USA's policies in the region. Others believed that the fundamentalists have roots in Afghanistan and after the war in Afghanistan they became more active in cross-border activities and started fighting to protect their interests in the border areas of both countries. The militant groups which are having clashes

with armed forces of Pakistan are Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Lashkar-i-Islam and many organized crime groups. The groups are still active and carry out different attacks on security personnel, schools in the area, target different minority groups, luxury hotels and different places where hundreds of civilians lost their lives.

Pakistan had been facing huge insurgency in different parts of the country. In 10th January 2013 there were bombings in the southeast city of Quetta. Those attacks were car and suicide bombings, which resulted in killing of more than 130 and injuring several people in the city of Quetta. Two different groups claimed responsibility after committed attacks. One of them was Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, that claimed to be responsible for car bombing and the attack was linked to religious ethnic issue. Other group reported to be the Baluch Separatist Army, which has been fighting against the armed forces of Pakistan for the separation of Baluchistan. This type of attacks is frequent in the southeast region of Pakistan.

Moreover, at least 84 people died and almost 200 injured on 16 February after a blast ruined a busy marketplace surrounded by schools in Quetta, capital city of Pakistan's Balochistan Province. The attack took place in the outskirts of the town dominantly populated by Shia Hazara people. First reports suggested that the exploding device was mounted into a motorbike, but later authorities said the bomb was hidden in a water tank of a trailer pulled by a tractor. In fear of further attack, locals and the ambulance approached the scene after certain security measures had been taken. Lashkar-e-Jhangvi claimed responsibility for the action. The organization has been

officially banned since 2001 and is considered as an armed Sunni sectarian group, which is in close relationship with the Taliban and its purpose is to wipe up Shia Islam in Balochistan.

Members of the Pakistani Shia community expected more effective national and local policy and were deeply unsatisfied with the efforts of authorities to terminate atrocities against the religious minority. Some blamed the government mentioning it had no real willingness to oppose militant groups. Most of these are established and supported by the Inter-Services Intelligence – Pakistan's official intelligence agency – as guerrilla organizations in order to enhance the country's self-defence capabilities in the case of a war with India.

militants, including the mastermind of the marketplace bombing and a bomb-maker were killed as a result of the successful investigation and a new operation against Sunni extremists.

But not just the anti-Shia groups threatened security in Pakistan's largest, western province. Balochistan suffered from sectarian and tribal local conflicts, while clashes between the national army and the Balochistan Liberation Army, fighting for a greater autonomy of the region, represent a national scale challenge. From an international scale approach, Sunni Islamists linked to the Taliban and the Shia dominant Iran borders to Balochistan from the west, caused the regional outreach of this escalating issue. The Christian community in Pakistan is



Pakistan

As the attacks became more deadly and there were no impeachment relatives of the February 16 blast, there was a protest campaign launched to stress policymakers to take efficient measures. Governor of Balochistan Zulfiqar Magsi – who has been in office since his predecessor was fired after the January 10 bloodshed – directed the anger of the people towards the security services stating the attack was their failure. Three days after the attack, official spokespersons announced 170 people had been detained and 4 high-level

also violently attacked. About two hundred Christian homes were torched in the Lahore area of Pakistan. The Badami Bagh community suffered violent attacks by a Muslim mob after a blasphemy complaint made against Sawan Masih, a young Christian man. The arrest of the alleged blasphemer did not prove to satisfy the outraged Muslim mob of about 3,000. On the 9th of March, about two hundred Christian buildings, including homes, shops and churches, were set on fire in Lahore. Since many Christian residents had fled the area

before the attack, there was no loss of life, though some were injured and many have become homeless. After the incident, Christians all across the country marched to the streets, demanding actions to be taken in order to protect the Christian community in Pakistan.

Pakistan's relationship with the US also has tangible effect on the happenings in the country. The relationship between the two countries can be best determined with the notion of mutual dependency. The superpower needs Pakistan's cooperation to fight against extremist Islamic terrorist movements and organizations, such as the al-Qaeda or the Pakistani Taliban. On the other hand, Pakistan has a stake in good relations with the US concerning the huge amount of military aid (\$17 billion) and other forms of financial and other support arriving from Washington. Obama's shift in US foreign policy, namely the gradual withdrawal of US forces from Pakistan and Afghanistan, in order to concentrate its military power to the Asia-Pacific region, caused ambivalent feelings of Pakistani leaders. Some celebrated the exit of the US from the region, while others had fears that – similarly to the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in the beginning of the 1990's – Islamist groups would proliferate primarily in the north-western part of Pakistan next to the Afghan border. Pakistani authorities, on one hand, condemned the US drone strikes, which cause many civilian deaths and casualties, heavily in public. On the other hand, they secretly provided support for the strikes to help the CIA assassinating certain jihadist leaders. The leadership also pursued a two-faced policy regarding Islamist groups. While Pakistan helped the CIA to liquidate some people considered as persona non grata, at the same time it gave shelter to militant groups like the Afghan Taliban and Lashkar-e-Taiba, which serve the interests of Pakistan in India and Afghanistan. The Pakistani leadership used the United States' presence as a scapegoat

in front of the Pakistani public. The exaggerated tales of American espionage and attacks were useful to hide the severe local economic and social problems. According to Obama's announcement in May 2013, the US would reduced the number of drone strikes, as well as the scale of so called signature strikes, and would only targeted people, who pose an imminent threat to the superpower. The Pakistani government needed US support to stabilize its military power and to keep its economy alive, latter being in a doubtful situation. In addition the leadership wanted to keep a check on extremist groups like the Pakistani Taliban, the goal of which is to establish an Islamist caliphate in the whole of Pakistan. The American withdrawal from the region threatens Pakistan's internal stability, as the Pakistani Army is not strong enough to secure the country's stable order from its own financial and military potentials. Pakistan, being a key player in global counterterrorism efforts, would lose its prestige, financial support and political importance, if the mutual dependency with the US would break off.

	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists/ Insurgents	Total
January	414	70	265	749
February	360	44	201	605
March	249	43	193	485
April	230	88	234	552
May	283	81	185	549
June	326	62	104	492
July	240	68	149	457
August	224	62	62	348
September	292	46	71	409
October	127	37	70	234
November	144	43	82	269
December	112	32	86	230
Total	3001	676	1702	5379

Fatalities in terrorist violence in Pakistan 2013

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CONFLICTS IN AFRICA

Africa was largely influenced by a number of ethnic conflicts also during the year 2013. First of all, in January, tribal clashes in Sudan broke out. Violence between Sudanese tribes has a long history and there are some separate ongoing conflicts in Northern Sudan and in the freshly founded country, Republic of South Sudan. In such arid, semi-arid environment, there is just limited access to essential natural resources and the different – and antagonistic – lifestyle based on the way of using lands causes continuous tensions. In general, major conflicts lay between the grazing wandering Arab tribes and the settled and partly plant-cultivating African tribes.

Heavy fighting broke out in early January between tribes Bani Hussein and Rezeigat Aballa over the exploration and exploitation of a gold mine located in Jebel Amer area in North Darfur state. In spite of the tribal leaders' mediation, truce violence flared again. On 21 February, a Rezeigat Aballa group attacked Bani Husseins in El Sireaf area, killing 21 and wounding more than 30 people and the dead toll rose with more than 60 as the result of further clashes during February.

The African Union–United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) attempted to stop violence by sending peacekeeping patrols in the concerned areas, but they were stopped by armed tribesmen who forced them to stay away from the business of the tribes. Because of lack of security and the fact that authorities in Khartoum forbid foreigners to attend conflict areas, medical and other kind of aids provided by the UN or other international organizations have minimal chance to reach those thousands suffering from wounds, malnutrition and refuge from torched

villages.

In March, South Sudan army officials said 143 rebels were killed in Jonglei, when South Sudan's army took over an airstrip. Not only the rebels of David Yau Yau's group, but twenty SPLA soldiers were also killed and seventy were wounded. According to SPLA spokesman, the airstrip located in Pibor County had been a significant port of arms and ammunition supplies by Khartoum for Yau Yau's rebels. Khartoum denies the allegations of supporting the rebels. The fights caused a significant rise in the number of people fleeing to Kenya this year, says the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

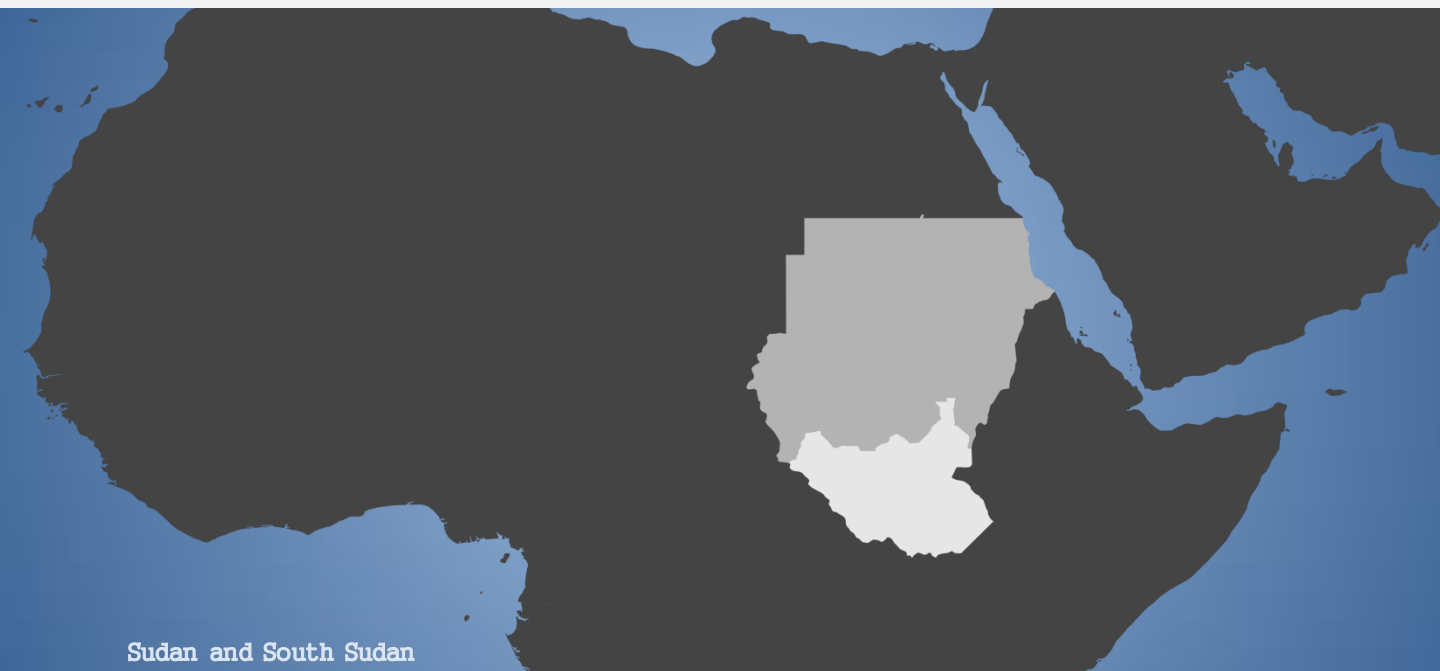
Central African Republic (CAR) has also been shaken by alarming humanitarian crisis, probably the most grievous ever. Since Michel Djotodie was declared interim president after a coup, chaos and complete disorder broke out in the country. Some 119 people have been killed since insurgents – known as Seleka – seized power – said Navanethem Pillay UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The former President Francois Bozizé fled to Cameroon after riots erupted in Bangui on 24 March. Djotodia served as defence minister in the former government, though abdicated in March before he took over control in the country. In consequence of his unsuccessful consolidation of power, Djotodia does not have enough control over his own armed forces, thus looting of Seleka fighters is a frequent phenomenon in the CAR.

Violence became a commonplace in the country including kidnappings, torture, sexual violence and conscripting children in the army. Only in Berberati, 19 instances of sexual abuse have been officially reported to the UN and certainly there are

much more cases, which remained unrevealed. The most striking issue is that neither international organizations can lend a hand to those who are in need. The UNICEF is constantly monitoring the region to determine whether aid supplies will reach their original targets in safety or not. International NGOs and other organizations try to do their bests in order to improve living conditions of the people in the CAR. However, it is quite impossible unless political coups happen on a less regular basis in the country. To avoid further political struggles, a firm, democratic government with conscious and coherent policies has to be established. The fact that the CAR struggles with rebel groups that have large military power is evidenced also in the real picture showing

afford military equipment.

New clashes from September indicate that tensions do not seem to get lower in the African country. The ousted President Yangouvonda still has supporters all across the country. On 9 September – as a part of their first large-scale operation since the ouster – they clashed with former rebels. More than 60 people got killed in the attack. According to some opinions, the destruction can cause insecurity in the whole region. Moreover, UN reports show that 1.2 million inhabitants are in need of food, shelter, healthcare and water. As more and more people fall victim to sectarian violence and growing number of attacks across the country, there are increasing concerns if the state is on the direct way to genocide. According to



Sudan and South Sudan

they are solidifying their control over the country's diamond industry. After the overthrow of President Francois Bozize, in rebel-controlled areas fighters are blocking diamond trade, residents say. The so called blood-diamonds have caused many conflicts in the area, because usually rebels that have access to the precious stones tend to sell them to be able to

a UN report, more than 600 people were killed during only one week in December. A new wave of mass violence broke out on Christmas Day when six Chadian soldiers from the African Union (AU) peacekeeping unit were killed in an ambush in Bangui. Official statements have confirmed that assailants have also attempted to break in to the presidential palace, however guards

were able to push them back. Although the aggressors have not been immediately identified, according to rumours they were members of the Christian “Anti-Balaka” militia, a group believed to be supported by former President. Tensions have escalated in December 2013 and are seem to end up in a humanitarian crisis as

Central African Republic (MISCA), however some analysts believe the situation will not change until a complete United Nations peacekeeping operation is deployed. Backing the AU’s struggle to restore order, France has settled 1,600 troops in its former colony, however the intervention – authorized by the UN – was followed by



Central African Republic

fighters of both religious and heavily armed groups go door to door murdering and raping civilians, set fire to cars and buildings, pillage and displace thousands of people. Since the government has proven to be incapable to handle the deteriorating situation, international peacekeeping forces get more and more importance. The medical charity organisation, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), has already accused the UN for not giving an effective response to the crisis. In an open letter addressed to the international organisation, the MSF has stated it had repeatedly asked the UN to provide food, tents and other supplies for humanitarian purposes, which request has remained without any appreciable reaction. According to Tessy Fautsch emergency medical coordinator for MSF, malaria and chest infections are the most frequent medical conditions, however the risk of emerging new diseases is incredibly high due to the lack of water and sanitation. Recognizing the seriousness of the crisis, the African Union has already sent 6,000 peacekeepers to the country under the International Mission to the

demonstrations of Seleka members after three of their fighters had been killed in clashes with French soldiers. Protesters called French President François Hollande a “criminal” while they were repeatedly chanting “no to France” and claimed his troops were only there to protect Christians. The United States has also engaged in helping resolve the crisis and has started airlifting Burundian soldiers into the country. According to top diplomat Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the US has set aside about forty million dollars to support the African Union’s peacekeeping operations, including training and equipping troops, however she has emphasized that her country will not maintain any military presence in the territory of the Central African Republic. Religious leaders are trying to seek reconciliation between Christians and Muslims as well. Most recently, the Amnesty International has urged the United Nations to act quickly and put an end to the evolving crisis. For the time being, only a few things are known for sure: Despite all cries for help, the

international community seems to be powerless to prevent further deterioration of the crisis. President Michael Djotodia is considering the fears exaggerated. In the meantime, the country – which has rarely seen political and economic stability since it gained independence in 1960 – is on a path that very likely leads to genocide. In the meantime, French President François Hollande has agreed to help African nations create a joint military force during the Elysée Summit for Peace and Security in Africa, held in Paris on 6 December 2013. The two-day conference which took place with the participation of about forty African leaders, aimed to establish an effective military force in order to tackle coups, wars and rebellions on the continent. Colonial memories have undoubtedly affected the atmosphere of the meeting. President Hollande has emphasized that now “Africa must be the master of its own destiny and that means mastering its own security”.

Residing in Sudan	
Refugees	155,910
Asylum Seekers	8,027
Returned Refugees	15,931
Internally Displaced Persons	1,873,300
Returned IDPs	13,811
Various	3,381
Total Population of Concern	2,070,360
Originating from Sudan	
Refugees	632,014
Asylum Seekers	22,815
Returned Refugees	15,931
Internally Displaced Persons	1,873,300
Returned IDPs	13,811
Various	321
Total Population of Concern	2,558,192

Refugees and displaced persons in Sudan
(UNHCR statistics, mid-2013)

Residing in South Sudan	
Refugees	223,636
Asylum Seekers	51
Returned Refugees	369
Internally Displaced Persons	401,433
Returned IDPs	0
Various	0
Total Population of Concern	625,489
Originating from South Sudan	
Refugees	102,651
Asylum Seekers	25,546
Returned Refugees	369
Internally Displaced Persons	401,433
Returned IDPs	0
Various	0
Total Population of Concern	529,999

Refugees and displaced persons in South Sudan
(UNHCR statistics, mid-2013)

Residing in Central African Republic	
Refugees	17,732
Asylum Seekers	2,604
Returned Refugees	0
Internally Displaced Persons	206,000
Returned IDPs	0
Various	0
Total Population of Concern	226,336
Originating from Central African Republic	
Refugees	221,577
Asylum Seekers	3,617
Returned Refugees	0
Internally Displaced Persons	206,000
Returned IDPs	0
Various	0
Total Population of Concern	431,194

Refugees and displaced persons in Central African Republic
(UNHCR statistics, mid-2013)

CONFLICTS IN ASIA

The first half of the year 2013 was marked by several significant disputes between Asian states, as well as by severe internal unrest within one state. In February and March 2013, the first mentioned case occurred between Malaysia and the Philippines in the form of unresolved territorial dispute. The territorial dispute between these two states erupted over Malaysian district in Sabah called Lahad Datu, which was occupied by a group of Muslims from the Philippines called the Royal Army of Sulu. The leader of the group of a few hundred is Agbimuddin Kiram, who is the brother of the self-proclaimed Sultan of Sulu, Jamalul Kiram III. Sulu is an autonomous island province of the Philippines located in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The group was initially welcomed peacefully, but after several attempts of sending them back to the Philippines, violence broke out, soon leading to a standoff.

