

Appendix 3A. Patterns of major armed conflicts, 1990–2003

MIKAEL ERIKSSON and PETER WALLENSTEEN*

I. Global patterns

In 2003 there were 19 major armed conflicts in 18 locations throughout the world. The number of major armed conflicts and the number of conflict locations in 2003 are slightly lower than in 2002, when there were 20 major armed conflicts in 19 locations.¹ The conflicts and locations for 2003 are presented in table 3A.3. For the definition of a major armed conflict, see appendix 3B.

Two interstate conflicts were active in 2003: the conflict between India and Pakistan; and the conflict between Iraq and the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia.² Other states made military contributions to the operations in Afghanistan in the intra-state conflict between the USA and the al-Qaeda network.³ In the 14-year post-cold war period 1990–2003 there were 59 different major armed conflicts in 48 different locations. The number of conflicts in 2003 was the lowest for the entire period except for 1997, when there were 18 major armed conflicts. All but four of the major armed conflicts registered for 1990–2003 were internal; that is, the issue concerned control over the government or territory of one state. The four interstate conflicts in the period 1990–2003 were Iraq versus Kuwait; India versus Pakistan; Ethiopia versus Eritrea; and the conflict over government in Iraq in 2003.

The proportion of major armed conflicts waged over territory as compared to those over control of government was roughly the same over the period 1990–2003. Conflicts concerning territory were lower in number than those over government in 1997–2003.

¹ A location may have 1 or more conflicts over territory; it may also have a conflict over territory and a conflict over government. There can be only 1 conflict over government in each location because, by definition, there can be only 1 government in each location.

² Under UN Security Council Resolution 1483, 22 May 2003, the UK and the USA were designated the occupying powers. Forty-nine other coalition partners contributed military and/or political support for the war in Iraq. For updates on the contributors see The White House, 'Policies in focus', 4 Feb. 2004, URL <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/iraq/news/20030327-10.html>>.

³ The following 27 countries also contributed military or political support to the multinational coalition in Afghanistan: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Jordan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, South Korea, Romania, Russia, Spain, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the UK and Uzbekistan. See American Forces Press Service, 'United against terrorism', URL <<http://www.defendamerica.mil/articles/mar2002/a030402a.html>>. On Afghanistan see also Cottey, A., 'Afghanistan and the new dynamics of intervention: counter-terrorism and nation building', *SIPRI Yearbook 2003: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security* (Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2003), pp. 167–94.

* Uppsala Conflict Data Project (UCDP), Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. For table 3A.3, Ylva Blondel was responsible for the conflict location Algeria; Desiree Nilsson for Liberia; Lina Edmark for Russia; Mikael Eriksson for Indonesia; Kristine Eck for Afghanistan, India, India–Pakistan, Iraq–USA and USA (al-Qaeda); Hanne Fjelde for Nepal; Erika Forsberg for the Philippines; Helena Grusell for Colombia and Peru; Lisa Hultman for Sudan; Stina Högladh for Burundi; Anna Jarstad for Turkey; Joakim Kreutz for Myanmar; Frida Möller for Israel; and Isak Svensson for Sri Lanka.

II. Regional patterns

In 2003 there were four conflicts in Africa and eight in Asia. As during most of the 14-year period, the vast majority of the conflicts in 2003 occurred in these two regions. There were three major armed conflicts in America (North and South America), one in Europe and three in the Middle East. The regional distribution of major armed conflicts and locations over the period 1990–2003 is shown in tables 3A.1 and 3A.2. Figure 3A.1 shows the regional distribution and total number of conflicts for each year in this period.

For *Africa*, 18 major armed conflicts were registered for 1990–2003.⁴ In 2003 there were two new conflicts in Africa: one in Liberia, and one in Sudan.⁵ There was a marked decline in the number of conflicts in Africa from 1991 to 1996. The events in the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa led to a sharp increase from 3 conflicts in 1996 to 11 in 1998 and 1999. The number of major armed conflicts in Africa registered for 2003 is the same as for 1997, but it is declining. Eritrea and Ethiopia fought the one interstate conflict that took place in Africa during the period 1990–2001. The vast majority of the conflicts in Africa have concerned control of government.

For *America* (including North, Central and South America and the Caribbean), a total of five major armed conflicts were registered for 1990–2003.⁶ Of the four major armed conflicts recorded for 1990, two remained active in 2003. There have been no interstate major armed conflicts in the region in the period. All the conflicts listed for the region America have concerned control over government.

For *Asia*, a total of 16 major armed conflicts were registered for 1990–2003.⁷ Asia had the highest number of major armed conflicts for most years in the period. There has been an overall reduction in armed conflicts in Asia since 1990. As in the Middle East, most of the conflicts in Asia have been active since well before the 1990s. There was one interstate conflict during the period 1990–2003, between India and Pakistan, which was active in 1990, 1992 and 1996–2003. In the intra-state conflicts in Tajikistan, active in 1992–96, and Afghanistan, active in 2001, other states contributed regular troops. The vast majority of the conflicts in Asia over the period have concerned territory.

