

SUMMARY

In 2010 there were 24 active armed conflicts* worldwide, a decrease of four from the previous year. After no change in the number of active armed conflicts between 2008 and 2009, this decrease marks a return to the prevailing downward trend that started in 2000.

No new conflicts were added in 2010 and conflicts were deemed over in Nepal, Burundi, Sri Lanka, and Uganda. Both Nepal and Burundi signed peace agreements in 2006 that now seem to have taken root. While violence flared up in Burundi in 2008, for the two consecutive years since then the total number of direct conflict-related deaths has been below 25. In Nepal, while human rights abuses and incidents of violence continue, especially in the Terai region, this violence lacks a political agenda; the number of combatant deaths resulting from conflict between political actors has fallen below 25 for several consecutive years. Sri Lanka's civil war came to a decisive end in July 2009 when the government militarily defeated the main rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The end to Sri Lanka's war marks a rare instance of military defeat, as the overwhelming majority of conflicts since the 1990s have ended through some type of negotiated settlement. Although Northern Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) continues to commit violence in neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, and Central African Republic, no combat-related deaths have occurred on Ugandan soil in a number of years and it seems unlikely the LRA will be active in Uganda again.

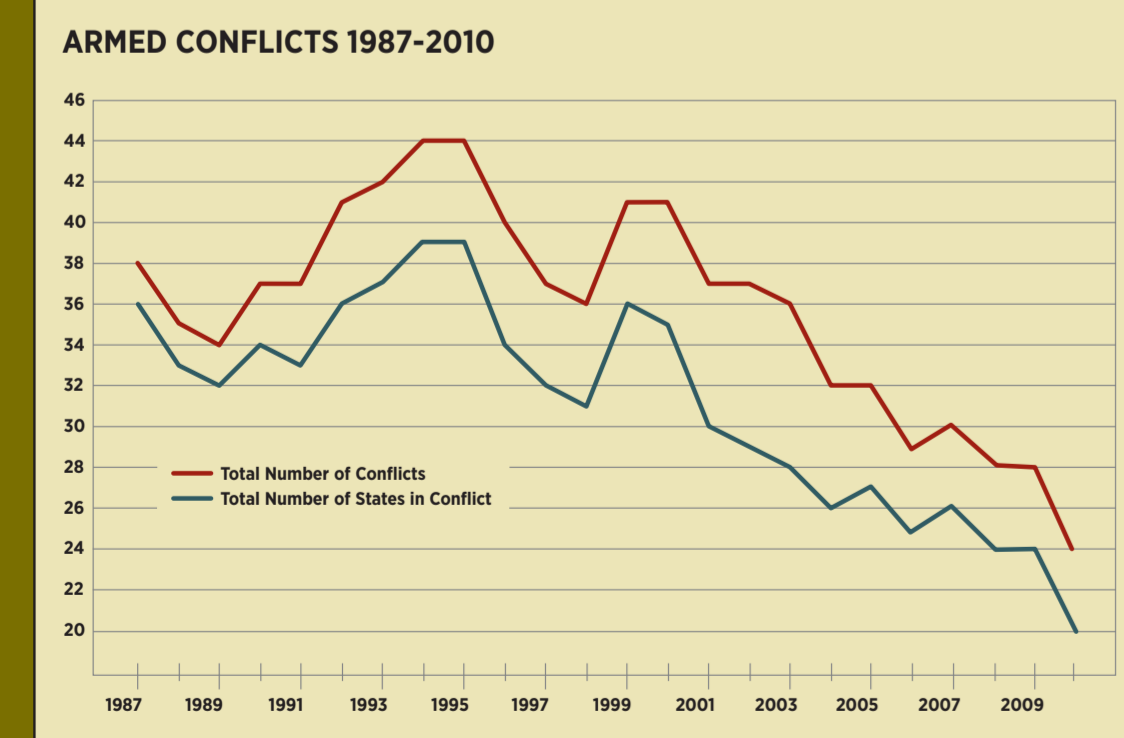
While the number of armed conflicts in both Africa and Asia dropped by two this year, these two regions still continue to host three-quarters of the world's conflicts. Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East combined host only one-quarter of the world's conflicts.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF ARMED CONFLICTS IN 2010

