



التحالف الإسلامي العسكري لمحاربة الإرهاب
ISLAMIC MILITARY COUNTER TERRORISM COALITION

Planning and Coordination Department



Spotlight
On

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2019



<http://fundforpeace.org/fsi/>



Spotlight
On

GLOBAL
PEACE
INDEX²⁰¹⁹



Global Peace Index (GPI)

One of the international helpful tools for countries is the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2019, which is a year-to-year report that provides hierarchical classification of 163 world countries in terms of the most and least peaceful. The idea of the GPI was first conceived and formed by Australian technology entrepreneur and philanthropist Steve Killelea and was later endorsed by international famous figures. The GPI is now produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). Of great note, the GPI reveals that it is very difficult to propose an exhaustive or inclusive definition of peacefulness. Peace can be best measured by identifying the level of harmony scaled and weighted between passive peacefulness (absence of violence and subsequent fear) and positive peacefulness (peace prevailing in communities).

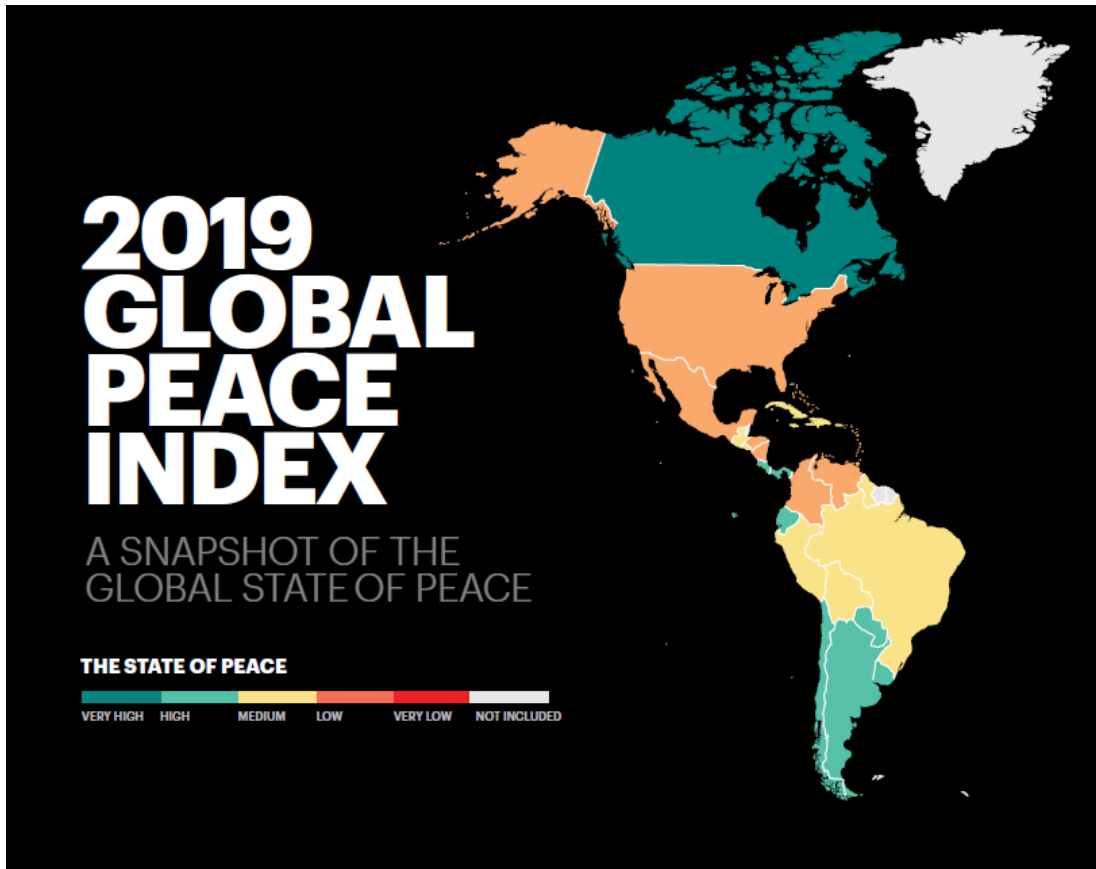


GPI Results