For *Europe*, a total of eight major armed conflicts were registered for the period 1990–2003.⁸ The yearly number of conflicts has declined since the peak year 1993, when there were five conflicts in this region. The only active major armed conflict in

⁴ The 18 conflicts in Africa are Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Chad, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire), Ethiopia, Ethiopia (Eritrea), Eritrea–Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan and Uganda.

⁵ Note that, since the incompatibility in the new conflict in Sudan is control over government, this conflict is not listed in table 3A.3. According to the UCDP definition of incompatibility, there can be only 1 incompatibility over government in each location because, by definition, there is only 1 government in each location. See note *a* below table 3A.3.

⁶ The 5 conflicts in America are Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru and the USA (the conflict between the US Government and al-Qaeda).

⁷ The 16 conflicts in Asia are Afghanistan, Cambodia, India (Kashmir), India (Punjab), India–Pakistan, Indonesia (East Timor), Indonesia (Aceh), Myanmar (Kachin), Myanmar (Karen), Myanmar (Shan), Nepal, the Philippines, the Philippines (Mindanao), Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka (Tamil Eelam) and Tajikistan.

⁸ The 8 conflicts in Europe are Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Herceg-Bosna), Croatia, Georgia, Russia, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Croatia), and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Kosovo).

Table 3A.1. Regional distribution, number and types of major armed conflicts, 1990–2003^a

Region	1990		1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		
	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	
Africa	8	3	8	3	6	1	6	1	5	1	4	1	2	1	4	–	10	1	10	1	8	1	7	–	6	–	4	–	
America	4	–	4	–	3	–	3	–	3	–	3	–	3	–	2	–	2	–	2	–	2	–	3 ^b	–	3 ^b	–	3 ^b	–	
Asia	4	8	3	7	4	7	4	5	4	5	4	6	4	5	3	5	3	5	2	6	2	6	2	6	2	6	2	6	
Europe	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	5	–	4	–	3	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	2	–	1	–	1	–	1	–	1	
Middle East	1	3	2	4	2	3	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	–	2	1	2
Total	17	15	17	16	15	15	15	16	14	15	13	15	11	12	11	8	17	10	15	12	14	11	14	10	11	10	11	10	9
Total	31	33	29	30	29	27	27	30	28	28	27	22	22	18	18	26	26	26	26	24	24	23	23	20	20	19	19	19	19

G = government and T = territory, the two types of incompatibility.

^a Note that table 3A.1 has been adjusted to correspond to the exclusion of the Assam conflict in India from table 3A.3, since it has not crossed the threshold of 1000 battle-related deaths in any single calendar year.

Table 3A.2. Regional distribution of locations with at least one major armed conflict, 1990–2003

Region	1990		1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001		2002		2003	
	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T	G	T
Africa	10	–	10	–	7	–	7	–	6	–	5	–	3	–	4	–	11	–	11	–	9	–	7	–	6	–	4	–
America	4	–	4	–	3	–	3	–	3	–	3	–	3	–	2	–	2	–	2	–	2	–	2	–	2	–	2	–
Asia	8	–	7	–	9	–	8	–	8	–	8	–	9	–	8	–	8	–	7	–	7	–	7	–	7	–	7	–
Europe	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Middle East	4	–	4	–	4	–	4	–	4	–	4	–	4	–	4	–	4	–	3	–	3	–	4	–	4	–	2	–
Total	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	25	25	23	23	20	20	18	18	26	26	25	25	23	23	22	22	19	19	18	18

^b Note that this number includes the conflict between the USA and al-Qaeda. See Eriksson, M., Sollenberg, M. and Wallensteen, P., 'Patterns of major armed conflicts, 1990–2001', *SIPRI Yearbook 2002*, pp. 67–68, for an elaboration of the preliminary assessment of this case and its ambiguities.

Source: The Uppsala Conflict Data Project.

