

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX 2021 BRIEFING

2021 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX BRIEFING

Measuring peace in a complex world

The 15th edition of the annual Global Peace Index (GPI) report, the world's leading measure of global peacefulness, reveals that the average level of global peacefulness deteriorated for the ninth time in twelve years in 2020. Overall, 87 countries improved in peacefulness, whilst 73 deteriorated. This was the second smallest in the history of the index but the report also reveals that improvements in peace are more gradual than declines. As much of the world looks towards a COVID-19 recovery, increased civil unrest and political instability will be important to navigate.

2021 key highlights

- Civil unrest rose globally by 10%, with Belarus recording the largest deterioration. There were 14,871 violent demonstrations, protests and riots recorded globally in 2020.
- Over 60% of people globally are worried about sustaining serious harm from violent crime.
- Iceland remains the most peaceful country in the world, and Afghanistan the least peaceful.
- Although there has been an improvement in militarisation since 2008, there are now signs that this trend has reversed.
- The economic impact of violence increased in 2020 to \$14.96 trillion - equivalent to 11.6% of the world's GDP or \$1,942 per person - due to increased military spending.
- The death toll from terrorism has declined for the sixth consecutive year.
- In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had a noticeable impact on violence, with some improvements, such as violent conflict, while other indicators deteriorated significantly including violent demonstrations. Three times as many countries deteriorated than improved.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
SEE THE 2021 REPORT,
SECTION 1: RESULTS

2021 regional overview

➤ NORTH AMERICA

North America recorded the largest deterioration in 2021, with the average level of peacefulness in the region falling by 1.8 per cent

➤ EUROPE

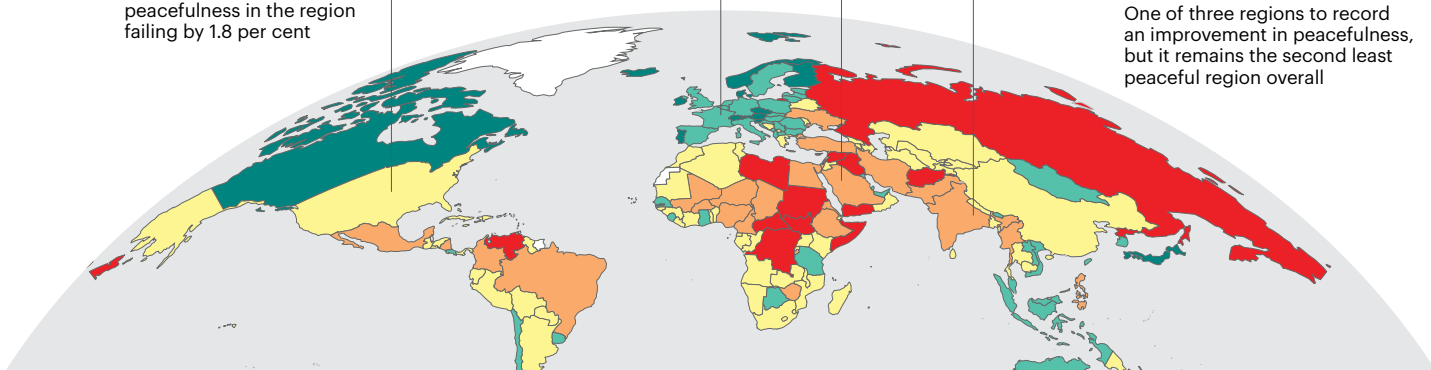
Europe remains the most peaceful region in the world and is home to eight of the ten most peaceful countries

➤ MENA

Despite recording the largest improvement in peacefulness in 2021, MENA remains the least peaceful region in the world

➤ SOUTH ASIA

One of three regions to record an improvement in peacefulness, but it remains the second least peaceful region overall



Global trends

PEACE DETERIORATION



The average level of global peacefulness has deteriorated by 2 per cent since 2008.

MILITARISATION DOMAIN



63% ➤

The improving trend in Militarisation was widespread, with 111 of the 163 countries covered in the GPI improving.

