

Conflict Weekly

An initiative by NIAS-IPRI and KAS India Office

A brief review of conflict and peace processes across the world

23 December 2021, Vol.2, No.38

New reports on the Omicron threat, and lifting sanctions on humanitarian aid to Afghanistan

Akriti Sharma and Ashwin Immanuel Dhanabalan



While the cases from Omicron have been increasing across the world, new reports on the nature of Omicron threat is cautious. (Image Source: WHO)

COVID-19: Omicron rapidly spreads across countries

In the news

On 22 December, the UK reported 1,06,122 cases recording the highest number of daily cases reported. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Omicron has spread to 106 countries.

On 22 December, according to the New York Times, a South African study highlighted that risk of hospitalization was 70 per cent lesser among people infected with Omicron as compared to other variants. On the same day, according to CNBC, a Scottish study suggested that the Omicron is two-thirds less likely to result in hospitalization in comparison to the Delta. Additionally, a study from England shows that omicron infection was 15 to 20 per cent less likely to lead to hospitalization than Delta.

On 20 December, the WHO said that Omicron cases doubled in one to one-and-a-half days, making it more transmissible than the Delta variant of COVID-19. It added that Omicron is



also infecting vaccinated and recovered from COVID-19. According to Reuters, the WHO chief scientist said: "We need to be prepared and cautious, not panic, because we're in a different situation to a year ago."

On 6 December, US Chief Medical Advisor Anthony Fauci said: "Thus far, it does not look like there's a great degree of severity to it [Omicron]."

Issues at large

First, the South African case. On 23 November, the first case of the Omicron (B.1.1.529) variant was detected in South Africa. On 26 November, the Technical Advisory Group on SARS-CoV-2 Virus Evolution (TAG-VE) classified Omicron as a "variant of concern." Since then, South Africa has been at the forefront of dealing with Omicron. On 16 December, the country reported 27,000 cases of Omicron. On 21 December, it reported 15,424 cases. The reduction in the cases suggests that the flattening of Omicron surge. This hints at a short-lived wave as compared to the delta variant. According to a study conducted by South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Omicron is causing fewer hospitalizations and is less severe as compared to previous variants.

Second, the vaccine inequality. The developed and developing countries have been successful in vaccinating their population. Due to the lack of vaccines, the least developed countries have become breeding grounds for COVID-19 mutations. The South African origin of Omicron reflects the ineffective side of the global system attempting at vaccination. Unless the less developed countries are fully vaccinated, the new variants will find their way to the developed countries sooner or later.

Third, the uncertainty over the new variant. According to the three studies conducted in South Africa, Scotland and England, the variant is less severe and less hospitalized. However, this can be due to vaccination and recovery from COVID-19, which immunizes the population in the countries. Some scientists suggest that there can be high hospitalization as the variant is more transmissible. There is a lot of uncertainty revolving around the variant.

Fourth, the urgent need for boosters. The surge in the Omicron cases has pushed the case for booster shots. Boosters can help increase the antibodies in the body, which can prevent hospitalization and a severe wave due to new variants. Moderna and Pfizer have announced that their mRNA boosters can provide increased immunity against Omicron.

In perspective

First, the need for enhanced surveillance. Even though some studies have found the variant less severe and mild, there is a need for better surveillance and genome sequencing to understand the new variant better. The international community and the countries need to perform more studies and laboratory assessments, employ effective public health measures and diagnostic methods to predict the behaviour of the variant.

Second, significant concerns for the unvaccinated. The countries that have not achieved 100 per cent vaccination are at a higher risk of infection and a possible new wave. Countries need to fully vaccinate their population and provide booster shots for better prevention.

Afghanistan: UN and US to lift sanctions to allow humanitarian aid

In the news

On 20 December, the United Nations Under-Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs Martin Griffiths held a special session with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Foreign Ministers regarding the economic situation in Afghanistan. As a result, to deal with the crisis, the OIC set up a humanitarian trust fund, food security program, and a special envoy appointed to Afghanistan.

On 21 December, around 200 protestors marched to Kabul, demanding the US to release the frozen foreign assets. The Taliban allowed the protest as the future of the country seemed dire. United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated that Washington was "looking intensely at ways to put more liquidity into the Afghan economy..." to help the people of Afghanistan cope with the crisis.