The dormant territorial dispute of Sabah between the Philippines and Malaysia is based on events that occurred several centuries earlier. In the seventeenth century, when Sabah was neither an American nor a Spanish colony, there were two main sultanates in the area: the Brunei and the Sulu. In 1658, Brunei gave Sabah to the Sultan of Sulu, either as a gift or to thank the Sulu for offering military help in a rebellion. Sabah became part of Malaysia in 1963. Based on an 1878 contract between the Sultanate of Sulu and the British North Borneo Company, each year Malaysia pays about 5,000 ringgit (£1,000, \$1,500) to the Sultanate of Sulu. The amount was acknowledged as a price paid for Sabah by Malaysia, but Sulu interprets the yearly fee as a lease or rent.

The Sulu troops – about 250 men – arrived

to the coast of Lahad Datu on the 11th of February by boat. Shortly after the arrival, Malaysian police blocked roads leading from Lahad Datu through palm oil plantations to Tanduo, and also ordered food blockade. Benigno Aquino III, President of the Philippines asked Kiram to call his followers back and turn to the government with his concerns. He said that by battling Malaysia the Sulu not only risk their lives but can also cause problems to the Filipino families living and working there. Aquino reminded Kiram that as a Filipino citizen the Constitution applies to him and his people, and in this constitution provoking war is a crime. The 74-year-old sultan said he was ready to be jailed. Kiram emphasized the need to come up with a diplomatic, win-win solution, but said he would not withdraw from Sabah. On the 1st of March, three days after the deadline of the Royal Army of Sulu to leave the island, Malaysian police engaged in a shooting with the troops. Malaysian Home Minister says that the Sulu were the first to start the fight, in which fourteen people were killed – twelve of Kiram's followers and two Malaysian policemen – and about five were injured. Malaysian police began to double its forces in order to get ready for more attacks. On the 3rd of March a group of about ten Sulu soldiers ambushed the police in Semporna. Encircled, the police got trapped in the village. After the attack 23 policemen were reported to be missing, and captive four policemen had their bodies mutilated and tortured, leading to allegations of black magic. Reports said that the incident claimed the lives of six policemen and seven assailants.

Consequently, on the 5th of March, Kiram's camp was bombed by Malaysian air forces.

"As I am speaking, the army and police forces, along with other members following behind, are taking action to arrest and destroy the group which has breached the nation's sovereignty" – Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said in Kuala Lumpur. On the 9th, Malaysian Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said that "Ops Daulat" (Operation Sovereignty) would only end when not even one of the Sulu troopers are left in Malaysia. Also, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) announced that they would send reinforcement to Sabah in order to help the Sulu. The Islamic MNLF has been struggling to achieve sovereignty from the Philippines for five decades, claiming Bangsamoro land (including Sulu) to be theirs. Many of their fighters had received military training and arms from Malaysia during the war for Bangsamoro with the Philippines.

of the Philippines in Kuala Lumpur. The move was named "Ops Bunga" (Operation Flower), with Malaysians placing flowers on the doorstep of the building showing solidarity for the Filipinos living in Malaysia. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called an end to the war and emphasized the need to establish dialogue between the parties in order to solve the conflict appropriately. "I am very sad over the incident because what we had wanted to prevent, which is bloodshed, had actually happened" Najib Razak said.

The second momentous dispute within Asia came in the form of a continued civil war in Burma. On January 19th 2013, the Burmese Army officially ended the operation in the province of Kachin. The area generally had posed threat to the country by growing number of militants who are particularly linked to Kachin Independence Organization (KIO). Kachin

Malaysia and the Philippines



On the 7th of March, a spokesman for Kiram said that the sultanate declares a unilateral ceasefire and had ordered their troops to take a defensive position. However, Kuala Lumpur was not willing to accept the call. "A unilateral cease-fire is not accepted by Malaysia unless the militants surrender unconditionally" says Defence Minister Ahmad Zahid. On the 8th of March, an assembly was held at the Embassy

conflict, also known as Kachin war is generally called as Burmese Civil war since 1941. The main reason of the conflict among the armed forces and the militant group is the autonomy issue of ethnic group in Kachin that is located in Northeast of Burma. There had been many casualties and displacement of the people since the beginning of the conflict, the KIO is the only rebel group that is not agreeing for

the ceasefire and is carrying different operations against the armed forces from time to time. The Burmese Army stated that most of the area is under the control of the state and there were only few incidents that did not pose significant threat to the state. The ceasefire was a result of the Parliament's decision to end the fight against different rebel groups in the area. The riotous situation in Burma affected also its neighbour countries, which were concerned about the future development of the Kachin conflict, particularly regarding to a spill over effect, that it might have caused. China was for instance increasing security by moving military personnel on the borders with Burma in mid of January 2013. China had always been putting close eye on the Kachin conflict that caused huge inflow of displaced people to the country. According to a report of Human Rights, China had forcefully sent back many people directly or indirectly affected by the

process. Everybody was cautious concerning the final outcome of the situation. As the long-time reigning junta slowly gave up power to the civilian government, old grudges and conflicts re-emerged from the depths of society. One of Burma's serious issues is the public unrest and communal violence caused by the dispute between Muslims and Buddhists living in the country. As the biggest minority in the country, ethnic Muslims mostly live separated along the Western borderline territory, composing the state of Rakhine. However, Muslims are an essential part of the local economic life, thus many wealthy Muslims live in the cities of the Irrawaddy River's valleys. The local disputes after decades of suppression from the military junta, recently erupted into waves of public violence throughout the country. Disturbed by inner difficulties, Burmese President Thein Sein was determined to continue with the reform process. The



conflict on the boarding areas among the two countries. In addition to that, China has strong business and trade ties with Burma and it has repeatedly called on the country to ensure stability along the vast and remote border.

Besides, there are many concerns over Burma's political and security balance, as it had been going through fast reform

process. The president's reforms resulted in a thawing process on an international scale and despite the ongoing unrest, coaxed optimistic attitudes from foreign powers such as the United States. After a long time Burmese president visited the White House in May and also met with the representatives of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Another insurgency within Asia took place during September in Zamboanga City, Philippines, where armed militants of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) entered the city and killed four people, giving a start to what resulted in a three week long standoff on the streets of Zamboanga. The relationship between the Philippine government and the rebel group MNLF has been more or less quiet since the 1996 peace treaty that allowed the creation of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Nur Misuari, the leader of the group, however, had got the impression that the peace deal and the MNLF itself were in danger, therefore on 12th August 2013, he arbitrarily declared the independence of the Bangsamoro Republik, claiming the islands of Mindanao, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Palawan. After that, Misuari disappeared from the public view, and sat quietly in the back right until the fighting broke out in Zamboanga. Initially, in the first days, there were diplomatic attempts to solve the standoff peacefully. After the police and the government both failed to establish a ceasefire with the rebels, the government selected to proceed with its air strikes and rocket attacks against alleged MNLF positions in the city. An estimated sum of 500 rebel militants was facing more than 5,000 soldiers of the Philippine government, yet they managed to hold out for more than two weeks. Day by day, however, the army gradually regained control over the territory that had been occupied by the Islamic militants. By 25th September, the fighting had already displaced 109,000 people in Zamboanga City and 19,000 in Basilan, and destroyed more than 10,000 homes – thereupon the UN declared the situation a humanitarian crisis. On 29th September, National Defence Secretary Voltaire Gazmin informed the Philippine community in a statement, announcing that the conflict in Zamboanga was over, but it had left behind dozens of dead and displaced people.

Internal conflict in Myanmar – key facts

Beginning	1948
Cause	It began shortly after the country's attainment of independence from the United Kingdom in 1948 successive central governments of Burma (or Myanmar) have fought a myriad of ethnic and political rebellions.
Death toll estimation	210,000
End date?	The war is still running and considered as world's longest-running civil war.
Countries involved	People's Republic of China, Thailand, United States
Forces involved	Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League, Burma Socialist Programme Party, State Peace and Development Council, Union Solidarity and Development Party, Karen National Union, Karen National Liberation Army, Mujahideen, Communist Party of Burma, Red flags, Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, Shan State Army, Shan State Army South, Shan State Army North, Wa National Army, United Wa State Party, United Wa State Army, Kachin Independence Organisation, Kachin Independence Army, Pa-O National Organization, Republic of China, God's Army, Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, All Burma Students' Democratic Front, Shan State Volunteer Force

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IRAQI INSURGENCY

In May 2013, first provincial election after the departure of the US troops was held in Iraq. However, the political event was disturbed by several smaller attacks. The voters' participation only reached less than half of 14 million citizens who were entitled and called to vote. The fear of extremist attacks kept probably many away from the polling stations – justifiably. At least four people were wounded marking the ongoing quarrels among the Sunni Islamists and Shi'ite-led government.

feast, which is the most significant commemoration ceremony for Shiite Muslims. Roughly two million worshippers gathered in Karbala, which is the place of the Imam Hussein mausoleum. Despite the fact that the security measures were reinforced with more than 35,000 soldiers and policemen, the armed forces failed to prevent the violence to strike.

The worst of the attacks during Ashura came in a Diyala province north of Baghdad, when a suicide bomber exploded and killed



Iraq

Towards the end of the year, growing violence was observed in Iraq. The security situation had been aggravating as deadly blasts hit the country every day. During October, 979 Iraqi civilians were killed and at least 1,902 injured in terrorist attacks according to the UN. The victims were mostly Shiite Muslims targeted by the Sunnis. The acts of violence had been held in public places such as parking lots, restaurants, shopping areas or worship places, with the aim to target the greatest number of people.

Sunni terrorism considerably intensified in mid-2013 because of the Ashura

30 worshippers. Actually, it had already been the third similar attack of that day. Previously, nine people had been killed by coordinated blasts in the south of Baghdad and five had been wounded in the city of Kirkuk. However, the first wave of violence in November came earlier and left together seven killed and approximately 50 people wounded. The deadliest aggression continued in the form of bombings and caused mayhem of dozens across the country.

The bloodshed came into the point, that Iraqi authorities were forced to appeal for international support in fighting

insurgency. Shortly after that, France offered help to Iraq in order to solve the crisis by providing weapons, training and intelligence cooperation. The fact is that since US forces withdrew from Iraq, the country has been struggling to fight against terrorism. Foreign politicians, human rights institutions and analysts claim the Iraqi officials are not doing enough to tackle the problem, especially regarding to Sunni discontent over Shiite-led government.

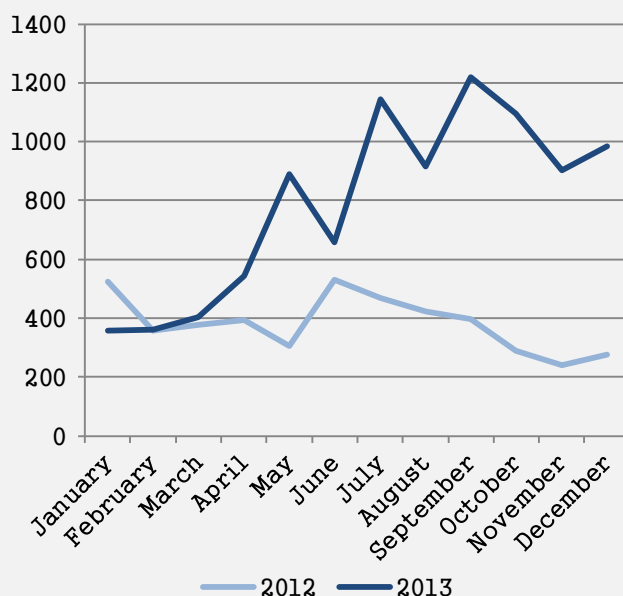
Contemporary security crisis was getting more serious as the first Iraqi general elections was approaching. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki travelled to Washington in order to accelerate the stream of new weapons systems to Iraq and support the idea of more effective intelligence sharing.

According to experts, militant groups, especially those linked to al-Qaeda, had probably been encouraged by the ongoing conflict in neighbouring Syria, from where the violence partly spread. Not only civilians, but also soldiers had been wounded during attacks, including Kurdish security forces that were watching the Kurdish-majority neighbourhood in the North of Iraq. North of Baghdad, one soldier was killed and three others were wounded in an army patrol that was targeted by insurgents.

One of the deadliest incidents occurred in Diyala province and caused 25 dead and 45 seriously injured civilians. The attack was caused by a minibus with more than 100 kg of bombs, that exploded in Sa'diyah town. "What happened in the Sa'diyah is an atrocious crime and a security breach that led to the deaths of dozens of innocent people", governor of Diyala Omer al-Hemiyari stated after a disaster. The police said that the explosion caused the burn of eight cars, ten shops and several other buildings.

Iraq faced the deadliest attacks since 2006–2007, when the sectarian struggle between Sunni and Shiite Muslims reached its peak. As the frequency and brutality of attacks

has continuously been rising, there are concerns that the worsening security situation in Iraq may get to the same level as it was years ago.



Documented civilian deaths from violence in Iraq

Residing in Iraq	
Refugees	188,555
Asylum Seekers	5,374
Returned Refugees	35,151
Internally Displaced Persons	993,188
Returned IDPs	24,100
Stateless persons	120,000
Total Population of Concern	1,366,368
Originating from Central African Republic	
Refugees	409,181
Asylum Seekers	20,998
Returned Refugees	35,151
Internally Displaced Persons	993,188
Returned IDPs	24,100
Various	1
Total Population of Concern	1,482,619

Refugees and displaced persons in Iraq
(UNHCR statistics, mid-2013)

ETHNIC CONFLICTS IN CHINA AND INDIA

The struggle between Tibet and the Chinese government has a long history which is mostly marked by self-burnings of Tibetans who through such brutal means express their revolt and protest against China. Based on the happenings of 2013, it does not seem it would be resolved soon. In February, new attempts of self-burning occurred in Tibet. Chinese police have detained 70 people to prevent self-burnings in the Tibetan region. Approximately 100 Tibetans have set themselves in fire so far to protest against Chinese power.

of Tibetans facing repression without the chance to make an impact. Often the Tibetans have to bear the costs of rebuilding their “new purpose-built housing estates”. The US-ambassador to China raised the importance of preserving the Tibetan culture, shortly mentioning the repeated self-immolation by monks and the organization of Human Rights Watch which had been accused of lying and “consistently making irresponsible remarks and groundless accusations against China”.

However, vehemently showed discontent of



Another source of discontent and disputes generated because of the ordered relocation of Tibetans by the Chinese government, in favour of a “new socialist countryside with new socialist villages”. The relocation sharply contradicts the maintenance of the human rights. The Mass rehousing happened partly without an appropriate financial compensation and without having consulted the inhabitants. This means a radical incision in the lives

Tibetans is not the only problem China has to cope with. Mass protests in Hong Kong have also taken place last year, when the group of approximately 50,000 protesters waving anti-CCP and pro-British banners and flags gathered in order to express the citizens’ disapproval towards current communist leader Leung Chun-ying. The critics accused ruler of kowtowing to Beijing and not doing anything to handle quality-of-life troubles in Hong Kong.

The demonstrations were carried out on 1st July, 2013, on the 16th anniversary of the city's return to mainland rule. Due to the torrential rain, the number of protesters might seem low after last year's estimate of 400,000, a recent survey, however, published by the Hong Kong University, shows that only one-third of HK citizens are proud of being a Chinese national – the lowest level since 1998.

Not only China, but also India had to face unrest and violence of its inhabitants as the long time ongoing protests and separatist movements in Andhra Pradesh state seem to be closing in on their final goal: achieving the independence of Telangana. As a federal state, India has always had minor issues amongst its states concerning the question of self-government. Although the original federal state system has been revised in 1956, today it seems that the once reorganized system fails to keep up with the peoples' desires.

The notion of a new reform for the federal system is not new to the Indian society. Many communities emphasize the fact that the current structure is lacking efficiency. However, the main difference between the common folk's movements and the politicians' criticism is that while amongst the common people these thoughts are mainly from a tribal view; leading politicians of the country are trying to achieve a greater portion of votes for their parties.

The events of 2013 show on the other hand that when it is down to the division of a former federal state, many compromises must be made. As it stands today, Andhra Pradesh state will be divided in the near future into two new states: Telangana and a remnant state consistent of Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema. Despite the fact that the government has many reasons to make this very hard decision, many of the local communities are outraged because of the plans.