Region	Number of countries in region	Number of conflicts in region	Number of countries in region hosting conflicts	Per cent of countries in region hosting conflicts	Per cent of world conflicts
AFRICA	50	9	8	16	37.5
ASIA	42	9	6	14	37.5
EUROPE	42	1	1	2.4	4
THE AMERICAS	44	1	1	2.3	4
MIDDLE EAST	14	4	4	29	17
WORLD TOTALS	192	24	20	10.4	100

In the last decade (2001-2010) a total of 32 conflicts came to an end, while only 12 conflicts started or re-emerged. Of these 12 conflicts, seven were also resolved, leaving only five cases that became active and have yet to be resolved. Africa has seen the greatest net gain during this period, with 14 conflicts coming to an end and three emerging, only one of which is still active. Asia also saw significant net gains, with nine conflicts coming to an end and four emerging, only one of which is still active. In Europe one conflict ended, and no new conflicts emerged. The Middle East has seen the least improvement: while six conflicts ended, four conflicts began or re-emerged, three of which are still active. Significantly, of the 24 conflicts active in 2010, only five cases were added during the last decade. Earlier phases of three conflicts (Iraq, Yemen, and Turkey) were included in previous *Armed Conflict Reports*, and episodic violence in the remaining two cases (Thailand and Ethiopia-Ogaden) flared up prior to 1987, when Ploughshares began collecting data. While this trend means that very few new conflicts have emerged in the last decade, it also points to the protracted nature of many of the world's armed conflicts, the overwhelming majority of which have been active for well over a decade.

Full descriptions of the 2010 armed conflicts are available in the Armed Conflicts Report on the Project Ploughshares website (www.ploughshares.ca). Project Ploughshares has reported annually on armed conflicts since 1987.



Defining armed conflict: For the purposes of the annual Armed Conflicts Report an armed conflict is defined as a political conflict in which armed combat involves the armed forces of at least one state (or one or more armed factions seeking to gain control of all or part of the state), and in which at least 1,000 people have been killed by the fighting during the course of the conflict. An armed conflict is added to the annual list of current armed conflicts in the year in which the death toll reaches the threshold of 1,000. An armed conflict is deemed to have ended if there has been a formal ceasefire or peace agreement and, following which, there are no longer combat deaths or at least fewer than 25 per year or, in the absence of a formal ceasefire, a conflict is deemed to have ended after two years of dormancy (in which fewer than 25 combat deaths per year have occurred).



