



CrisisWatch

November Alerts & October 2023 Trends

Our monthly conflict tracker highlights **five conflict risk alerts** and **one resolution opportunity** related to the outbreak of the **Israel-Hamas war** on 7 October following Hamas's unprecedented attacks (see this month's Conflict in Focus).

In **Israel-Palestine**, Israel's bombardment and ground operations could raze Gaza, kill thousands more Palestinians and compound the humanitarian catastrophe facing 2.3 million people. Qatari mediation offers a slim hope for talks.

Israel's Gaza campaign also risks igniting a regional conflagration. Deadly border clashes between Hizbollah and Israeli forces, which have killed dozens of militants and several Israeli soldiers, could open another front in **Lebanon**.

The U.S. said dozens of attacks targeted its forces in **Syria** and **Iraq**. Iran-backed armed groups in both countries could escalate such strikes, as well as cross-border attacks into Israel from Syria.

The Houthis in **Yemen** launched long-range missile and drone attacks targeting Israel and

vowed more such strikes, which could further expand the Israel-Hamas war.

We also spotlight **five other alerts** in November in Africa and Asia. Notably:

Military authorities could launch an offensive in northern **Mali** in the coming days or weeks to take control of the town of Kidal, a stronghold of the 2015 peace deal signatories.

The Rapid Support Forces captured **Sudan's** South Darfur state, marking a major turn in the war, and could seek to push forward in Darfur and Kordofan in the coming weeks.

Election-related tensions grew further in **Somalia's** Puntland state, raising the prospect of an armed confrontation between rival security forces in the lead-up to the polls planned for early 2024.

In **Myanmar**, an ethnic Kokang armed group, alongside its allies, in Shan state in the north launched one of its largest offensives in years to retake lost territory, which may provoke further clashes with the regime in November.

TRENDS IN OCTOBER



Deteriorated Situations

Guatemala, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Türkiye, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Israel/Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen



Improved Situations

Colombia, Venezuela

ALERTS FOR NOVEMBER



Conflict Risk Alerts

Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan, Mali, Israel/Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Madagascar



Resolution Opportunities

Israel/Palestine

CrisisWatch identified **twelve deteriorations** in October. Notably:

Large-scale fighting between M23 rebels and government forces resumed in **DR Congo**'s North Kivu after six months of precarious calm, fuelling tensions with **Rwanda**. Meanwhile, the political climate remained heated ahead of the December elections.

The ruling Awami League in **Bangladesh** intensified repression of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) ahead of the January 2024 elections, as clashes between opposition supporters and the police turned deadly.

Our tracker also assessed **two improved**

situations. In **Colombia**, the government struck a ceasefire agreement with a Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) dissident faction, while in **Venezuela**, the government and the opposition reached a deal to improve electoral conditions ahead of 2024 polls, leading to substantial U.S. sanctions relief.

Aside from the scores of conflict situations we regularly assess, we tracked significant developments in **Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Guatemala, Jordan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Moldova, Nile Waters** and **Togo**.