



CrisisWatch

August 2024 Alerts & July Trends

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

- The Middle East is perhaps at its most perilous moment in decades as the risk of an all-out regional war pitting **Iran** and aligned groups against **Israel** and the U.S. rose sharply. After months of heightened regional tensions amid Israel's assault on **Gaza**, a rocket strike blamed on **Lebanon's** Hizbollah killed 12 people, mostly children, in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, and what many assume is an Israeli operation killed Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in **Iran's** capital Tehran hours after the inauguration of reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian. While all sides should exercise restraint, it is hard to ignore that absent a ceasefire in Gaza, more escalation seems inevitable.
- Nicolás Maduro claimed victory in **Venezuela's** presidential election, leading to fraud allegations, international outcry and protests that turned deadly. Popular unrest could rise in the coming weeks, increasing the risk of violent repression.

CrisisWatch also highlights **four resolution opportunities** in August.

- Amid tensions over the conflict with M23 rebels, **DR Congo** and **Rwanda** agreed to a ceasefire, raising hopes for greater calm in the coming weeks.
- **Benin** and **Niger** agreed to establish a joint committee to resolve differences, which could pave the way to restoring ties, reopening the shared border and resuming oil exports through the cross-border pipeline in August.

CrisisWatch identified **six deteriorations** in July. Notably:

- Security forces in **Bangladesh** cracked down on students protesting the country's quota system for state jobs, leaving at least 200 killed and thousands injured.
- A gang launched a series of attacks in **Papua New Guinea's** north, killing at least 26 people.
- Military authorities in **Guinea** quashed opposition voices as tensions rose further over the death of a former junta ally, exposing rifts among ruling powers.
- Ahead of a southern African regional body SADC summit, authorities in **Zimbabwe** intensified repression of civil society and political opponents, arresting dozens of student activists and opposition party members.

CrisisWatch also welcomed **one improvement** in the **South China Sea** in July, as the Philippines and China signed a temporary pact to mitigate growing tensions.

Aside from the scores of conflict situations we regularly assess, we tracked significant developments in: **Bosnia & Herzegovina**, **Mauritania**, **New Caledonia (France)**, **Oman**, **South Africa**, **Togo** and **the U.S. (Internal)**.

ALERTS FOR AUGUST

Conflict Risk Alerts: Iran, Israel/Palestine, Lebanon, Venezuela

Resolution Opportunities: Benin, DR Congo, Niger, Rwanda

TRENDS IN JULY

Deteriorated Situations: Bangladesh, Guinea, Israel/Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Venezuela, Zimbabwe

Improved Situations: South China Sea