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ARMED CONFLICTS REPORT

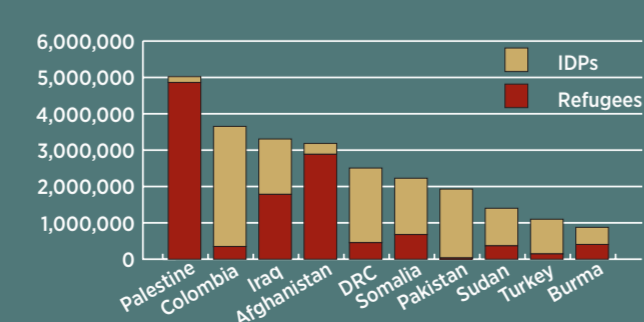
2011



FORCED DISPLACEMENT ON THE RISE

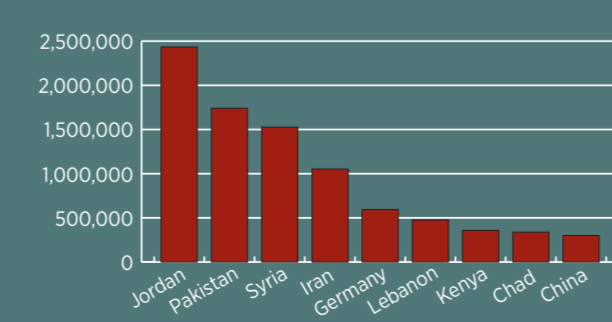
As the total number of active armed conflicts worldwide has decreased over the last decade, the total number of combat-related deaths — often the most frequent measure of a conflict's intensity — has also decreased. This trend contrasts with the forced displacement of people. By the end of 2009 there were **43.3 million displaced people** worldwide, including: **15.2 million refugees**, **27.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs)**, and nearly **1 million asylum-seekers**. This number is 1.3 million higher than the previous year, and represents the highest total since the mid-1990s, when the number of global armed conflicts peaked. While conflict-related fatalities are decreasing, rates of displacement — especially internal displacement — are increasing, which points to a shift in the impact armed conflict has on civilian populations, as well as the difficult and slow process of returning home once a conflict has ended. Well over half of the world's displaced people are internally displaced, while those that cross borders usually find refuge in neighbouring countries, many of which are underdeveloped and host armed conflicts of their own.

