

AUTHORS

Cionadh Raleigh  
President & CEO

Katayoun Kishi  
Head of Data Science

December 2024: Palestine, Myanmar, Syria, and Mexico hold the highest positions in the Index

1 in 8 people

are estimated to have been exposed to conflict so far in 2024

50 Countries

rank in the Index categories for extreme, high, or turbulent levels of conflict

25% increase

in political violence incidents recorded in the past 12-month period

About

### Global conflicts double over the past five years

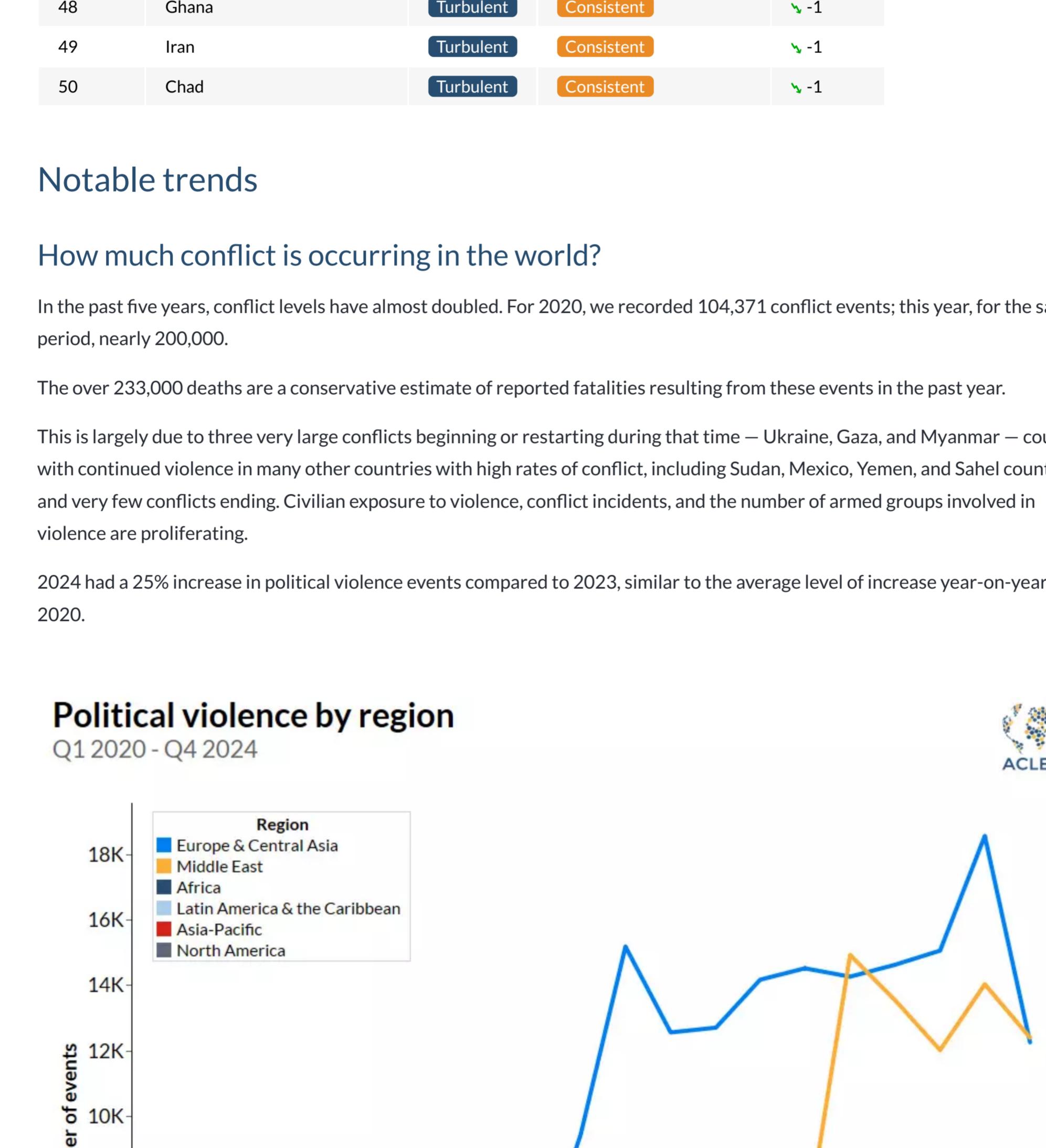
Palestine is the most dangerous and violent place in the world in 2024.