DETERIORATIONS IN OVERALL PEACEFULNESS

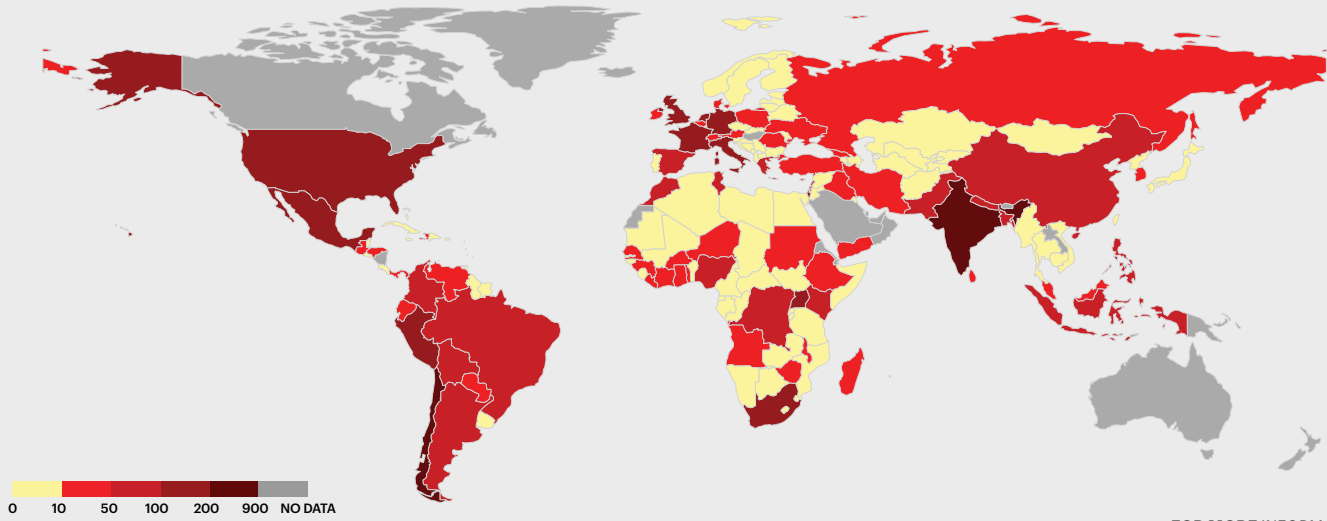


Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa has been the key driver of the global deterioration in peacefulness since 2008.

COVID-19 related violent incidents



This map shows COVID-19 related violent incidents from January 2020 to April 2021. There were over 5,000 pandemic-related incidents during this period that involved some form of violence, ranging from violent demonstrations and riots in response to lockdown measures, to targeted physical assaults. There were at least 158 countries that recorded one or more violent incidents directly related to the pandemic during this time.



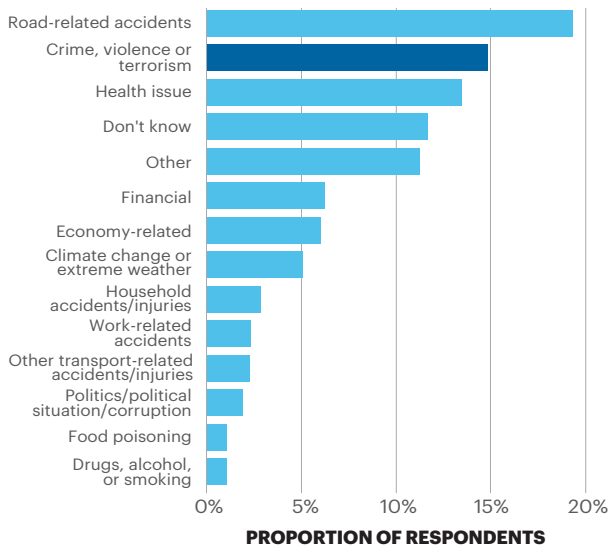
0 10 50 100 200 900 NO DATA

Source: ACLED COVID-19 Disorder Tracker (acleddata.com), IEP calculations

1 FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE 2021 REPORT, SECTION 1: RESULTS

The greatest risk to people's safety in their daily lives globally

Fifteen per cent of people globally feel that crime, violence, or terrorism is the greatest risk to their safety.

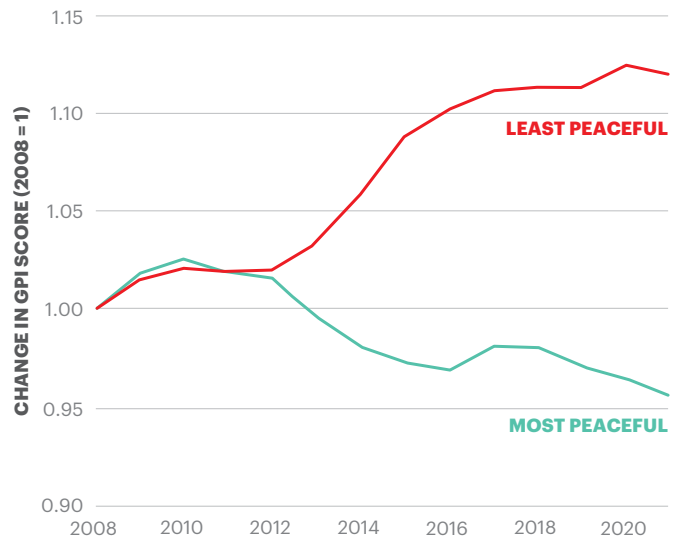


Source: World Risk Poll, IEP Calculations

4 FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE 2021 REPORT, SECTION 4: PEACE AND PERCEPTION OF RISK

Trend in peace, 2008–2021, 25 most and 25 least peaceful countries

The 25 least peaceful countries deteriorated in peacefulness by an average of 12.1 per cent, while the most peaceful improved by 4.3 per cent.