On 22 December, the UN Security Council passed a resolution to permit the removal of a few sanctions to facilitate humanitarian aid to the country. The resolution was sponsored by the US and will be effective for a year. The decision came after the UNICEF warned about the "alarming disruptions in health and nutrition services" in the country and "a disastrous food crisis," with the pandemic, loss of foreign aid and frozen currency reserves.

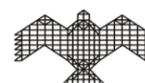
Issues at large

First, the dire situation in Afghanistan. According to the World Food Program reports, "drought, economic collapse and hunger push Afghanistan to brink of famine". The problem was worrisome as United Nations Development Programme said: "it took five years of war in Syria for its economy to contract as much as Afghanistan's has since August." Health care facilities in Afghanistan had run out of essential medicines and paychecks due to the sanctions in place. Around USD 600 million funds for health care aid were frozen after the Taliban seized power. Foreign aid, which used to keep the public expenditure afloat, as it contributed to 75 per cent of the country's expenses, had now stopped.

Second, the US draft resolution. The US halted most of its aid after the Taliban took over and froze USD 9.5 billion foreign reserves. But, due to the fragile economy, harsh winters and a possible refugee crisis, the US recalled its previous resolutions towards Afghanistan. Instead, the US acted under the Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to send humanitarian assistance to support the country's basic needs, which were not in violation of paragraph one of the charter.

Third, the role of international organizations. Organizations like Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies were deeply concerned about the harsh winters coming. Even the UN had urged donors to help the organizations to reach their commitments so that societies would be able to pay for their humanitarian programs. However, a few organizations have demanded the new government to meet certain conditions, like guaranteeing women's rights to receive aid. Around 18 million Afghans urgently need humanitarian assistance.

Fourth, international responses. China blocked a broader version of the draft that the US had prepared to deal with the development assistance but allowed the current humanitarian assistance resolution to pass. As a result, the world bank has assured to transfer USD 280 million to UNICEF and the World food program to facilitate humanitarian aid. At the same time, the OIC countries had already decided to set up a humanitarian trust fund and food security program for Afghanistan through a Saudi-based Islamic development bank.



In perspective

First, even though the UN has lifted sanctions, it will take at least a few months for aid to make it to the people. Second, Biden's administration understood the critical the situation and sponsored the draft to tackle the situation. Third, international organizations have mixed responses as a few are still sceptical of the funds directly reaching the people. Fourth, while China had blocked the broader version of the draft, the new draft is a start to better the country's situation.

Also, from around the world

By Apoorva Sudhakar and Abigail Miriam Fernandez

Peace and Conflict from East and Southeast Asia

China: Beijing warns against Western countries' remarks on Hong Kong elections; the US sanctions five Chinese officials

On 21 December, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Beijing condemns Western countries making remarks on Hong Kong's Legislative Council (LegCo) elections. Xinhuanet reported that the spokesperson said China will oppose any interference into "Hong Kong's democracy and the rule of law and their gross interference in China's internal affairs." The development comes after statements by the foreign ministers of the G7 and Five Eyes alliance and EU high representatives on the LegCo elections.

On 20 December, the US placed sanctions on five Chinese officials, deputy directors of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Hong Kong. The spokesperson termed these sanctions "illegal and invalid." Global Times quoted the spokesperson: "I don't understand why the US is announcing another round of sanctions against these people under the pretext of the so-called Hong Kong Autonomy Law. It's ridiculous and disgusting."

South Korea: Vice Foreign Ministers hold talks

On 23 December, South Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-kun and China's Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-kun held talks, making it the first such interaction between South Korean and Chinese diplomats since 2017. Reuters quoted China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson: "We hope this meeting can have a positive effect on enhancing communication and mutual trust and the promotion of bilateral relations." However, the talks were held shortly after a spat took place between Taipei and Seoul over the latter's cancellation of an invitation to a Taiwanese minister previously. On 22 December, South Korea's Blue House said the invitation was withdrawn due to their "diplomatic principles, not because of China."

Malaysia: Floods claim 33 lives; over 60,000 displaced across six states

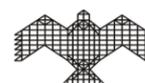
On 23 December, The Statesman reported that the death toll from floods in Malaysia had risen. As of 22 December, the total number of people displaced during the floods crossed 62,300 across six states and the capital Kuala Lumpur. Pahang remains the worst hit on the east coast, followed by Selangor; 37,000 and 22,000 people were evacuated from these states, respectively.

The Philippines: 375 people killed in Typhoon Rai

On 23 December, the death toll from Super Typhoon Rai stood at 375; the number of people injured was recorded at 500, and 56 were reported missing. Meanwhile, communication to several areas remained cut off and rescue teams termed the aftermath a "complete carnage." The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has issued an appeal for USD 22 million to address long-term relief needs.