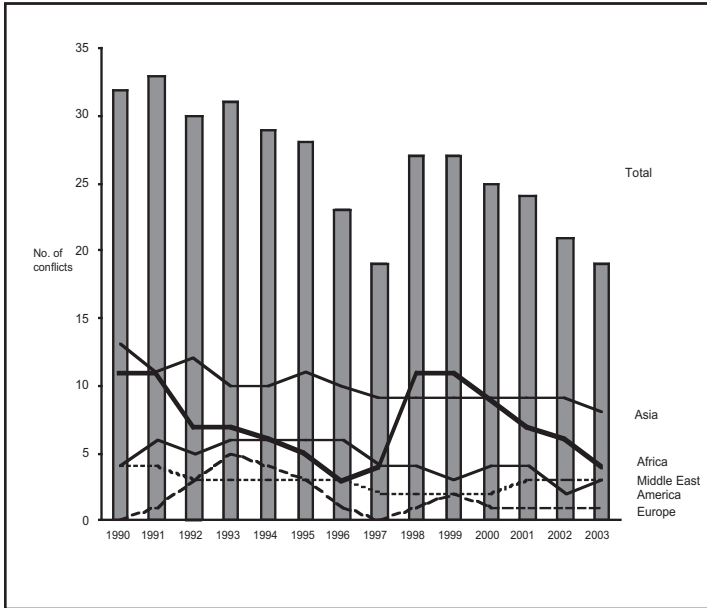


Figure 3A.1. Regional distribution and total number of major armed conflicts, 1990–2003

Europe in 2003 was that in the republic of Chechnya in Russia. There were no interstate conflicts in the region. In five of the eight conflicts in Europe in 1990–2003 other states contributed regular troops—Azerbaijan; the two conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; and Serbia and Montenegro (Kosovo).⁹ All the major armed conflicts in Europe have concerned territory.

For *the Middle East*, 10 major armed conflicts were registered for the period 1990–2003.¹⁰ There was an increase in the number of conflicts from 1990 to 1991, after which the figure remained largely the same until it dropped in 1997 and then increased by one in 2003. Two of the major armed conflicts in 2003, Israel and Turkey, have been active during almost the whole period. There have been two interstate conflicts: the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, in 1991; and the conflict between Iraq and the USA, the UK and Australia, in 2003.¹¹ In the intra-state conflict in Lebanon, which was active in 1990, other states contributed troops. Most conflicts in the Middle East during the period have concerned territory, but in 2003 there was a slight increase in the number of conflicts over government.

III. Changes in the table of conflicts for 2003

Conflicts added to the table in 2003

Three new conflicts were registered for 2003: one conflict in the Middle East, involving Iraq; and two conflicts in Africa, involving Liberia and Sudan.

⁹ Formerly the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY); on 4 Feb. 2003 the name of the FRY was changed to Serbia and Montenegro.

¹⁰ These 10 conflicts are Iran, Iran (Kurdistan), Iraq, Iraq (Kurdistan), Iraq–Kuwait, Iraq–USA, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey and Yemen.

¹¹ See note 2; and table 3A.3.

In January 2002, when US President George W. Bush named Iraq as part of the 'axis of evil', the situation in Iraq became increasingly salient for the US Government. In November the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1441,¹² which gave Iraq a last chance to comply with previous resolutions and cooperate with UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors or face 'serious consequences'. Iraq decided to comply with the resolution, and UN inspectors subsequently resumed their work. Convinced that Iraq continued to conceal nuclear, chemical and biological weapon programmes, by the beginning of 2003 the USA and its allies increased diplomatic pressure to pass a new UN resolution authorizing military action against Iraq for its non-compliance with Resolution 1441. On 17 March 2003, Bush issued an ultimatum to Saddam Hussein that he must leave Iraq by 19 March or be overthrown by an armed invasion. While the USA had earlier condemned the government of Saddam Hussein and called for a regime change, this was the first time it did so in connection with the threat of armed force. Unable to muster enough Security Council votes to pass a new resolution, the USA and its allies decided to take military action outside of UN auspices, forming a 'coalition of the willing'. This coalition consisted of US, British and Australian combat troops, with secondary support from other countries.¹³ When Saddam Hussein failed to comply with the coalition ultimatum by 20 March, the USA launched military operations on select targets in Baghdad.

In Liberia, the conflict between the Liberian Government and the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebel group, active in northern Lofa county, began in 1999.¹⁴ The conflict escalated in April 2003 and crossed the threshold of 1000 battle-related deaths as LURD advanced towards the capital Monrovia.¹⁵ Under international pressure, Liberian President Charles Taylor agreed to resign on 2 August 2003.¹⁶ The Liberian Government signed an agreement on power sharing with the rebel groups on 18 August, setting the timetable for the creation of a transitional government.¹⁷ Supported by the arrival of some 200 US Marines, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) began dispatching forces on 4 August 2003.¹⁸ The UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) replaced the ECOWAS force on 1 October.¹⁹

In Sudan, the conflict between the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), active in the south, reached a substantial breakthrough on 25 September, when the two parties signed a peace agreement in

¹² UN Security Council Resolution 1441, 8 Nov. 2002, available at URL <<http://www.un.org/Docs/scres/2002/sc2002.htm>>.

¹³ See note 2. For further details on the Iraq war see chapter 2 in this volume.

¹⁴ For further details on the Liberian conflict see chapter 3 in this volume.

¹⁵ 'The mother of local wars', *The Economist*, 12 Apr. 2003, p. 42; and International Crisis Group (ICG), 'Liberia: Security challenges', *ICG Africa Report*, no. 71 (3 Nov. 2003), p. 5.

