

Geo-World: Conflict & Social Unrest July Update

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ISIS continued to expand the territory under its control in the Middle East and North Africa during July, intensifying the security problems in the region. Separatists and the Ukrainian forces reached a preliminary agreement to include lighter weapons in the framework of the Minsk agreement, but reciprocal attacks still continued. Significant gains have been achieved by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. East Asia and Europe remained calm.

Geopolitical conflicts around the world continued to increase during July...

BBVA Research World Conflict Heatmap (July, monthly changes)

(Number of conflicts / Total events)



Source: www.gdelt.org & BBVA Research

• Fighting in Ukraine continued despite the deal over weapons withdrawal

Ukrainian and separatists reached a preliminary agreement to withdraw lighter armour from the frontlines.

• ISIS continued to act in the Middle East and North Africa

ISIS expanded its actions in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Turkey, Egypt, Libya and Israel.

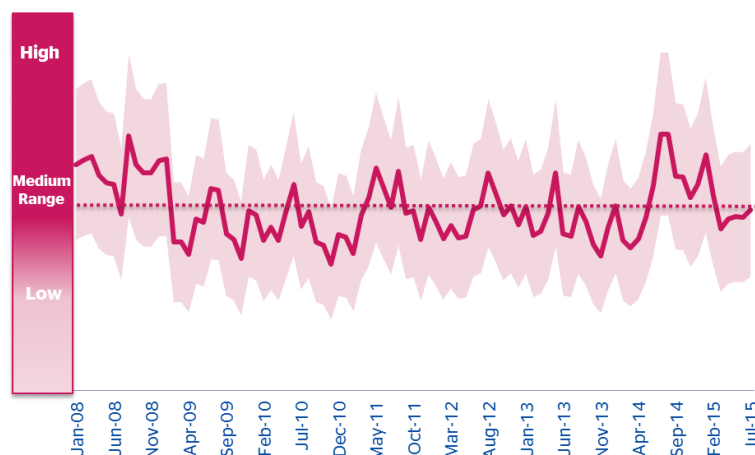
• Saudi-led coalition achieved a crucial victory in Yemen

The Saudi-led coalition victory in Aden was a significant turning point in the campaign.

The BBVA Research world conflict intensity index¹ continued to increase during July on a monthly basis, at a faster pace than in June. The main reason for the rise was the continued ISIS threat in Syria and Iraq, as well as its terror acts in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Turkey, Egypt, Libya and Israel. The Islamic group gained ground in some areas in the north-eastern of Syria. In Iraq, ISIS re-established its former strength in Diyala province, undermining security and increasing sectarian tensions in the area. However, the International Coalition also achieved some victories in the eastern and southern of Ramadi. This month, Turkey has adopted a more active role against ISIS in Iraq and Syria, after the agreement reached with the US to provide access for the International Coalition's air forces to its airbases, which followed the ISIS suicide bombing of a cultural centre in Suruc on 20 July. This sharply reduced the distance that coalition aircraft must transit to strike ISIS targets in Syria, allowing for an increased rate of daily combat sorties.

BBVA Research World Conflict Intensity Index 2008-15

(Number of conflicts in the world / Total events in the world)



Source: www.gdelt.org & BBVA Research

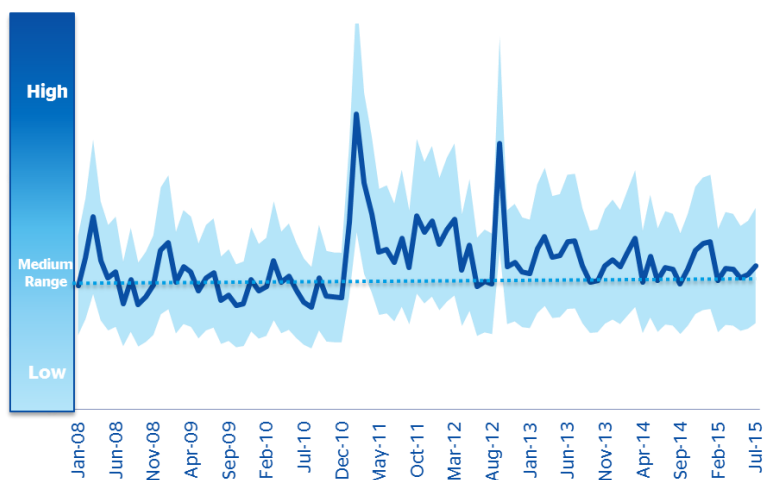
The Ukrainian-Russian crisis also continued on the fore. Despite the preliminary agreement reached by separatists and Ukrainian forces over the withdrawal of weapons from the frontline, there was increased conflict in some areas in eastern Ukraine.

The Saudi-led coalition and the anti-Huthi forces achieved their first major victory in Yemen since the start of campaign during March. They drove the Huthis out of key parts of Aden in mid-July, taking advantage of the withdrawal of brigades units loyal to the Huthis. This victory has suggested a significant turning-point in the Saudi-led military campaign in the country. Diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict have subsequently intensified.

