

# Conflict Weekly

An initiative by NIAS-IPRI and KAS India Office

*A brief review of conflict and peace processes across the world*

18 August 2021, Vol.2, No.20

## Return of the Taliban and the fall of Afghanistan

D Suba Chandran



Within a week, the Taliban managed to capture the major provincial capitals of Afghanistan, and take over Kabul and its Presidential Palace. (Image Source: NYT-ZabaKarimi-AP)

**Afghanistan: After two decades, the Taliban returns with ease, as the political, military and militia leaderships melt without resistance**

### In the news

On 15 August 2021, the Taliban captured Kabul, entered the Presidential Palace. Ashraf Ghani, who was then the President of Afghanistan, fled the country earlier. He was quoted to have said in a social media posting: "The Taliban have won with the judgement of their swords and guns, and are now responsible for the honour, property and self-preservation of their countrymen... They are now facing a new historical test. Either they will preserve the name and honour of Afghanistan, or they will give priority to other places and networks."

On 17 August, in a news conference in Kabul, Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's spokesperson, said: "We don't want Afghanistan to be a battlefield anymore - from today onward, war is over...I would like to assure the international community, including the United States, that nobody will be harmed...We don't want any internal or external enemies." He was also quoted to have committed to the rights of women. Enamullah Samangani, another leader of the Taliban's cultural commission, was quoted to have stated: "The Islamic Emirate doesn't want women to be victims...They should be in government structure according to Shariah law."

On 16 August, US President Biden made a lengthy statement on the current situation in Afghanistan. He said: "Our mission in Afghanistan was never supposed to have been nation building. It was never supposed to be creating a unified, centralized democracy. Our only vital national interest in Afghanistan remains today what it has always been: preventing a terrorist attack on American homeland...When I came into office, I inherited a deal that President Trump negotiated with the Taliban. Under his agreement, US forces would be out of Afghanistan by 1 May, 2021 — just a little over three months after I took office." He also stated: "I stand squarely behind my decision...I am President of the United States of America, and the buck stops with me." He also seems to be placing the responsibility on the Afghan leadership, when he said: "After 20 years, I've learned the hard way that there was never a good time to withdraw US forces...Afghanistan political leaders gave up and fled the country. The Afghan military collapsed, sometimes without trying to fight. If anything, the developments of the past week reinforced that ending US military involvement in Afghanistan now was the right decision."

On 16 August, Dmitry Zhirnov, Russia's Ambassador to Afghanistan, was quoted to have stated: "I judge by the first day of their control over Kabul. The impressions are good. The situation in Kabul is better now (under Taliban) than it was under Ashraf Ghani." Also on the same day, a spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: "China respects Afghan people's right to decide their own destiny and future, and is willing to continue to develop friendship and cooperation with Afghanistan."

### Issues at large

First, Taliban's rapid takeover of Afghanistan. It all started on 6 August in Zaranj, the capital of Nimroz province in southwest Afghanistan. In the next one week, all the major provincial capitals fell one by one – Herat, Kunduz, Mazar-e-Sharif and Kandahar. On 15 August, they captured Jalalabad and Kabul. The surprising element of the rapid takeover was not just the speed but the lack of opposition; the provinces and their capitals fell to the Taliban without any fight. For the Taliban, it was a walkover, contrary to what happened in the 1990s. Between November 1994 and September 1996, it had to fight hard for almost two years to capture Afghanistan. In 2021, it could do it in a week.

Second, the leadership crisis and the fleeing of the President. Ashraf Ghani made a bold statement on 14 August about not surrendering to the Taliban and not allowing the achievements of the previous decades to fall down. However, his fleeing the following day underlines the resolute of his leadership. On 11 August, following the fall of other major cities, Ghani flew to Mazar-e-Sharif to meet with Abdul Rashid Dostum. In retrospect, it appears,

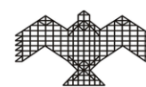
Ghani could not build a political consensus amongst the Afghan leaders. Nor he could lead the Afghan security forces effectively. During the middle of the Taliban's rapid advance, he fired the Afghan army chief. While talking about the Taliban's advances, one has to analyze why the Afghan political leadership failed to rise when the country demanded them the most.