Myanmar: Former NLD speaker, Karen state CM sentenced to jail; airstrikes in the Sagaing region; hundreds flee to Thailand

On 22 December, sources told The Irrawaddy that former deputy Parliament speaker U Tun Tun Hein had been sentenced to four years in jail. A court found the National League for Democracy members guilty of sedition for denouncing the coup, the subsequent violence, and calling on the people to support the civil disobedience movement. On the same day, a prison court sentenced the former Chief Minister of Karen State Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint to three



additional years in jail, thereby bringing his total jail time to 80 years; he was previously sentenced to 77 years in jail on incitement and corruption charges.

On 20 December, the junta carried out an airstrike on the Yay Myat Village in Sagaing region. The Irrawaddy quoted from a state-run media that the airstrikes targeted "the KIA (Kachin Independence Army), extremist members of the NLD (National League for Democracy) and so-called PDF (People's Defense Force) terrorists." Similarly, on 22 December, a Thai government official said 700 villagers from Myanmar's Lay Kay Kaw had crossed into Thailand after clashes erupted between military troops and the Karen National Union forces.

Peace and Conflict from South Asia

India-Sri Lanka: Eight Indian boats ceased for 'illegal fishing;' Fishermen talks to resume

The Sri Lankan Navy on 19 December ceased eight Indian fishing vessels and arrested 55 fishermen on the charge of 'illegal fishing.' The Sri Lankan government agencies state that six trawlers and 43 fishermen were initially ceased and arrested, followed by the arrested of another 12 fishermen, all of whom were mainly from Rameswaram. Meanwhile, the Ministry of External has directed the Tamil Nadu government to submit a list of probable participants from the fishing community in the State and submit the tentative dates for the proposed talks between its fisherfolk and the Northern Province in Sri Lanka.

India: J&K Delimitation Commission proposes six seats for Jammu, one for Kashmir

On 20 December, the J&K Delimitation Commission proposed to increase six seats for the Jammu division and one for the Kashmir division. The commission also decided to reserve 16 seats for the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribe (ST) communities in the Union Territory. This proposal came as the commission, headed by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, met its five associate members, which earlier boycotted the meeting. The proposal was met with strong criticism; Mehbooba Mufti said: "They want to pitch people against each other by ignoring the population census and proposing six seats for one region and only one for Kashmir."

Afghanistan: the US to continue providing humanitarian aid and assistance

On 20 December, over 60 representatives from the US Congress in an opened letter called on President Joe Biden and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to unfreeze Afghanistan's central bank reserves. Following the Taliban's take over the US, administration ceased all assets. The representative called for "conscientiously but urgently modifying current US policy regarding the freeze of Afghanistan's foreign reserves and ongoing sanctions." Meanwhile, protesters took to the streets in Kabul calling for the release of the assets of Afghanistan's central bank. The protesters argued that the money belongs to the people of Afghanistan and the US should release it.

Meanwhile, the US State Department spokesperson, Ned Price, stated the US will continue its humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. He said: "When it comes to humanitarian assistance, the United States is the global leader in providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. We have provided, since August, \$208 million alone, we provided nearly \$475 million over the course of this year." Similarly, US State Secretary Antony Blinken stated that while the US is closely watching the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, they would continue to provide humanitarian support for the people of Afghanistan.

Pakistan: Protests come to an end in Gwadar after government agrees to all demands

On 16 December, leader of the Gwadar Ko Haq Do movement, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman called off the sit-in in Gwadar. He said: "Our all demands have been accepted and official

notifications have been issued in this regard. An agreement has been signed with the government about our demands." However, he warned the government's failure to implement the agreement would be met with a "million march" in Quetta. The agreement, which was reached after 31 days of protests, includes 11 points aimed at resolving the trawling issue, border grievances, removal of unnecessary check posts, packages for fishermen, compensation for people along the expressway, compensation to fishermen impacted by cyclones, among others.

Peace and Conflict from Central Asia, Middle East and Africa

Iraq: Torrential rains claim eight lives in northern Iraq

On 17 December, a provincial governor said at least eight people, including women and children, had lost their lives in flash floods and lightning strikes in northern Iraq's Erbil. Several people have also gone missing, and a civil defence spokesperson said search operations were ongoing. Al Jazeera explains that Iraq has witnessed a series of extreme weather events in recent years, including repeated droughts and intense floods.