Top 10 Refugee/IDP Producing Countries



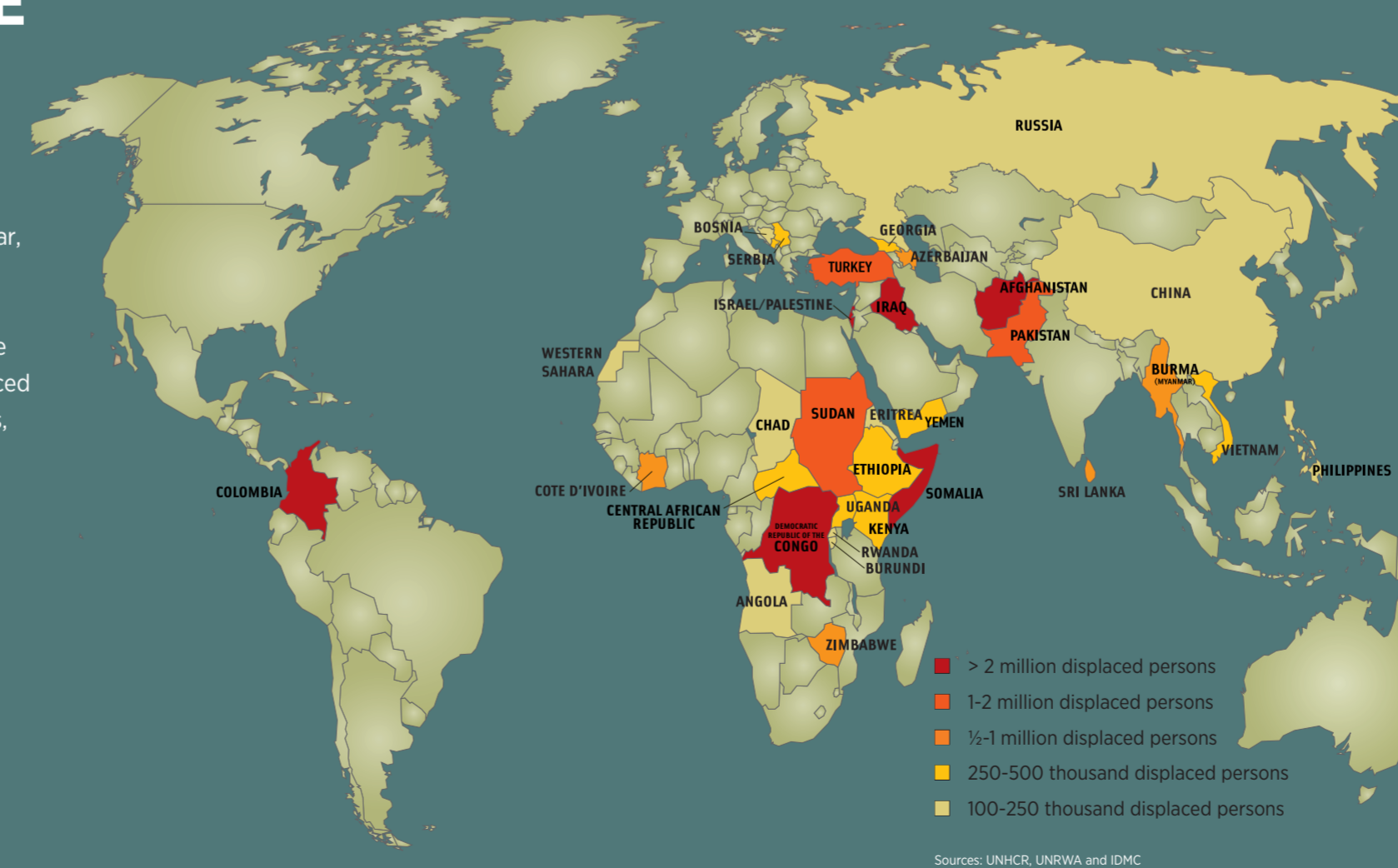
Source: UNHCR, UNRWA and IOM

Top 10 Refugee Hosting Countries



Source: UNHCR, UNRWA

COUNTRIES WITH HIGH LEVELS OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT

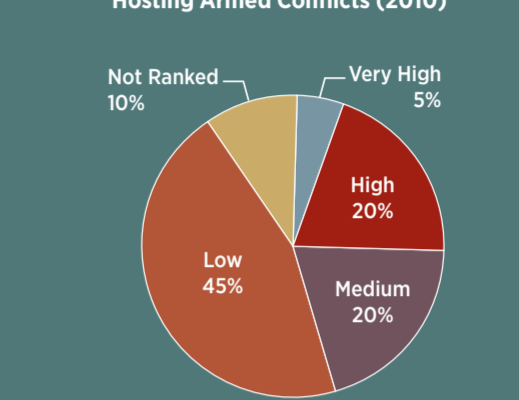


Source: UNHCR, UNRWA and IOM

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND ARMED CONFLICT

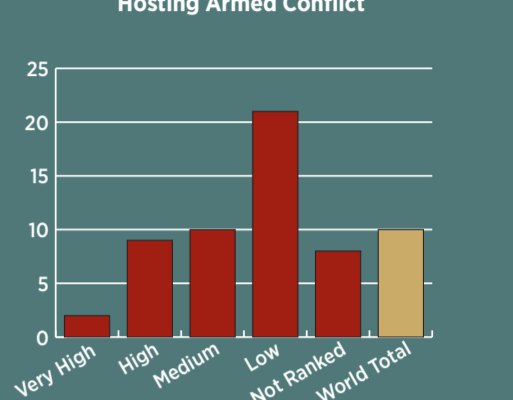
The Human Development Report 2010 ranks 169 countries as Very High, High, Medium, and Low on their Human Development Index (HDI). States at low levels of human development are much more likely to be affected by armed conflict: 45 per cent of conflicts active in 2010 took place in countries ranked Low, while an additional 10 per cent of conflicts occurred in states Not Ranked by the HDI. Most, if not all, of these states would rank Low. By contrast, only one conflict occurred in a country (Israel) ranked Very High. In 2010, countries ranked Low were more than twice as likely than the global average to be affected by armed conflict.