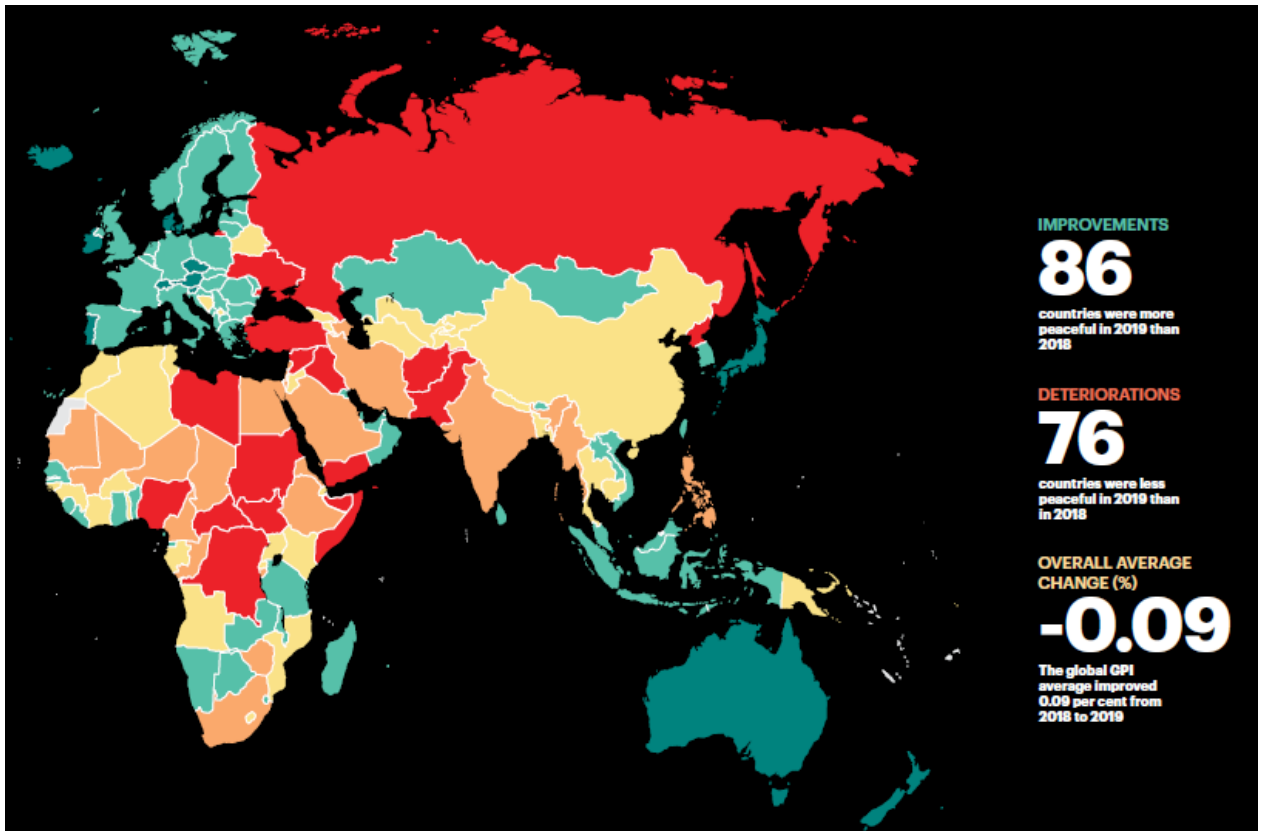
- ▶ It is noticeable that on the 2019 GPI, the average global peacefulness showed a slight improvement.
- ▶ In comparison with the last year average, the average country score improved slightly by -0.09%. the GPI indicates that 86 countries achieved improvement while 76 experienced a relative state of deterioration.
- ▶ Sadly enough, as reported by the GPI, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region remained at the nadir of the least peaceful countries.
- ▶ In contrast to MENA, Europe remains the most peaceful region in the world. The 2019 GPI reported that 22 of the 36 European countries displayed relative improvements.
- ▶ Peacefulness improved on average on both the Safety and Security and Militarization domains.
- ▶ Only 8 of the 23 GPI indicators recorded an improvement, while 12 had a deterioration.
- ▶ With UN peacekeeping funding, military expenditure and weapons exports, the Militarization domain displayed the biggest improvement across the three GPI domains.
- ▶ The 2019 GPI reported that only 72 countries reduced their level of military expenditure.
- ▶ The perceptions of criminality and incarceration rate indicators deteriorated along with other indicators.

