NEW ZIF PUBLICATION

ZIF Talk #3 (German only) | Dr. Almut Wieland-Karimi zur Lage in Afghanistan in der Coronakrise
In der neusten Ausgabe unseres ZIF-Talks geht es diesmal um Afghanistan. Aus dem Homeoffice kommentiert unsere Geschäftsführerin Dr. Almut Wieland-Karimi, wie der Coronavirus die allgemeine Situation des Landes beeinflusst und wie dieser sich auf den Friedensprozess auswirkt.
Hören Sie hier den ZIF Talk

EUROPE

Kosovo

Kosovo’s Kurti assures EU of commitment to dialogue with Serbia
Kosovo’s caretaker prime minister has assured a European Union special envoy of his commitment to resume dialogue on normalizing ties with neighboring Serbia.
Read full article: RFE/RL (04/09)

Report of the Secretary-General on UNMIK
Read full report: S/2020/255 (03/31)
Boko Haram affected areas

Increased terror attacks in Africa amid coronavirus pandemic
As the world focuses on the fight to curb COVID-19, Boko Haram has stepped up attacks in west Africa. Islamists affiliated to the so-called IS also claimed new territory in Mozambique. There are fears of more attacks.
Read full article: DW (04/09)

Burundi

A first step toward reform: ending Burundi’s forced contribution system
As May elections approach, Burundi’s ruling party says it has stopped demanding payments from citizens to finance the polls. But the confiscatory practice persists. Bujumbura should move decisively to halt it as a prelude to wider-ranging improvement of governance in the country.
Read full briefing: International Crisis Group (04/08)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Congo president’s chief of staff arrested amid graft probe
[... ] Vital Kamerhe’s arrest was a blow to President Felix Tshisekedi, who took power in January last year after campaigning on promises to clean up corruption, which watchdog groups said flourished under his long-serving predecessor, Joseph Kabila.
Read full article: Reuters (04/08)

Guinea-Bissau

Stand-off following presidential elections in Guinea-Bissau
More than two months after the second round of the presidential elections Guinea-Bissau is sinking into a post-electoral deadlock.
Read full article: ISS PSC Report (03/27)

Libya

US refuses to endorse UN envoy to Libya
UN chief is searching for new envoy to Libya after US refused to endorse former Algerian FM Lamamra.
Read full article: Middle East Online (04/09)

Libya war escalates as health care system crumbles
[... ] Last month, both sides of Libya’s now one-year-old war for Tripoli again agreed to a cease-fire as the coronavirus pandemic spread around the world. But since then, bombings can be heard daily from Tripoli homes as the fighting escalates and the health care system crumbles.
Read full article: VOA News (04/07)
Mali

UN mission fulfills mandate, aids battle against coronavirus

As the COVID-19 pandemic plagues the world, the head of the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali told the Security Council on Tuesday that the mission continues to fulfill its mandate while doing whatever it can to prevent the coronavirus outbreak from overrunning the country. To date, Mali has recorded 46 positive COVID-19 cases, including one case within the UN mission, and five deaths.

Read full article: UN News (04/07)

Escalating violence in Burkina Faso drives thousands of Malian refugees to return home

[...] The United Nations reports violence in Burkina Faso has forcibly displaced more than 838,000 from their homes since January 2019. The UN refugee agency reports the escalating militant attacks also are affecting some 25,000 Malian refugees living in remote camps near the border separating the two countries.

Read full article: VOA News (04/05)

South Sudan

South Sudan records first COVID-19 – UN staff member

South Sudan confirmed its first COVID-19 case Sunday, a 29-year old woman who entered the country on Feb. 28 from the Netherlands via Addis Ababa. The U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) said the individual is a U.N. staff member who has been in the country for nearly five weeks.

Read full article: VOA News (04/05)

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

Iraq names its third prime minister in 10 weeks

Iraq’s president named intelligence chief Mustafa al-Kadhimi as prime minister-designate on Thursday, the third person tapped to lead the country in just 10 weeks as it struggles to replace a government that fell last year after months of deadly protests.

Read full article: Reuters (04/09)

EU extends advisory mission on security sector reform

The Council today extended the mandate of the EU Advisory Mission in support of Security Sector Reform in Iraq (EUAM Iraq) until 30 April 2022. The mandate, which was due to expire on 17 April 2020, was prolonged following the assessment of Iraqi needs. The mission will continue to provide advice and expertise at strategic level on the implementation of civilian aspects of Iraq’s security sector reform. Moreover, EUAM Iraq will for the first time set up a project cell for identifying and implementing projects.

Read full article: EU Press Release (04/07)
Yemen

Saudi-led coalition announces ceasefire
A Saudi Arabian-led coalition fighting Houthi forces in Yemen has declared a ceasefire, according to officials. Sources told the BBC the ceasefire will come into effect on Thursday in support of UN efforts to end the five-year-old war.
Read full article: BBC (04/09)

CENTRAL ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghan government frees 100 Taliban prisoners as part of peace process
The Afghan government freed 100 Taliban prisoners on Wednesday as a first step in a peace process with the hardline Islamists, despite the group’s suspension of talks on a planned prisoner exchange crucial to moving to formal talks to end years of war.
Read full article: Reuters (04/08)

SOUTH ASIA

India / Pakistan

India and Pakistan locked in border fighting amid coronavirus crisis
Indian and Pakistani troops in disputed Kashmir are engaged in their most frequent cross-border fighting of at least two years, official data shows, even as both nuclear-armed rivals battle surging coronavirus outbreaks.
Read full article: Reuters (04/09)

SOUTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Colombia

Colombia’s ELN rebels and government take three steps towards peace at once
Colombia’s ELN rebels on Sunday announced a ceasefire for April hours after the government of President Ivan Duque authorized two peace mediators.
Read full article: Colombia Reports (03/30)

Report of the Secretary-General on the UN Verification Mission in Colombia
Read full report: S/2020/239 (03/26)
Peacekeepers help fragile countries navigate conflict and COVID-19
[...] UN Peacekeeping has put in place a number of measures to prevent the pandemic from spreading among its personnel and to ensure that peacekeepers are not a contagion vector while minimizing its adverse impact on carrying out mandated tasks. These include working closely with national authorities and setting up World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations.
Read full article: UN News (04/04)

The impact of COVID-19 on peace operations
A few weeks ago, peace operations across the world began swiftly adapting to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 disease. Missions have been forced to take unprecedented steps to cope with the coronavirus pandemic. These efforts may be just the beginning, and much more significant reductions and changes in the way these operations function may be needed over the coming months.
Read full article: IPI Global Observatory (04/02)