There are many fractures in the Andhra Pradesh society but the most significant lies between the western and the eastern (coastal) people. The western part of Andhra Pradesh, that is planned to form Telangana consists of mostly tribal people who were vastly neglected during the last few decades. This is the main source of their independence movement: to achieve greater scale of self-governance and to have a louder voice in the National Assembly. On the other hand the economy of Andhra Pradesh is very dependent on its capital city, Hyderabad, which happens to be the future Telangana capital as well. This caused many demonstrations and violent protests from Coastal Andhra residents who are desperate to keep their important trade and workplace hub, the most significant in the region. If Hyderabad were to be removed from Andhra, then the state would suffer an irreversible economic breakdown. Latest plans however are proposing a major compromise to the two future states: share Hyderabad as capital city for the next 10 years, and during this period the government will try to find a solution to this most irritating issue.

The question of Telangana raises attention to many other problems that are affecting the Indian state. As it can be seen from the intensity of the demonstrations in Andhra Pradesh, the hunger for workplaces is unimaginably high in some parts of India, especially in those areas that are so bipolar like Hyderabad and the region surrounding it.

From one side the government acknowledges the fact that the Telugu people of Andhra Pradesh have been neglected and that their region is deeply underdeveloped compared to the rest of the state. On the other hand, it should also consider the problem of Hyderabad, which serves as an IT, trade and workplace hub for most of the population living in Andhra.

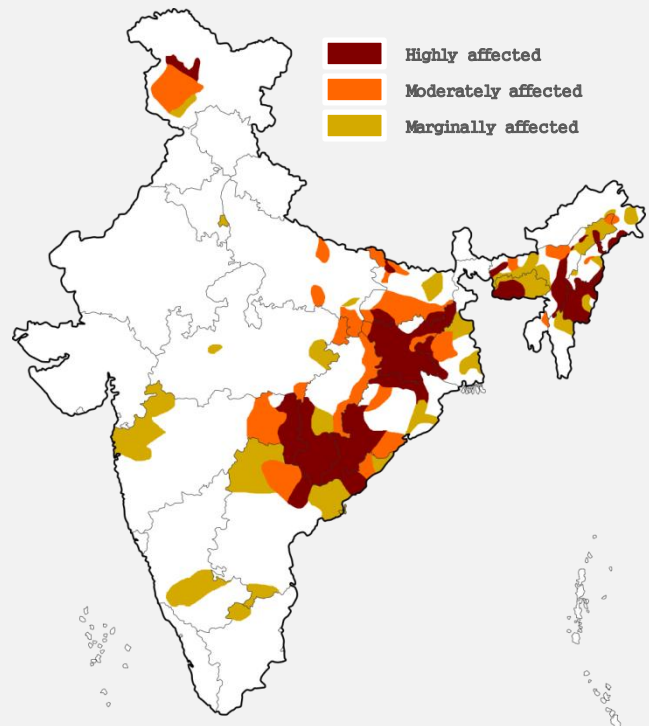
This particular question of Telangana shed light on similar issues throughout India. As a matter of fact there are many federal states tackling the same issues as Andhra Pradesh. For example: Maharashtra, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh (that lies between Delhi and Bihar) and Assam. As it can be imagined, many of these problems are multi-layered and cannot be solved in one great solution, but they were already successful in raising the politicians' attentions to such important problems that are threatening the internal integrity of the state.

India fatalities, 2013

	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists	Total
Andhra Pradesh	17	0	0	17
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	4	4
Assam	35	6	60	101
Bihar	7	0	1	8
Jammu & Kashmir	20	61	100	181
Manipur	21	6	28	55
Meghalaya	24	9	26	59
Nagaland	11	0	21	32
West Bengal	6	0	0	6
Left-wing Extremism	159	111	151	421
Total	300	193	391	884

India fatalities, 1994–2013

Years	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists	Total
1994	1696	417	1919	4032
1995	1779	493	1603	3875
1996	2084	615	1482	4181
1997	1740	641	1734	4115
1998	1819	526	1419	3764
1999	1377	763	1614	3754
2000	1803	788	2384	4975
2001	1693	721	3425	5839
2002	1174	623	2176	3973
2003	1187	420	2095	3702
2004	886	434	1322	2642
2005	1212	437	1610	3259
2006	1118	388	1264	2770
2007	1013	407	1195	2615
2008	1030	372	1217	2619
2009	721	431	1080	2232
2010	759	371	772	1902
2011	429	194	450	1073
2012	252	139	412	803
2013	300	193	391	884



India conflict map, based on 2011 data
(Institute for Conflict Management, SATP)

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ETHNIC TENSIONS AND SECURITY CONCERN IN WEST AFRICA

African countries Guinea and Ghana have been endangered the first one by ethnic-political violence and the other one by threat from the side of militant Islamists. In Guinea, more than fifty people have been killed due to ethnic-political clashes during only several months, reports say. The West African nation's fragile social structure and the preparations for parliamentary elections in June have led to fights between government forces and the opposition. President Alpha Condé's administration and its followers are dominated mostly by the Malinke ethnic group, while the opposition is led and supported by the Peuhls.

The last week of May, twelve people were killed and about ninety injured. According to the opposition, the injuries were caused

killed reportedly contain mostly of Peuhl surnames.

The Peuhls represent about 40%, the Malinke about 30% of the population; therefore ethnic clashes are not a new problem to the country inhabited by about ten million. Reportedly, politicians coming from each ethnic group show a tendency of gathering support among their own community.

After the 2008 military coup, a mass slaughter of the Peuhls rocked the group when the government's security forces committed mass rape and murder on pro-democracy protesters at a stadium in Conakry.

Alpha Condé, president since the elections in 2010, supported by Tony Blair and George Soros, has been in bitter battles with the



Guinea and Ghana

by gunshots of the government's security forces; yet the official report says the origins of the shots remain unknown. However, there are different viewpoints. "Young bandits, claiming to be part of the opposition, took over entire neighbourhoods of Conakry, sowing terror," a resident said. Nevertheless, a widely circulated list of the names of the ones

Peuhls over the elections which have been pushed to 30th of June 2013 from the previous year.

The opposition suspected a special connection between Condé and South Africa, with South African company Waymark supervising voter registration lists. The opposition also demanded voting rights for the people of Guinea living

abroad, and claimed that they would boycott and block the elections. However, some Peuhls were unsatisfied with the way the opposition handled the situation.

The country, bearing low living standards and poor infrastructure, suffered even more after electricity and water cuts in the capital, opposition said, because the infrastructure is managed by the government instead of experts of each field. Given these circumstances, tension was rising even quicker.

Condé, along with most of the international community, insisted that the elections be held on the proposed date, but many citizens doubt that the elections would bring an end to the violence in the country. During the one-month campaign before the elections, no one felt safe.

The election was finally held on 28 September 2013. Official results were announced three weeks later, on 18 October 2013. President Alpha Condé's party won a plurality of seats in the National Assembly, with 53 out of 114; it thus was unable to obtain an outright majority. The main opposition parties won 47 seats together.

2013 election violence in Guinea

19 Feb	Guinea police disperse anti-government rioters
28 Feb	1 dead and more than 100 injured in protests
2 Mar	A teenage boy killed and at least 65 people injured during ethnic clashes in Conakry
8 Mar	Eight police officers were injured and around 10 protesters arrested after opposition march
25 Apr	16-year-old protester killed at demonstration
3 May	Clashes between security forces and opposition supporters in Conakry left 1 policeman, 2 opposition supporters dead
28 May	12 people killed and 26 injured in clashes between opposition supporters and security forces in Conakry
18 Jul	Three days of ethnic violence left 98 people dead
23 Sep	Policeman killed, 51 hurt in pre-election clashes
18 Nov	One person was killed and nine others injured during clashes in Guinea's capital

In the last days of May President Alpha Conde initiated a judicial investigation into protests that killed at least 12 people. He also replaced Interior Minister Mouramany Cisse with Guinean Ambassador to Senegal Madifing Diane. Ethnic clashes

continued in July leading to over 50 deaths. In September, a police officer was killed and 49 people injured in clashes in the capital Conakry.

As already mentioned above, Ghana and not only the sole state, but the whole West African security, as well, is threatened by militant Islamists. In May 2013, Ghanaian President, John Dramani Mahama informed about his worries concerning the Islamists and at the same time, he has called for a stronger solidarity between the African countries to fight this harassment. The destabilization of the whole West African region, even if Ghana is not a direct neighbour to the Sahel and Sahara area, could damage the uprising Ghanaian tourism sector. The Sahel and Sahara belt is concerned the refugium of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and of the Boko Haram (literally means "Western education is sinful").

Even though the Ghanaian leader praised the French intervention in Mali as a progress, it was still possible to keep a foothold for insurgents. By menacing the population and setting asymmetric attacks, the Islamists spread fear and terror, but used it as propagandistic recruitment, as well. As the urban elites rule by arrogance and corruption and most of the children stay unschooled turning into unemployed young people, the AQIM and Boko Haram is given plenty of rope in the failed states. The fact that "Northern Nigeria has some of the highest unemployment and school dropout rates in the world" is an appreciated opportunity to enrol child soldiers who will be "stuffed with narcotic before being sent on missions". This treatment is facilitated by the widespread drug trafficking which uses West Africa as a transfer site between South America and Europe where the peak price is fetched, not to mention the enrichment of militant groups. The call for the African Union's plan to create a rapid reaction force appears appropriate to the situation.

COUP D'ETAT IN EGYPT

Not so much time has passed since the moment, when the international community got shocked, when President Mohammed Morsi became the first democratically elected president of Egypt. Moreover, under his auspices, the Muslim Brotherhood, which is considered as at least controversial Egyptian organisation, became officially legalized.

Only one year after Mohammed Morsi's inauguration, he was asked to resign by an angry Anti-Morsi rout on 30th of June. The former president Hosni Mubarak had ruled before for thirty years which made him the longest-serving ruler of the 20th/21st century. But his government was overthrown in Egypt's revolution which took place as part of a popular uprising, called the Arab spring. When people grew tired of the arbitrary rule including violence and corruption, they also became civilly disobedient and resistant to the government and its system.

According to sources, Morsi lost his legitimacy already in November 2012, when he declared courts could not review his decrees and ousted the country's prosecutor-general, while the Muslim Brotherhood "hijacked the vote of the people" by running on a religious platform. The prosecution of numerous journalists, the oppression of political activists, and others on charges of "insulting" officials, also led to media restrictions and censorship.

Likewise in the overthrow of 2011, the military experienced some influence on political questions and decisions. After the assumption of power by the Armed Forces, suspension of the Constitution and the dissolution of the Parliament in 2011, Mubarak was sentenced to life imprisonment: the moment when Morsi

became the candidate of his Freedom and Justice Party being a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. However, after his win, he decided to follow in Mubarak's footsteps enjoying a too wide range of powers which even granted him the right to declare a controversial constitution. Morsi's call for an intervention in Syria in June crossed a "national security red-line".

The military gave him after the break-out a 48h-ultimatum among 1-3rd July and during the protests people chanted "The police and the people are one" as the police was traditionally against the Muslim brotherhood. Morsi's speech on 2nd July did not reach anything as the tide already had turned against him. "On 3 July, General Abdul Fatah al-Sisi, head of the Egyptian Armed Forces, announced that he had removed President Mohamed Morsi from power, suspended the constitution, and would be calling new presidential and Shura Council elections."

The remove was decried by Morsi's supporters as a "coup" and celebrated as a "correction" by his opponents so that after the Friday prayers, demonstrations of Morsi supporters ended in death and violence. Statistics claim that there were 850 wounded, 26 died, several sexual assaults against women demonstrators, as well as acts of destruction of property.

While Morsi was put under house arrest, two top leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood's political party had been taken into custody and more arrests of members are planned.

The military, the political opposition, representatives of the Tamarod campaign, the Coptic Church and high-ranking Islamic scholars have agreed on Adly Mansour, head of the country's Supreme Constitutional Court, to replace Morsi as

Egypt's interim president. They favoured Mansour to "establish a government that is a strong and diverse". In 2013 it was still not clear for how long Mansour will govern and exactly when the next elections would be held in 2014. Adly Mansour stated in November 2013 that he will not run for re-election.

President Mansour restored the position of the Vice President, which was abolished with the adoption of the current Constitution in 2012, and nominated opposition leader Mohammed ElBaradei to the post on 7 July 2013. On 8 July, Mansour issued a decree that proposed the introduction of amendments to the suspended constitution and a referendum to endorse them, followed by national elections. On 9 July, Mansour appointed the economist Hazem el-Biblawi as prime minister.

The Freedom and Justice Party, called "the international community and international groups and all the free people of the world [to] intervene to stop further massacres [...] and prevent a new Syria in the Arab world." as an al-Qaeda-video already showed the interest of the terrorist group to turn Egypt away from democracy into an Islamic lead country and accusing the USA of a complot against Morsi. Indeed, Egypt is the largest Arab country in the world and a close ally of the United States, which gives it \$1.5 billion per year for military and civilian programs or institutions and "spreading false information", a human rights group stated.

A former member of parliament from the Morsi-allied Freedom and Justice Party said that Egyptians "will never recognize a coup d'etat," and the party would "continue [the] peaceful resistance to the bloody

Egypt



The unconstitutional removal of Morsi caused the Suspension of Egypt from the African Union "until the restitution of constitutional order", rejecting "any illegal seizure of power". Egyptian ambassador to the United States defended that "the voice and the call of tens of millions of Egyptians must be heard, understood and respected", which US-Secretary Kerry first fully supported and later after being pressured from the international community of favouring to restore normality and a peaceful democracy solution.

military coup against constitutional legitimacy. The peaceful and popular will of the people shall triumph over force and oppression." To support the former government and its leader, followers with their families built up whole protest camps close to highly symbolic places although the interim authority told that this behaviour is punishable by vacation. The difficult situation of Coptic Christians in the country, who have already experienced hatred of Morsi's supporters, leaves a lot of questions open: where will Egypt go? Will there be a secularist or

Islamist future? Is the current government legitimate or was the removal really an unconstitutional act?

At the end of December, the Muslim Brotherhood was declared illegal again. As the CTV News reported, "anyone who participates in Brotherhood activities or promotes the group either verbally or in writing, or who finances its activities, could face arrest and punishment – up to five years in prison." Additionally, the Brotherhood's daily newspaper called Freedom and Justice, was cancelled. The decision to declare Brotherhood as terrorist organisation was made because of growing number of Islamist-backed attacks in the country. The insurgency accompanied by violent attacks had been diffused in Egypt these days, as the Muslim Brotherhood had been expressing its discontent with the removal of President Morsi and the current military-backed government.

Victims after the coup d'etat

Date	Killed	Wounded
4 July	2	100
6 July	36	1000+
8 July	54	n.a.
22 July	2	15
24 July	1	17
27 July	250	4500
14 August	638	3994
16 August	208	n.a.
6 September	2	21
19 September	1	0
4 October	4	0
6 October	57	393
7 October	9	55
15 November	2	0
19 November	2	0
21 November	1	n.a.
22 November	3	15
28 November	1	1
13 December	2	14
16 December	1	0
24 December	16	n.a.
27 December	5	n.a.

Timeline of Morsi's removal

25 Jan	Deadly riots erupt on anniversary of Egyptian Revolt. Police and protesters clashed as opposition groups called for rallies to mark second anniversary of 2011 revolution.
27 Jan	Morsi announced a state of emergency in Suez Canal cities.
28 Jan	The Shura Council approved a law granting judicial seizure powers to the Army.
30 Jan	The opposition called for a broad national dialogue with Egypt's government as violence continued in Cairo.
21 Feb	Morsi announced that Egypt would hold parliamentary elections in several stages beginning April 27.
7 Mar	Electoral commission canceled timetable for parliamentary elections which were set to begin on April.
6 Apr	Five Egyptians have been killed and eight more wounded in clashes between Christians and Muslims in a town near Cairo.
7 May	Egypt announced cabinet reshuffle including removal of two ministers involved in IMF loan talks.
7–21 May	The Sinai Peninsula witnessed an ongoing insurgency with several attacks perpetrated by Islamist militants mainly in the North Sinai governorate.
24 Jun	Egypt's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi delivered strongly-worded statement ahead of major anti-government protests expected to take place upcoming week.
26 Jun	Morsi delivered a speech to the whole nation. It was supposed to be a re-conciliatory speech but was widely viewed as provocative and full of threats and accusations targeted against his opponents. After the speech the opposition stated that it is even more determined to take to the streets on the planned June 30 uprising against the president.
30 Jun	Hundreds of thousands of people have gathered throughout Egypt to demand the resignation of President Mohamed Morsi.
1 Jul	Around 14 million of people have taken to the streets of Cairo and other cities across Egypt, demanding the resignation of President Mohamed Morsi amid sporadic violence that left several people dead.
1 Jul	Five Egyptian ministers have tendered their resignations from Mohamed Morsi's cabinet.
1 Jul	The Egyptian army has asked Morsi to resolve huge protests against his rule or face intervention within 48 hours.
2 Jul	Morsi declared that he would "defend the legitimacy of his elected office with his life".
3 Jul	The Egyptian army has overthrown President Mohamed Morsi, announcing a roadmap for the country's political future that will be implemented by a national reconciliation committee.

