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L'OSSERVATORIO
CENTRO DI RICERCHE SULLE VITTIME CIVILI DEI CONFLITTI

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ATLAS OF WARS AND CONFLICTS IN THE WORLD

First edition

parallelo
associazione culturale



ATLAS OF WARS AND CONFLICTS IN THE WORLD

First edition

To Gino Strada.
Thanks for everything.
To Patrick Zaky.
Forgive us for everything.

Terra Nuova

Associazione 46° Parallelo



**ATLAS OF WARS AND
CONFLICTS IN THE WORLD
FIRST EDITION**

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A stretcher under a fresco in the
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Fenaroli of Alzano Lombardo
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A better World has not come Covid-19 has increased injustices

The numbers flow relentlessly before our eyes. As of June 2021, Covid-19 has caused nearly 4.5 million official deaths. They are the billion human beings who are starving to death. They are the 270 million people forced to emigrate to make sense of their lives. They are the \$2 trillion spent on weapons. These are the numbers of a world that does not want to heal, that in the great Covid-19 pandemic has found new injustices and new reasons for conflict and war.

We had some hope. We thought we could come out of this nightmare as better people. It was an opportunity to redesign our lives and our shared rules, to learn not to exploit the environment, not to destroy it. Instead, we are dealing with increasingly unfair wealth distribution, with rights and democracies crushed by the “need to manage the crisis”.

The World in 2021 continues to revolve around wars and injustices. We have identified 34 of them, and they are too many. What we can and must continue to do is to try to exorcise them and render them useless, understand them, learn to talk about them and explain the reasons that lead to their existence. In short, we need to provide information.

Good, correct information is the essential basis of any form of change and of any democracy. There is no democracy without widespread, free, correct, and shared information. It is one of the essential building blocks for a system of democratic coexistence — the others being respect for individual and collective human rights, fair distribution of wealth and the correct and sustainable use of resources.

As in a construction game, this then becomes the cornerstone for achieving Peace, as there can be no Peace without democracy. Peace is not merely the end of a war; of this we are certain. It is a system of life and relationships. It is the essence and the purpose of the history of humankind. It is — or it should be — the everyday life we all grow up in, live and thrive, everywhere and always. This is what the tenth edition of the Atlas of Wars and Conflicts in the World does: it informs. As it has always done in these long years, it weaves the plot to re-establish the idea of Peace. Better yet, it provides a real view of what Peace must be; without uncertainty, with clarity, while remaining partial and partisan always and unequivocally on the side of Peace and human rights.

Director
Raffaele Crocco

*The photo on the next page is by
© Laurence Geai*

On July 5, 2017, civilians flee to the old city of Mosul. Iraqi special forces (ICTS) soldiers are trying to verify that no one is wearing an explosive belt. The men are all naked. Some will be suspected of belonging to the Islamic State and massacred without trial.







2020 was a year marked by the Covid-19 pandemic. This difficult year will forever be associated with the disease, and the continuous series of data on the infections, the healed, the hospitalised and the deaths will forever remain in everyone's memory. All this, however, risks reducing this tragedy, which adds to the suffering already afflicting many nations of the world, to a long and sterile series of numbers. Suffering, however, is not a numerical variable. It is a condition in which millions of women and men in all five continents live every day. This is why I am very pleased that the Municipality di Empoli can offer its contribution to the publication of the tenth edition of the Atlas of Wars, to allow everyone to gain in-depth knowledge about conflicts, their causes and all the phenomena that cause impoverishment and death. I am sure that these complicated months will serve to highlight what we already know: that all nations and peoples of the Planet are united by the same destiny, with one disease developed on one continent becoming a global problem within a few weeks. It is therefore easy to understand the importance of a body of work that illustrates, beyond mere narration, how war, conflict, migration, climate change and their consequences are more relevant than ever. In our time, we are all discovering how weak we are alone, and have all known someone who is suffering or has suffered in recent months. We hope this translates into a greater appreciation of those who commit themselves daily to combating inequalities and violence against the weakest.