Source: IEP

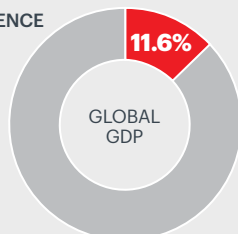
2 FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE 2021 REPORT, SECTION 2: TRENDS

Economic impact of violence

GLOBAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF VIOLENCE

The global economic impact of violence was \$14.96 trillion PPP in 2020, equivalent to 11.6 per cent of global GDP, or \$1,942 per person.

\$1,942 PER PERSON OR



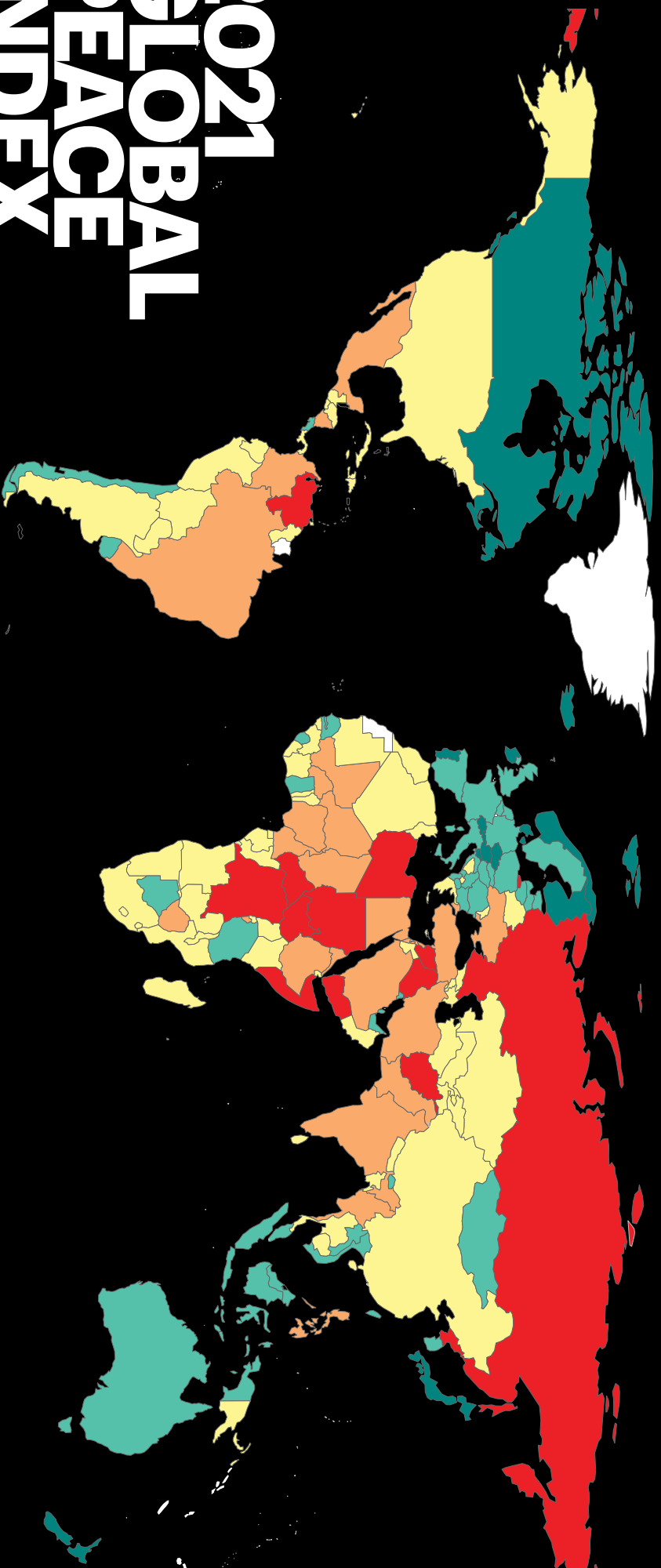
TEN MOST VS LEAST AFFECTED COUNTRIES

35.7% VS **4.2%**
AVG GDP

In the ten countries most economically affected by violence, the average economic cost was equivalent to 35.7 per cent of GDP. In the ten most peaceful countries the average economic cost was 4.2 per cent of GDP.

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF REFUGEES

The economic impact of refugees and internally displaced persons was more than three times higher than the GDP losses from conflict.



2021 GLOBAL PEACE INDEX

A SNAPSHOT OF THE GLOBAL STATE OF PEACE

THE STATE OF PEACE



IMPROVEMENTS

87

countries were more peaceful in 2021 than in 2020

DETERIORATIONS

73

countries were less peaceful in 2021 than in 2020

OVERALL AVERAGE CHANGE (%)

+0.07

The global GPI average deteriorated by 0.07 per cent from 2020 to 2021

ABOUT

The GPI is developed by the Institute for Economics & Peace, an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable and tangible measure of human wellbeing and progress.

IEP is headquartered in Sydney, with offices in New York, The Hague, Mexico City, Harare and Brussels. It works with a wide range of partners internationally and collaborates with intergovernmental organisations on measuring and communicating the economic value of peace.



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