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PROTESTS IN SOUTH AMERICA

The year 2013 was turbulent for Latin America, particularly for Brazil, which was mastered by a number of initially moderate demonstrations, that gradually turned violent. The protesters were in most cases demanding better social system setup that would provide more tangible benefits for civilians. However, protests broke out also in May in Chile, where Chilean students demanding free education and better circumstances in the education system went to the streets. Chilean police have used tear gas and water cannons to put an end to a demonstration. According to the organizers, more than 150,000 people participated at the protests. City officials said the number was only the half of it, though it did not change the fact that this demonstration was the largest march since 2011, when thousands dressed as super-heroes and zombies had taken the capital. The education reform had become one of the key electoral issues ahead of November's presidential election. Demonstrators were complaining about poor public schools, unprepared teachers, expensive private universities and unaffordable loans.

In June, protests started to spread over Brazil. Some even compared the situation in Brazil to the Arab spring, speaking about the South American movement. The first larger protest occurred in Sao Paulo against the rise in public transport prices. As usually, the mass-movement started as a peaceful demonstration. The protest was led by an organization called "Free Fare", which was mostly supported by students. It was not clear who provoked the escalation of violence: Some demonstrators who damaged a metro station and burned buses or the police that used rubber bullets and tear gas, but its action was officially considered as professional behaviour.

Later turned out it was only the beginning. In the next days while the Confederations Cup was happening as a try out for the Football World Cup in 2014, the protests spread over the country like a wildfire. Suddenly it was not only the rise of prices but it opened up a whole complex of problems the country is facing: The anti-government and anti-corruption demonstrations showed the people's fear and anger that public funds could be wasted for expenses of staging the World Cup and the Olympic Games in 2016, while there is money lacking for better education, hospitals and security. The richness in resources of Brazil contrasts with the great gap between the rich and the poor. Especially the middle class sees itself confronted with an economic boom that only leads to an unequal distribution of wealth. For the inhabitants of the Favelas, a suburban shanty town or quarter, who are criminalized already by living in a certain district, the difficulty is to stay in their familiar surroundings. Some favelas will be pacified by the government; others will be evacuated to sell the land to foreign investors. The preparations for the huge sport events seem to stir urbanization and gentrification, in particular in big cities like Rio de Janeiro. The infrastructure, notably the public transport, is not constructed to take all the relocated former favela inhabitants who now live in newly-built, expensive neighbourhoods to their now remote workplaces in the city centre.

Probably there will not be a "Latin American spring" but as the protestors chanted slogans, including "The people have awakened", the democratizations process cannot be reversed.

The distinguished attention that was fo-

cused on Brazil had resulted in an ambiguous opinion about the country. The events showed that while being the biggest and strongest country in Latin-America, Brazil still has many problems to face and solve before the upcoming trials of the World Cup, the Summer Olympic Games of 2016 and the elections in 2014. The reason for this complex picture of Brazil can be found by following two chains of events happening almost at the same time.

The more triumphant one, yet also filled with many protests, is the first international visit of Pope Francis. On the Copacabana Beach of Rio de Janeiro, his

and mischief surrounding the Papal visit. A splendid example of the state of corruption in Brazil is, that in spite of the fact that the city of Rio had spent \$50 million on preparations, the place of the Sunday mass had to be changed in the last moment, because the originally planned site, in the outskirts of the city was waterlogged. Not to mention that the money spent on preparations came from public funds.

Meanwhile the Brazilian government and society was occupied with the festivities of the Papal visit, a great wave of strikes went through the country. Although this time it could not muster as many people as



Protests in Brazil

Holiness raised attention on the youth activism and enthusiasm that is very much needed in the Catholic Church and he also added that the Church should not forget to reach out to the peripheries of society and thus help those in utmost need.

According to the Rio authorities, more than 3 million people were present on the final mass and the Vatican also announced the journey and the final mass as a huge success.

And this is the point where the glorious history of Pope Francis's journey to Latin-America ended. It ended because there were many problems during the preparations and the mass itself. Of course the protests against the orthodox anti-abortion opinion of the Church can be considered natural, however many local residents raised their voices against the corruption

in June, the strikes organized by the unions nationwide called some 1 million protesters on the streets. The new wave of protests started with a 3 days strike of tens of thousands of workers organized by their unions, however the events quickly escalated.

The main reason for the protests were to demand better working conditions and public services, however as the protests spread, new demands appeared. Such as reduce corruption, increase investment in health and education.

The series of protests had gone on also in October. The violent demonstration stroke, although it began firstly as a peaceful march in Rio de Janeiro where thousands of people took to the streets to support protesting teachers. At that time, Brazilian teachers had already been on

strike for better pay conditions for two months. Most of protesters gathered in front of the City Hall where MPs passed a new law that brought considerable changes to teacher's pay and working hours, making their living situation worse. Teachers were joined by many civilians including students and civil society groups. Some of the sources even claimed that 50,000 people came to support protesting teachers, but the police confirmed a much smaller number of supporters. Among calm demonstrators also various anarchist groups participated on a strike, including the so-called Black Blocs, with the aim to seize the opportunity to provoke a conflict.

The chaos broke out when masked and armed extremists started to throw grenades, tear gas, fireworks, bottles and furniture at police and were seeking to demolish the City Hall gate. They further attacked few shops, torched a public transportation bus, tried to smash up and fire cashpoints and break to banks. Thus the march accompanied by police troops swiftly turned to a violent demonstration that had to be suppressed by the police that responded with tear gas. Similar situation played out during the protest in Sao Paulo near to the governor's palace, where members of the same extremist group attacked the police violently. Police troops had to intervene also against the activists called Roofless that sought to break in the city council building. Few days later, demonstrations in Sao Paulo resulted tragically, when police accidentally shot dead a student taking part in protests calling for free public transport for students. After that, that march became violent and according to police, some of the rioters even used firearms. The police had to respond with tear gas again.

Another calm strike that turned to a violent demonstration in which five people were hurt was launched in Rio de Janeiro, but for different reasons as social issues. Union workers gathered and demonstrated against the participation of foreign

companies in state-run bid of Brazilian oil company. Oil companies including Brazilian Petrobras and four foreign firms successfully gained the possibility to develop an offshore field. About 200 demonstrators were attempting to attack the hotel in which the negotiations were taking place. More than 1,000 police members were called to moderate the situation. The police sought to calm the protesters but at last needed to react with tear gas and rubber-coated steel bullets. The Brazilian government was satisfied with the outcome of the negotiations considering it success.

Demonstrators with over 2 million protesters

300,000	in Rio de Janeiro
100,000	in São Paulo
100,000	in Manaus
100,000	in Belo Horizonte
60,000	in Natal
50,000	in Recife
45,000	in Florianópolis
40,000	in Cuiabá
30,000	in Brasília
30,000	in Campo Grande
25,000	in Ribeirão Preto
20,000	in Salvador
20,000	in Porto Alegre
20,000	in Belém
15,000	in São Luís

Casualties

Deaths	10+
Injuries	250
Arrests	651

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FINANCIAL CRISES IN EUROPE

The financial crisis shook the economic stability of Europe, touching all European states and leaving behind countries struggling with their rapidly aggravating economic situation. Despite there are still challenging unresolved issues, a number of statistics show the worst might have already been behind us.

At the beginning of January, in New Year's speeches European leaders expressed optimism about the pace of financial reforms in Euro zone countries and declared that the worst of the economic crisis has now passed. However, analysts had doubts about the success and warned the crisis was not over, further problems were ahead. "A couple of things have happened that have taken away the immediate big breakup risk of the euro but the underlying problems and the huge debt in Europe are not yet solved" – stated Juergen Michels, senior economist at Citibank in London. Spain and Greece were still facing an economic situation of extreme difficulty, not to mention the deepening social crisis, so European leaders' had to confront questions like how to stimulate growth and bring down unemployment in the continent. Generally speaking, the eurozone had been in recession for the sixth quarter in a row, which was the longest declining period in the history of the EU. Nine out of the 17 Eurozone-states were then going through recession with an overall average of – 0.2% economic output in the eurozone as a whole in the first quarter of 2013. France was the newest member in the club of declining eurozone-countries with a rising unemployment-level and a budget deficit overstepping the bloc's 3% limit. The widespread implementation of austerity measures across Europe did not seem to

live up to expectations. On the contrary, shrinking economies went hand in hand with decreasing economic output and higher debt ratios.

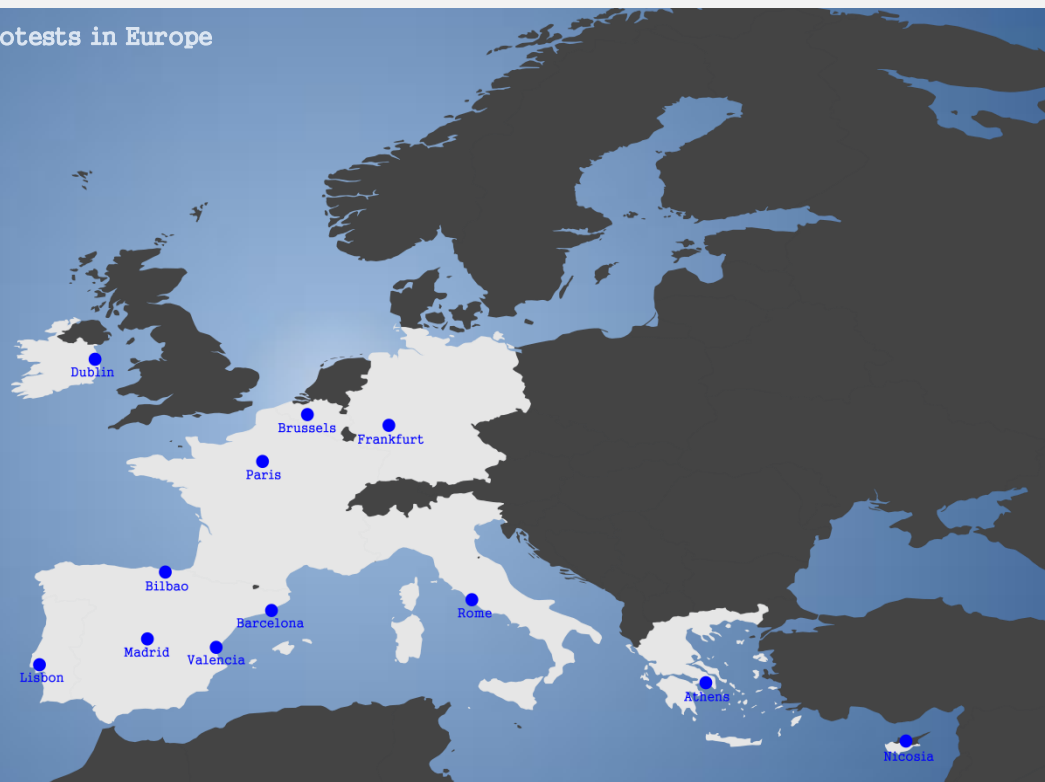
One of the countries that was hit by the financial crisis most sharply was Cyprus. It had been struggling to save the country's economic conditions for months since the collapse of major financial institutions and working on different options to propose the bailout package to save the country's key banks. Eurozone finance ministers and the International Monetary Fund on 15th March 2013 agreed to a 10 billion euro bailout for Cyprus, which became the fifth Eurozone member to be saved from bankruptcy. Under the deal, bank deposits of more than €100,000 would be hit with a 9.9% one-off levy. Under that threshold the levy dropped to 6.75%. At the same time, a "withholding tax" would be imposed on interest on bank deposits while corporate tax would be raised from 10 percent to 12.5.

The eurozone crisis seemed to last longer than experts would have predicted before. Despite huge bailout packages and extensive spending cuts, the financial crisis was still an actuality in the second half of the year. Although Germany, EU's powerhouse was showing a slight growth of 0.1% in the first quarter of 2013, France, as already mentioned above, had significant difficulties concerning its economy. The European Commission urged France to reduce public spending, to reform its generous pension system, to cut labour costs and to bring back its budget deficit under the 3% ceiling. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was deeply concerned about the neighbour's alarming situation, which in her opinion is threatening the efforts to strengthen the eurozone economy. Francois

Hollande however refused to obey to the instructions of the EU institutions and executives. In his view, the European Commission did not have the right to dictate, it could only require financial stability of a country, not the exact provisions taken by the government. Nevertheless the Commission offered France to raise the retirement age in the frame of the reform of the pension system. Notwithstanding the fact that there was some significant tension between the two countries, Merkel and Hollande reaffirmed their commitment to strong interstate

financial matters more effectively as well as to establish an own budget and tax system within the eurozone. While the German Chancellor was more focused on austerity, Hollande put the priority on growth. Latter leader considered austerity measures as a harmful method, which was to blame for the region's unrelenting recession. To counteract one of France's biggest problems, youth-unemployment, his policy aimed at encouraging new investments, which was also supported by the release of European funds worth €6 billion. Youth unemployment is a huge

Anti-austerity protests in Europe



relations and effective cooperation. In the light of this attitude they agreed on the need of a full-time president of the Euro group, the eurozone's finance ministers' meeting. Such a position would enable to oversee the economic issues of the eurozone and to be able to intervene more effectively and more successfully. Hollande also suggested on a meeting with Merkel to bestow more powers upon the prospective president in order to deal with

challenge in the European Union, standing at 23.5% in the union and at 24% across the eurozone. In Spain this number surpassed 56%.

According to Jose Manuel Barroso it was time to slow down the pace of consolidation in the EU, because of the good progress made so far. The emphasis should rather be put on structural reforms instead of stimulus measures. The measures implemented up to mid-2013

concentrated mainly on brutal spending cuts, which lead to social unrest and shrinking economies. Street protests evolve regularly as the one in May 2013, when demonstrators blocked the roads leading to the seat of the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, Germany. Public patience was reaching its limits as the prospect of growth in the EU seemed more and more further in the future. Barroso also added that although he thought the policy had made until then by the EU was right, it was not a good solution to apply the same policy to all EU countries. Megan Greene, chief economist of Maverick Intelligence went along with Barroso regarding the need to change the focus of dealing with the financial crisis. In his opinion it was a mistake to follow the austerity-policy as the most important element of the crisis-handling mechanism. He suggested to rethink this standpoint and to try to deal with the problem from a completely different approach. He offered a possible policy, namely to get stimulus from the stronger countries and at the same time to put across less austerity in the weaker states. Several economists, US officials and the International Monetary Fund agreed on urging the EU to lighten up austerity and modify the policy carried out up to now, which should switch to concentrating on growth. The European Central Bank showed willingness at a conference held in May 2013 to loosen its monetary policy further by cutting the eurozone interest rate by a quarter point. Another alarming sign of the failure of the policy driven so far was the fiasco concerning the bailout-programme applied on Greece. In this case the country slid into an even stronger depression as a result of farfetched austerity measures. The difficulty of the weaker countries was that they fall into deeper recession due to the drastic adjusting proceedings. The European Union's strongest economy, Germany however refused to finance other countries' reckless policies indefinitely from the money of German taxpayers.

Berlin went so far as to proposed to make austerity plans and spending limits part of EU law. Angela Merkel adhered to the principle of cost-cutting as a tool without any other alternatives. Critics of this paradigm said that although seeing reason in austerity, which had been necessary to treat the most urging problems of the crisis, it had been done so widespread and so fast, that it crippled the whole region. Notwithstanding that the shift in the EU's policy had already begun, the exact path of future decisions remained still vague.

20 Feb	A 24-hour protest is held in Greece against the country's financial programme, disrupting transport, schools and hospitals
21 Feb	At least 40,000 people have taken to the streets in the capital of Belgium for an anti-austerity demonstration
24 Feb	Tens of thousands of people marched on Spain's parliament on Saturday to protest austerity measures
14 Apr	Thousands attend anti-austerity march in Dublin
31 May	Blockupy hold anti-austerity protests in Frankfurt: surround the ECB
1 Jun	Demonstrators across Europe have embarked on protests against government austerity measures
16 Jul	Thousands of Greeks have protested against fresh government austerity measures while the entire country was crippled by a general strike
29 Sep	Portugal, Spain hit by mass protest against austerity
19 Oct	Italian anti-austerity protesters clash with police, tens of thousands of people marched in Portugal against the proposed 2014 budget
23 Nov	Anti-austerity protests in 55 Spanish cities call on government to re-think budget cutbacks

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THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE

The Falkland Islands is a British overseas territory with a population of 2,800 of mainly British descent. It has been a strongly disputed territory between Britain and Argentina for many years and the question of its sovereignty creates tensions ever since the British has set foot there. Argentina maintains that the Malvinas, as they call it, belong to them, because they inherited it from Spain in the 1800s. However, British administration on the islands dates back to 1765 and Britain established control over the islands in

1833, while only 1,898 km from Buenos Aires. But whenever Fernández raises her demand she receives the same answer that the fate of the Falklands is not open to negotiation. However, a referendum was organised in March in Falklands on the islands' political status. It was the islanders, neither Britain nor Argentina, who were asked to decide whether they wish to stay with the United Kingdom or not. On 10 and 11 March, 90% of the adult citizens casted their vote and among them there were only 3 no



Argentina and the Falkland Islands

1833. With the exception of the Falklands War in 1982, Britain was the sole power who exercised authority there.

On 3 January 2013, UK Prime Minister David Cameron firmly rejected Argentina's latest territorial claim to the Falklands. Falklands' President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner openly criticized Britain for treating the islands as its "colony" and claiming Argentina's right to it. President Fernández also based her argument on the islands' location: the Falklands lies 14,000

km from the capital of the United Kingdom, while only 1,898 km from Buenos Aires. But whenever Fernández raises her demand she receives the same answer that the fate of the Falklands is not open to negotiation. However, a referendum was organised in March in Falklands on the islands' political status. It was the islanders, neither Britain nor Argentina, who were asked to decide whether they wish to stay with the United Kingdom or not. On 10 and 11 March, 90% of the adult citizens casted their vote and among them there were only 3 no

answers to the question "Do you wish the Falkland Islands to retain their current political status as an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom?" This was an overwhelming statement from the islanders who wish that Argentina would respect their right to self-determination. But the Argentine government has a different opinion about this as they think that the islanders should have no voice in this two-way discussions and their opinion does not count because they were implanted during

the British colonization in 1833. Argentina's foreign minister said that Falkland islanders did not exist, what exists is British citizens in the Islas Malvinas. The referendum was called "a parody" by the Argentine President Kirchner. For her, it marks the continuation of British colonialism with the accuse that UK has a special interest in the natural resources and in oil.