Third, the melting of Afghan security forces. The US and its allies, over the last two decades, have spent billions of dollars on building a modern Afghan security force, which is believed to be more than 300,000. They were trained, equipped and provided with modern weapons and vehicles. Unfortunately, the Afghan security forces disappeared without putting up a fight when the Taliban entered the provincial capitals. Early reports indicate that there were multiple deals between the local commanders of the Afghan security forces and the Taliban. Others report the morale was down ever since US President Biden announced the withdrawal. A comparison with how Ahmad Shah Massoud fought the Taliban during 1994-96, with less external support should be useful. Massoud also finally gave up Kabul, but after putting up a fight.

Fourth, the melting of the militias. Besides the Afghan security forces, there were numerous militias led by warlords in the north, west and east of Afghanistan. Ismail Khan in Herat, and Abdul Rashid Dostum and Atta Muhammad Noor in Mazar-e-Sharif are a few to name, who were known for their military acumen, militia support, and the anti-Taliban sentiment. Ismail Khan was captured by the Taliban in Herat; Abdul Rashid Dostum and Atta Muhammad Noor were reported to have fled Mazar-e-Sharif into Uzbekistan. According to early reports, the Taliban have agreed to Ismail Khan to continue to govern Herat. It appears that the militias that were pro-government until a week earlier, also have entered into tactical deals with the Taliban.

Fifth, the chaos and calm in Afghanistan, following the Taliban takeover. The international media focussed on what happened in the Kabul airport following the takeover, with multiple videos showing people wanting to get out of Afghanistan by clinging into aircrafts that are leaving Kabul. In few cities, there were reports about protests against the Taliban. For example, the protests in Jalalabad. The Taliban came down ruthlessly on these protestors. On the other hand, there are also reports on how the cities including Kabul, are getting ready for the Taliban rule.

Sixth, the Taliban promises. While it has promised women's rights and even asked them to get back to work, there are suspicions. According to initial reports and statements, there is a difference between how the senior Taliban leaders have made statements on women rights and how reports and interviews of the Taliban commanders on the ground reflect a different position. The majority responses to the Taliban's promises so far has been cynical, keeping the old record, and the differences between the Taliban leaders and its commanders.



Seventh, local opposition to the Taliban. When the Taliban was capturing city after city without any resistance, the citizens mobilized in Kabul to vent out their anger against it. As could be seen from what happened in Jalalabad, there was a protest against the Taliban's return. However, as of now, they seem to be isolated events, than a common sentiment against the Taliban amongst the population. Will they come to the streets to protest against the Taliban remains to be seen.

Eighth, Biden's resolve to complete the withdrawal. His statement on 16 August underlines the following: taking responsibility for the decision to withdraw; its finality; his decision as a follow up to the previous administration's deal with the Taliban in 2020; the objectives of the US in Afghanistan having met, following the disruption of al Qaeda; and the inability of the Afghan leadership to come together and build a new Afghanistan.

Ninth, the Chinese and Russian resolve to stay in Afghanistan. While all other embassies in Kabul are either leaving the city or reducing their footprints, China and Russia are doing the opposite. During the recent months/years, Moscow and Beijing, along with Islamabad, have engaged with the Taliban. In recent months, perhaps, both China and Russia were also getting ready for the Taliban's return in Afghanistan.

#### In perspective

First, the facts. Taliban has returned to Kabul after two decades. The Afghan government has failed to respond. The Afghan security forces have melted without a fight. The much-famed militias have decided to strike deals. Clearly, the Taliban has recaptured Afghanistan without any resistance. Second, the US and the other countries that have invested billions of dollars and sacrificed hundreds of their soldiers have decided to cut their losses and get out of Afghanistan. Third, both the above mean that the Afghans have been left to fend for themselves after so many promises. Two generations of Afghans would be facing the wrath of the Taliban now. Fourth, the nation-building process, and the idea of a liberal, moderate, democratic and inclusive Afghanistan are in tatters, as the Islamic Emirate returns.