¹⁶ Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 'Liberia: Taylor's departure ushers in prospects for peace', IRIN-WA weekly round-up 188, 8–15 Aug. 2003.

¹⁷ 'Comprehensive peace agreement between the Government of Liberia and the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) and the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) and political parties', 18 Aug. 2003, URL <http://www.usip.org/library/pa/liberia/liberia_08182003_toc.html>.

¹⁸ For further details on the ECOWAS Monitoring Group in Liberia (ECOMIL) force see chapter 4 in this volume.

¹⁹ For further details on UNMIL see chapter 4 in this volume.

Naivasha, Kenya.²⁰ The Sudanese Government agreed to withdraw 12 000 of its 100 000 troops in the south. Both parties agreed to contribute 12 000 troops to an integrated national army.²¹ Negotiations continued successfully during the rest of the year on remaining issues, but a final peace agreement was not signed. A new conflict erupted in Sudan through the emergence of two new rebel groups in the western Darfur region—the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The groups demanded a democratic federal system in Sudan based on self-determination for all the regions in Sudan.²² The fighting in western Sudan has turned into a large-scale conflict with enormous humanitarian consequences. The conflict has caused a total of approximately 3000 deaths, and up to 500 000 people have been internally displaced.²³

Conflicts recorded in 2002 that were not recorded for 2003

In Angola, the conflict between the Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA, Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) and the União Nacional Para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA, National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), which began in 1975 and was over control of government, came to an abrupt end with the death of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi on 22 February 2002.²⁴ The conflict ended formally on 4 April 2002, when UNITA and the MPLA signed a peace accord.²⁵ The repatriation and reintegration of former UNITA fighters, their families and displaced persons continued during 2003. There were no reports of fighting between UNITA and the Angolan Government during the year. In 2003 the government shifted its attention to the low-intensity conflict against separatist rebels in the northern enclave of Cabinda, which remains unsolved.²⁶

In Rwanda, the Rwandan Government has fought against the Forces Démocratiques pour la Liberation du Rwanda (FDLR) since 1994. There were no reports of fighting between the Hutu rebels and the government in 2003. Ethnic Hutu rebels have been based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since 1998. The United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) started repatriating FDLR troops to Rwanda, following the peace agreement signed in the DRC in 2002.²⁷ Less than one-third of the 15 000 Rwandan Hutu rebels believed to be in eastern DRC were repatriated in 2003.²⁸

²⁰ For further details on the conflict in Sudan see chapter 3 in this volume.

²¹ 'Agreement on security arrangements during the interim period', 25 Sep. 2003, URL <http://www.usip.org/library/pa/sudan/sudan_security_09252003.html>.

²² IRIN-HOA, 'Sudan: Darfur rebels keen to extend ceasefire', IRIN-HOA weekly round-up 163, 18–24 Oct. 2003. See also note 5.

²³ AFP, 'UN envoy in Chad over Sudanese refugee plight', in ReliefWeb, 8 Jan. 2004, URL <<http://www.reliefweb.int>>; AFP, 'Sudan charges that meddling sabotaged Chad-hosted peace talks', in ReliefWeb, 17 Dec. 2003, URL <<http://www.reliefweb.int>>.

²⁴ 'Some mourn, more rejoice', *The Economist*, 2 Mar. 2002, p. 42.

²⁵ Heitman, H-R., 'Angola gets a real chance for peace', *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 17 Apr. 2002, p. 16.

²⁶ The MPLA has fought various factions of the Cabinda Enclave Liberation Front (FLEC) since 1975. For more details on the Cabinda conflict see IRIN-WA, 'IRIN Web Special on Cabinda', URL <<http://www.irinnews.org/webspecials/cabinda/default.asp>>.

²⁷ For further details on MONUC see chapter 4 in this volume.

²⁸ Mahtani, D., Reuters, 'UN says Hutu rebels blocked from leaving DR Congo', in ReliefWeb, 20 Jan. 2004, URL <<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/0/19912850820de3df49256e2300246f03?OpenDocument>>.

In Somalia, a number of Somali factions and the Somali Reconciliation and Restoration Council (SRRC) had been fighting over control of the country in the central and southern regions since 1991. The SRRC, an umbrella organization consisting of 19 Somali clans, launched its armed struggle in March 2001 against the Transitional National Government (TNG), which was established in August 2000.²⁹ A ceasefire agreement was signed between the SRRC and the TNG in Eldoret, Kenya, on 27 October 2002. The parties agreed to cease all hostilities, establish a new federal constitution, and form an inclusive and representative federal government acceptable to all parties.³⁰ New talks were held on 5–6 July 2003 in Nairobi, Kenya, where the parties agreed to establish a 351-member transitional national assembly.³¹ However, the deal was rejected by interim President Abdikassim Salat Hassan, who withdrew from the peace talks on 29 July, refusing to step down in spite of the fact that the TNG mandate would expire in August 2003.³² Fighting continued in 2003 between regional warlords and competing Somali clans but, since there were no reports of fighting between the TNG forces and the SRRC during the year, the conflict was removed from the list of major armed conflicts in 2003.