On the other hand, David Cameron, and his British Government welcomed the islanders decision but he also pointed out the fact that the relationship between Argentina and the United Kingdom was at its lowest since 1982.

In 1982, Argentina attacked the Falkland Islands and seized it along with two other islands. After many casualties on both sides, Argentina surrendered. After this incident, in the 1990s they restored the diplomacy relations between the two countries. It seemed that they would solve the issue; even there was a tight commercial link between the Islands and Argentina until 2003. After the Peronists came into power in Argentina, the government cut this link almost immediately and they restored their claims over the Islands. Recently, there has been 31 years anniversary of unsuccessful Argentinean invasion on the Falkland Islands. At that day, a group of demonstrators in front of the British embassy in the capital shared their opinion and were even willing to fight physically for it.

Regarding latest happenings in Falkland Islands, an eight-member Legislative Assembly was elected by the residents of the South Atlantic archipelago. Five members are to represent Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands, and three members are from the Camp constituency, the rest of the Islands' populated territory. The members of the assembly must quit any other jobs, as their new positions are full-time and they will receive a salary. Two of the main issues that the legislators are to face is the

already analysed Argentina's claim to the British overseas territory, and the other one is the islands' developing oil exploration

Timeline of the Falklands dispute

1690	John Strong, landing on some remote Atlantic islands, names them after Viscount Falkland, treasurer of the British navy
1764	A French expedition from St Malo, founding a colony on East Falkland, name the islands Les Îles Malouines
1774	The Spanish, now in sole occupation of the Falkland Islands, call them Las Islas Malvinas
1820	The newly independent republic of Argentina takes possession of Las Islas Malvinas (the Falklands)
1833	Britain ejects the Argentinians from the Falklands and begins the process of settlement with British farmers
1840	The British approve the formation of a colony on the islands
1892	The Falkland Islands, by now occupied by some 2000 settlers, become a British colony
1914	Maximilian von Spee's squadron of cruisers is sunk by the British off the Falkland Islands during the battle for the Falkland Islands
1955	Britain unilaterally refers the sovereignty dispute over the Dependencies to the ICJ. Argentina indicates that it will not accept any judgement.
1965	The General Assembly of the UN asks Argentina and Britain to enter negotiations on their long-running dispute over the Falklands
1982	5000 Argentinian troops land in the Falkland Islands, provoking war with Britain
1982	British troops recapture Port Stanley, after which the Argentinian forces in the Falklands surrender
1982	The leader of the Argentinian junta, Leopoldo Galtieri, resigns three days after the Falklands defeat
1985	New Falkland Islands constitution is adopted. The Falkland Islands become a parliamentary representative democratic dependency.
1990	Britain and Argentina resume diplomatic relations
1995	Britain and Argentina come to an agreement concerning the future exploitation of oil around the Falkland Islands
1997	Fifteen years after the Falklands War there are 1700 British troops in the islands, guarding 2200 residents

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COLONIAL LEGACY: BORDER DISPUTES

The territorial and border disputes which re-emerged in 2013 are mainly due to the legacy of the colonial past. The European powers divided vast territories between themselves in the Americas, Africa and Asia. The former colonies slowly became independent countries. The decolonisation played determining role in the history of numerous states in these continents. As new states emerged it was necessary to set up new rules of sovereignty in international law. During the early 1800s in South America and the 1960–1970s in Africa the principle of *uti possidetis* was used as an instrument of international law during the independence processes. It meant that the frontiers of the new states followed the original boundaries of the old colonial territories from which they emerged. The *pro-status quo* principle was, however, later the main obstacles of peace in many regions. The state borders – which formerly had been no more than administrative boundaries – in many cases divided tribes, communities and nations, forcing them to live in two or more countries in which the majority is often hostile to them. Apart from ethnic hostility, the borders designed on the drawing board were the reasons of long-lasting border and territorial disputes with quite many of them ending up in the International Court of Justice. Some of these issues are still present, some of them had been re-emerged in 2013.

Malawi to take Tanzania border dispute to court

The bilateral relations between Malawi and Tanzania have been affected by disagreement since the independence of Malawi in 1964. Not only opposing positions

and policies towards the white minority regimes in the South but also the question of demarcation between the two states have been a contentious issue. They are abutting nations to the third largest lake of Africa (known as Lake Malawi in Malawi and as Nyasa/Niassa in Tanzania respectively in Mozambique) which is well reputed for its richness in species and oil resources.

While Tanzania claims that the border runs through the middle of the northern lake areas it was established by the colonial powers, Malawi claims that the border is the eastern coast of the lake due to an agreement in 1890.

In April 2013 Tanzania seemed at the end of its tether and considered taking the border dispute to the International Court of Justice rather than going on with diplomatic mediations. Tanzania demanded a postponement of the Malawian exploration activities until the resolve of the dispute which Malawi denied. A peaceful solution to this crisis seems to be in remote future without a decision of a higher authority.

Preah Vihear dispute

Preah Vihear is the border region between Cambodia and Thailand where several temple, partially in ruins, are located towards which Thailand appeared to be possessive. Thailand established even guards and military and detained a number of sculptures and monuments since the occupation in 1954. Afterwards the ownership of the land was awarded to Cambodia in 1962.

The Thailand–Cambodian boundary was first delimited by a Franco–Siamese Mixed

Commission along the Dangrek range of mountains and fixed in a Treaty of March 23 in 1907. A map based on the treaty was contended by Thailand stating that Thailand only could have accepted it before in the mistaken belief that it corresponded to the “real” watershed line which would mark Preah Vihear as Thai territory. The ICJ stated the 1907 map clearly showed Preah Vihear as being in Cambodia. Thailand accepted Cambodia’s sovereignty over Preah Vihear. However land surrounding the temple remained in dispute. Between 2008 and 2011 fights broke out in the region when both concerned countries again raised claims regarding the territory. In November 2013 the International Court of Justice in the Hague ruled that Thailand must withdraw troops from around the hilltop temple. The rule did not give Cambodia all the disputed land, nevertheless it was welcomed by leaders of both countries which may mean that the rule of the ICJ could bring an end to a half-century-old dispute.

Bolivia presented maritime case to the International Court of Justice

Bolivia wanted to regain its access to Pacific Ocean which Bolivia lost during the war against Chile. The treaty of peace and friendship in 1904 confirmed the Chilean annexation of 120,000 km² of former Bolivian territory including 400km coastline. In compensation of the loss, Chile granted Bolivia access to its ports but it always stayed just a consolation prize for Bolivia who continued the annual celebrations for the Day of the Sea. Nevertheless, the maritime access was not the only argument between them: Bolivia denied cooperation in energy-trade concerning its rich resources of natural gas with energy-poor Chile as well as concerning water rights to the common river Silala. But the Chilean president stayed assured that the legal contract cannot be dismissed and that the Bolivian navy had to continue dreaming.

Algeria saw progress in long-running Western Sahara conflict

The UN mediation gave the Algerian Foreign Minister Mourad Medelci some hope of progress in the deadlocked border dispute between Algeria and Morocco. Algeria supports the Polisario Front which claims the independence of the West Sahara since the decolonisation from the Spanish in 1975 while Morocco demands the territory to belong to it. Morocco concerns Polisario as a “terrorist organisation” accusing it responsible for violent attacks against civilians thus the country would only guarantee broad autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty which is not enough for Polisario. Lately also France set some pressure to reopen the borders, which have been closed since 1994, to stimulate cooperation and trade.

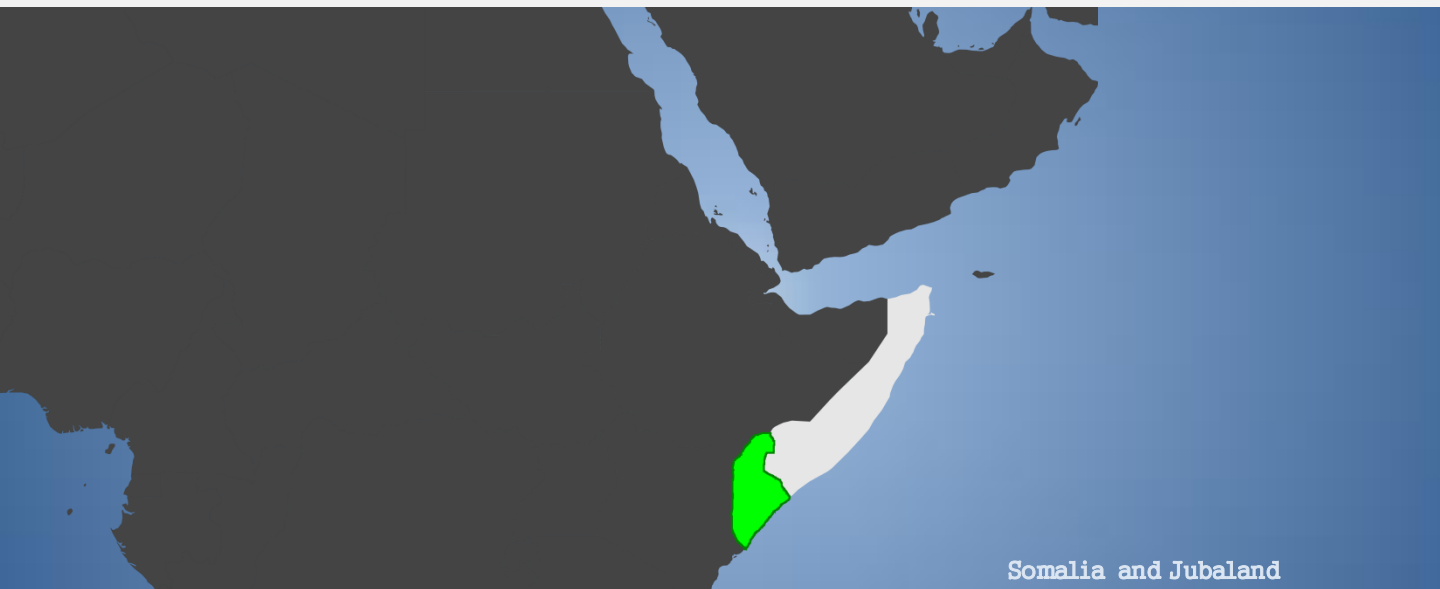
Ongoing border conflict between Yemen and Saudi caused several deaths

Since the Arab Spring reached Yemen and forced President Ali Abdullah Saleh to resign, the country drowned into chaos. It became an arena for army deserters, al-Qaeda members and separatist tribesmen whose clash lately took seven lives. To keep illegal migrants and smugglers out, Saudi Arabia started to build a protecting fence which should run from the Red sea coast to the border of Oman along 1,800 km. The efficiency of this means is questionable as organized criminals already found ways to circumvent it. The situation in Yemen was changed for the worse also by sabotaging acts concerning the oil and gas pipelines which leave the country in dependency on Saudi Arabian donations and imports . Even the UN Security Council doubted that the current President Hadi will have the power to combine the forces and bring the country back to peace.

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Some would see Jubaland as a new country. In the spring and summer of 2013, a new source of tension appeared on the Horn of Africa. Somalia's southernmost autonomous region, commonly referred to as Jubaland, has become a hotspot of interests. When mentioning a country like Somalia, which has a series of quite bloody conflicts in its recent history, it is not surprising that new tensions arise from time to time. However, the 2013 summer cause of trouble between Somali officials and Kenyan leaders of the peacekeeping forces in Somalia was the slightly disturbing issue of Jubaland. More specifically the independence of Jubaland. Accusations from Somali officials are rather bold, stating that Kenya in fact intended to create a

As Kenyan involvement in Somalian peacekeeping operations evolved, Somalia accused Kenyan forces deployed in southern Somalia with picking sides and supporting local warlord Sheikh Ahmed Madobe in becoming the leader of an independent Jubaland state. It is true that the Kenyan forces worked in close connection with Madobe's militia called Ras Kamboni in order to repel the Al Shabab forces from the area, but the Kenyan government continuously refused the accusations of picking sides and pursuing self-interests in Jubaland. The problem of Jubaland is further complicated by the visit of Madobe to Puntland (a northern autonomous region of Somalia) in June and the fact that a



Somalia and Jubaland

buffer state from the former Jubaland region of Somalia.

According to Kenyan based Horn of Africa experts it might be the situation, however if Kenya indeed aimed to create such a buffer zone between the two "old allies" states, leaders of the Kenyan state should have calculated every possible result very cautiously. A badly conducted plan could result in not just pushing Somalia back into turmoil, but at the same time destabilizing the Northeastern Region of Kenya.

conference was held in Kismayo concerning the possible independence of Jubaland in the future. Madobe stated on his visit to Puntland, which is proud of its autonomy and self-governance, that Jubaland considers Puntland its mother. Meanwhile the conference held in Kismayo University and attended by 550 delegates vastly disputed the possibilities of Jubaland and invited the Somali government, who although attended the conference, after travelling back to Mogadishu refused further cooperation with the participants

and declared many of its decisions unconstitutional, such as drafting a constitution of Jubaland and electing Madobe as president of the country.

This particular issue seemed to be worsened by the fact that the Somali government was officially recognized and supported by the United States and the International Monetary Fund, while the 6 warlords competing for the leadership of Jubaland are completely unrecognized and unsupported apart from Madobe, though the Kenyan support for Madobe is rather subtle. Relations between Mogadishu and Nairobi furthermore eradicated by a misdirected letter to the African Union from Somalia written by Deputy Prime Minister Fawzia Yusuf Adam, in which he claimed that Kenyan forces are sided with the warlords and that the neutrality of the peacekeeping force is non-existent, in addition he stated that the peacekeeping force is “incompetent”.

As it can be seen, Kenyan-Somali relations have deteriorated during the first half of 2013 to a state of officials accusations. The two long-time allies seemed to be on different opinions that could cause a lot of trouble if remained unattended. While both sides intensions can be understood from a different point of view, instead of further weaving the thread of conflicts, countries like Kenya and Somalia should focus on the continuation of the stability process started by the African Union and the complete repressing of the Al Shabab.

While it still remains unknown whether the two states can settle their disputes, a little more cooperative behaviour could only be help for a region that has suffered so much during the last few decades.

Jubaland facts		
Capital		Bu'ale
Official languages		Somali Arabic
Autonomy within Somalia	Proclaimed	3 April 2011
	Recognition	29 August 2013
Area	Total	87,000 km ²
		33,000 sq mi
Population	2005 estimate	953,045

Five disputed borders	
Kashmir	The borders of modern Kashmir, a mountainous region, have been in question ever since its creation in 1846, but things got more intense after the United Kingdom renounced its colonial claim to it. The main dispute, between Pakistan and India, turned into a violent conflict in the late 1940s. As part of a cease-fire, the two countries agreed to a temporary partition, which has prevailed ever since. To make matters more complex, China also contests its border with Indian-controlled Kashmir, a disagreement that turned into a war in 1962 and was never fully resolved.
Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands	On the surface, the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands seem to offer very little to fight over beyond rocks and water. The dispute over these islands, controlled by Japan and claimed by China, intensified after oil and gas fields were found underneath. In 2012 the sale of one of the islands by a wealthy Japanese family to the Japanese government enraged the Chinese population and led to massive anti-Japanese riots. Considering the growing power and assertiveness of China in Asia, many experts warn that the tension over the Senkaku islands could develop into a more serious conflict.
Kuril Islands	The dispute over this volcano-intensive archipelago of 56 islands is the primary reason Japan and Russia have never signed a peace treaty to formalize the end of World War II. At the end of the war, the Soviet Union invaded the Kuril Islands, some of which Imperial Russia had previously controlled. While the transfer of the islands to the Soviet Union was included in the Yalta agreements, Japan continued to claim historical rights to the southernmost
Western Sahara	The indigenous inhabitants of Western Sahara, the Saharawis, have fought for their independence against Morocco since the 1970s. Their organization, the Polisario Front, has waged an armed insurgency but also shown its readiness to sit at the negotiation table. In 1991, both parties agreed to a peace proposal under the auspices of the United Nations. The peace proposal specified a referendum for the indigenous Saharawi to decide whether they wanted an independent Western Sahara under Polisario Front leadership or whether the territory would officially become part of Morocco. Peace, however, was not yet in the cards, as Morocco moved tens of thousands of settlers into the territory to influence the referendum results, and Polisario soldiers resumed their armed campaigns. Still, hope for a peaceful resolution remained.
Somaliland	The modern borders of Africa are in large part the result of the competition between European colonial powers such as Britain and France for the control of the continent. During World War II, all the Somali territories were unified under British military administration, with the exception of French Somaliland. This process of unification continued after Somalia gained its independence in 1960. At the end of the 1980s, however, the country was shattered by the beginning of a decades-long civil war, and Somaliland, a region in the north on the coast of the Gulf of Aden, declared its independence in 1991. The Republic of Somaliland, however, remained unrecognized by the international community.