— — GPI Results

- ▶ Since 2008, the average level of global peacefulness has declined by 3.78% with 81 countries plummeting in peacefulness, while 81 showed relative levels of improvement.
- ▶ Since 2008, the 25 least peaceful countries fell on average by 11%, and the 25 most peaceful countries showed improvement by 1.8% on average. This simply means that the gap between the least and most peaceful countries continues to grow.
- ▶ Conflict in the Middle East has been one of the main drivers of the worldwide deterioration in peacefulness.
- ▶ Constant conflict fell by 8.7% and Safety and Security deteriorated by just over 4%. However, Militarization showed improvement by 2.6 %. It can be noted that out of the three GPI domains, two recorded a deterioration and one displayed improvement.
- ▶ Just over 63% of countries showed increased levels of terrorist activity. More importantly, the number of terrorism-related deaths has been falling globally since 2014.
- ▶ Conflict-related deaths increased by 140% since 2008, while since the peak in 2014, conflict-related deaths have dropped by 26.5%.
- ▶ In spite of a decrease in peacefulness worldwide, there have been increases in average feelings about wellbeing and life satisfaction, perceptions of safety, as well trust in the local security forces and military power.
- ▶ Since the world has become less peaceful, trends in negative personal feelings more meticulously match the trend in peacefulness. Generally, perceptions of worry, stress, and sadness have increased.
- ▶ It can also be felt that trust in US leadership has dropped the most in the past 5 years, with people now having more trust in China than the US. Perception about leadership in the world's most strong countries has been decreasing.
- ▶ 971,000,000 people are estimated to live in regions with high or very high climate change conditions. Out of this number, 400,000,000 (41%) live in countries with low levels of peacefulness.



RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE
1	Iceland	1.072	↔	29	Poland	1.654	↑ 3	57	Vietnam	1.877	↑ 5
2	New Zealand	1.221	↔	30	Botswana	1.676	↑ 1	58	Senegal	1.883	↓ 4
3	Portugal	1.274	↑ 2	31	Qatar	1.696	↑ 10	59	Liberia	1.889	↑ 4
4	Austria	1.291	↓ 1	32	Spain	1.699	↓ 3	-60	France	1.892	↓ 2
5	Denmark	1.316	↓ 1	33	Costa Rica	1.706	↑ 5	-60	Namibia	1.892	↓ 18
6	Canada	1.327	↔	34	Uruguay	1.711	↑ 3	62	The Gambia	1.908	↑ 12
7	Singapore	1.347	↑ 2	35	Latvia	1.718	↓ 5	63	Cyprus	1.914	↓ 2
8	Slovenia	1.355	↑ 2	36	Taiwan	1.725	↓ 2	64	Kazakhstan	1.932	↑ 5
9	Japan	1.369	↓ 1	37	Estonia	1.727	↓ 4	-65	Greece	1.933	↑ 14
10	Czech Republic	1.375	↓ 3	38	Lithuania	1.728	↓ 2	-65	North Macedonia	1.933	↑ 23
11	Switzerland	1.383	↑ 2	39	Italy	1.754	↔	67	Montenegro	1.939	↓ 8
12	Ireland	1.390	↓ 1	40	Malawi	1.779	↑ 4	68	Moldova	1.951	↓ 5
13	Australia	1.419	↓ 1	41	Indonesia	1.785	↑ 14	69	Oman	1.953	↑ 2
14	Finland	1.488	↔	42	Mongolia	1.792	↔	70	Equatorial Guinea	1.957	↓ 5
15	Bhutan	1.506	↑ 2	43	Kuwait	1.794	↑ 7	71	Ecuador	1.980	↓ 3
16	Malaysia	1.529	↑ 9	44	Ghana	1.796	↓ 5	-72	Benin	1.986	↔
17	Netherlands	1.530	↑ 2	-45	Laos	1.801	↑ 2	-72	Sri Lanka	1.986	↓ 2
-18	Belgium	1.533	↑ 3	-45	United Kingdom	1.801	↑ 5	-72	Eswatini	1.986	↑ 10
-18	Sweden	1.533	↓ 3	47	Panama	1.804	↑ 2	75	Argentina	1.989	↓ 8
20	Norway	1.536	↓ 4	-48	Timor-Leste	1.805	↑ 12	76	Nepal	2.003	↑ 12
21	Hungary	1.540	↑ 1	-48	Zambia	1.805	↔	-77	Angola	2.012	↑ 3
22	Germany	1.547	↓ 4	50	Serbia	1.812	↑ 5	-77	Jordan	2.012	↑ 20
23	Slovakia	1.550	↔	51	Albania	1.821	↑ 2	79	Rwanda	2.014	↑ 24
24	Mauritius	1.562	↓ 4	52	Sierra Leone	1.822	↓ 18	80	Peru	2.016	↓ 7
25	Romania	1.606	↓ 1	53	United Arab Emirates	1.847	↓ 8	81	Bosnia & Herzegovina	2.019	↑ 9
26	Bulgaria	1.607	↔	54	Tanzania	1.860	↓ 2	82	Tunisia	2.035	↓ 7
27	Chile	1.634	↑ 1	-55	Madagascar	1.867	↑ 2	83	Jamaica	2.038	↑ 10
28	Croatia	1.645	↓ 1	-55	South Korea	1.867	↓ 9	84	Dominican Republic	2.041	↑ 7



RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	CHANGE
85	● Bolivia	2.044	↓ 4	113	● El Salvador	2.262	↑ 2	141	● India	2.605	↓ 4
86	● Kosovo	2.049	↑ 8	114	● Guatemala	2.264	↓ 4	142	● Palestine	2.608	↓ 2
87	● Haiti	2.052	↔	115	● Turkmenistan	2.265	↑ 4	143	● Colombia	2.661	↑ 2
88	● Paraguay	2.055	↓ 12	116	● Brazil	2.271	↓ 10	144	● Venezuela	2.671	↓ 2
89	● Cambodia	2.066	↑ 8	116	● Thailand	2.278	↓ 3	145	● Mali	2.710	↑ 2
90	● Morocco	2.070	↓ 13	118	● Armenia	2.294	↑ 3	146	● Israel	2.735	↑ 1
91	● Cuba	2.073	↓ 7	119	● Kenya	2.300	↑ 1	147	● Lebanon	2.800	↓ 26
92	● Guyana	2.075	↓ 9	120	● Nicaragua	2.312	↓ 54	148	● Nigeria	2.898	↔
93	● Trinidad and Tobago	2.094	↓ 7	121	● Rep of the Congo	2.323	↑ 1	149	● North Korea	2.921	↑ 1
94	● Mozambique	2.099	↓ 9	122	● Mauritania	2.333	↑ 5	150	● Ukraine	2.950	↑ 2
95	● Kyrgyz Republic	2.105	↑ 13	123	● Honduras	2.341	↓ 7	151	● Sudan	2.995	↑ 3
96	● Gabon	2.112	↓ 1	124	● Bahrain	2.357	↑ 5	152	● Turkey	3.015	↓ 3
97	● Belarus	2.115	↑ 4	125	● Myanmar	2.393	↓ 2	153	● Pakistan	3.072	↓ 2
98	● Papua New Guinea	2.118	↓ 2	126	● Niger	2.394	↑ 6	154	● Russia	3.093	↓ 1
99	● Georgia	2.122	↑ 3	127	● South Africa	2.399	↓ 2	155	● Dem. Rep of the Congo	3.218	↔
100	● Guinea	2.125	↔	128	● USA	2.401	↓ 4	156	● Libya	3.285	↑ 1
101	● Bangladesh	2.128	↓ 9	129	● Saudi Arabia	2.409	↓ 1	157	● Central African Rep	3.296	↓ 1
102	● Uzbekistan	2.166	↑ 2	130	● Azerbaijan	2.425	↑ 3	158	● Somalia	3.300	↑ 1
103	● Lesotho	2.167	↑ 1	131	● Ethiopia	2.434	↔	159	● Iraq	3.369	↑ 1
104	● Burkina Faso	2.176	↓ 26	132	● Zimbabwe	2.463	↓ 6	160	● Yemen	3.412	↓ 2
-105	● Tajikistan	2.196	↑ 12	133	● Eritrea	2.504	↑ 6	161	● South Sudan	3.526	↔
-105	● Uganda	2.196	↑ 2	134	● Philippines	2.516	↑ 4	162	● Syria	3.566	↑ 1
107	● Cote d' Ivoire	2.203	↑ 4	135	● Burundi	2.520	↑ 1	163	● Afghanistan	3.574	↓ 1
108	● Togo	2.205	↓ 9	136	● Egypt	2.521	↑ 7				
109	● Djibouti	2.207	↑ 4	137	● Chad	2.522	↓ 2				
110	● China	2.217	↑ 2	138	● Cameroon	2.538	↓ 4				
111	● Algeria	2.219	↓ 2	139	● Iran	2.542	↓ 9				
112	● Guinea-Bissau	2.237	↑ 6	140	● Mexico	2.600	↑ 1				