Yemen: Saudi-led coalitions target Houthis at Sanaa; WFP warns of shortage of funds for aid

On 20 December, the Saudi-led coalition carried out airstrikes targeting Houthis, including locations for launching attacks and training drone operators, at Sanaa's international airport. Prior to the airstrikes, the coalition reportedly called on citizens and UN officials to evacuate; Al Jazeera quoted from the coalition's statement: "The operation comes in response to threats and the use of the airport's facilities to launch cross-border attacks." Meanwhile, the UN said the damage caused has made the airport inoperable "to receive aircraft operated by the United Nations or international humanitarian organizations."

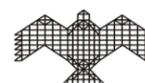
In another development on 22 December, the World Food Programme announced a shortage in funds and said it would be forced to cut down aid to Yemen. Al Jazeera quoted from the WFP statement: "From January, eight million will receive a reduced food ration, while five million at immediate risk of slipping into famine conditions will remain on a full ration." The WFP outlined a need for USD 813 million to continue food aid until May and a total of USD 1.97 billion in 2022.

Middle East: NYT series outlines heavy damage caused by US' air wars since 2014

On 18 December, The New York Times published the first part of a series covering the US' air wars in the Middle East since 2014, after drawing information from a hidden Pentagon archive. The series outlines 1,300 civilian casualties and says this figure "lays bare how the air war has been marked by deeply flawed intelligence, rushed and often imprecise targeting, and the deaths of thousands of civilians, many of them children, a sharp contrast to the American government's image of war waged by all-seeing drones and precision bombs." The series also says that despite the Pentagon's pledge to ensure transparency and accountability, opacity and impunity have taken precedence.

Ethiopia: The TPLF announces withdrawal from neighbouring regions

On 20 December, the head of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) Debretsion Gebremichael wrote a letter to the UN, announcing the withdrawal of the TPLF from Tigray's neighbouring regions. Gebremichael believed this step would pave the way to peace. He further urged the UN to introduce a mechanism to ensure that external forces exit from Tigray and requested for a no-fly zone of hostile aircraft over Tigray, and an arms embargo on Ethiopia and Eritrea. Al Jazeera also quoted the TPLF spokesperson: "We are not interested in taking over the province of Afar. We are not interested in squeezing a hard bargain in Addis



Ababa...We are not interested in taking over the **province of Afar. We are not interested in squeezing a hard bargain in Addis Ababa.**"

Nigeria: ISWAP terrorists killed by the military; a clash between farmers and herders claims 45 lives

On 21 December, sources told AFP that Nigerian military forces had killed more than 100 jihadist fighters in the country's northeast on 13 December. The military operation targeted terrorists belonging to the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). In another development, on 21 December, the office of the President released a statement announcing the death of 45 farmers after clashes erupted with herders in Nasarawa state on 17 December. President Muhammadu Buhari termed the violence "senseless and barbaric."

The Mediterranean: More than 160 refugees die in two separate shipwrecks

On 21 December, The Guardian reported the death of more than 160 people in two separate shipwrecks on 17 and 18 December in the Mediterranean Sea. On 17 December, ten people were reported dead, and eight were rescued after their boat capsized while they were escaping to Europe. On 18 December, the second accident took place, and the Libyan coastguard received 62 bodies. The spokesperson for the International Organization for Migration said, with this, the total number of people who drowned in the Mediterranean in 2021 has reached 1,500.

Peace and Conflict from Europe and the Americas

France: Cancel culture and Grenoble academic row on Islamophobia

On 22 December, the BBC reported that several French academics have warned that freedom of expression is at risk after a German professor was suspended over accusations of Islamophobia at Sciences Po Grenoble. In an open letter to Higher Education Minister Frédérique Vidal, they warn that pluralism in teaching and research is under threat, with teachers and students resorting to self-censorship. The suspension of the university professor has started a new fight in the French cultural war over academic freedom, Islam and cancel culture.

Hungary: Orban to defy EU over immigration law despite the European court ruling

On 21 December, Prime Minister Viktor Orban stated that his government would defy the ruling of the European Court of Justice and maintain its immigration laws. He said: "The government decided that we will not do anything to change the system of border protection," adding, "We will maintain the existing regime, even if the European court ordered us to change it. We will not change it and will not let anyone in." Previously, the ECJ ruled that Hungary's law criminalizing lawyers and activists who help asylum seekers was in breach of European law. The refusal to comply with the court's decision may possibly result in heavy fines being levied on Hungary by the EU.