Brenda Barnini
Mayor of Empoli city



Elisa Loncón

The right to health died in 2020

COVID-19 has hit the vulnerable

2020 - the year to which the introductions to our "regional overviews" refer, as does their source, the Amnesty International Annual Report - saw a continuous massacre of the right to health all over the world. The pandemic has hit vulnerable groups hard and disproportionately, also as a result of the last decade of economic and social policies that had created marginalization and poverty, favouring, in the name of austerity, the dismantling of fundamental services, such as public health.

Leaderships that already proved inadequate - such as Trump's in the US, Bolsonaro's in Brazil and Modi's in India - gave the worst of themselves during the global health emergency, while many other governments have taken advantage of the pandemic to approve liberticide laws, freeing themselves of opponents and attacking journalists and health workers who denounced the inadequacy of policies to combat the spread of Covid-19.

The global crisis required a response of global solidarity and cooperation. The hoarding of vaccine stocks, the selfishness of pharmaceutical companies that did not want to temporarily surrender their patents, the weakness of international initiatives (that did little more than beg) are leaving behind a large part of the world, whose population, at this rate, will be vaccinated by the end of 2024.

In the first six months of 2021, old human rights crises continued, and new ones arose. European policies to combat immigration have caused a record number of drownings in the Mediterranean. After a year of applying the National Security Act, Hong Kong has become a human rights wasteland, increasingly resembling mainland China. More and more terrifying evidence has emerged on the impact of the Tigray conflict on the civilian population. The election of Ebrahim Raisi, a man who should answer to international justice for crimes against humanity, as the president of Iran does not bode well.

The "fourth war in Gaza" followed the same pattern as the previous ones: provocation by Israel, launching rockets from Gaza, Israeli retaliation, a ceasefire promoted by Egypt, reconstruction paid for by Qatar. The new, and maybe even more worrying, element remains the inter-communal violence within Israel between Israeli Jewish citizens and Israeli Palestinian citizens.

There was also a tragic recurring event in Asia: the February 1st coup d'état in Myanmar, which resulted in hundreds of deaths and thousands of arrests and tortures. While the various "ethnic conflicts" continued, forgotten, in the main Burmese cities, the coup army fired at its citizens, especially young people, using bullets also made in Italy, which ended up in its possession through obscure triangulations.

Activism, especially among young people, seems to have returned to its 2019 levels and, unfortunately, so did repression against it. The militarization of the response to protests in Columbia has resulted in dozens of deaths and numerous cases of torture, including sexual violence against young demonstrators. The same is happening in Africa, in Eswatini, the continent's last absolute monarchy.

As in 2019, it is precisely a return to the streets that gives hope for change. I'll close with some positive news: at the beginning of July, the Mapuche Elisa Loncón was elected president of the Convention that will rewrite the Chilean Constitution.

Riccardo Noury
Spokesperson for
Amnesty International Italy

Climate change violates more rights than wars do

Too many dangers in the future of humanity

The fact that climate change threatens more rights than wars are doing is a well-established fact that most people know by now.

The human dimension of the climate emergency is becoming clearer in the eyes of political decision-makers, the media and civil society, as the reports of extreme events and disasters become more frequent and warnings by the scientific community more pressing. Ignoring them has become impossible.

Considered and referred to as a “threat multiplier”, climate change increasingly results in violations of fundamental rights. International organisations and human rights bodies, starting with the UN Council, have worked hard in recent years to recognise and specify the multiple links between climate change and rights.

Climate disruption has a devastating impact on the availability of natural resources, such as drinking water and food, and poses current and future threat to the lives of people, communities, states and entire regions of the world.

While this threat affects the entire planet, its effects are most dramatic in already fragile areas and on socio-economically vulnerable populations. Globally, and particularly in the rural areas of the South, the livelihoods of 1.6 billion people still depend, in whole or in part, on forest environmental goods and services, such as family farming, fishing, and water harvesting for domestic use. All these activities are being put to the test by the global warming process.

In 2019, the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Philip Alston, spoke for the first time of “climate apartheid”, predicting a dystopian future in which inequalities will further worsen and climate impacts will lead to relentless and repeated violations of fundamental rights, especially against the poor. Global warming threatens to undo half a century of progress in public health, food security, economic development and poverty reduction.

This evidence makes it clear that radical and urgent action is needed today to ensure full enjoyment of basic human rights by all. This would seem to be a tacit and incontrovertible point. Still, the measures in place are not adequate. The commitments made by individual countries under the Paris Agreement, the global agreement on combating climate change, foresee an increase in average temperatures by the end of the century of more than 3°C, twice the +1.5°C indicated by the scientific community as the safe limit.

This is why the battle for climate justice, which is being waged by many, cannot be considered a purely ecological field. On the contrary, it is a struggle against time that speaks the language of equity and rights, and on whose success the survival of all people depends.

Marica Di Pierri

Director CDCA

Centro Documentazione Conflitti Ambientali





The victims of wars are the civilians

Violence hits those who have no weapons

According to the latest report of the UN General Secretary on Civilian Protection, thousands of civilians continue to suffer disproportionately from the consequences of armed conflict: death, injury, psychological trauma, sexual violence, and the destruction of essential infrastructure.

More than twenty years after Resolution 1265 (1999) of the UN Security Council, which set out the pillars of the Protection of Civilians (PoC) in armed conflicts, civilian populations continue to be the main victims of war. Unfortunately, the combination of war and the pandemic has worsened the humanitarian damage caused by armed conflicts and has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of the civilians living in countries in conflict, where health systems are on the brink of collapsing due to continuous attacks on medical facilities and staff.

In particular, the cause of severe suffering is the bombardments of populated areas, which goes far beyond the direct and immediate effects of explosive weapons. In fact, explosive violence is the main cause of the displacement of thousands of civilians, and of the damage and destruction of hospitals, water and electricity networks and access infrastructures. In 2020 alone, over 50 million civilians experienced the trauma of war in urban areas, where the risk to be subjected to indiscriminate effects is very high.

The National Association for Civilian Victims of War (ANVCG), which I am honoured to preside over after having lost my sight at age nine because of an explosive device, was founded in 1943 to aid the many victims of World War II in Italy. Today, the ANVCG, an Italian non-profit organisation responsible by law for representing and protecting Italian civilian victims of war, is also active in international cooperation in assisting war victims and in promoting advocacy to protect their rights in armed conflict. To broaden the scope of its commitment, the ANVCG Observatory has been set up as a research centre on the consequences of armed conflicts on civilians. It reports daily on the violations of mass human rights, helping to promote the principles of International Humanitarian Law. With this always in mind, the ANVCG joined the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW), coordinating its initiatives in Italy and supporting the adoption of an international political declaration against explosive weapons in populated areas.

This year, we have renewed our collaboration with the "46° Parallelo" Association to edit the 10th edition of *The Atlas of Wars and Conflicts in the World* in its Italian and English versions, with the aim to broaden our research horizons and inform a wider audience of the drama of the victims who today are undergoing the same suffering that we experienced many years ago.

ANVCG National President
Giuseppe Castronovo
Knight of the Grand Cross

THE SITUATION JUNE 2021

WARS, UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS
AND SITUATIONS OF CRISIS

SITUATIONS OF CRISIS

1 Algeria	2 Burundi	3 Ivory Coast	4 Egypt	5 Tunisia
6 Uganda	7 Zimbabwe	8 Colombia	9 Haiti	10 Venezuela
11 North Korea South Korea	12 Iran	13 Thailand	14 Bosnia	15 Northern Ireland