— — Economic Impact on Violence

- ▶ Based on the GPI with regards to economic impact, it can be inferred that three countries were most affected by economic losses: Afghanistan, Syria, and the Central African Republic. These three countries experienced the most enormous economic cost of violence in 2018 as a percentage of their GDP.
- ▶ In 2018, the economic influence of terrorism displayed the biggest percentage improvement, which reached 48% from 2017.
- ▶ Also, in 2018, the worldwide economic influence of violence was \$14.1 trillion (PPP), which amounted up to 11.2% of global GDP, making up \$1,853 per capita.
- ▶ Particularly in Iraq, Colombia and Ukraine, the influence of Armed Conflict dropped by 29% to \$672 billion in 2017. The improvement in the global economic impact related to violence is mainly due to the drop in the impact of Armed Conflict,
- ▶ It can be stated that the worldwide economic influence related to violence displayed improvement for the first time since 2012.
- ▶ In the 10 countries most impacted by violence, the average economic cost accounted for 35% of GDP, compared to 3.3% in the 10 least impacted.

— — Positive Peace

- ▶ Based on the reading of the 2019 GPI, certain countries display higher percentages of Negative Peace than Positive Peace. Such countries are more probable to have higher levels of violence in the coming years.
- ▶ We understand that the two terms Positive and Negative Peace are highly connected, in various issues and different sectors.
- ▶ The 2019 GPI principles show that there are tipping points that make small increases in Positive Peace, which again can trigger big changes in the various GPI scores. This occurs in areas such as Equitable Distribution of Resources, Sound Business Environment and Safety and Security as well as issues related to corruption.
- ▶ Among the other issues responsive to improvement are services and construction in Positive Peace, while at the same time manufacturing and agriculture are less responsive.
- ▶ It can be inferred that Positive Peace is vigorously related to economic development. A key reason for this connection is bigger household consumption.
- ▶ It is also significant to note that Positive Peace is most thoroughly linked with the Safety and Security domain of the GPI. It can also be understood that it has a solid association with the Ongoing Conflict domain.
- ▶ In Positive Peace, progress displayed by a country improves its socio-economic conditions locally.
- ▶ Low-ranking peace countries do depend heavily on agriculture; economies tend to transition to services and manufacturing under certain conditions.

Unfortunately, the widening gap between the least and most peaceful countries all over the world is still ongoing. Beyond compare and par excellence Iceland continues to be the most peaceful country all over the globe since 2008. At the top of the 2019 GPI index, New Zealand, Austria, Portugal, and Denmark. Bhutan jumped as it shows the biggest improvement in the last 12 years.