EUROPEAN AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS

Year 2013 was marked by several significant and turbulent events in international relations. The political happenings were rich not just in conflicts among individual states, but in numerous insurgencies within one state, as well. There were several autonomy and independence movements to be found in Europe last year. These disputes are usually of long-term nature but impact also contemporary European continent. One of such conflicts is a political and religious quarrel in Northern Ireland. The new matter of the dispute emerged in January, when nearly 1,000 people gathered at the Belfast City Hall to demonstrate against the City Council's decision to limit the number of days to 18 when the Union flag is flown from City Hall. Among pro-British loyalists, the decision was seen as part of the step-by-step erosion of the British presence, a stripping of what many of them call their identity. The protest turned into violent, when petrol bombs were thrown at police, water cannons and plastic bullets were used and almost 30 police officers were injured as new protests in Belfast entered their second day. According to Eamon Gilmore, Ireland's Tanaiste (deputy prime minister), this violence was being orchestrated by known criminals who intended on creating chaos. 'This has nothing to do with real issues around flags and identity in a shared society, which are the subject of intensive political discussions at present.'

Another noticeable conflict over flag arose between Hungarian and Romanian politicians in February, when the Hungarian Secretary of State Zsolt Németh during his speech at the Székely flag display ceremony at the Budafok City Hall in Budapest, had called Romania's decision

to ban the Székely flag a "symbolic aggression" of the Hungarian minority in Transylvania. In response to the ruling by the Covasna County Court that the Székely flag cannot be displayed in Romania he urged the mayors of the Hungarian municipalities to follow suit and hoist the flag of the Székely Land in solidarity. Németh said that Budapest expects the Romanian government to intervene and bring an end to the dispute he termed "war of the flags" in the ethnically Hungarian areas of Romania.

Romanian Prime Minister, Victor Ponta affirmed Romania's position during a cabinet meeting on February 6, 2013, saying that Romania did not accept impertinence and patronization. Calling on the Romanian Foreign Minister Titus Corlăţean to give an immediate response to the Hungarian government, Ponta vigorously stated, "I wouldn't like to use an undiplomatic term, although I would have been tempted to say 'cheekiness' – lessons from anyone on how Romania should enforce its laws... I believe we do have the highest standards in Europe when it comes to the representation of minorities and local autonomy... I really don't think anyone can tell us what flags we may display and how we can display them..." Hungarian Ambassador Oszkár Fűzes was also called into the Romanian Foreign Ministry the same day to give an explanation of the Hungarian official's statements. According to reports, Fűzes affirmed Hungary's support for the flag being displayed in Romania. At an interview with a Romanian television station, he elaborated the position saying that Hungary is in support of territorial autonomy for the Székelys and advised the Romanians to amend their constitution to make Romania a multinational state.

Bogdan Aurescu, undersecretary of the Romanian Foreign Ministry replied saying that "Zsolt Németh's statements are unacceptable and against the spirit of good neighborhood and strategic Partnership between Romania and Hungary", adding that both countries were part of an international and European system of values under which human rights protection, particularly those of national minorities, is essential.

Consequently, in March, the conflict over Székelyland peaked, when demonstrations for Székely autonomy were held in Hungary as well as in major European and American cities. More than 3,000 people of all ages protested in front of the Romanian embassy in Budapest. A number of Székely and Hungarian flags could be seen in the crowd and many of the demonstrators came dressed in Székely folk costumes. In Hungary, the demonstrations took place in Budapest and also in other cities. The demonstration in the capital, organised by the Pro Székelyland Association, was scheduled to coincide with others in big cities in Europe and North America.

Moreover, at least 30,000 had protested at the main rally in Târgu Mures (Marosvásárhely) on the Day of Székely Freedom. March 10 is the anniversary of the execution in Târgu Mures in 1854 of three Székelys who tried to achieve national self-determination. Participants of the demonstration in Târgu Mures read out a petition to the Romanian government, urging territorial autonomy for the country's central Székelyland, a historical region, where about half of the 1.4 million ethnic Hungarians live. The petitioners demanded that Székelyland should become a separate unit in terms of access to EU development funds.

The protesters peacefully marched through the city that in March 1990 was the scene of violent clashes between ethnic Hungarians and Romanians. At the Prefect's Office, demonstrators submitted their petition to the Romanian Government. The petition suggested that the distinctive cultural and

national character of the majority population living in Székelyland reinforces the notion that a viable solution would be to grant it autonomy. Then, it could achieve its own goals, without state disruption and in full respect of existing Romanian laws.

Demonstrations for Székely autonomy were also organised in front of Romanian embassies and consulates in London, Vienna, Helsinki, the Hague, Munich, Stockholm and Zurich. In the United States, protests were planned for New York, Cleveland and Los Angeles. Demonstrations were also to take place in the Canadian cities of Toronto and Ottawa. In addition, about 20 people joined a flashmob with Székely flags near the White House in Washington.

Another dispute of the similar character had been ongoing for decades in Scotland related to its independence from the UK. Nowadays, it seems that the discord will finally get closer to some resolution point as in September 2014, Scottish people will make a choice about their future by simply answering a yes-or-no question: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" However, weighting the possible positive and negative consequences of establishing a sovereign Scottish state shows that the answer to this question is not obvious at all. Many pro-independence politicians (mainly members of the Scottish National Party, SNP) have their own overwhelmingly economic and financial supporting evidence for the separation. One of the arguments is based on the oil resources from the sea, as 90% of maritime oil and gas fields belong solely to Scotland. Further ambiguities are connected to transport and communication. People are worried about roaming charges, extra travel expenses and tariffs. Other issues are related to the monetary union and the single currency. The question with the greatest intricacy is concerning the Scottish participation in international organizations and treaties, especially in the European Union.

People of Scotland will make an extremely

hard decision on the upcoming referendum. Their “YES” either could be a nod to unreasonable childish nationalism, which leads to economic decline or an agreement on being more prosperous.

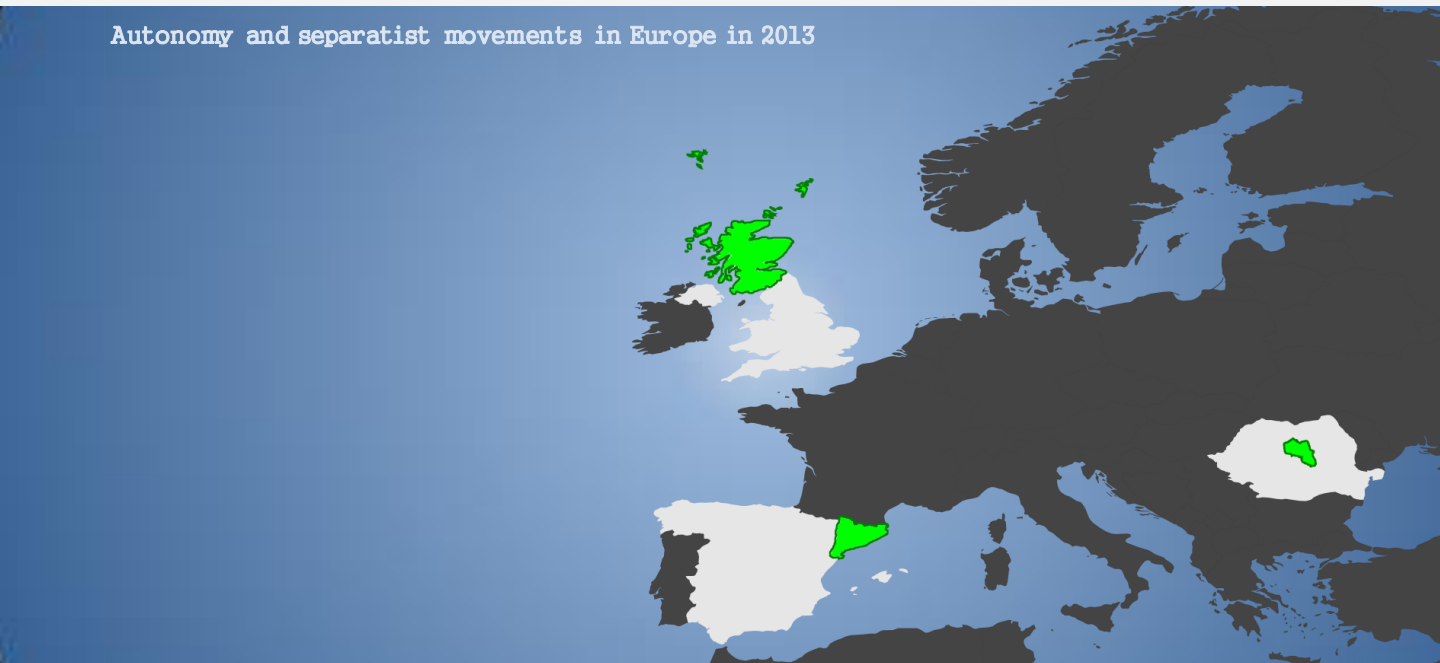
Another noticeable separatist conflict has been seen in Spain. The fact that the dispute over Catalanian independence from Madrid was active also in 2013 was evidenced by the creation of a 400 kilometre-long human chain for the Catalanian independence in September. The aim of this event was to achieve an agreement that would guarantee a

French border to Valencia region across the streets of Barcelona.

Catalonia already has autonomy within Spain and is a strong economy— compared to the country it belongs to. In spite of the autonomy, the crisis also hit this region and this is why in the last few months and years the tensions between Spain and Catalonia have been getting more significant. Some say that without getting the independence, Catalonia will get into such economic situation as Spain.

The official standpoint of the Spanish government is the total refusal saying that

Autonomy and separatist movements in Europe in 2013



referendum for independence in 2014. Catalanian region has been seeking to break away and form a separate country as soon as possible. Knowing that this problem cannot be solved within the country, the supporters of the independence wanted to draw international attention to their movement.

The speciality of the event was that the supporters came from various regions – not just from Catalonia, but even from Madrid. The number of participants was hundreds of thousands. The line literally went through the whole region; it stretched from the

they do not want to separate a country that has been united for so many centuries. On the other hand, the referendum would be against the constitution, providing only the choice of refusal for the national courts.

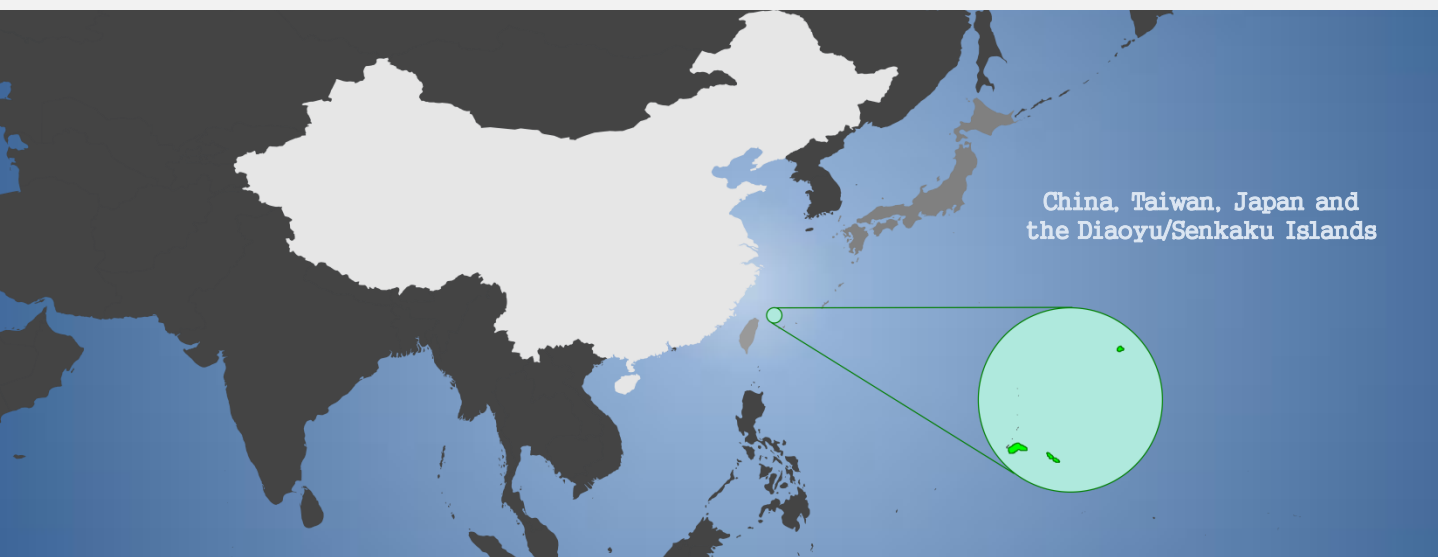
In spite of the success and the huge number of participants, no result has been reached yet. But it can be a start of a process as now the leaders see how big support is from the society behind the independence movements and it is time for the government to solve the problem of 7.5 million people.

SENKAKU/DIAOYU ISLANDS DISPUTE

Tangible indications of contradictions in East Asia over territories could also be found during the year 2013. Most striking was a China–Japan dispute over controversial Island chain. In January, Xi Jinping, chief of the Chinese Communist Party declared to a Japanese envoy that he was committed to develop bilateral ties and holding a summit meeting in order to improve the two country's relations. In the meantime, China took the dispute over the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands to the United Nations. Although Japan generally rejects

United States opposed China's practices and the White House said the "escalatory development" increased regional tensions and affected the interests of the US and its allies which have continuously stressed the need for the free flow of commerce, a reduction in tensions, and peace and stability in the region.

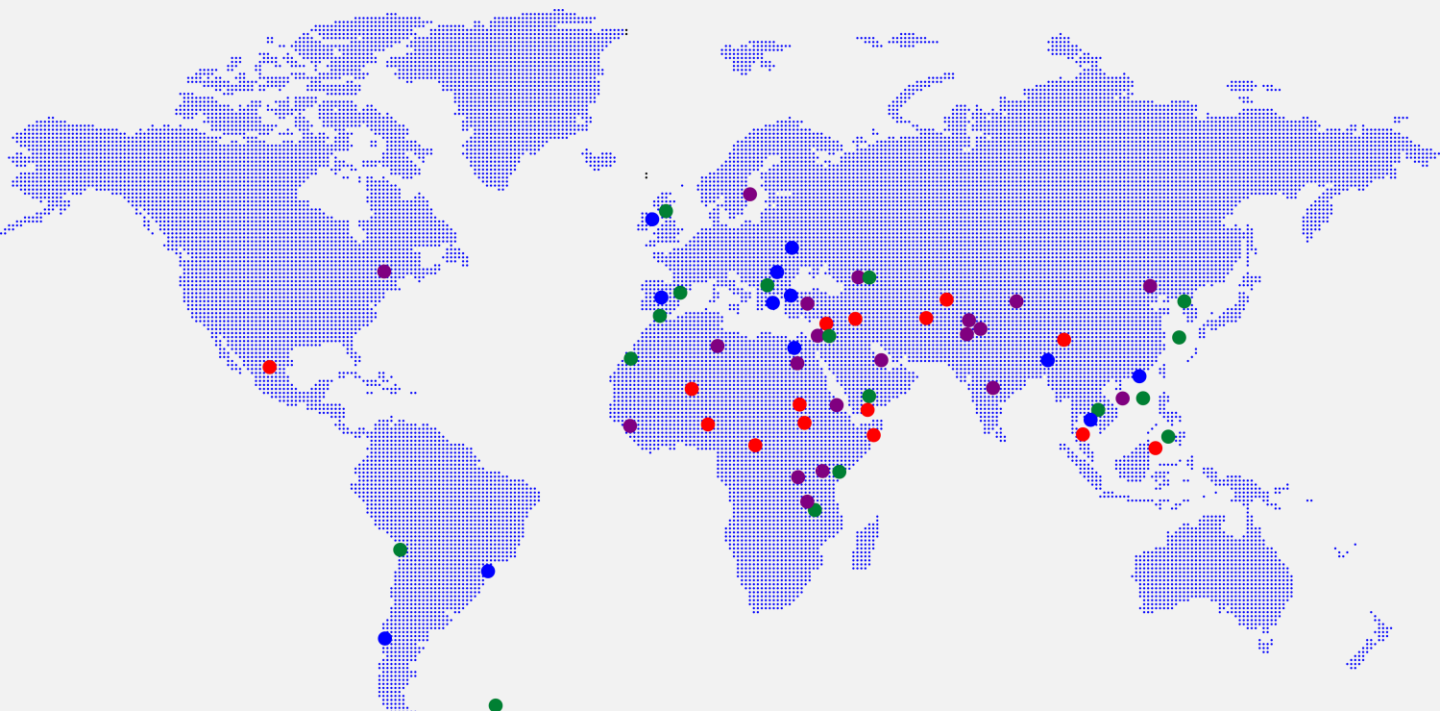
Previously that year, in March, Chinese patrol ship chased and fired at a Vietnamese fishing boat in the South China Sea. The incident happened near the disputed Xisha (Paracel) Islands, which are



the UN involvement, launching an international legal process could help starting dialogue and reducing tensions. The tensions in the region however became more intense because of China's unilateral decision about setting up the air defence identification zone in the mentioned area. According to Chinese officials, this decision would guard against "potential air threats" over the sea. In autumn, the USA expressed its deep concern towards China over the Chinese rhetoric and policy regarding the territorial debate over certain parts of the East China Sea. The

claimed by both countries. Since the 1974 war, China controls the Islands, therefore Beijing claimed the action to be "necessary and legitimate". Vietnam protests strongly, demanding urgent compensation for the Vietnamese fishermen. At the beginning of March, a similar incident was reported when two Vietnamese boats were chased out of disputed waters by Chinese ships. The fact is, that more emphasis has been put on guarding disputed waters since the release of "Vietnamese Law of the Sea" in June 2012, which states the islands to be under Vietnamese jurisdiction.