The Taliban should pick up from where it left two decades ago; the rest of the world should hang its heads in shame of what it had failed to build in Afghanistan during the last two decades. Still, there are lessons to learn, if there is a willingness. Else, one could go along with the narrative of the Taliban's old and new international friends, that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan would be different this time. It would be wishful thinking. Taliban would not change its colours.

## Also, from around the world

By Apoorva Sudhakar and Abigail Miriam Fernandez

### Peace and Conflict from East and Southeast Asia

#### Hong Kong: Four students arrested for "advocating terrorism"

On 18 August, the Hong Kong police arrested four students for allegedly "advocating terrorism" when their student union mourned the death of a 50-year-old who stabbed a policeman and later killed himself in July. The Hong Kong University's student union had issued a motion lauding the man's "sacrifice" but later withdrew it; the union leaders also resigned after apologizing for their "inappropriate" motion. A Senior Superintendent said the motion "tried to rationalize and glorify terrorism" and "encouraged people to attempt suicide" which reportedly does not adhere to their "moral standards."

#### North Korea: Committee asks Japan to apologize for colonial crimes

On 15 August, the Korean Committee on Measures for the Sexual Slavery for Japanese Army and Drafting Victims called on Japan to apologize and make amends for the atrocities the colonial power committed on the Korean Peninsula during 1910-1945. The Korea Herald quoted the Committee: "Far from making apology and repentance of the crimes against humanity committed by the Japanese imperialists, Japan has adopted mean hostile policy toward the DPRK, has extended sanctions against it year after year." It opined that Japan's policy towards North Korea indicated that it has "no guilty conscience for its past history of aggression, and instead it has become all the more reckless to return to its position in the past when it professed the 'leader of Asia.'"

#### South Korea-Japan: Seoul rejects Tokyo's claims to Dokdo island

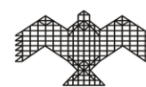
On 18 August, South Korea snubbed Japan's reservations against a South Korean opposition lawmaker's visit to the Dokdo island. A South Korean Foreign Ministry official said: "Dokdo is clearly our inherent territory historically, geographically and by international law. We cannot accept any unreasonable demand or claims from Japan regarding our territorial sovereignty." The official added, "In accordance with our position, we dismissed the unreasonable demand and claims Japan has made through diplomatic channels."

#### The Philippines: Soldiers kill 16 communist rebels in raid

On 16 August, the army said that soldiers had killed 16 communist rebels during a raid in the central Philippines; high-powered firearms were recovered from the suspected guerrilla hideout. An army spokesperson said they had received intelligence about the alleged "terrorists in their bomb-making hideout." The development comes after President Rodrigo Duterte, in March, asked the police and army to "ignore human rights" and kill the communist rebels.

#### Thailand: Protests demanding PM's resignation intensify

On 17 August, Reuters reported that following the record 239 COVID-19 deaths on that day, protesters gathered in central Bangkok demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha. However, the police responded with water cannons; an activist said: "We are out here protesting but in return we get tear gas and rubber bullets and a violent crackdown." The



development comes a day after a protester, reportedly aged 15, was left in coma due to a gunshot on 16 August; six others were injured in the clashes.

### Myanmar: AAPP records over 1,000 deaths following coup

On 17 August, the death toll following the February coup and the military's subsequent crackdown was recorded at 1,001, the Assistance Association of Political Prisoners (AAPP) activist group claimed. However, the AAPP secretary said that the actual casualties could be higher. Previously, the military said the AAPP figures were exaggerated and also maintained that several security forces had also been killed but were not included in the AAPP figures.

## Peace and Conflict from South Asia

### Bangladesh: Over 27 Rohingya refugees missing after boat sinks

On 14 August, over 27 Rohingya refugees have been missing after a boat capsized approximately 10 kilometres southeast of Bhashan Char. According to the authorities, the small fishing boat sank with 41 Rohingya during an attempt to escape a Bangladeshi island camp. After the incident, the United Nations refugee agency said it "remains concerned about reports of refugees being arrested and detained for attempting to leave Bhashan Char." This comes as the Rohingyas have complained that they have been coerced into relocating, while thousands protested against living conditions on the island.

