



Peace Operations Update

Aktuelle Informationen zu Friedenseinsätzen

34.2019

August 16–22

Europe | Caucasus | Africa | Middle East | Central Asia | South East Asia | South Asia | South America and Caribbean

NEW ZIF PUBLICATION

ZIF external publication | **A new “Mare Nostrum”**

In his comment for the Swiss daily NZZ, Tobias Pietz argues against a relaunch of the EU’s naval mission EUNAVFOR Med. What is needed to save people in the Mediterranean is instead a new “Mare Nostrum”, copying Italy’s successful rescue mission of that name in 2013-14.

Read the article [here](#) (German only)

EUROPE

Kosovo

Kosovo lawmakers vote to disband parliament to allow snap autumn elections

Lawmakers in Kosovo have voted to disband parliament, clearing the way for President Hashim Thaci to call early general elections following the resignation of Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj. ... The snap elections are to be held near the end of September or in early October.

Read full article: [RFE/RL](#) (08/22)

Ukraine

German foreign minister urges Russia, Ukraine to revive peace talks

Germany's foreign minister, Heiko Maas, called for top diplomats from Russia and Ukraine to meet for a renewed push to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Read full article: [DW](#) (08/21)

AFRICA

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ebola spreads to remote, militia-run Congo territory

The widening geographic spread of the virus, and its presence in yet another zone under the sway of armed groups, raises the risk of it spreading out of control.

Read full article: [Reuters AlertNet](#) (08/19)

Displaced by **Congo violence, survivors' testimonies highlight** brutality of armed militia

Two months since hundreds of thousands of people fled violence in north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), UN humanitarians warned on Friday that armed militia continue to make their safe return impossible.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (08/16)

Libya

Deadly airstrikes and drone hits displace thousands of civilians in Libya oasis town

Intensifying clashes in the southern Libyan town of Murzuq involving air and drone strikes in recent days have left at least 90 people dead and displaced thousands of "terrified" civilians, the UN said on Tuesday.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (08/20)

Libya reopens southern airport closed since 2014

Libya reopened on Friday its airport in the main southern city of Sebha which had been closed since January 2014 due to security problems, residents said.

Read full article: [Reuters Africa](#) (08/17)

Mali

Support Mali reconciliation efforts 'in whatever way possible', urges UN expert

Reconciliation initiatives in central Mali, to bring together local leaders and end ongoing violence, have been welcomed by the UN Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali, Alioune Tine, who said on Monday that they should be supported "in whatever way possible." The move follows warnings from the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, that central areas of Mali, especially around Mopti, are seeing an increased level of violence, including the killing and maiming of children.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (08/19)

Somalia

Somalia security remains a concern, head of UN Mission warns Security Council

Despite “encouraging” developments, insecurity across Somalia remains a serious concern, James Swan, head of the UN Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), warned the Security Council, in his first briefing to the world body since taking office.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (08/21)

South Sudan

UN sees drop in violence against aid workers in South Sudan

Violence against aid workers in conflict-torn South Sudan has reduced significantly, thanks to the September 2018 peace deal, a UN official said on Monday. Speaking during an occasion making the World Humanitarian Day, Alain Noudehou, humanitarian coordinator in South Sudan said there has been improvement in security for aid workers in the past one year.

Read full article: [The East African](#) (08/20)

MIDDLE EAST

Israel / Palestine

Trump says will likely release Mideast peace plan after Israeli elections

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday he would likely wait until after Israel's Sept. 17 elections to release a peace plan for the region that was designed by White House senior adviser Jared Kushner.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (08/18)

Yemen

UN warns 22 aid programs in Yemen will close if countries do not pay pledges

The United Nations describes the situation in Yemen as the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Read full article: [Reuters AlertNet](#) (08/21)

‘No time to lose’ UN envoy tells Security Council, ‘Yemen cannot wait’

One month ago, the United Nations top Yemen envoy told the Security Council the country was facing “a crucial moment” in the course of its long and bloody conflict, and on Tuesday, he again urged members to acknowledge that recent infighting around the Government stronghold of Aden were “a clear sign” that the conflict must be brought to a swift, peaceful end.

Read full article: [UN News](#) (08/20)

Yemeni separatists, government forces clash in South

[...] The fighting between the two sides – ostensible allies in the Saudi-led coalition that for years has been fighting Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels, based in the north – has added another layer to the complex civil war in the Arab world's most impoverished country.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (08/20)

CENTRAL ASIA

Afghanistan

2 U.S. soldiers killed as talks with Taliban resume

American casualties in the long war, still a fraction of the Afghan losses, are rising steadily as the United States take a more aggressive role amid peace talks.

Read full article: [New York Times](#) (08/21)

Afghan President vows to eliminate IS safe havens after wedding attack

Afghanistan's president has vowed to eliminate all safe havens of the Islamic State. Ashraf Ghani's comments Monday, on Afghanistan's centennial Independence Day, come as the South Asian country is still recovering from the shock of a bombing at a wedding late Saturday that killed at least 63 people, including children, and wounded 183. ... The attack was one of the worst against Afghan civilians in recent years.

Read full article: [VOA News](#) (08/19)

SOUTH ASIA

India / Pakistan

Pakistan and India trade barbs after rare UN Kashmir talks

Envoys from nuclear-armed neighbours India and Pakistan have traded barbs outside the United Nations Security Council chamber, after members met behind closed doors for rare talks on the disputed region of Kashmir.

Read full article: [Al Jazeera](#) (08/16) [CNN](#) (08/16)

International efforts crucial to navigating volatility in Kashmir

[...] With India-Pakistan tensions on the rise, there is a legitimate fear that any major terrorist attack in India could lead to a fresh round of military strikes by India in Pakistan, and a matching response by Pakistan. This spiral could lead to an escalation that both countries may find difficult to contain.

Read full article: [IPI Global Observatory](#) (08/13)

OTHER PEACEKEEPING RELEVANT NEWS

Kenya secures AU endorsement for UN Security Council seat

The African Union has endorsed Kenya for the UN Security Council seat after it defeated Djibouti with 37 votes against 13. Voting had to go for the second round at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Read full article: [The East African](#) (08/21)

Chad declares state of emergency in 3 regions due to security problems

Chad's Council of Ministers on Monday declared a state of emergency in three provinces amid fighting between rival ethnic groups, a government spokesman said in a statement.

Read full article: [Reuters Africa](#) (08/19)