■ Major conflicts
 ■ Local conflicts
 ■ Protests and riots
 ■ Border and territorial disputes



JANUARY

- **3** UK Prime Minister David Cameron firmly rejected Argentina's latest territorial claim to the Falklands.
- **7** Heavy fighting in West Jebel Marra, Central Darfur left 70 soldiers and 5 rebels dead, other 7 rebels were injured.
- **9** Sudanese army claimed to have the control of Jildu after killing 30 of the rebels. Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario raised the concerns over maritime territorial disputes with China by announcing his government is taking the case to an International Tribunal.
- **10** In Pakistan at least 117 people were killed and over 216 injured in three separate bomb blasts in Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan.
- **11** French military launched Opération Serval, intervening in the conflict in Mali.
- **16** Al-Qaeda-linked terrorists affiliated with a brigade led by Mokhtar Belmokhtar took over 800 people hostage at the Tigantourine gas facility near In Amenas, Algeria.
- **18** In response to the ruling by the Covasna County Court to ban the flag, the Hungarian majors in Romania were called to hoist the flag of the Székely as a display of solidarity.
- **19** As the fights continued and the crisis deepened in Mali, the West African leaders hosted a summit in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.
- **21** Dissident soldiers occupied the Ministry of Information and forced the state media to make an announcement about the release of political prisoners in Asmara, Eritrea.
- **23** Anti-government rebels broke the ceasefire less than two weeks after securing a peace agreement in the Central African Republic.

■ **27** French and Malian forces encircled Timbuktu, Mali and began securing the city.

■ **28** At least 80 militants & civilians were killed in clashes between the Tehrik-e-Taliban / Lashkar-e-Islam and Ansar ul-Islam (a pro-government militant group) in Tirah Valley of Pakistan's Khyber Agency.

FEBRUARY

■ **2** French Defence Minister announced that France intended withdrawing their troops from Mali within weeks declaring the mission a successful intervention.

■ **4** Twenty people died while hundreds were displaced following a clash between members of a Muslim rebel group and Al Qaida linked militants in the southern Philippine province of Sulu.

■ **5** 40 regional representatives and world bodies including the African Union, European Union, United Nations and ECOWAS met in Brussels discussion on the stabilization and reconstruction of Mali following the defeat of the fundamentalist Muslim rebels.

■ **6** A battle near Golo, Central Darfur, left 52 Sudanese soldiers and 5 rebels killed.

■ **7** Sudanese rebels seized a military base near Golo, killing 123 Sudanese soldiers.

■ **8** A band of Murle tribesmen assaulted a convoy of the rival Lou Nuer tribe in Sudan. The bloodshed claimed the lives of at least 103 people, mostly women and children.

■ **11** Benigno Aquino President of the Philippines took an unprecedented visit in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's (MILF) main camp in Mindanao Island.

■ **13** A pre-dawn raid on a Thai military base ended with 16 Muslim insurgents killed in the deadliest violence in the country's south in nine years, marking a dangerous escalation in one of Asia's least-known conflicts.

■ **15** A Pakistani soldier was killed in a firefight with Indian troops when he accidentally crossed over the line of control, injuring two Indian soldiers.

■ **16** At least 84 people died and almost 200 injured after a blast ruined a busy marketplace surrounded by schools in Quetta, capital city of Pakistan's Balochistan Province.

■ **21** A military helicopter came under fire from unknown gunmen in Indonesia's Papua province as it tried to retrieve the bodies of seven soldiers killed in a previous attack.

■ **24** 28 Islamists and ten Chadian soldiers were killed while fighting in the Adrar des Ifoghas mountains in Northern Mali.

MARCH

■ **1** Three days after the deadline of the Royal Army of Sulu to leave the island, Malaysian police engaged in a shooting with the troops.

■ **2** Intense clashes between rebels and the Syrian Army erupted in the north-central city of Raqqa, with many reportedly killed on both sides.

■ **4** Unidentified gunmen ambushed a Syrian Army convoy escorted by Iraqi soldiers in the Battle of Akashat, killing 48 Syrians and 13 Iraqis.

- **7** The United Nations Security Council unanimously approved Resolution 2094 on North Korea after the communist country conducted its third nuclear test on 12 February. The new economic sanctions are designed to hold back North Korea from developing further nuclear and ballistic missile programs.
- **9** About two hundred Christian buildings, including homes, shops and churches were set on fire in Lahore, Pakistan.
- **10** Demonstrations for Székely autonomy were held in Hungary as well as in major European and American cities on the Székelyland which have majority Hungarian population sits in three Romanian counties – Harghita, Covasna and Târgu Mures.
- **15** Heavy clashes between rebels and Sudanese government forces left hundreds of people killed. Rebels killed 260 government soldiers; 170 soldiers and 90 militias. According to the Sudanese government 100 rebels were killed or injured in the battles.
- **18** Suicide bombers crashed an explosives-laden car into a crowded bus on Monday as it was parked at a depot in Kano, Nigeria. Officials said at least 20 people were killed.
- **19** A series of coordinated attacks across the capital Baghdad and several major cities in the north and central parts of the country killed at least 98 people and left 240 others injured.
- **20** Explosions hit the headquarters of the governing AK Party (Justice and Development Party) and the Turkish Ministry of Justice in Ankara.
- **23** Evo Morales, president of Bolivia has announced his decision of filing a complaint against Chile at the International Court of Justice, the Hague, to demand access to the Pacific Ocean.
- **24** Riots erupted in Bangui, Central African Republic.
- **25** Rebels launched one of their heaviest bombardments of Central Damascus since the revolt began, with mortars reportedly hitting Umayyad Square, where Ba'ath Party headquarters, Air Force Intelligence and state television are also located.
- **30** Officials from the Red Cross announced that they had found 78 bodies in Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic since rebels seized it a week earlier.

APRIL

- **1** A tanker bomb exploded at the police headquarters in Tikrit, Iraq, killing at least 42 people and injuring 67 others.
- **3** Israeli warplanes strike targets in the Gaza Strip in response to rocket fire, the first air strikes launched by Israel since an informal ceasefire ended eight days of cross-border fighting between Israel and Hamas-ruled Gaza in November 2012.
- **6** 11 people are killed in a gun and machete attack in a village of Midlu in Northern Nigeria.
- **7** Rebels seized Muhajeriya in East Darfur, killing up to 70 Sudanese soldiers.
- **8** Pakistani military officials said that at least 30 Pakistani soldiers and 97 militants were killed during fierce fighting with Taliban linked-fighters in the Tirah Valley since April 5, the day when the operation began.
- **10** Japan and Taiwan sign an agreement over fishing rights around the Senkaku Islands. China voices "extreme concerns" over the deal.

- **15** A series of coordinated attacks across more than 20 cities killed at least 75 people and left more than 350 others injured just days before the provincial elections in Iraq.
- **17** Syrian government forces breached a six-month rebel blockade in Wadi al-Deif, near Idlib.
- **22** Rebels attacked the Nyala airport in Darfur and defeated government forces in Morla, killing 100 of them.
- **23** Fighting between Boko Haram group and troops in northeast Nigeria leaves at least 187 dead, Red Cross says.
- **24** After five weeks of fighting, government troops seized control of the town of Otaiba, east of Damascus. The town had been under rebel control for the previous eight months, serving as the main arms supply route from Jordan. Meanwhile in the north of the country, rebels took control of a key position on the edge of the strategic Mennagh Military airbase, on the outskirts of Aleppo.
- **29** It was announced that the Arab League would accept a two state solution for Israel and Palestine with slight modifications of the pre-1967 borders, which practically means re-launching the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative.

MAY

- **1** Insurgents kill six people, including a two-year-old boy, in a deadly shooting in Pattani, Thailand.
- **4** Israeli forces, in a second attack in as many days, bomb a weapons shipment of sophisticated missiles suspected as being transported from Syria to Hezbollah in Lebanon.
- **6** India and China have started pulling back troops from disputed territory near the two countries' de facto border.
- **8** Rebel forces claimed to have killed 60 Sudanese government soldier who were trying to recapture the city of Abu Karshola.
- **11** 43 killed and over 100 injured in two car bombings in Reyhanlı, Turkey, near the Syrian border.
- **14** Nigerian governmental forces launched an offensive in the Borno region in an attempt to dislodge Boko Haram fighters after a state of emergency was called.
- **15** A rebel attack on army positions in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo town of Beni leaves at least 31 people dead, including 23 Mai Mai and three FARDC troops.
- **17** Two bombs explode near two separate mosques in the Malakand District of Pakistan, killing 15 people and wounding at least 100 others.
- **21** In the latest round of violence, a series of deadly bombings and shootings struck the central and northern parts of Iraq, with a few incidents occurring in towns in the south and far west as well. The week of attacks killed at least 449 people and left 732 others injured in one of the deadliest outbreaks of violence in years.
- **23** Riots continue for a fourth night in suburbs of the Swedish capital Stockholm heavily populated by immigrants with unrest spreading.
- **27** A series of coordinated attacks took place in Baghdad, killing 71 people and injuring more than 220 others.

■ **31** Turkish protestors are removed from Gezi Park in Taksim Square, Istanbul, in a violent crackdown by police after days of anti-government unrest.

■ JUNE

■ **3** A suicide bombing in eastern Afghanistan kills at least 20 people, including 10 children.

■ **4** Rebels killed 46 Sudanese soldiers in a battle in the Tor Taan region in South Darfur.

■ **7** A Junior Commissioned Officer of the Indian Army was killed in cross-border firing with Pakistani troops.

■ **9** Thirty-five militants and one soldier are killed in fighting in the Khyber Agency tribal region of northwest Pakistan in an operation.

■ **10** Bombs explode across Iraq, killing at least 70 people and wounding many more, following a month of attacks bloodier than any the country has experienced since June 2008.

■ **11** Police in Eastleigh, Kenya kill a man believed responsible for a grenade attack that injured 4 people earlier in the week and suspected to have ties to al-Shabaab.

■ **16** A series of car bombings by insurgents across central and southern Iraq kill at least twenty people.

■ **18** A peace deal between the Mali government and Tuareg rebels was signed.

■ **20** The Committee on the Rights of the Child accuses Israeli soldiers of torturing Palestinian children and using them as human shields.

■ **23** 16 people are killed and more than 20 others wounded in tribal violence in Kenya.

■ **27** Three people have been killed in Indonesia's restive eastern region of Papua in an attack claimed by separatists during which a soldier was shot dead and a civilian hacked to death.

■ **29** Two were killed in anti-Morsi protests in Alexandria, Egypt.

■ **30** 16 killed in clash between DRC army and Ugandan militias. Suspected Uganda militias attacked and occupied two Congolese villages at the DR Congo-Uganda border.

■ JULY

■ **1** 50,000 protesters took part in an anti-China and pro-British banners and flags on the streets of Hong Kong.

■ **3** General Abdul Fatah al-Sisi, head of the Egyptian Armed Forces, announced that he had removed President Mohamed Morsi from power, suspended the constitution, and would be calling new presidential and Shura Council elections.

■ **5** The death toll from clashes between supporters and opponents of former President Mohammed Morsi rises to 52 with another 2,500 people injured, after over 30 people are reported dead after clashes. The Egyptian Army clashes with protesters supporting Morsi.

■ **6** Islamic extremists kill 42 people, mainly students, in an attack on the Government Secondary School boarding school in the Nigerian town of Mamudo in Yobe state.

- **11** Bomb and gun attacks across Iraq kill more than 30 people including members of the Iraqi security forces.
- **15** The M23 rebel movement and the Congolese Army are engaged in heavy fighting in the environs of Goma.
- **19** A suicide bombing inside a Sunni mosque in the eastern Iraqi province of Diyala kills at least twenty people.
- **20** 17 government soldiers are killed in an attack by FARC revolutionaries in the Colombian department of Arauca.
- **22** At least 37 people are killed in Iraq amid a two-day spate of suicide bombings and armed prison escapes.
- **26** At least 57 people are killed in a marketplace bombing in Parachinar, Pakistan.
- **27** Over 100 people are killed and around 1,500 injured in a violent crackdown against protesters in the Egyptian capital of Cairo.
- **29** A wave of twelve car bombs targeting Shiite communities in Iraq kills at least 44 people.
- **30** 134 people are reported to have been killed in a new wave of violence between two rival tribes in Sudan's Darfur region.

AUGUST

- **5** Boko Haram launched dual attacks on Bama and Malam Fatori, Nigeria leaving 35 dead.
- **6** Five Indian army soldiers were killed in firing by Pakistani Special Forces at the Line of Control as they slept in a temporary shelter.
- **9** Clashes erupted between two communities after Eid prayers, in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, India, leaving two dead and several other injured.
- **12** Suspected Islamic militants have killed 44 people who were praying at a mosque in northeast Nigeria. Another 12 people were killed in a nearby village.
- **15** Mortal shelling from the Indian side injured six Pakistani civilians in Kotli, Azad Kashmir.
- **17** Egyptian Prime Minister Hazem Al Beblawi proposes the legal dissolution of the Muslim Brotherhood.
- **19** Three British Royal Navy warships set sail for the Mediterranean in order to make pressure on Spain over Gibraltar dispute.
- **21** A chemical attack took place in the Ghouta region, Damascus countryside, leading to thousands of casualties and several hundred dead in the opposition held stronghold. The attack was followed by a military offensive by government forces into the area, which have been hotbeds of opposition since the start of the uprising.
- **23** UN troops launched a shelling attack on positions held by Congolese rebels near the city of Goma.
- **24** Médecins Sans Frontières report treating 3,600 cases of "neurotoxic symptoms", with 355 fatalities in Syria.

■ **26** Clashes erupt in the West Bank after three Palestinian men are shot dead during an early morning raid by Israeli troops in the Palestinian refugee camp of Qalandia.

■ **30** M23 rebel chief says fighters to withdraw from frontline of fighting in the eastern DR Congo, as violence spikes.

SEPTEMBER

■ **6** Suspected Islamist militants armed with guns and machetes kill at least 20 people in villages in northeast Nigeria.

■ **9** 115 Christians and 38 Muslims killed in a fighting in the Central African Republic.

■ **11** Supporters of Catalonia's independence formed a 400 kilometres long human chain across the region.

■ **12** Syria has agreed to join the Chemical Weapons Convention on 12th September. The Convention outlaws the production, use and transfer of such deadly weapons.

■ **14** Moro National Liberation Front rebel soldiers continue to hold 100 people hostage in the Philippine city of Zamboanga as they exchange gunfire with Philippine Army troops.

■ **16** The United Nations confirms the use of sarin gas in the Ghouta Attacks.

■ **18** A raid on a Boko Haram camp in northeast Nigeria killed 150 Islamists and left 16 soldiers dead. The army offensive was launched in the previous week after Boko Haram ambushed soldiers in the area killing at least 40.

■ **21** A series of car and suicide bombings struck a funeral in the predominantly Shi'ite neighborhood of Sadr City, in Iraq's capital Baghdad. The attacks left at least 78 dead and more than 200 others injured.

■ **22** Almost 80 people were killed and almost 120 were wounded in a twin-suicide bombing in Pakistan. The attack aimed to kill thousands of worshippers leaving the Protestant All Saints Church of Pakistan.

■ **24** End of Westgate shopping mall attack in Kenya. The three-day attack in Nairobi resulted in at least 72 deaths, including 61 civilians, 6 Kenyan soldiers, and 5 attackers. Over 200 people were reportedly wounded in the mass shooting, with all of the gunmen reported killed.

■ **26** The joint US-Russian plan to eradicate the Syrian chemical weapons arsenal got UN approval in the form of a draft UN Security Council resolution.

■ **28** The Bangsamoro Republik (officially known as the United Federated States of Bangsamoro Republik, claiming the islands of Mindanao, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Palawan in the Philippines) ceased to exist after Philippine military intervention in Zamboanga city. The clashes has caused the displacement of more than 100,000 people.

■ **29** Suspected Islamist gunmen have attacked a college in north-eastern Nigeria, killing up to 50 students.

OCTOBER

■ **2** A Philippine government soldier was killed and six others got wounded as a clash broke out anew between government troops and leftist rebels in southern Philippines.