Russia: Moscow expect talks with NATO and Washington in January 2022

On 22 December, Russian foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, announced that negotiations with the US and NATO would start "at the very beginning of next year." He said: "The first round will be held in the form of a bilateral contact between our and US negotiators, who have already been named and are acceptable for both sides." Also, Moscow's demands for "security guarantees" in Europe, including a ban on Ukraine's entrance into the NATO military alliance, is also set to be discussed.

The US: Jury finds ex-police officer guilty of manslaughter

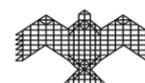
On 23 December, a 12-member jury in the United States found former Minnesota police officer Kimberly Potter guilty of two counts of manslaughter in the fatal shooting of Daunte Wright in April. Potter faces a maximum sentence of 15 years on the first-degree manslaughter conviction and ten years on the second-degree manslaughter. According to the prosecutors, Potter "betrayed her badge" and flouted years of training by mistakenly drawing her firearm instead of her Taser during the fatal incident.

Mexico: Asylum requests have tripled in 2021 when compared to 2020

On 21 December, Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard stated that the applications for refugee status in Mexico have tripled in 2021 compared with 2020 amid the influx of people moving towards the United States. According to the Minister, Mexico has received 123,187 requests in 2021, up from 41,230 last year, describing the increase as "enormous." Most of the asylum seekers are from the Northern Triangle countries of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador which are experiencing violence, corruption, poverty and unemployment

About the authors

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28 October 2021, Vol.2, No.30

Coup in Sudan, Pressure on Myanmar's military regime, and the Migrant game by Belarus

Mohammad Aseel Ummer, Aparupa Bhattacharjee, and Joeana Cera Matthews



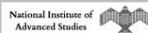
Military dissolves civilian leaderships of the transitional government in Sudan. (Image Source: The Guardian/Mohammed Abu Obaid/EPA)

Sudan: Tensions flare-up as the military dissolves the civilian government

[In the news](#)

On 25 October, General Abdel Fattah Burhan, head of Sudan's armed forces, in a televised broadcast announced that the civilian leadership of the transitional government has been dissolved due to political infighting which can lead to a civil war. Prior to the announcement, various news sources reported heavy deployment of security forces in the capital - Khartoum and key civilian leaders like Prime Minister Abdella Hamdok being detained from their residences.

Government supporters who had been demonstrating since last week as a response to a call for a military coup took to the streets in Khartoum and other major cities demanding an immediate release of detained leaders and reinstating the civilian government back to power. The armed



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21 October 2021, Vol.2, No.29

One year after Samuel Paty's killing, Kidnapping in Haiti, and Instability in Sudan

Sourina Bej, Porkkodi Ganeshpandian, and Mohammad Aseel Ummer



France remembers Samuel Paty, a school teacher beheaded in October 2020 by a radical. (Image Source: Reuters/Eric Gaillard)

France: One year after Samuel Paty's beheading

[In the news](#)

On 16 October, the French Prime Minister commemorated in Paris the schoolteacher, Samuel Paty, who was beheaded one year ago after he exhibited cartoons of Prophet Muhammad as part of his history lessons on free speech. At the commemoration, the French government unveiled a plaque at the Education Ministry in Paty's honour, and renamed the capital's Latin Quarter after him. The French Prime Minister Jean Castex noted, "Here is a man who wanted to do his job... a man who only aspired to transmit the values of freedom, secularism, tolerance, free will." "We will not forget Samuel Paty," added the Education Minister Jean-Michel Blanquer on a visit to a school in Paris.

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ISIS violence in Afghanistan, and Targeted killings in J&K

Abigail Miriam Fernandez and Akriti Sharma

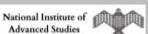


A series of targeted killings in J&K, attacking members of the minority communities. (Image Source: AP-TheHindu)

Afghanistan: Over 50 people killed in ISIS-K suicide bomber attack

[In the news](#)

On 8 October, a suicide bomber attacked a Shiite mosque in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz, killing over 50 people and wounding more than 150 others. The Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K) claimed responsibility for the attack. In a statement carried by the IS-linked Aamaq news agency, the group said that the attacker was an ethnic Uyghur and that the attack targeted both Shites and the Taliban for their supposed willingness to expel Uyghurs to meet demands from China. Following the attack, the Taliban's chief spokesman, Zabihullah



