CrisisWatch
May Alerts & April 2023 Trends

Our global conflict tracker warns of three conflict risks and welcomes one conflict resolution opportunity in May.

Fighting erupted in Sudan between the army and a powerful paramilitary force, killing hundreds, triggering a humanitarian crisis and fuelling fears of a protracted, all-out civil war.

Azerbaijan installed a checkpoint along the Lachin corridor that connects Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia, prompting Yerevan and Moscow to condemn Baku for breaching the 2020 ceasefire agreement and raising concern that heightened tensions could escalate further.

As expectations for Ukraine’s long-awaited counteroffensive grew, Russian shelling killed and injured dozens; Moscow may deploy long-range weapons in the coming weeks, causing more civilian suffering.

In Yemen, the first diplomatic visit by Saudi Arabia in eight years and a prisoner swap injected momentum into talks between Riyadh and Huthi rebels, raising hope for a more comprehensive halt to hostilities.

CrisisWatch identified deteriorations in nine countries in April.

In Israel-Palestine, Israeli security forces’ brutality at Jerusalem’s Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan triggered a multi-front escalation, including the largest cross-border rocket barrage from Lebanon since the 2006 war.

Thailand’s deep south witnessed a surge in militant attacks, casting a shadow over dialogue between the government and the main separatist armed group.

Surges in criminal, herder-farmer and communal violence in Nigeria left hundreds of people dead across the country, with a particularly heavy toll among civilians.

Amid sustained fighting between government forces and jihadist groups in Burkina Faso since the government declared a “total war”, both sides conducted large-scale massacres of civilians.

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TRENDS IN APRIL

**Deteriorated Situations**
Thailand, Israel/Palestine, Sudan, Lebanon, Ecuador, Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Indonesia

**Improved Situations**
Qatar

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ALERTS FOR MAY

**Conflict Risk Alerts**
Sudan, Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Ukraine

**Resolution Opportunities**
Yemen
Ecuador’s government declared terrorism a security threat amid a spike in gang violence, enabling the military to deploy in the streets to confront these groups without instituting a state of exception.

We also assessed one improved situation. Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates announced plans to restore diplomatic ties with Qatar, concluding the process of ending the almost six-year intra-Gulf rift.

Aside from the dozens of conflict situations we assess every month, we tracked significant developments in Benin, Indonesia and Moldova.