- **3** Air Force fighter jets bomb camps belonging to suspected Islamist militants in northeast Nigeria in response to a massacre of students at an agricultural college.
- **6** At least 53 people are killed during clashes between supporters and opponents of former president Mohamed Morsi on the 40th anniversary of Egypt's crossing of the Suez Canal in 1973.
- **8** North Korea reactivated one of its nuclear reactors. The Yongbyon complex was originally closed in 2007 and now is capable of producing enough plutonium for one atomic bomb per year.
- **9** Around 60 people have been killed in sectarian clashes in Central African Republic between local militias and former rebels.
- **11** The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant is accused by Human Rights Watch of killing at least 190 villagers in pro-government areas and kidnapping hundreds more.
- **20** A suicide truck bomber attack by the Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Nusra Front on a government checkpoint outside Hama, Syria, kills at least 30 people, including a number of soldiers.
- **22** Nigerian troops kill 37 Boko Haram Islamist militants in air and ground strikes in their bases in the northeast.
- **23** A suicide bomber kills two Chadian troops and injures six other MINUSMA peacekeepers in an attack on a checkpoint at the entry to the northern town of Tessalit, Mali.
- **25** Air and ground attack on rebel camps in Nigeria's Borno state has left at least 74 Boko Haram fighters dead.
- **28** A car crashed in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in what police described as a terrorist suicide attack. Five people died in the incident. Thirty-eight people were injured.
- **29** An 5-hour-long battle between Islamic extremists and troops in the capital of Nigeria's Yobe state killed at least 95 militants, 23 soldiers and eight police officers.

NOVEMBER

- **1** A US drone strike kills Hakimullah Mehsud, the leader of the Pakistani Taliban (whom the United States had a reward for \$5 million) and five others.
- **6** A series of small blasts have killed at least one person outside a provincial office of the ruling Communist Party in northern China.
- **9** Five members of the Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram and two Nigerian Army soldiers are killed in fighting in the city of Kano.
- **11** The Democratic Union Party (PYD) unilaterally declared the autonomy of Syria's lands in the Northeast region of the country that are mostly populated by Kurds, who form no less than 10 percent of the whole country's population.
- **14** 39 people are killed in Iraq in attacks against Shiites Muslims.
- **16** Nine axe-wielding assailants have been shot dead during an attack on a police station in China's volatile western Xinjiang province.
- **22** 23 people are killed in bombing and shootings in Iraq.
- **23** China delimits an "air-defence identification zone" over an area of the East China Sea, covering Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands, also claimed by Japan.

- **24** More than 160 people have been killed in fighting between the Syrian Army and opposition forces in the suburbs of Damascus.
- **26** At least one person was killed and others injured when Indonesian police opened fire and beat activists during a demonstration in the West Papuan capital of Jayapura.
- **27** 33 people are killed in bombings and shootings across Iraq.
- **28** Three million people are now refugees from the conflict in Syria, as estimated by the UN.

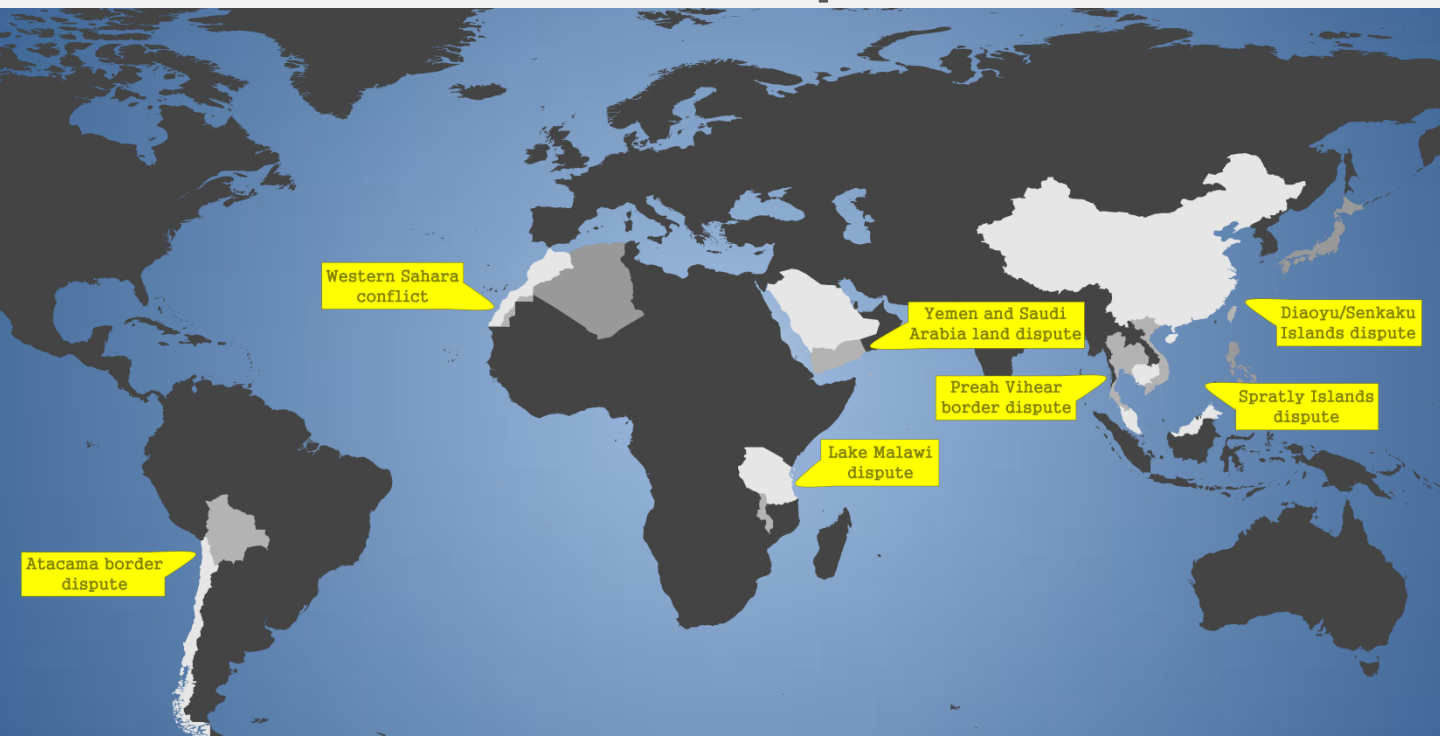
DECEMBER

- **1** It was reported that at least 948 people have been killed in violent attacks across Iraq in the month of November.
- **6** A total of 281 bodies had been collected after two days of violence in and around Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic.
- **8** Car bombs killed at least 39 people across Iraq and wounded more than 120, mainly targeting busy commercial streets in and around the capital.
- **11** A tribal dispute on the border of Sudan's Darfur region has killed 38 people.
- **13** In the Central African Republic 610 people had been killed in the sectarian violence, of which 450 died in Bangui.
- **16** Sixteen people have been killed in violence in China's western region of Xinjiang.
- **17** Fighting erupted on round Bor, South Sudan, where three people had died and over 1,000 people sought refuge in the UN base.
- **22** A full scale tank battle erupted between defected and loyalist factions in Upper Nile, South Sudan.
- **23** More than 30 militants and up to 70 civilians allegedly were killed in a major Pakistani army offensive in North Waziristan.
- **24** At least two dead in Israel–Gaza border violence.
- **27** A suicide bomber attacks a foreign military convoy on the eastern outskirts of the Afghan capital, Kabul, killing at least three foreign soldiers, police and the NATO–led International Security Assistance Force.
- **30** A bomb blast rips a trolleybus apart in Volgograd, Russia, killing at least 15 people in the second deadly attack in the southern city in less than 24 hours.
- **31** Deadly bomb attacked in southern Philippines. At least six people have been killed and scores injured at the home of a pro-government militiaman.

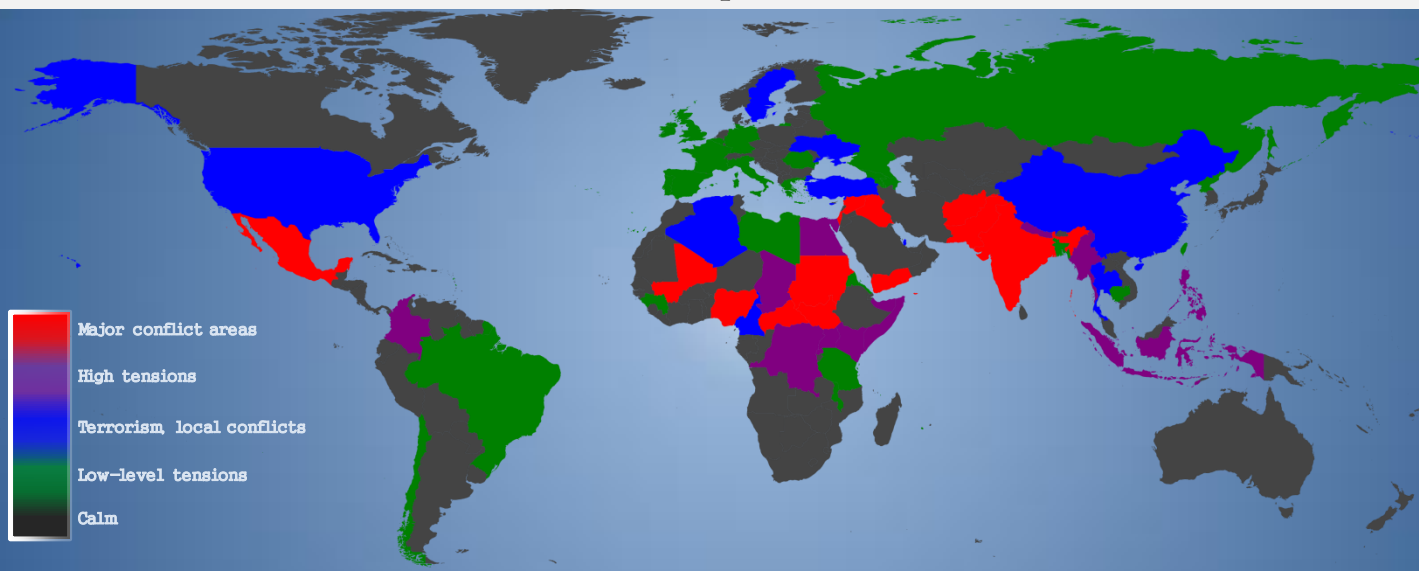
Autonomy and separatist movements in 2013



Border and territorial disputes in 2013

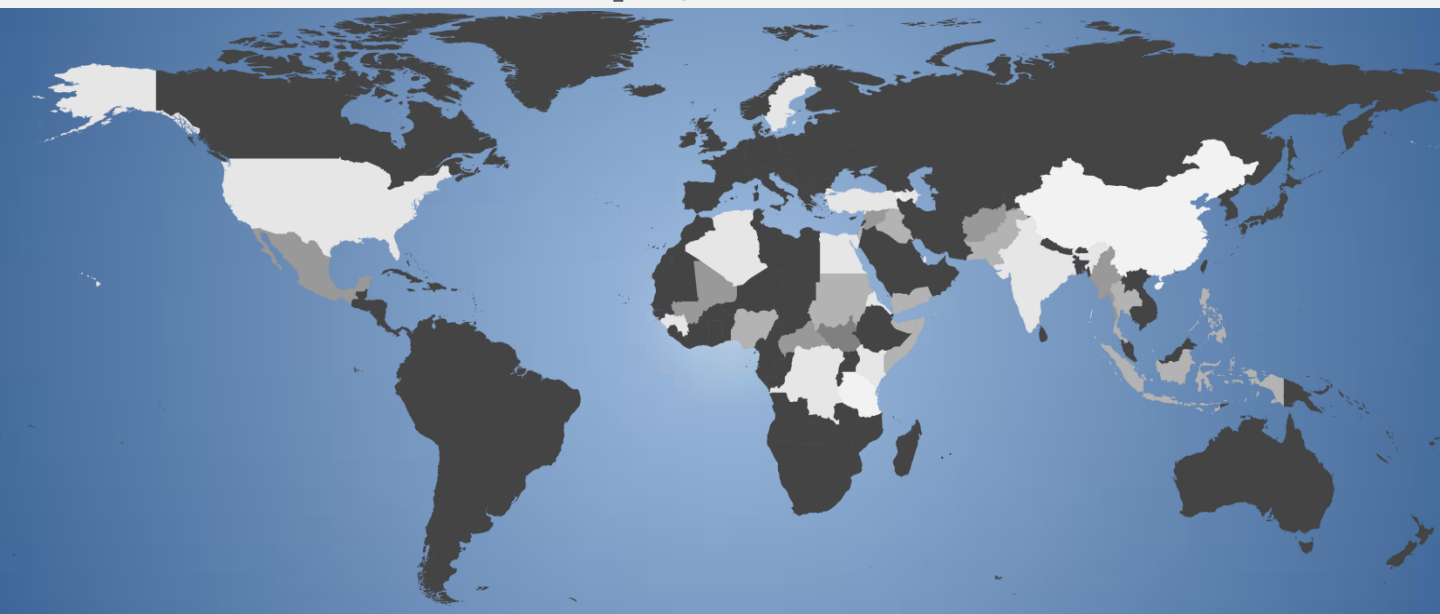


Countries affected by tensions in 2013

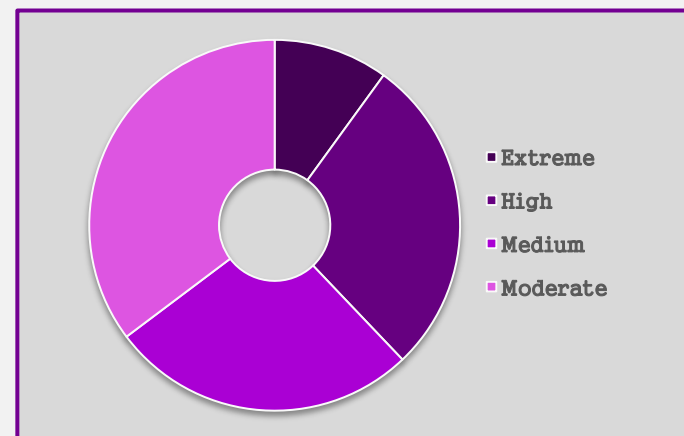
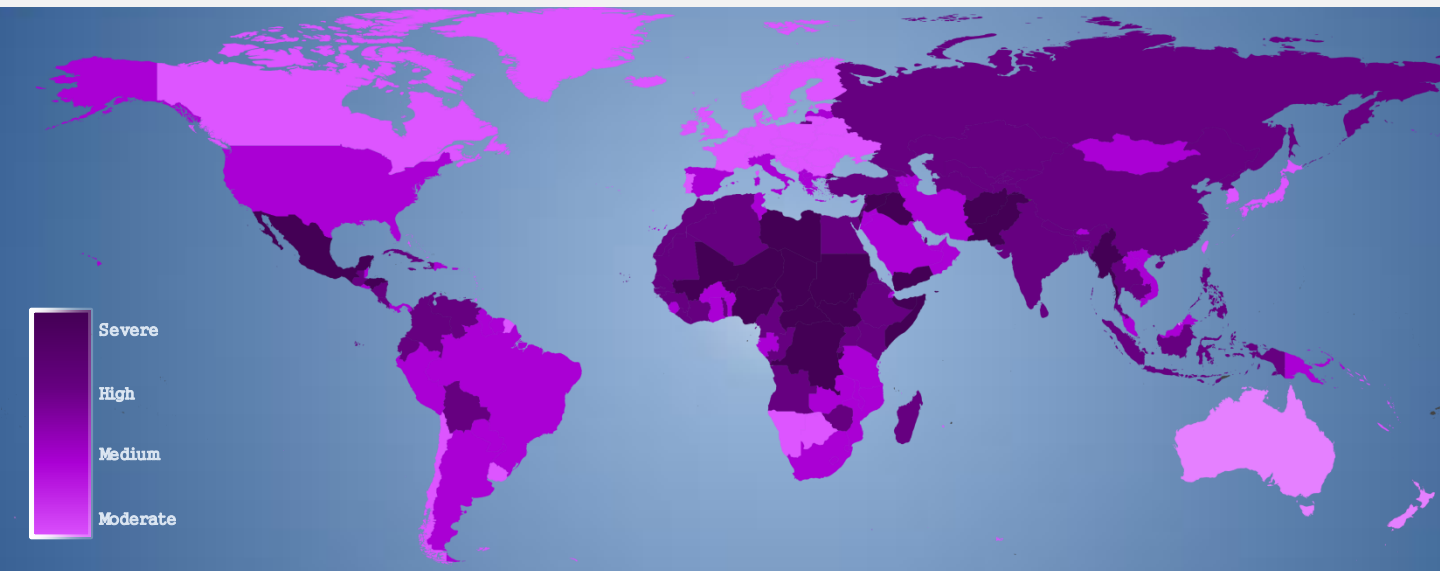


Afghanistan, Central African Republic, India, Iraq, Israel, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, Palestine, Philippines, Somalia, Uganda, Algeria, Cameroon, China, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Ireland, Italy, Libya, Malawi, North Korea, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Tanzania, United Kingdom

Countries affected by major and minor conflicts in 2013



Terrorism risk index and political violence in 2013



Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Burundi, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Honduras, Iraq, Israel, Libya, Mexico, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen

Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Georgia, Guatemala, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, North Korea, Palestine, Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Zimbabwe

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, East Timor, El Salvador, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Iran, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Latvia, Lesotho, Macedonia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United States, Vietnam, Zambia

Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Grenada, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Japan, Kiribati, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, São Tomé and Príncipe, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Vanuatu

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