In the Russia and Eurasia region, we notice the greatest increase in peacefulness. This increase is followed by MENA. In the Russia and Eurasia and the MENA regions, the number of conflict-related deaths dropped, due to the de-escalation of violence in Ukraine and Syria; it is spasmodic and intermittent in Syria. In contrast, Europe remains the most peaceful region in the world. 22 of the 36 European countries displayed large improvements on the 2019 GPI. This is widely felt as many refugees coming from the Middle East, Africa and Asia have been flooding many European countries, seeking asylum, havens and retreat for better living conditions there.

Due to war and poverty along with other domestic complicated issues, Afghanistan, second to none in terms of least peaceful, is now the least peaceful country all over the world; Syria was then the worst. South Sudan, Yemen, and Iraq make up the three least peaceful countries.

Speaking of the weapons exports indicator, it can be seen that it reflects the unequal geographic distribution of the worldwide

arms industry. More importantly, 63% of countries show or have no weapons export-related activities over the recent 5 years or so. 8 out of 11 countries with the highest levels of per capita weapons exports are European while the remaining 3 countries are the US, Russia, and Israel. The Safety and Security domain displayed improvement by and large: 85 countries display improvement and 74 show deterioration. Remarkably, the biggest improvement is on the Political Terror Scale indicator: 41 countries showed improvement and 27 displayed deterioration.

Asia-Pacific

It is clear that in all the three GPI domains, peacefulness in Asia-Pacific showed improvement last year. Possibly, this may be due to various reasons, such as UN peacekeeping funding, on the one hand, and reductions in violent demonstrations and fatalities from domestic conflict and unrest, on the other hand.

13 of the 19 regional countries displayed improvement according to the 2019 GPI; however, 6 showed deterioration. At the global level, 5 Asia-Pacific countries ranked in the top 25, with New Zealand ranking first at the region level. On the flip side of the region, North Korea was the only Asia-Pacific country to rank in the bottom 25 of the 2019 GPI due to the nuclear and heavy weapons capabilities.

In Asia, China showed improvement due to two reasons: reductions in Ongoing Conflict and Militarization. The country enhanced

its UN peacekeeping funding while at the same time it reduced its weapons exports and military expenditure. However, it should be noted that China's score for Safety and Security displayed deterioration due to one key reason: a rise in the incarceration rate: about 1,000,000 Uighur Muslims are thought to be detained in internment camps in China.

Notoriously enough, Myanmar displayed the biggest deterioration in the region, due to Ongoing Conflict. By contrast, internal conflict-related deaths dropped. It should be noted that insurgencies and armed conflicts across the country continue throughout the country, despite the ceasefire agreements that came into effect, such as the 2015 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

Central America & the Caribbean

It is noted, as reported by the 2019 GPI, that deterioration is observed across Central America and the Caribbean. However, 7 countries displayed improvement while just 5 showed deterioration; both improvement and deterioration across these countries were for different triggers: political, socio-economic or otherwise expressed.

The most salient characteristics across the region can be violent crime, civil unrest, and border disputes. A domestic issue that gained prominence locally yet its echoes reached to the regional countries in the immediate vicinity is that refugees fleeing violence congregated on Mexico's southern border with Guatemala.

Europe

Based on the 2019 GIP, 22 of 36 European countries showed improvement. It is conspicuously clear that Europe continues to be at the top of the GIP index; Europe has 17 of the 25 most peaceful countries.

Low levels of political terror are registered in most countries in Europe. Political terror includes evil practices such as political imprisonment, disappearances and torture. The scores for this indicator deteriorated in 4 countries, while improved in 9 countries.

24 countries showed a reduction in terrorism impact according to the 2019 GPI, most notably Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, Spain, Denmark, Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Europe, 8 countries displayed slight increases in terrorism, such as the Netherlands, Poland, Latvia, Serbia and Norway.

Middle East and North Africa

Being the world's least peaceful region, it displayed relative yet marginal levels of improvement. Syria, for instance, is no longer the world's least peaceful country, as Afghanistan took that place. More importantly, recovery has started to be translated in Iraq. The region also improved in terms of the reductions in population displacement, along with other factors contributory to peace, such as reduction in political terror, terrorism, deaths from internal and external armed conflicts, military spending, and armed services personnel and the like.

Sudan recorded the largest improvement in the region, and second largest in the 2019 GPI overall, based on improvements in many indicators.