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7 October 2021, Vol.2, No.27

Anti-Bolsonaro protests in Brazil, UK-France fishing row, Talks with the TTP in Pakistan, and Anti-abortion law protests in the US

Porkkodi Ganeshpandian, Sourina Bej, D Suba Chandran, and Sambavi Parthasarathy



Protests against President Bolsonaro in Brazil. (Image Source: Reuters-BBC)

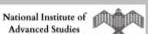
Brazil: Anti-Bolsonaro protests across the country

[In the news](#)

On 2 October, thousands of Brazilians gathered across Brazil to protest against President Bolsonaro. The protests were peaceful, displaying messages on posters and inflatable gas canisters. The protests spanned across more than two hundred Brazilian cities, including Sao Paulo and Rio De Janeiro. The protestors highlighted their unhappiness over the handling of the pandemic, dwindling economic opportunities and called for the impeachment of President Bolsonaro.

[Issues at Large](#)

First, the pandemic mishandling, Brazil has lost over 600,000 lives during the pandemic, the second-highest death toll after the US. Bolsonaro has been accused of promoting crowds at the



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30 September 2021, Vol.2, No.26

The Chinese White Paper on Xinjiang, and the Haitian migrant crisis in the US

Avishka Ashok and Vaishnavi Iyer



"Uyghurs accounted for 83.74 per cent of the population in the four prefectures in southern Xinjiang," says the White Paper titled 'Xinjiang Population Dynamics and Data.' (Image Source: Global Times)

China: The first White Paper on Xinjiang's demographic and economic development

[In the news](#)

On 26 September, the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China released its first white paper focusing on the population dynamics in the Xinjiang region. The 20-page report displays the fast demographic development over seven decades and boasts of a 99.96 per cent enrolment rate in primary education in the region.

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22 September 2021, Vol.2, No.25

Pride marches in Europe, Jail term for Hotel Rwanda hero, and continuing Houthi-led violence in Yemen

Joana Cera Matthews, Mohammad Aseel Ummer and Jeshil Samuel J



Annual Pride Marches in Kyiv and Belgrade during 18-19 September 2021. (Image Source: REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko)

Europe: Pride Marches in Serbia and Ukraine

[In the news](#)

On 18 September, hundreds joined Serbia's annual Pride parade in Belgrade. Celebrating 20 years since their first parade, organization committee member Marko Mihajlovic said: "In the past 20 years the situation has improved LGBT noticeably but not decisively... (The participants of) this year's Pride demanded a law on same-sex unions. We want this to be the last Pride that we don't have this law."

KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG National Institute of Advanced Studies

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15 September 2021, Vol.2, No.24

Protests in Europe and Brazil, and an impending humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan

Joana Cera Matthews, Lokendra Sharma, and Abigail Miriam Fernandez



Brazil has been witnessing pro and anti-Bolsonaro protests during the recent weeks. (Image Source: EPA-EFE-SCMP)

Europe: Protests triggered by COVID-19, climate change and homophobia

[In the news](#)

On 11 September, a multitude of protests and marches took place across Europe. Polish healthcare workers marched in Warsaw demanding better pay and work conditions. In response, Health Minister Adam Niedzielski said: "...if at this moment we have a budget for health that is 120 or 130 billion zlotys and there is a demand to increase that by 100 billion... it goes completely beyond the bounds of good sense and reason."

KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG National Institute of Advanced Studies

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8 September 2021, Vol.2, No.23

Texas' abortion ban, Return of the Thai protests, the Taliban government, and the Guinea coup

Vaishnavi Iyer, Vibha Venugopal, Abigail Miriam Fernandez and Apoorva Sudhakar



Women rally against the new abortion legislation by the state of Texas in the US. (Image Source: JayJanner/USA Today)

Abortion Rights: Texas bans abortions, while Mexico decriminalizes it

[In the news](#)

On 1 September, a Texas law banning abortion at six weeks took effect. On 7 September, Mexico decriminalized abortion. The laws passed reflect a stark difference in securing the rights of women. The Texas law is based on the detection of a foetal heartbeat and provides incentives to people who prevent abortion through cash rewards of up to USD 10,000.

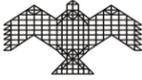
Governor Abbott signed the bill when the US Supreme court was hearing a case regarding Mississippi law banning abortions after 15 weeks. Abbott praised the legislature saying:

KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG National Institute of Advanced Studies

KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG National Institute of Advanced Studies



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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