In India, the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) has been fighting against the Indian Government for an independent Assam since 1979. The conflict continued in 2003, but caused fewer than 100 battle-related deaths during the year. It has been estimated that up to 3000 people have lost their lives over the duration of the conflict. As a result of the use of a more efficient automated software programme to extract articles from the Factiva news database, the Uppsala Conflict Data Project (UCDP) has been able to re-examine the conflict in Assam and concluded that it has not crossed the threshold of 1000 battle-related deaths in any single calendar year. It was therefore removed from the table of conflicts in 2003 (table 3A.3).³³

Changes in intensity of conflict

As part of the efforts of the UCDP to achieve a higher degree of accuracy in the compilation of data on major armed conflicts, two new categories have been added to the data collection process. These new categories—non-state conflict (conflict between two groups, neither of which is a state), and one-sided violence by states or organized groups against civilians (such as massacres and genocide)—are now coded separately by the UCDP. As a result, a number of changes may have affected the total number of battle-related deaths (see table 3A.3).

²⁹ 'Somali warlords form unity council', BBC News Online, 22 Mar. 2001, URL <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/1235434.stm>>.

³⁰ International Crisis Group (ICG), 'Salvaging Somalia's chance for peace', ICG Africa Briefing, 9 Dec. 2002, p. 3, available at URL <<http://www.crisisweb.org/home/index.cfm?id=1822&l=1>>.

³¹ Agence France-Presse, 'Somalia's interim government rejects Nairobi peace accord', in ReliefWeb, 6 July 2003, URL <<http://www.reliefweb.int>>.

³² Agence France-Presse (note 31); and 'Somali president clings to office', BBC News Online, 11 Aug. 2003, URL <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3141427.stm>>.

³³ See appendix 3B.

Seven of the 19 major armed conflicts in 2003 showed a higher intensity compared to 2002.³⁴ In five of these conflicts, the battle-related deaths increased by more than 50 per cent.³⁵ Eight conflicts exhibited a lower intensity in 2003 compared to 2002, and in four of them the intensity levels were down by more than 50 per cent.³⁶ Three conflicts showed no change in intensity from 2002.³⁷

The six major armed conflicts in 2003 that caused at least 1000 deaths during the year were: India, India–Pakistan, Indonesia, Iraq, Liberia and Nepal. In 2002 the six conflicts with at least 1000 battle-related deaths were: Burundi, Colombia, India (Kashmir), Nepal, Russia (Chechnya) and Sudan (SPLA/M).

³⁴ These 7 conflicts are Burundi, Liberia, India–Pakistan, Indonesia, Myanmar, and the Philippines (Communist Party of the Philippines, CPP, and Moro Islamic Liberation Front, MILF).

³⁵ These 5 conflicts are Burundi, India–Pakistan, Indonesia, Liberia and the Philippines (MILF).

³⁶ These 8 conflicts are Algeria, Colombia, India, Israel, Nepal, Russia, Turkey and the USA. Of these, the intensity decreased by over 50% in 4 conflicts: Algeria, Colombia, Nepal and the USA.

³⁷ These 3 conflicts are Peru, Sri Lanka and Sudan.

Table 3A.3. Table of conflict locations with at least one major armed conflict in 2003

Location	Incompat- ibility ^a	Yr formed/ yr joined/ yr entered ^b	Warring parties ^c	Total deaths ^d (incl. 2003)	Deaths in 2003	Change from 2002 ^e
Africa						
Algeria	Govt	1993/1993/ 1993	Govt of Algeria vs GIA	40 000– 100 000*	< 50	--
GIA: Groupe islamique armé (Armed Islamic Group)						
* Note that these figures include deaths in the fighting since 1992 in which other parties than those listed above participated, notably the Front islamique du salut (FIS, Islamic Salvation Front).						
Burundi	Govt	1992/ . . / . . . 1992/ . . / . . .	Govt of Burundi vs CNDD–FDD vs Palipehutu–FNL	> 6 000*	925	++
CNDD–FDD: Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie–Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (National Council for the Defence of Democracy–Forces for the Defence of Democracy)						
Palipehutu–FNL: Parti pour la libération du peuple Hutu–Force Nationale de Liberation: Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People–Forces for National Liberation)						
* Political violence in Burundi since 1993 is reported to have claimed a total of at least 200 000 lives. This figure includes deaths incurred by other groups than those listed above and that are no longer active, deaths in intra-group fighting, as well as deaths that have not been classified as battle-related deaths.						
Liberia	Govt	2000/2000/ 2003	Govt of Liberia vs LURD	2 500	< 2 300	++
LURD: Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy						
Sudan	Govt	1983/1983/ 1983 2003/2003/ 2003	Govt of Sudan vs SPLM/A* vs SLM/A vs JEM	55 000	2 275	0
SPLM/A: Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army						
SLM/A: Sudan Liberation Movement/Army						
JEM: Justice and Equality Movement						
* The SPLM/A has previously been coded under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), but has increasingly been operating independently. The SPLM/A is therefore coded as an independent organization in 2003.						
America						
Colombia	Govt	1949/1978/ 1991 1965/1978/ 1991	Govt of Colombia vs FARC vs ELN	> 41 000*	500	--
FARC: Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias Colombianas (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia)						
ELN: Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army)						
* This figure includes deaths in the fighting since 1964 in which other parties than those listed above also participated.						