81% of Palestine's population is exposed to conflict. ACLED records 35,000 fatalities in the past 12 months (over 50,000 since Hamas' attack on 7 October 2023), and civilians remain under daily assault from bombings and incursions. On average, 52 conflict incidents occur in Palestinian territories per day.

Because of Palestine's – and specifically Gaza's – level of violence compared to other conflicts and the lack of a ceasefire between combatants, it is very likely to continue being an intense conflict into 2025.

While Palestine had the most dangerous and diffuse conflict in 2024, in Myanmar, an average of 170 distinct non-state armed groups were active each week, and the groups changed quite frequently. Ukraine remained the deadliest conflict.

### Conflict Index: country rankings



Index Level: Extreme (dark red), High (orange), Turbulent (blue), Low/Inactive (light blue)

Rank	Country	Index level	Change category	Change rate
1	Palestine	Extreme	Consistently concerning	0
2	Myanmar	Extreme	Consistently concerning	0
3	Syria	Extreme	Consistently concerning	0
4	Mexico	Extreme	Consistently concerning	0
5	Nigeria	Extreme	Consistently concerning	0
6	Brazil	Extreme	Consistently concerning	0
7	Lebanon	Extreme	Worsening	+13
8	Sudan	Extreme	Consistently concerning	0
9	Cameroon	Extreme	Consistently concerning	0
10	Colombia	Extreme	Consistently concerning	-4
11	Haiti	High	Consistently concerning	-1
12	Pakistan	High	Improving	-2
13	Democratic Republic of Congo	High	Consistently concerning	-2
14	Ukraine	High	Consistently concerning	-1
15	India	High	Consistently concerning	-1
16	Yemen	High	Consistently concerning	-3
17	Iraq	High	Consistently concerning	-1
18	Bangladesh	High	Consistently concerning	-1
19	Russia	High	Consistently concerning	-9
20	Ethiopia	High	Consistently concerning	-3
21	Somalia	High	Consistently concerning	-2
22	Mali	High	Consistently concerning	-4
23	Kenya	High	Consistently concerning	-3
24	Jamaica	High	Consistently concerning	-2
25	South Sudan	High	Worsening	+13
26	Honduras	High	Consistently concerning	-2
27	Venezuela	High	Worsening	+5
28	Burkina Faso	High	Consistently concerning	-4
29	Afghanistan	High	Worsening	+2
30	Philippines	High	Consistently concerning	0
31	Trinidad and Tobago	Turbulent	Improving	-1
32	Israel	Turbulent	Improving	-11
33	Burundi	Turbulent	Consistent	+1
34	Puerto Rico	Turbulent	Consistent	0
35	South Africa	Turbulent	Consistent	+1
36	Guatemala	Turbulent	Improving	-10
37	Niger	Turbulent	Consistent	+2
38	Central African Republic	Turbulent	Consistent	-1
39	Liberia	Turbulent	Consistent	+3
40	Mozambique	Turbulent	Consistent	+6
41	Indonesia	Turbulent	Consistent	+1
42	Ecuador	Turbulent	Consistent	-3
43	Peru	Turbulent	Consistent	+7
44	Turkey	Turbulent	Consistent	+1
45	Uganda	Turbulent	Consistent	-1
46	Benin	Turbulent	Consistent	-2
47	Madagascar	Turbulent	Consistent	-14
48	Ghana	Turbulent	Consistent	-1
49	Iran	Turbulent	Consistent	-1
50	Chad	Turbulent	Consistent	-1

### Notable trends

#### How much conflict is occurring in the world?

In the past five years, conflict levels have almost doubled. For 2020, we recorded 104,371 conflict events; this year, for the same period, nearly 200,000.