Human Development Rankings of Countries Hosting Armed Conflicts (2010)



Source: Human Development Report 2010 and Ploughshares' ACR Data

Percentage of Countries by HDI Ranking Hosting Armed Conflict

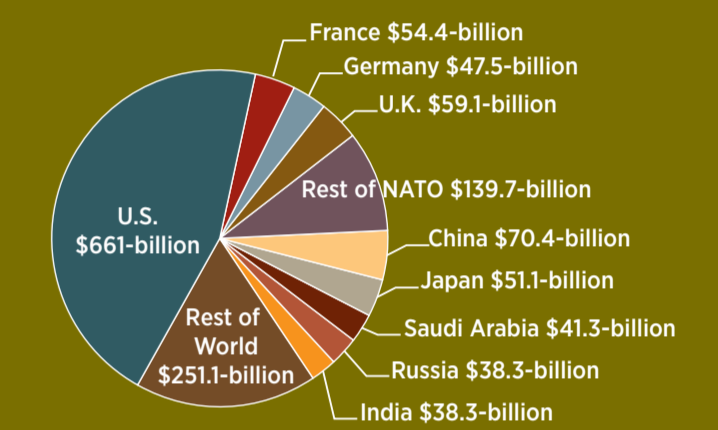


Source: Human Development Report 2010 and Ploughshares' ACR Data

WORLD MILITARY SPENDING

Global Total 2009: **\$1,452.3-billion***

In 2009, U.S. military spending comprised 46 per cent of the world's total. Non-NATO military spending accounted for less than one-third of the world's total.

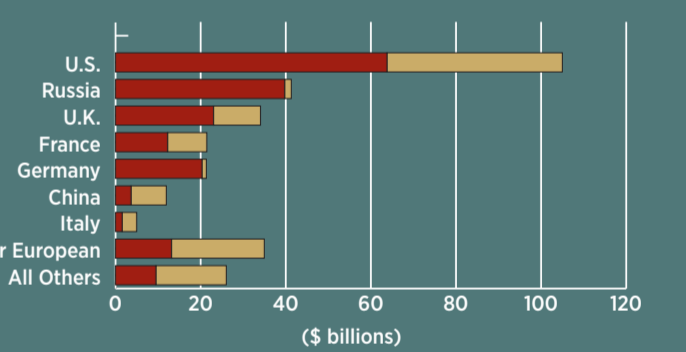


Source: ISS, Military Balance 2010. *All figures in U.S. dollars

GLOBAL ARMS DELIVERIES, 2002-09

From 2002-2009, \$310-billion* worth of arms were delivered to countries around the globe; 61 per cent of these arms were delivered to developing countries. Arms shipments by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council accounted for 71 per cent of all deliveries.

Worldwide Arms Deliveries 2002-2009 by Supplier

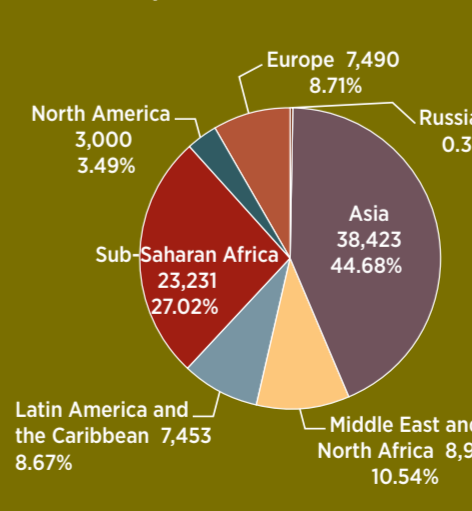


Source: Congressional Research Service. * All figures in U.S. dollars

PEACEKEEPING/OBSERVER/ENFORCEMENT MISSIONS IN 2010

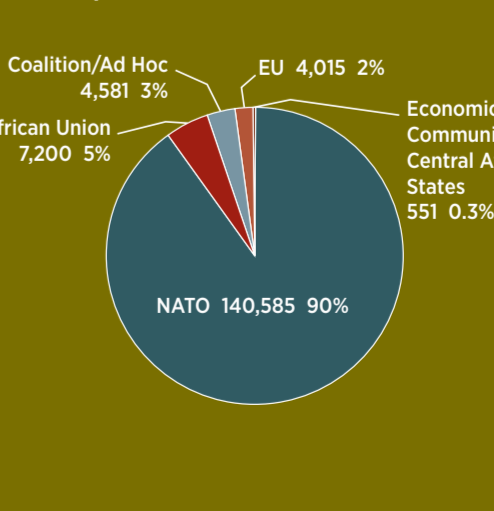
In 2010, there were peacekeeping/observer/enforcement missions in more than 30 countries, including 18 UN-sponsored missions and 21 non-UN deployments. Despite their comparatively low military spending, developing countries in Asia and Africa contributed the greatest number of troops to UN peacekeeping missions. By contrast, NATO contributed 90 per cent of troops to non-UN missions.