Location	Incompatibility ^a	Yr formed/ yr joined/ yr entered ^b	Warring parties ^c	Total deaths ^d (incl. 2003)	Deaths in 2003	Change from 2002 ^e
Peru	Govt	1980/1981/ 1981	Govt of Peru vs Sendero Luminoso	> 28 000	< 25	0
Sendero Luminoso: Shining Path						
USA	Govt	2001/2001/ 2001	Govt of USA, Multinational coalition* vs al-Qaeda	3 500	< 50	--
* The following countries contributed combat troops: Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania and the UK. For a list of countries contributing non-combat troops and/or political support see note 3 in this appendix.						
Asia						
India	Terr. (Kashmir)	.. /1989/ 1990	Govt of India vs Kashmir insurgents	> 26 000	> 1 000	-
India-Pakistan	Terr.	1947/1996/ 1947	Govt of India vs Govt of Pakistan	..	<1000	++
Indonesia	Terr.	1976/1989/ 1990	Govt of Indonesia vs GAM	> 2 000	1 000	++
GAM: Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (Free Aceh Movement)						
Myanmar	Terr.	1948/1948/ 1948	Govt of Myanmar vs KNU	1948-50: 8 000 1981-88: 5 000-8 000	> 25	+
KNU: Karen National Union						
Nepal	Govt	1996/1996/ 2002	Govt of Nepal vs CPN-M	5 000	> 1 000	--
CPN-M: Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist						

Location	Incompat- ibility ^a	Yr formed/ yr joined/ yr entered ^b	Warring parties ^c	Total deaths ^d (incl. 2003)	Deaths in 2003	Change from 2002 ^e
Philippines						
	Govt	1968/1968/ 1982	Govt of the Philippines vs CPP*	21 000– 25 000	> 200	+
	Terr.	1984/1987/ 2000	vs MILF	> 2 500	< 800	++
CPP: Communist Party of the Philippines MILF: Moro Islamic Liberation Front						
* Previously listed as the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the CPP. For consistency, the UCDP has changed the reference to this party in the conflict to the political wing, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).						
Sri Lanka						
	Terr.	1976/1983/ 1989	Govt of Sri Lanka vs LTTE	> 60 000	> 25	0
LTTE: Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam						
Europe						
Russia						
	Terr.	1991/1999/ 1995	Govt of Russia vs Republic of Chechnya	40 000– 70 000	> 500	–
Middle East						
Iraq						
	Govt	2003/2003 2003	Govt of Iraq vs USA, UK, Australia*	1 000	< 1 000	n.a.
* These 3 countries provided combat troops in the war. For a list of other countries which subsequently contributed combat troops and those contributing non-combat troops and/or political support see note 2 in this appendix and chapter 3.						
Israel						
	Terr.	1964/1964/ ..	Govt of Israel vs Palestinian organizations*	1948–** > 14 000	> 425	–
* Mainly Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement), Islamic Jihad (IJ), and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).						
** Note that this figure also covers the period 1948–63, in which other parties than those listed above participated.						
Turkey						
	Terr.	1974/1984/ 1992	Govt of Turkey vs KONGRA-GEL*	> 30 000	> 75	–
* In Nov. 2003 the Kurdistan Freedom and Democracy Congress (KADEK, previously known as the PKK) changed its name to the Conference of the People's Congress of Kurdistan (KONGRA-GEL).						

The following notes apply to table 3A.3. Note that, although some countries are also the location of minor armed conflicts, the table lists only the major armed conflicts in those countries. For the definitions, methods and sources used, see appendix 3B.

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

^a The stated general incompatible positions. ‘Govt’ and ‘Terr.’ (Territory) refer to contested incompatibilities concerning government (type of political system or a change of central government or its composition) and territory (control of territory [interstate conflict], secession or autonomy), respectively. Each location may have 1 or more incompatibilities over territory if the disputed territories are different entities. There can be only 1 incompatibility over government in each location as, by definition, there can be only 1 government in each location. For each incompatibility there may be more than 2 parties.