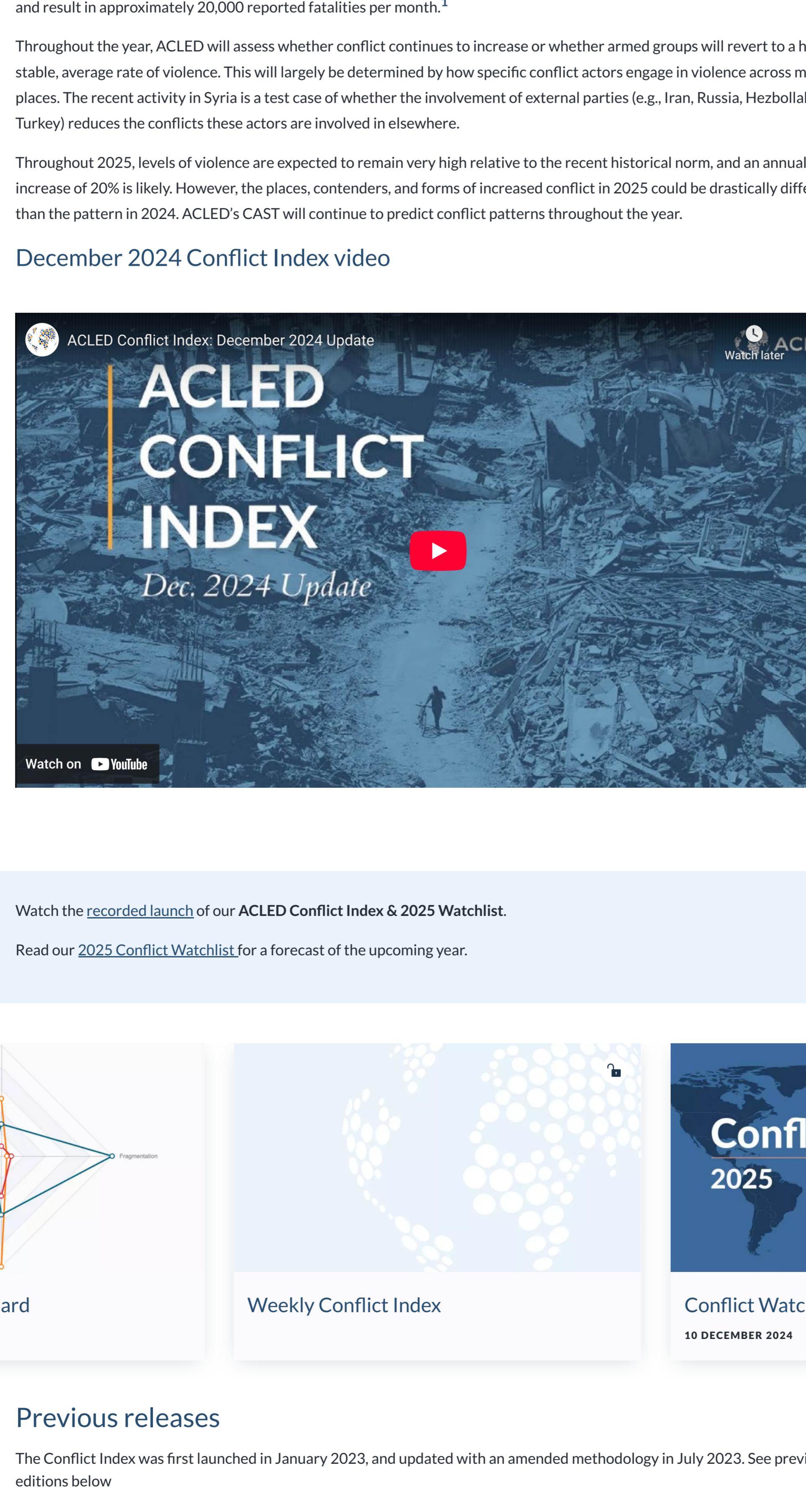
The over 233,000 deaths are a conservative estimate of reported fatalities resulting from these events in the past year.

This is largely due to three very large conflicts beginning or restarting during that time — Ukraine, Gaza, and Myanmar — coupled with continued violence in many other countries with high rates of conflict, including Sudan, Mexico, Yemen, and Sahel countries, and very few conflicts ending. Civilian exposure to violence, conflict incidents, and the number of armed groups involved in violence are proliferating.

2024 had a 25% increase in political violence events compared to 2023, similar to the average level of increase year-on-year since 2020.

### Political violence by region

Q1 2020 - Q4 2024



All forms of conflict events have increased.

Bombings now represent over 90,000 events in 2024, are close to double the rate of battles, and triple the rate of direct violence against civilians. As states engage more with challengers domestically and internationally, warfare has become more sophisticated and widespread. Bombing and 'remote violence' nearly doubled as of 2022, growing by over 25% per annum since 2022.

Most protests are not included in the index, but over 143,000 protests occurred in 2024, and major protest movements were linked to pro-Palestine agendas.

In 2024, over 3 billion people across 70 countries went to the polls to vote in national elections. Many more cast their ballots to elect local representatives. Over a third of the countries where a national election was held this year experienced at least one act of electoral violence, affecting authoritarian and unstable states as well as established democracies.

