



# CrisisWatch

## June Alerts & May 2023 Trends

Our global conflict tracker warns of **four conflict risks** in June.

Hostilities escalated in **Sudan** between the army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, notably in Darfur region, where the growing involvement of tribal militias and armed groups threatens all-out civil war.

In **Somaliland**, fighting between government forces and Dhulbahante clan militias spread in the Sool region. As parties recruit new fighters, the conflict could morph into a confrontation between clan families and ripple into other parts of Somaliland.

Large-scale military exercises conducted by the U.S. and South Korea to mark their alliance’s 70th anniversary and North Korea’s attempts to launch a satellite look set to contribute to a spike in tensions on the **Korean Peninsula**.

In **Russia**, Ukraine-aligned Russian combatants staged a cross-border incursion and multiple drones targeted the capital, Moscow. As the war in

Ukraine continues, more subversive activities and attacks on Russian territory can be expected.

CrisisWatch identified **deteriorations in twelve countries** in May.

Prime Minister Imran Khan’s arrest in **Pakistan** triggered deadly street clashes between his supporters and security forces, widening the breach with the government and straining Khan’s relations with the military (see “Country in Focus”).

In **India**, ethnic clashes in Manipur state in the north east killed scores of people and displaced tens of thousands, stoking the dormant separatist insurgency.

As military operations against Al-Shabaab’s Islamist insurgency in **Somalia** reached a standstill, the group launched a major attack on an African Union military base, likely leaving dozens dead.

In **Guinea**, changes in the military leadership revealed tensions at the highest levels of government, and deadly protests erupted following the

### TRENDS IN MAY



#### Deteriorated Situations

India, Guinea, Ukraine, Pakistan, Somalia, Cameroon, Somaliland, Chad, Sudan, Kosovo, Libya, Russia (Internal)



#### Improved Situations

None

### ALERTS FOR JUNE



#### Conflict Risk Alerts

Somaliland, Sudan, Korean Peninsula, Russia (Internal)



#### Resolution Opportunities

None

failure of the mediation process between transitional military authorities and the opposition.

Fighting between rival militias broke out in western **Libya** as moves to form a new executive heightened political tension, while also undermining a UN push to hold elections before the end of the year.

Protests in **Kosovo**'s Serb-majority northern municipalities following tense April elections turned violent, injuring dozens of people, including NATO peacekeepers.

Aside from the dozens of conflict situations we assess every month, we tracked significant developments in **Bahrain, Benin, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia** and **Senegal**.

## Country in Focus: Pakistan

**WHAT HAPPENED IN MAY?** Former Prime Minister Imran Khan's arrest triggered widespread street unrest, which left nine people dead and destroyed properties worth millions of dollars. Militants continued a spate of deadly attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, which border Afghanistan.

**WHY DOES IT MATTER?** Violent street clashes undermined the chances of a compromise between the government and Khan's party on fixing an election date, and attacks on military bases fuelled animosity between Khan and the military. Renewed militancy poses an acute security challenge.

### WHAT TO WATCH IN THE NEXT 3-6 MONTHS?

The election commission may not be able to oversee transparent, credible and peaceful elections. The potential for violence is high, including a deadly confrontation between Khan's supporters and law enforcement personnel.

The government has opted for "all-out comprehensive operations" to root out the Pakistani Taliban (TTP) from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which risks displacing thousands. The spike in militancy will also further strain Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan's Taliban authorities.

Pakistan's unprecedented economic crisis is bound to worsen – along with the danger of Pakistan defaulting on its debt – should Islamabad fail to reach agreement on an International Monetary Fund bailout.