^b ‘Year formed’ is the year in which the incompatibility was stated. ‘Year joined’ is the year in which use of armed force began or recommenced. ‘Year entered’ is the first year in which the conflict reached the threshold of 1000 battle-related deaths in a single calendar year and was therefore entered in the database of major armed conflicts.

^c The non-governmental warring parties are listed by the name of the parties using armed force. Only those parties and alliances which were active during 2003 are listed in this column. Alliances are indicated by a comma between the names of the warring parties.

^d The figures for deaths refer to total battle-related deaths, that is, those deaths that were caused by the warring parties and which can be directly connected to the incompatibility, during the conflict. Information which covers a calendar year is necessarily more tentative for the last months of the year. Experience has also shown that the reliability of figures improves over time; they are therefore revised each year.

^e The ‘change from 2002’ is measured as the increase or decrease in the number of battle-related deaths in 2003 compared with the number of battle-related deaths in 2002. Although based on data that cannot be considered totally reliable, the symbols represent the following changes:

- ++ increase in battle deaths of > 50%
- + increase in battle deaths of > 10 to 50%
- 0 stable rate of battle deaths ($\pm 10\%$)
- decrease in battle deaths of > 10 to 50%
- decrease in battle deaths of > 50%

n.a. not applicable, since the major armed conflict was not recorded for 2002.

Note: In the last 3 columns (‘Total deaths’, ‘Deaths in 2003’ and ‘Change from 2002’), ‘.’ indicates that no reliable figures, or no reliable disaggregated figures, were given in the sources consulted.

Appendix 3B. Definitions, sources and methods for the conflict data

This appendix clarifies the definitions and methods used in the compilation of data on major armed conflicts, and provides explanations concerning the treatment of the sources consulted. The armed conflict records presented in appendix 3A are compiled by the Uppsala Conflict Data Project (UCDP), at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.¹

I. Definitions

The UCDP defines a major armed conflict as a contested incompatibility that concerns government and/or territory over which the use of armed force between the military forces of two parties, of which at least one is the government of a state, has resulted in at least 1000 battle-related deaths in any single calendar year.²

The separate elements of this definition are defined as follows.³

1. *Incompatibility that concerns government and/or territory.* The incompatibility must concern government and/or territory, and it refers to the stated generally incompatible positions. An *incompatibility that concerns government* refers to the type of political system, the replacement of the central government or the change of the composition of the current government. An *incompatibility that concerns territory* refers to the status of a territory, for example, the change of the state in control of a certain territory (interstate conflict), secession or autonomy (intra-state conflict).

2. *Use of armed force.* This refers to the use of arms by the military forces of the parties in order to promote the parties' general position in the conflict, resulting in deaths. Arms are defined as any material means of combat, for example, manufactured weapons as well as sticks, stones, fire, water, and so on.

3. *Party.* This refers to the government of a state or an opposition organization or alliance of opposition organizations. The *government of a state* is that party which is generally regarded as being in central control, even by those organizations seeking to take over power. If this criterion is not applicable, the government is the party controlling the capital of the state. In most cases where there is a government, the two criteria coincide. An *opposition organization* is any non-governmental group which has announced a name for the group and its political goals and has used armed force to achieve them.

4. *State.* A state is an internationally recognized sovereign government controlling a specified territory or an internationally non-recognized government controlling a

¹ For more information see URL <<http://www.pcr.uu.se>>.

² This definition of major armed conflict differs slightly from the definition applied to the data of the UCDP published in *SIPRI Yearbooks 1988–1999* (Oxford University Press: Oxford, 1988–99). The requirement that a conflict must cause 1000 or more battle-related deaths in a single year, rather than over the entire course of the conflict, ensures that only conflicts that reach a high level of intensity, as measured by deaths, are included. The tables and figure in appendix 3A have been retroactively adjusted to reflect this revised definition.

³ See also Eriksson, M. (ed.), *States in Armed Conflict 2002*, Department of Peace and Conflict Research Report no. 67 (Uppsala Publishing House: Uppsala, 2004).

specified territory whose sovereignty is not disputed by an internationally recognized sovereign government, which previously controlled the same territory.

5. *Battle-related deaths*. This refers to those deaths caused by the warring parties that can be directly related to combat over the contested incompatibility.

Once a conflict has reached the threshold of 1000 battle-related deaths, it continues to appear in the annual tables of conflicts until the contested incompatibility has been resolved and/or until there is no recorded use of armed force, resulting in at least one battle-related death, between the parties and concerning the same incompatibility during the year. The same conflict may reappear in subsequent years if there is renewed use of armed force between the same parties, resulting in at least one battle-related death and concerning the same incompatibility. The focus of study is not political violence per se but incompatibilities that are contested by the use of armed force. Thus, the project registers one major type of political violence—battle-related deaths—which serves as a measure of the magnitude of the conflict. Other types of political violence are excluded, such as: unilateral use of armed force, for example, massacres; unorganized or spontaneous violence, for example, communal violence; and violence which is not directed at the state, for example, non-governmental organizations fighting each other. These categories of political violence are expressions of phenomena other than armed conflict as defined here. For instance, reciprocal violence is different from unilateral violence; that is, war is different from genocide. This is not to say that such other types of violence or violent conflict are not as important, but the distinction between them is important.