Iran showed the largest deterioration in the region. This was also caused by the fact that the US withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement. Such an action in fact affected political instability in the country. At the same time, economic pressures raised the probability of violent demonstrations.

Jordan gained 20 places in the 2019 GPI, due to ongoing improvements in all 3 domains. The country's biggest improvement was building better relations with the neighboring countries in the immediate vicinity. Iraq displayed improvement in 10 indicators while displayed deterioration in 4 indicators. The influence of terrorism also dropped.

Egypt displayed the biggest improvement due to the gains in all three GPI domains. The force of domestic conflict and the number of deaths from domestic conflict enhanced the situation greatly. The likelihood of violent demonstrations went down, as the impact of terrorism followed suit, and political stability also showed improvement.

As for Yemen, it showed the second biggest deterioration in all 3 domains last year. This made it fall two ranks to be the second least peaceful country all over the globe.

North Africa

Last year, peace in North America displayed a relative level of deterioration. Canada improved across its overall score; while, the United States experienced much larger deterioration. It is noted that Canada remains one of the 10 most peaceful countries all over the world and the US dropped 4 places in the 2019 GPI. In addition, the US showed many deterioration situations every year since 2016.

Militarization showed a slight improvement across the region; this is due to the fewer weapons imports into the US as well as the reduced weapons exports along with the nuclear and heavy weapons capabilities in Canada. Of great note, the US increased its military expenditure and armed services personnel rate, while it decreased UN peacekeeping funding. The impact of terrorism decreased in the US, while it increased in Canada. The homicide rate increased in both countries.

Russia and Eurasia

The region performs best in Militarization and showed the biggest improvement in Ongoing Conflict. This is due to the improvements in indicators of internal conflict. It is noted that while most of Russia and Eurasia remains less peaceful, it was one of 3 regions to improve in every domain of the GPI last year. This in fact resulted in the largest regional improvement.

8 out of the region's 12 countries showed improvement in overall score. Russia showed the third biggest improvement in the region in terms of improving in 9 indicators and deteriorated in only 1: this refers to the deaths caused by external conflict, due to its direct engagement in Syria.

Ukraine displayed the biggest improvement in the world in score last year. Ukraine showed the third largest reduction in internal conflict deaths.

South America

Improvement was shown in certain countries: Uruguay, Chile and Colombia, while deterioration was noticeable across the remaining countries. Notoriously, Venezuela is the least peaceful country in South America. Again, Brazil experienced the 5th largest drop all over the world. It experienced deterioration in 9 indicators while only 1 indicator displayed improvement.

The key challenge across the region remains Safety and Security; drug war is the plague that storms the region. Marked reductions were there in the homicide rate across, Argentina, Ecuador, Uruguay and Guyana with Venezuela and Colombia showing slight reductions, as well.

It is also noted that the incarceration rate increased in 9 South American countries; the only country that showed reduction in incarceration is Chile. Another interesting observation is the impact of terrorism; it escalated in 6 countries: Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru, Colombia and Bolivia.

South Asia

Based on the close interpretation of the 2019 GPI, it can be seen that the average South Asian score displayed improvement as in Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan and slightly in Afghanistan. Notably and impressively, Bhutan ranks now the 15th most peaceful country in the world.

Bhutan and Pakistan witnessed the largest reductions in the homicide rate. The regional impact of terrorism rate remained the same as last year with no noticeable change. This means that the region is still affected, and a case in point is the nearly 300 churchgoers and tourists who were killed in coordinated attacks as reported by domestic and global newspapers.

Sub-Saharan Africa

The five countries in Sub-Saharan Africa that showed largest improvements on the 2019 GPI were Rwanda, The Gambia, Djibouti, Eswatini and Somalia. The worst levels of deterioration took place in five countries in the region. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 27 of the region's 44 countries displayed relative degrees of deterioration in peacefulness; 12 out of 23 indicators showed improvement while 8 displayed remarkable deterioration.

By and large Continuing Conflict was noticeable in the region in 25 countries. Notoriously, five countries in the region had the worst escalations of conflict. It is also noted that civil unrest flared in one country while 14 provinces in another country are currently under a state of emergency.



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