¹Details about methodology can be found in the following link: [Methodology, tracking protests and conflicts](#).

BBVA Research World Protest Intensity Index 2008-15

(Number of protests in the world / Total events in the world)



Source: www.gdelt.org & BBVA Research

... in line with social unrest

Protests around the world rose again in July after the mild increase observed in June (as shown by our BBVA Research world protest intensity index²).

According to our BBVA Research world protest intensity map, the main hot spots were the following:

-In regional terms, social unrest remained eased in Western Europe and East Asia. In Emerging Europe some tensions arose. Instability in some Middle East and North African countries continued at worrisome levels and social pressures also increased in Latin America.

- In Western Europe, social unrest continued contained and calm. The main hot spot was Greece. However, instability has started to decline in the country, after it finally managed to negotiate a deal with the Eurozone for a possible third bailout and thus the chances of a Grexit started to recede.

-In Emerging Europe and CIS countries, social pressures intensified in Ukraine given large demonstrations against the government. Instability remained high in Azerbaijan and it increased in Armenia, Kazakhstan and Moldova. Social unrest also rose in Turkey given the rise of violence in the country after the ISIS-linked attack and several PKK-linked assassinations of Turkish police officers.

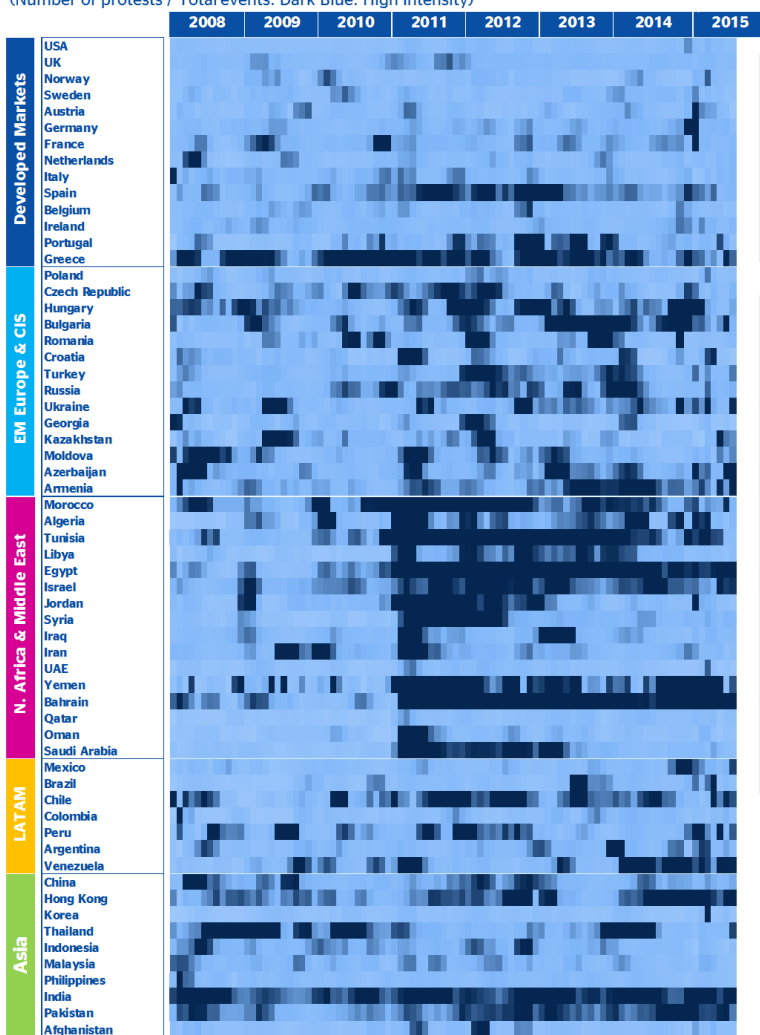
-In North Africa and the Middle East, social unrest continued at worrisome levels. Demonstrations relaxed in Tunisia after months of extreme tension. However, instability persisted in Egypt and Israel, given the ISIS advances in the region. Bahrain and Yemen continued at worrisome levels of unrest.

- In Latin America, the political noise is damaging the social climate. Tensions are increasing in Peru, Chile, Venezuela and Mexico given the multiple anti-government protests which took place during the month.

- Pressures in Asia continued to be focused on Hong Kong and India. Tensions started to relax in Pakistan, while they started to become apparent in Thailand.

BBVA Research World Protest Intensity Map Jan 2011 - Jul 2015

(Number of protests / Total events. Dark Blue: High Intensity)



Source: www.gdelt.org & BBVA Research

Protest Intensity: Low High

In sum, social unrest and instability continued at worrisome levels in the Middle East and North Africa, given the ISIS threats, and they appeared in Latin America due to the deterioration in the political climate. Western Europe and Asia remained calm.

²Details about methodology can be found in the following link: [Methodology, tracking protests and conflicts](#).

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