MACRO AREAS

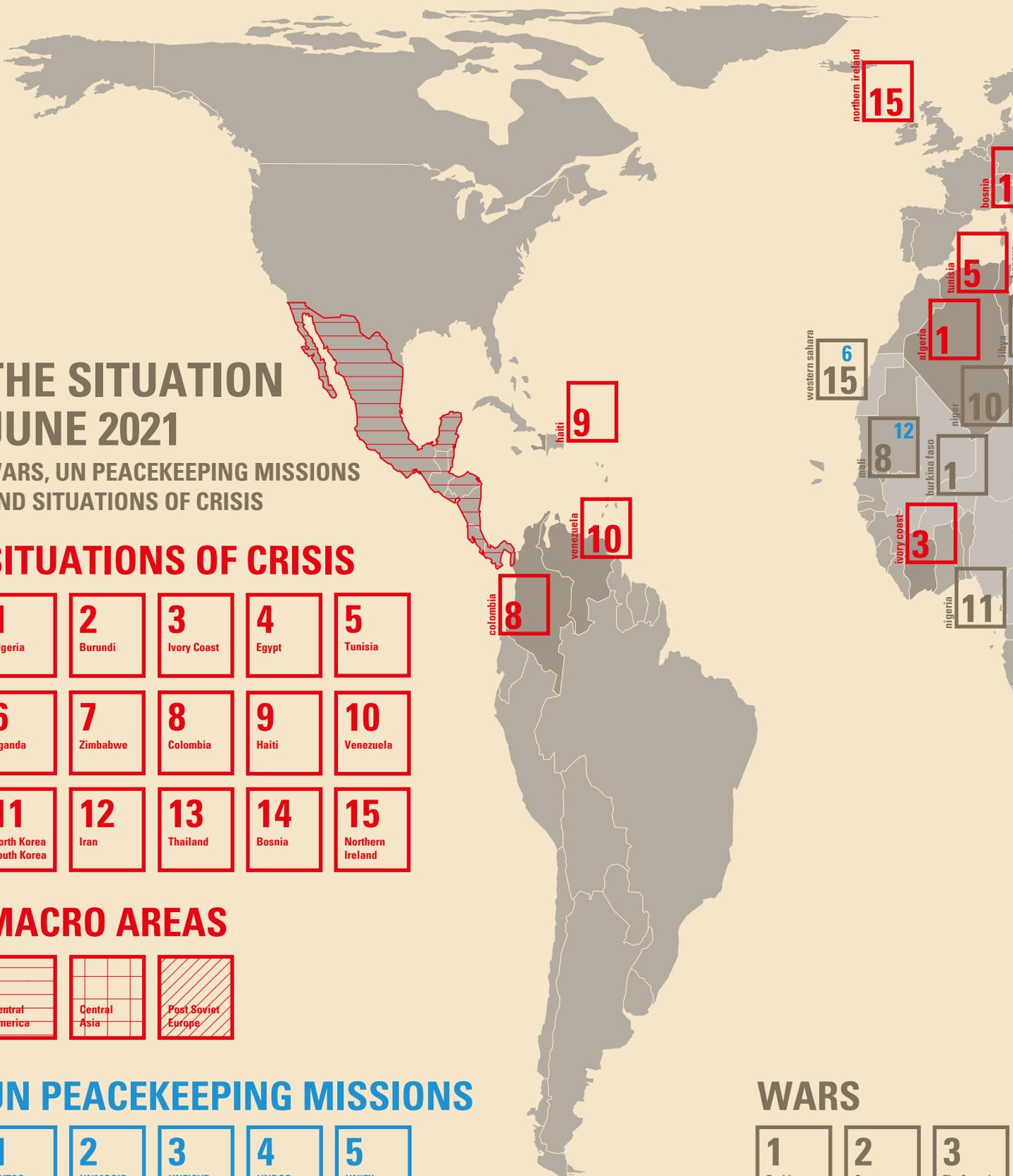
Central America	Central Asia	Post-Soviet Europe
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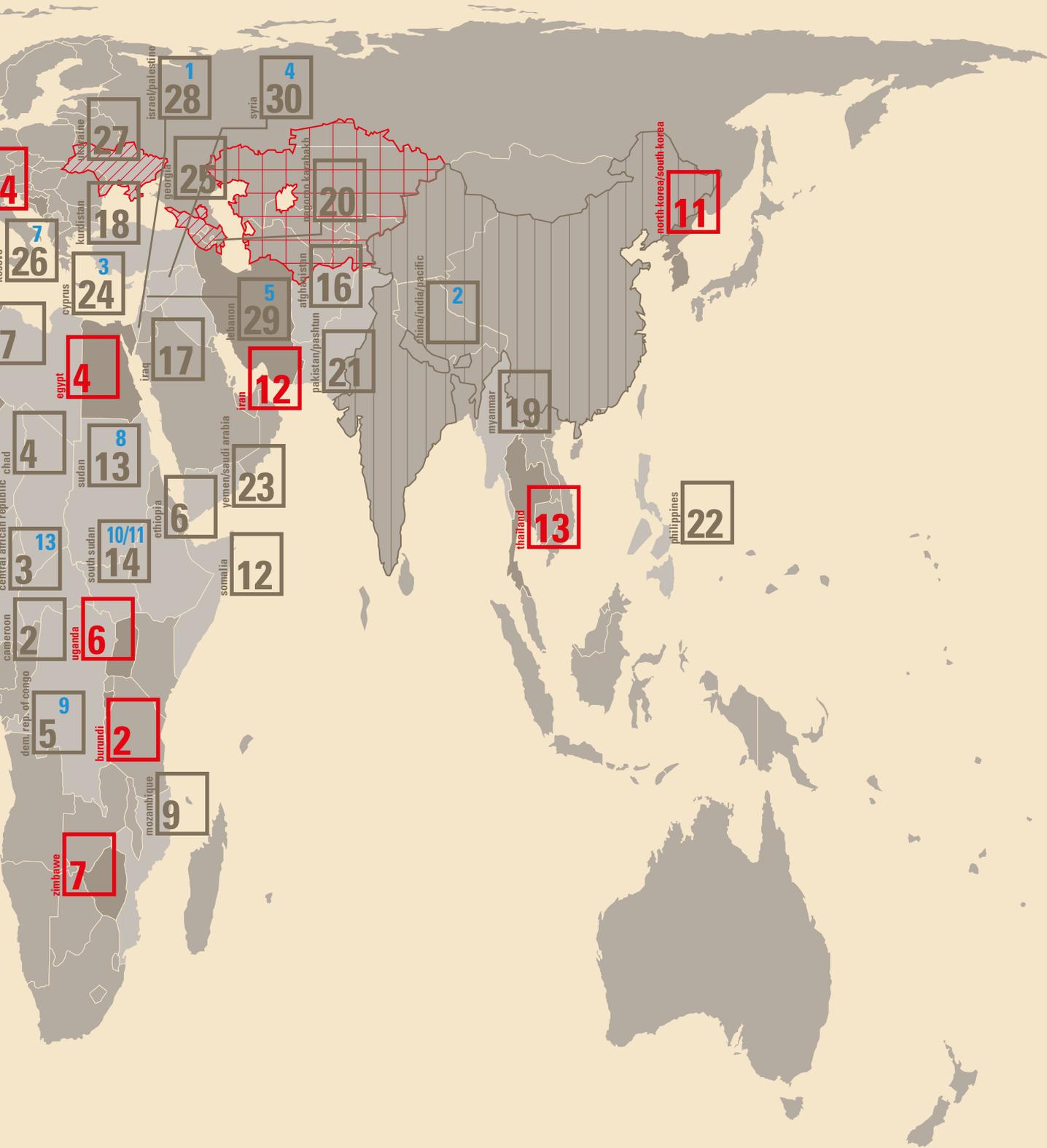
UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

1 UNTSO	2 UNMOGIP	3 UNFICYP	4 UNDOF	5 UNIFIL
6 MINURSO	7 UNMIK	8 UNAMID*	9 MONUSCO	10 UNISFA
11 UNMISS	12 MINUSMA	13 MINUSCA	*UNAMID Closed on 1 December 2020 and is being collected.	

WARS

1 Burkina Faso	2 Cameroon	3 The Central African Rep.
13 Sudan	14 South Sudan	15 Western Sahara
25 Georgia	26 Kosovo	27 Ukraine





4 Chad	5 The D.R. of Congo	6 Ethiopia	7 Lybia	8 Mali	9 Mozambique	10 Niger	11 Nigeria	12 Somalia
16 Afghanistan	17 Iraq	18 Kurdistan	19 Myanmar	20 Nagorno Karabakh	21 Pakistan Pashtun	22 Philippines	23 Yemen Saudi Arabia	24 Cyprus
28 Israel Palestine	29 Lebanon	30 Syria	China/India Pacific					

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