### Sri Lanka: Government files charges against 25 Easter bombing suspects

On 11 August, the President's office announced that Sri Lanka has filed 23,270 charges against 25 people in connection with the 2019 Easter Sunday suicide bomb attacks on churches and hotels. The charges that have been filed under the anti-terror law include conspiring to murder, aiding and abetting, collecting arms and ammunition, and attempted murder. Additionally, the attorney general also asked the chief justice to appoint a special three-member high court bench to hear the cases.

### India: Meghalaya Home Minister quits after mob violence

On 15 August, Meghalaya Home Minister Lakhmen Rymbui resigned after mob violence and arson in Shillong on Independence Day, calling for a judicial probe "to bring out the truth." Following the violence, the local authorities enforce a curfew and suspend Internet services for 48 hours in four districts. Previously, on 13 August, the killing of former extremist leader Cheristerfield Thangkhiew by the police triggered the unruly situation that escalated during his burial on 15 August.

### India: Assam-Mizoram border tension escalates over fresh firing incident

On 17 August, tensions along the Assam-Mizoram border escalated over a firing incident. While Mizoram alleged that the Assam Police opened fire on three Mizo civilians on the boundary along Hailakandi (Assam)-Kolasib (Mizoram) districts, Assam claimed miscreants from the other side fired first, after which Assam Police retaliated. This incident comes amid high tensions following violent clashes at the disputed inter-state boundary in July which left seven persons dead.

### **Pakistan: Woman files complaint against hundreds for assaulting her on Independence Day**

On 17 August, the Lahore police filed a case against 300 to 400 unidentified people after a female TikToker complained that she, along with her friends, were harassed by these people near Minar-e-Pakistan during Independence Day celebrations on 14 August. She said that she and her companions were filming a video when a mob started attacking them. She added, that they made a lot of effort to escape from the crowd "however, the crowd was huge and people were scaling the enclosure and coming towards us. People were pushing and pulling me to the extent that they tore my clothes. Several people tried to help me but the crowd was too huge and they kept throwing me in the air."

### Peace and Conflict from Central Asia, Middle East and Africa

#### **Armenia- Azerbaijan: Tensions along the border leaves Armenian soldier wounded**

On 17 August, the Armenia Defense Ministry states that an Armenian soldier was wounded in a skirmish along the border with Azerbaijan. According to the ministry, the soldier was injured when Azerbaijani forces opened fire on Armenian positions in the Sotk area in eastern Gegharkunik Province, adding that one Azerbaijani was killed and one was wounded "as a result of the counteractions carried out by the Armenian side." However, Baku has denied suffering any military casualties. Previously, two Armenian soldiers were killed due to tensions along the border. However, in response the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry said that Armenian armed forces periodically fired on Azerbaijani Army positions in the Sadarak region of the Naxcivan exclave where the two soldier were killed.

#### **Egypt: ISIL claims responsibility for a bomb attack that killed eight troops**

On 13 August, Al Jazeera reported eight security force members were killed and six injured in a roadside bomb explosion in the northern part of the Sinai Peninsula. Al Jazeera quoted officials who said that the bomb exploded when the troops were riding an armoured vehicle; ISIL has claimed responsibility for the same. This attack comes after at least five security force members were killed and six injured in an ambush by ISIL fighters in July. Meanwhile, on 12 August, the Egypt armed forces' spokesperson said that they had killed 13 ISIL fighters and recovered 15 automatic rifles and ammunition in northern and central Sinai.

#### **Iraq: Five security forces members killed in IS attack**

On 17 August, a provincial police source in Diyala province said that five soldiers and paramilitary fighters were killed in two attacks by Islamic State militants. Of this, three soldiers were killed when the IS opened fire at an army base in Maqdadiyah; earlier in the day, two paramilitary tribal fighters were killed in a roadside bomb explosion.