Did the countries with elections experience a notable increase in conflict rates?

Generally yes: Countries with elections in 2024 had – on average – a 63% increase in national political violence compared to over 21% increases across countries without elections. Increases in violence occur when governments or political opposition groups are willing to use violence to remain in power or seize it when they believe that the vote has been rigged. Political interests then arm militias and mobilize their supporters well before election day. Post-election, countries often return to their pre-election disorder rate.

Yet, electoral violence is not overly effective: Election results in countries like India and Senegal – where incumbent governments lost their absolute majority and presidency despite widespread violence – suggest that violence does not stop democratic choice and change.

But the patterns of overall conflict confirm that living in a democracy is no insurance against conflict. Most conflict is not occurring in 'poor' or 'isolated' autocratic states but in 'partially free' countries.

Most conflict is also now occurring in middle-income countries, and it is growing more strongly in middle- and high-income countries. In short, more development and democracy do not constrain violence. Conflict adapts to political circumstances, changing form and direction according to perpetrators' agendas.

### Top 50 Conflict Index country rankings by income level

Source for income level: World Bank

Index level: Extreme (dark red), High (orange), Turbulent (blue)

Less conflict More conflict

High income: Israel, Russia, Sudan, Lebanon, Mexico, Jordan, Turkey, and Tobago

Upper middle income: Indonesia, Jamaica, Ukraine, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Kenya, Ethiopia, DRC, and Sudan

Lower middle income: Benin, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Libya

Low income: Mozambique, Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen, DRC, Sudan, Syria, and Libya

Less conflict More conflict

Index level: Extreme (dark red), High (orange), Turbulent (blue)

Source for freedom status: Freedom House

Less conflict More conflict

Free: Ghana, Israel, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago

Partially free: Indonesia, Philippines, Ukraine, Pakistan, Lebanon, Mexico, and Nigeria

Not free: Chad, Burkina Faso, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, and Myanmar

Less conflict More conflict

Index level: Extreme (dark red), High (orange), Turbulent (blue)

Source for freedom status: Freedom House

Less conflict More conflict

Free: Ghana, Israel, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago

Partially free: Indonesia, Philippines, Ukraine, Pakistan, Lebanon, Mexico, and Nigeria

Not free: Chad, Burkina Faso, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, and Myanmar

Less conflict More conflict

Index level: Extreme (dark red), High (orange), Turbulent (blue)

Source for freedom status: Freedom House

Less conflict More conflict

Free: Ghana, Israel, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago

Partially free: Indonesia, Philippines, Ukraine, Pakistan, Lebanon, Mexico, and Nigeria

Not free: Chad, Burkina Faso, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, and Myanmar

Less conflict More conflict

Index level: Extreme (dark red), High (orange), Turbulent (blue)

Source for freedom status: Freedom House

Less conflict More conflict

Free: Ghana, Israel, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago

Partially free: Indonesia, Philippines, Ukraine, Pakistan, Lebanon, Mexico, and Nigeria

Not free: Chad, Burkina Faso, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, and Myanmar

Less conflict More conflict

Index level: Extreme (dark red), High (orange), Turbulent (blue)

Source for freedom status: Freedom House

Less conflict More conflict

Free: Ghana, Israel, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago

Partially free: Indonesia, Philippines, Ukraine, Pakistan, Lebanon, Mexico, and Nigeria

Not free: Chad, Burkina Faso, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, and Myanmar

Less conflict More conflict

Index level: Extreme (dark red), High (orange), Turbulent (blue)

Source for freedom status: Freedom House

Less conflict More conflict

Free: Ghana, Israel, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago

Partially free: Indonesia, Philippines, Ukraine, Pakistan, Lebanon, Mexico, and Nigeria

Not free: Chad, Burkina Faso, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, and Myanmar

Less conflict More conflict

Index level: Extreme (dark red), High (orange), Turbulent (blue)

Source for freedom status: Freedom House

Less conflict More conflict

Free: Ghana, Israel, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago

Partially free: Indonesia, Philippines, Ukraine, Pakistan, Lebanon, Mexico, and Nigeria

Not free: Chad, Burkina Faso, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, and Myanmar

Less conflict More conflict

Index level: Extreme (dark red), High (orange), Turbulent (blue)

Source for freedom status: Freedom House

Less conflict More conflict

Free: Ghana, Israel, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago