

Geo-World: Conflict & Social Unrest June Update

Álvaro Ortiz and Tomasa Rodrigo. BBVA Cross Country Emerging Markets Unit

ISIS continued gaining ground in June, launching large attacks in northern Syria (recovering Kobani), eastern Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Kuwait and North Africa. They also proclaimed the creation of a new governorate in North Caucasus. Attacks on Ukrainian frontline positions continued, making a new offensive more likely. Instability remained contained in East Asia and Europe.

Geopolitical conflicts around the world increased in June...

BBVA Research World Conflict Heatmap (June, monthly changes) (Number of conflicts / Total events)



Source: www.gdelt.org & BBVA Research

· Heavy fighting took place in eastern Ukraine despite truce

Separatist forces launched multiple unsuccessful assaults near Donetsk

· ISIS continued gaining new terrain, expanding to failed states

ISIS expanded in Afghanistan, Yemen, Kuwait, North Africa and North Caucasus

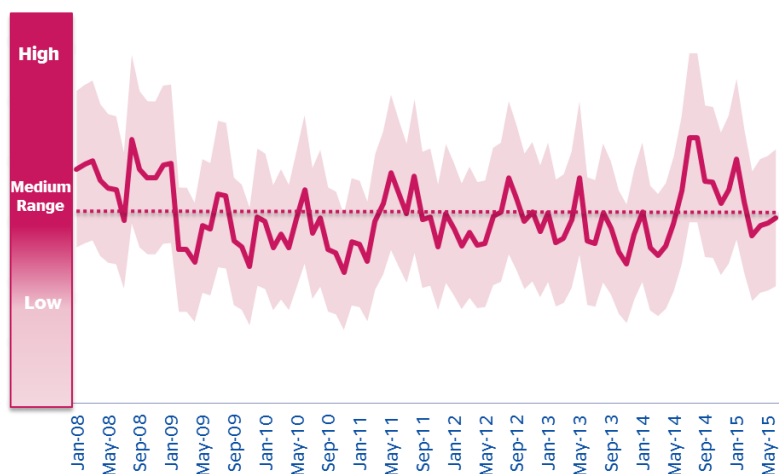
· Saudi-led coalition airstrikes remained in Yemen

Saudi-led coalition attacks together with ISIS' several offensives in Yemen soared instability

The BBVA Research world conflict intensity index¹ increased during June on a monthly basis at a faster pace than in May, mainly due to ISIS' recent gains in the Middle East and North Africa. ISIS launched important attacks in northern Syria and eastern Iraq during the month to maintain its core terrain and to recover lost ground such as Kobani. Moreover, the Islamic Group gained control in failed states of North Africa and launched significant attacks in Afghanistan, Yemen and Kuwait. ISIS also announced the creation of a new governorate in North Caucasus region of Russia, supporting its regional expansion campaign. It would likely encourage Russia to increase its involvement in the conflict.

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

Russian-backed separatist forces have launched several unsuccessful assaults in eastern Ukraine over the month continuing the violation of the Minsk II agreements. Moreover, the recent concentration of mass weapons and troops by separatists, around key Ukrainian military positions along the frontline in eastern Ukraine, increases the probabilities of a new offensive.

Instability in Afghanistan rose due to the surge in Taliban military operations, foreign fighters and ISIS activity, triggering instability and posing important security worries in the country.

Pressures continued in Yemen. The internal sectarian war between the al Houthis and anti-al Houthis forces enabled ISIS to intensify their activity in the country.

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

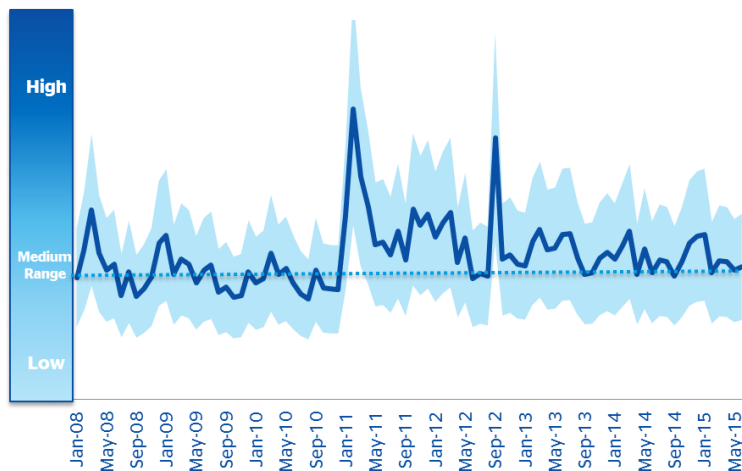
Geo-World Monthly Update

June 2015

Geostrategic Analysis

BBVA Research World Protest Intensity Index 2008-15

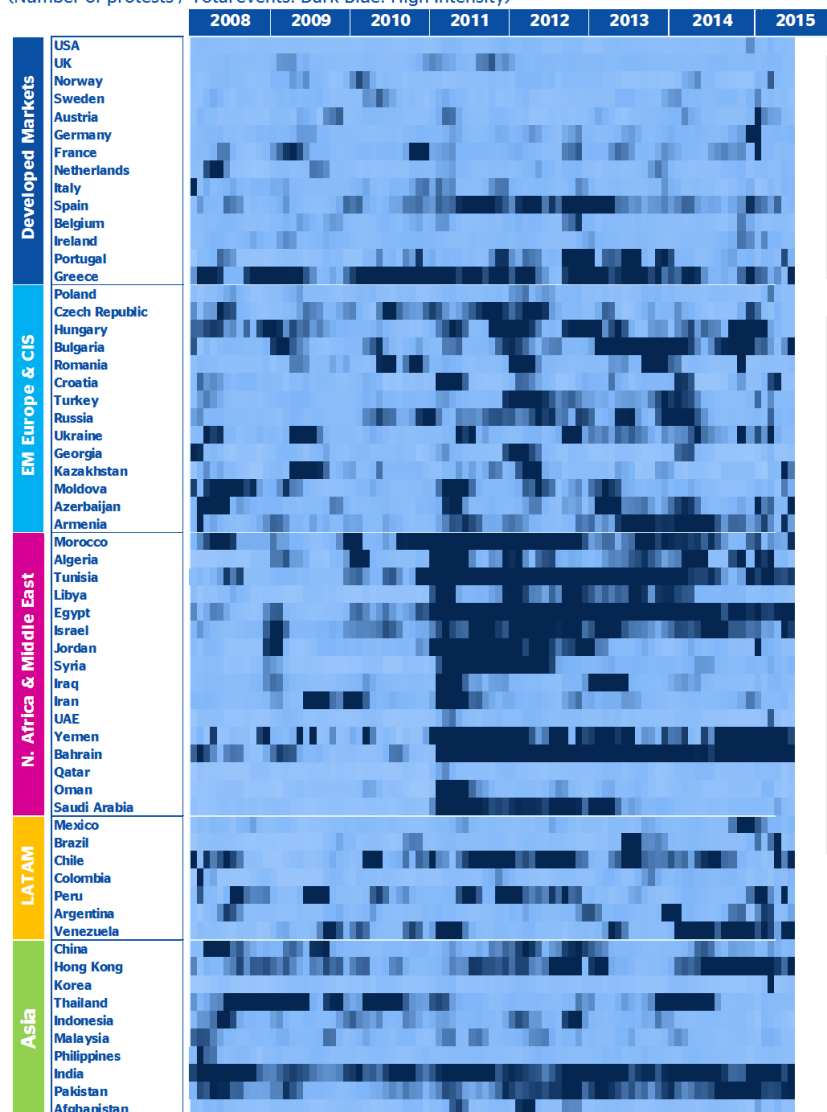
(Number of protests in the world / Total events in the world)



Source: www.gdelt.org & BBVA Research

BBVA Research World Protest Intensity Map Jan 2011 - Jun 2015

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



Source: www.gdelt.org & BBVA Research

Protest Intensity: Low High

... in line with social unrest

Protests around the world mildly rebounded in June, after two consecutive months of falls (as shown by our BBVA Research world protest intensity index²).

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

-In regional terms, social unrest remained eased in Western Europe and East Asia. However, some pressures surged in Emerging Europe. Instability in some Middle East and North African countries was still at worrisome levels, triggering turmoil in those areas. Social pressures relaxed in Latin America.

- In Western Europe, social tensions remained calm, but in Greece. Recent developments about the possibility of Grexit and the establishment of capital controls are triggering social unrest and tensions.

-In Emerging Europe and CIS countries, social pressures intensified in Azerbaijan and Armenia given the declaration of ISIS of a new Governorate in the North Caucasus with the potential to merge the ISIS conflict and therefore out the area under stress.

-In North Africa and the Middle East, social unrest continued at worrisome levels. Instability rose in Egypt, Tunisia and Israel, given the ISIS advances in the region and emerged in Morocco. Bahrain and Yemen continued at extreme levels of unrest.

- In Latin America, the situation eased in Peru and Brazil. However, it worsened in Chile given large demonstrations against proposed changes to the education system and in Venezuela given the anti-government protests.

- Pressures continued to be stable in Asia with some focused hot spots. Pro-democracy protesters took again the streets of Hong Kong against the controversial political reform package debated by the Government. Instability in India and Pakistan continued at worrisome levels.

In sum, social unrest and instability deteriorated in Middle East and North Africa, since ISIS continued maintaining its territory and spreading into failed states, Yemen and Afghanistan situations aggravate as ISIS took advantage of their political weakness. Social pressures eased in

some Latin American countries, while they emerged in others. Western Europe and Asia remained stable.

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

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