#### **Lebanon: 28 killed, 79 injured in fuel tank explosion**

On 15 August, 28 people were killed and 79 injured in a fuel tank explosion in northern Lebanon. However, the hospital reportedly had to turn away those arriving with wounds as it did not have the capacity to treat severe burns. Military and security sources reportedly told Reuters that the explosion took place when a scuffle broke out between local residents who had gathered around as "the Lebanese army was distributing gasoline from a hidden fuel storage tanker it had confiscated." The development comes amid Lebanon's fuel shortage crisis.



### Israel: Wildfires near Jerusalem fully doused after 52 hours

On 17 August, the National Fire and Rescue chief said that wildfires near Jerusalem had been fully contained after a 52-hours battle with the flames. The fire has been reported to have been the worst in years as it burned over 4,200 acres of land. No casualties were reported. Meanwhile, trucks from the Palestinian Authority also helped fight the wildfires which started on 15 August. The Israel Defense Minister said: "I would like to thank PA Chairman [Mahmoud] Abbas for his initiative to send the firefighters who came to assist Israel today. Mutual care and saving human lives are common interests to us all."

### Israel-Palestine: Rocket fired from Gaza Strip, says Israeli military

On 16 August, the Israeli military said that a rocket had been fired from the Gaza strip, for the first time since the escalation of tensions in May. The rocket fire reportedly took place after four Palestinians were killed in a raid by the Israeli army in the occupied West Bank; two others were arrested during the raid at the Jenin refugee camp. However, no one has claimed responsibility for the rocket attack.

### Yemen: Houthis organize camps to brainwash children

On 17 August, Arab News reported that the Houthis were organizing a graduation ceremony for children who had taken part in their summer camp, where they were "educated, trained and 'immunized from false cultures'" for 45 days. The Houthis have garnered criticism for organizing such camps and ceremonies where children are seen anti-US and anti-Israel slogans. The director of SEYAJ Organization for the Protection of Children said: "These camps prepare children and adolescents to be part of the war machine." Some parents said that the rebels blacklist families who refuse to send their children to the camp.

### Niger: 37 massacred by suspected rebels

On 17 August, the government declared two-day national mourning for the 37 people who had been massacred by suspected rebels on 16 August. The attack took place in Darey-Daye; the casualties included 13 children and four women. Darey-Daye is located in the Tillaberi region where 66 people were massacred in a similar attack by gunmen in March.

### The Democratic Republic of the Congo: UN worried about accounts of mass rape by armed groups

On 13 August, The Guardian reported that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had expressed its concerns over "widespread, systematic sexual violence by armed groups in the country. The UNHRC spokesperson said: "In just the past two weeks, humanitarian partners in the Kongolo and Mbulula health zones have recorded 243 incidents of rape, 48 of which involved minors, in 12 different villages." The spokesperson further explained: "The attacks are reportedly being carried out by rival armed groups competing to maintain control over mining areas – especially goldmines – and as retaliation against government-led military operations."



### Cameroon-Chad: Thousands of Cameroonians flee to Chad amid clashes

On 18 August, Nation reported that at least 11,000 people had fled to Chad following intercommunal clashes in Cameroon. The UNHCR and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations said the Cameroonians had arrived over 14 and 15 August, after 20 people were killed in clashes between herders and fishermen in Cameroon's Far North region on 10 August, over water holes that had been dug by the latter. The Far North Governor, however, said that such clashes are rare in Cameroon.

### Peace and Conflict from Europe and the Americas

#### Wildfires: Devastating fires across France and California

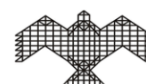
On 16 August, a large forest fire that broke out near the French Riviera forced over 6,000 residents and tourists to evacuate homes and accommodations. Additionally, the fire which ignited during an intense heatwave has been intensified by strong winds as well as dry and hot conditions, with temperatures reaching 40 degrees Celsius. Mayor of La-Garde-Freinet village states, "We've never seen it spread with such speed, it was three or four times the usual." Meanwhile, the wildfires in northern California have nearly doubled in size overnight, due to the wind and dry conditions. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, more than 2.4 million acres have been burned in 104 large fires and complexes in 12 states. It adds, as of 18 August, all the large fires in California were active; the Caldor Fire burned more than 20,000 acres and the Dixie Fire made another significant run of nearly 48,000 acres. Fires in Oregon and Washington remained active.