6. *Number of troops*. In the tables of major armed conflicts in past SIPRI Yearbooks, troop figures referred to the total armed forces of the government warring party (i.e., the government of the conflict location) and the forces of non-governmental parties in the conflict location. The list of major armed conflicts for 2003 does not include numbers of troops for each conflict. The reason for the exclusion of troop figures from the table is that the sources used to compile these data provided information only on the total number of standing troops, but did not give the exact number of troops on either side which were actively engaged in each conflict. The numbers have not proved to be a useful indicator of the number of combatants in a conflict and have therefore been removed from the table for 2003 (table 3A.3).

There is frequently international involvement of various types in intra-state conflicts. Only one type of international involvement is included in appendix 3A: another state or multinational coalition is considered a party to a conflict if, and only if, it contributes regular troops to one of the warring parties and shares the goals of that party. A traditional peacekeeping operation is not considered to be a party to the conflict but rather an impartial part of a consensual peace process. It should also be noted that rebel groups operating from a base in a neighbouring state are listed as parties to the conflict in the location where the government is challenged, regardless of their nationality or where they are based.

II. Sources

The data presented in appendix 3A are based on information taken from a selection of publicly available sources, printed as well as electronic. The sources include news agencies, newspapers, journals, research reports, and documents of international and multinational organizations and NGOs. The latter include documents of the warring

parties (governments and opposition organizations) when such sources are available, since they serve as a crucial complement when identifying statements about the parties' incompatible positions. Global, regional and country-specific sources are used.

Independent news sources that have been selected over several years form the basis of the source collection. The Factiva news database (previously known as the Reuters Business Briefing) is indispensable for the collection of general news reports. The project also uses region- and country-specific sources extensively. However, these are not comparable between regions. This means that for some countries several sources are consulted, whereas for other countries and regions only a few high-quality region- or country-specific sources are used. For Asia, country-specific news sources are consulted since few reliable regional sources are publicly available. For example, for the countries in South Asia, articles from a large number of national and local newspapers are used.

As in previous years, the Factiva news database was used as a major source of data on major armed conflicts. In 2003, the UCDP introduced the use of more efficient automated software to extract articles from the database, thereby increasing the level of accuracy.

The project consistently scrutinizes and revises the selection and combination of sources in order to maintain a high level of reliability and comparable coverage of all regions and states. One of the priorities is to arrive at a balanced combination of sources of different origins in order to avoid a bias.

The reliability of the sources is judged by using the expertise within the project together with advice from a global network of experts. The independence of the sources is crucial as well as the transparency of the origins of the sources. Each source is judged according to the context in which it is published, that is, according to the potential interests of the source in misrepresenting political or violent events. In the case of biased sources, which are used to identify statements by the parties, they must be official sources issued by the parties. Since most sources are secondary sources, the project attempts to trace reports back to the primary source in order to decide whether they are reliable. In addition to deciding the level of reliability of available sources, the project strives to identify the existence of censorship. Thus, other sources than regular news sources must be used to establish what is occurring in a country. Documents and reports issued by international and multinational organizations and NGOs are consulted for this purpose.

III. Methods

The data on major armed conflicts are compiled by calendar year. They include data on conflict location, type of incompatibility, year the incompatibility was formed, year the warring party began its use of armed force, warring parties, total battle-related deaths, battle-related deaths during the year, and the change in battle-related deaths compared to the previous year.⁴

The data on battle-related deaths constitute the largest part of the data collection. Figures for battle-related deaths are produced through a comprehensive review of reports on individual violent incidents in each conflict, which are then aggregated. Ideally, these individual figures are corroborated by two or more independent

⁴ See also the notes to table 3A.3 in appendix 3A.

sources. The aggregated figures are also compared to total figures that appear in official documents, special reports and the news media. Their contribution is mainly clarification of the contexts in which events occur, thus facilitating proper interpretation of the reporting in published sources.

Little information on the exact number of deaths in armed conflicts is publicly available. The project therefore in many instances presents these figures as ranges or approximations, and they are best estimates. The numbers of battle-related deaths are based on conservative estimates. Experience shows that, as more information on an armed conflict becomes available, the conservative estimates based on information about each individual event are more often correct than the less conservative, higher estimates. If no figures are available or if published figures are too contradictory to establish even a minimum reliable figure, no figure is given. Figures are revised retroactively each year as new information becomes available.