Troop Contributions to UN Missions



Source: ISS, The Military Balance 2011

Troop Contributions to Non-UN Missions



Source: Annual Review of Global Peace Operations 2011

Missions in Countries not Hosting Armed Conflict

Country	UN Deployment	Non-UN Deployment
Bosnia-Herzegovina	UN	Non-UN
Central African Republic	UN	Non-UN
Cote d'Ivoire	UN	Non-UN
Cyprus	UN	Non-UN
Egypt	UN	Non-UN
Georgia	UN	Non-UN
Haiti	UN	Non-UN
Lebanon	UN	Non-UN
Liberia	UN	Non-UN
Moldova	UN	Non-UN
Serbia (Kosovo)	UN	Non-UN
Sierra Leone	UN	Non-UN
Solomon Islands	UN	Non-UN
Syria	UN	Non-UN
Timor Leste	UN	Non-UN
Western Sahara	UN	Non-UN

Source: Center on International Cooperation, Annual Review of Global Peace Operations 2011

Project Ploughshares gratefully acknowledges the ongoing financial support of the many individuals, national churches and church agencies, local congregations, religious orders, and organizations across Canada that ensure the work of Project Ploughshares continues. We are particularly grateful to The Simons Foundation in Vancouver for their generous support.

Project Ploughshares is the ecumenical peace centre of The Canadian Council of Churches with a mandate to advance policies and actions that prevent war and armed violence and build peace. To order additional copies of this poster, download the order form from our website or contact: Project Ploughshares | 57 Erb Street West, Waterloo, ON N2L 6C2 Canada | 519-888-6541 | plough@ploughshares.ca.

ABOUT PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES
 Research and action for peace

VISION AND MANDATE
 A secure world without war, a just world at peace.

Our name and vision come from the enduring vision in Isaiah, which sees the material and human resources consumed by preparations for war transformed into resources for human development – a transformation that goes to the roots of war itself.

God shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up word against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Founded in 1976, Project Ploughshares is the peace centre of The Canadian Council of Churches, with a mandate to advance policies and actions that prevent war and armed violence and build peace.

PROGRAM
 Working with churches, governments, and civil society, in Canada and abroad, Project Ploughshares undertakes research, policy development, and public engagement to:

- > Prohibit the use, possession, and manufacture of nuclear weapons;
- > Prevent the weaponization of space;
- > Control the supply and reduce the demand for weapons;
- > Reduce the resort to military force; and
- > Build sustainable peace in conflict zones.

SUPPORT
 We welcome your comments and support. Core support for the work of Project Ploughshares is provided each year by contributions from our national sponsoring churches, religious orders, civic agencies, foundations, and particularly by the donations of thousands of individuals. Contributions are tax creditable. You can make your donation online at www.ploughshares.ca, by calling our toll-free donation number, 1-888-907-3223, or by mailing your cheque, payable to Project Ploughshares, to the address below.

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PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES

ARMED CONFLICTS REPORT 2011

Project Ploughshares has reported annually on armed conflicts since 1987. Additional information on armed conflicts is available from our website at

www.ploughshares.ca

Our website information on armed conflict includes:

- > Interactive map of current armed conflicts;
- > Detailed descriptions of all current armed conflicts, updated annually;
- > Descriptions of recently ended armed conflicts; and
- > Maps and charts providing additional information on armed conflict issues and trends.

The Project Ploughshares website also contains information and analysis on a range of peace and security issues.

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