#### Russia: Moscow Police visit homes of leaked addresses of Navalny supporters

On 18 August, Moscow Times quoting a media report said that the police have begun visiting addresses of Alexei Navalny's supporters that had been leaked online. According to the report, a supporter of Navalny was asked to file a statement against the opposition leader over the illegal collection of personal data days after authorities filed a new criminal charge against him on the "infringement on the rights of citizens." Additionally, the police have visited at least 30 Moscow residents' addresses that were leaked online.

#### Peru: Controversial foreign minister resigns only three weeks into the new government

On 17 August, Peru's Foreign Minister Hector Bejar handed in his resignation to President Pedro Castillo, which was accepted. His resignation comes less than three weeks after he and President Castillo assumed office. Bejar's push to resign came after his statements about terrorism and the Peruvian Navy, which not only unleashed criticism from the opposition in Congress but also caused the Navy's Directorate of Information of Navy to "categorically" reject his claims. Additionally, videos emerged in which he claimed that Shining Path, the Maoist group that terrorized Peru in the 1970s and 1980s, was "largely a product of the services of the CIA" also acted as a trigger for his resignation.



### Venezuela: Opposition politician released two days after talks between Maduro and opposition began in Mexico

On 15 August, Venezuelan opposition leader Freddy Guevara was released from prison. This comes a month after his arrest and days after the start of talks in Mexico City between the opposition and the government of President Nicolas Maduro. After his release, Guevara states that he had been held in isolation and therefore had no information about whether he would be allowed to join the opposition negotiating team in Mexico, however, he is expected to form part of the opposition's negotiating team. Meanwhile, Guevara's release is thought to be the first concession made by the Maduro government since entering into fresh negotiations with the opposition.

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#### About the authors

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# Conflict Weekly

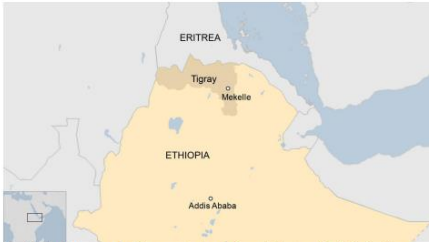
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A brief review of conflict and peace processes across the world

30 June 2021, Vol.2, No.13

## Ceasefire in Ethiopia, Berlin Conference on Libya and the World Drug Report

Apoorva Sudhakar and Jeshil Samuel J




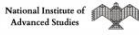
The TPLF rebels returned to Tigray and took over its capital last week in Ethiopia. The government has announced a unilateral ceasefire. (Image Source: BBC)

### Ethiopia: Federal government declares unilateral ceasefire after TPLF recaptures Mekelle

[In the news](#)

On 29 June, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) spokesperson vowed to clear the Tigray region off all "enemies." BBC quoted the spokesperson's remarks to CNN: "We will not stop until Tigray has been cleared of any and all enemy forces. We will do whatever it takes." On the same day, Tigray residents reportedly celebrated the recapture of Tigray by the TPLF. Meanwhile, the US State Department warned that if hostilities continue in Tigray, Ethiopia and Eritrea should be prepared for actions from the US.

On 28 June, TPLF troops seized the regional capital, Mekelle, forcing Tigray's interim authority appointed by the federal government to flee. Following this, the federal government

# Conflict Weekly


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A brief review of conflict and peace processes across the world

23 June 2021, Vol.2, No.12

## The US Juneteenth, UN resolution on Myanmar and Global Peace Index

Vishnu Prasad E, Anju C Joseph and Abigail Miriam Fernandez




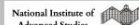
Juneteenth has become more than a day just to commemorate the end of slavery in the US. (Image Source: Reuters)

### The US: Juneteenth approval a step in the right direction

[In the news](#)

On 17 June, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, which made 19 June an official federal holiday to commemorate the end of slavery in the country. Biden said: "I have to say to you, I've only been president for several months, but I think this will go down, for me, as one of the greatest honors I will have as president. By making Juneteenth a federal holiday, all Americans can feel the power of this day and learn from our history — and celebrate progress and grapple with the distance we've come (and) the distance we have to travel." It became America's first new holiday since Martin Luther King Day in 1983.

