



CrisisWatch

May 2024 Alerts & April Trends

Our monthly conflict tracker highlights **four conflict risks** in May.

- **Israel** continued its war in **Gaza**, bringing the death toll since 7 October to over 34,500 Palestinians. Famine in Gaza's north is shaping up to be the world's worst relative to population size of the past few decades. Israeli leaders reiterated their threat to invade Rafah city, which could kill or again displace many of the more than one million Palestinians who have sought refuge there.
- **Lebanon** continued to face the spectre of all-out war as deadly cross-border hostilities between Israel and Hizbollah expanded in scope and severity.
- Fears of all-out intercommunal conflict in **Sudan's** North Darfur escalated as the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and Darfuri armed groups prepared for war and the Sudanese Armed Forces intensified bombings of Arab areas.
- In **Myanmar**, ethnic armed groups in the south east, west and north inflicted battlefield setbacks on the regime, highlighting the extent of the regime's weakness and setting the stage for further hostilities in May. Communal tensions escalated in Rakhine state, foreshadowing potential violence, including against civilians.

CrisisWatch identified **ten deteriorated situations** in April. Notably:

- An Israeli airstrike on an Iranian consular facility in Syria triggered the first ever direct military confrontation between **Iran** and **Israel**, as Tehran launched hundreds of drones and missiles in a retaliatory attack on Israeli territory (see this month's **Conflict in Focus**).
- Tensions surged in **Mali** as the government suspended the political activities of all political parties and associations, while announcing elections would not be held until the country regained stability.
- In **Ethiopia**, clashes erupted between Tigray and Amhara forces in disputed territories, displacing tens of thousands.
- The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) dissident group known as EMC fractured, plunging negotiations with the **Colombian** government into uncertainty and fuelling fears of violent escalation.
- In **Bangladesh**, a surge in attacks by an ethnic armed group, the Kuki-Chin National Front, in the Chittagong Hill Tracts derailed nascent peace talks and prompted a major operation by security forces.
- Security forces in **Georgia** cracked down on protesters opposing the ruling party's reintroduction of its controversial "foreign agents" legislation.

Our tracker also assessed **one improved situation**.

- **Venezuela's** opposition coalition rallied behind little-known retired diplomat Edmundo González as its candidate to take on President Maduro, raising hopes for a more competitive election in July.

Aside from the scores of conflict situations we regularly assess, we tracked significant developments in the **Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gabon, Mauritania, Moldova, South Africa** and **Togo**.

ALERTS FOR MAY

Conflict Risk Alerts: Israel/Palestine, Lebanon, Myanmar, Sudan

Resolution Opportunities: None

TRENDS IN APRIL

Deteriorated Situations: Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Iran, Israel/Palestine, Lebanon, Myanmar, Mali

Improved Situations: Venezuela