On 19 June, the holiday celebrations were marred by acts of violence across the country that left at least five people dead. In Oakland, California, seven people were shot at a Juneteenth

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## Three new reports on Child labour, Ethiopia and Xinjiang, Tensions in Belfast, and the Suu Kyi trial

Apoorva Sudhakar, Mohamad Aseel Ummer, Dincy Adlakha, Sourina Bej and Vibha Venugopal




12 June was observed as World Day Against Child Labour, marking 2021 as International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. According to the latest report of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) "160 million children – 63 million girls and 97 million boys" were engaged in child labour in 2020. (Image Source: UNICEF)

### Child labour: 160 million children, one in ten, are engaged in labour, says the new ILO-UNICEF report

[In the news](#)

On 12 June, countries observed World Day Against Child Labour marking the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour.




# Conflict Weekly


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A brief review of conflict and peace processes across the world

09 June 2021, Vol.2, No.10

## The UN report on Taliban-al Qaeda links, Denmark on relocating refugee camps, Burkino Faso massacre, Arctic melt, and Afghan trilateral dialogue

Abigail Miriam Fernandez, Sourina Bej, Apoorva Sudhakar, Rashmi BR and Sarthak Jain


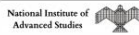


According to the latest report of the UN Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team "the Taliban and Al-Qaida remain closely aligned and show no indication of breaking ties." (Image Source: BBC)

### Afghanistan: Taliban still closely aligned to al-Qaida, says UN report

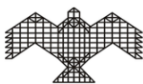
[In the news](#)

On 1 June, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the UN, in its twelfth report, has observed: "the Taliban's messaging remains uncompromising, and it shows no sign of reducing the level of violence in Afghanistan to facilitate peace negotiations with the Government of Afghanistan and other Afghan stakeholders. The Taliban's intent appears to be to continue to strengthen its military position as leverage." The report maintained as earlier: "the Taliban and Al-Qaida remain closely aligned and show no indication of breaking ties. Member States report no material change to this relationship, which has grown deeper as a



National Institute of  
Advanced Studies



### About NIAS-International Peace Research Initiative (IPRI)

The International Peace Research Initiative (IPRI), initiated in 2018 at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), is a part of the Conflict Resolution and Peace Research Programme at the School of Conflict and Security Studies.

IPRI undertakes research on various issues relating to peace with special emphasis on radicalisation, sustainable peace, gender roles in peacebuilding and global protest movements. IPRI research are published as briefs, reports and commentary.



### About Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is a political foundation. Established in 1955 as “Society for Christian-Democratic Civic Education”, in 1964, the Foundation proudly took on the name of Konrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. With 16 regional offices in Germany and over 120 offices abroad, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation is committed to achieving and maintaining peace, freedom and justice through political education. KAS promotes and preserves free democracy, social market economy, and the development and consolidation of the value consensus. KAS also focus on consolidating democracy, the unification of Europe and the strengthening of transatlantic relations, as well as on development cooperation.

KAS cooperates with governmental institutions, political parties and civil society organizations, building strong partnerships along the way. In particular, KAS seeks to intensify political cooperation in the area of development cooperation on the foundations of its objectives and values. Together with the partners, KAS makes a significant contribution to the creation of a global order that empowers every country to determine its own developmental priorities and destiny in an internationally responsible

### About Conflict Weekly

The Conflict Weekly an academic endeavour to bring every Wednesday/Thursday a weekly analysis of the conflict and peace processes in the world; aiming to look at the larger peace picture. It is published by the NIAS-IPRI in collaboration with the KAS India Office.



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