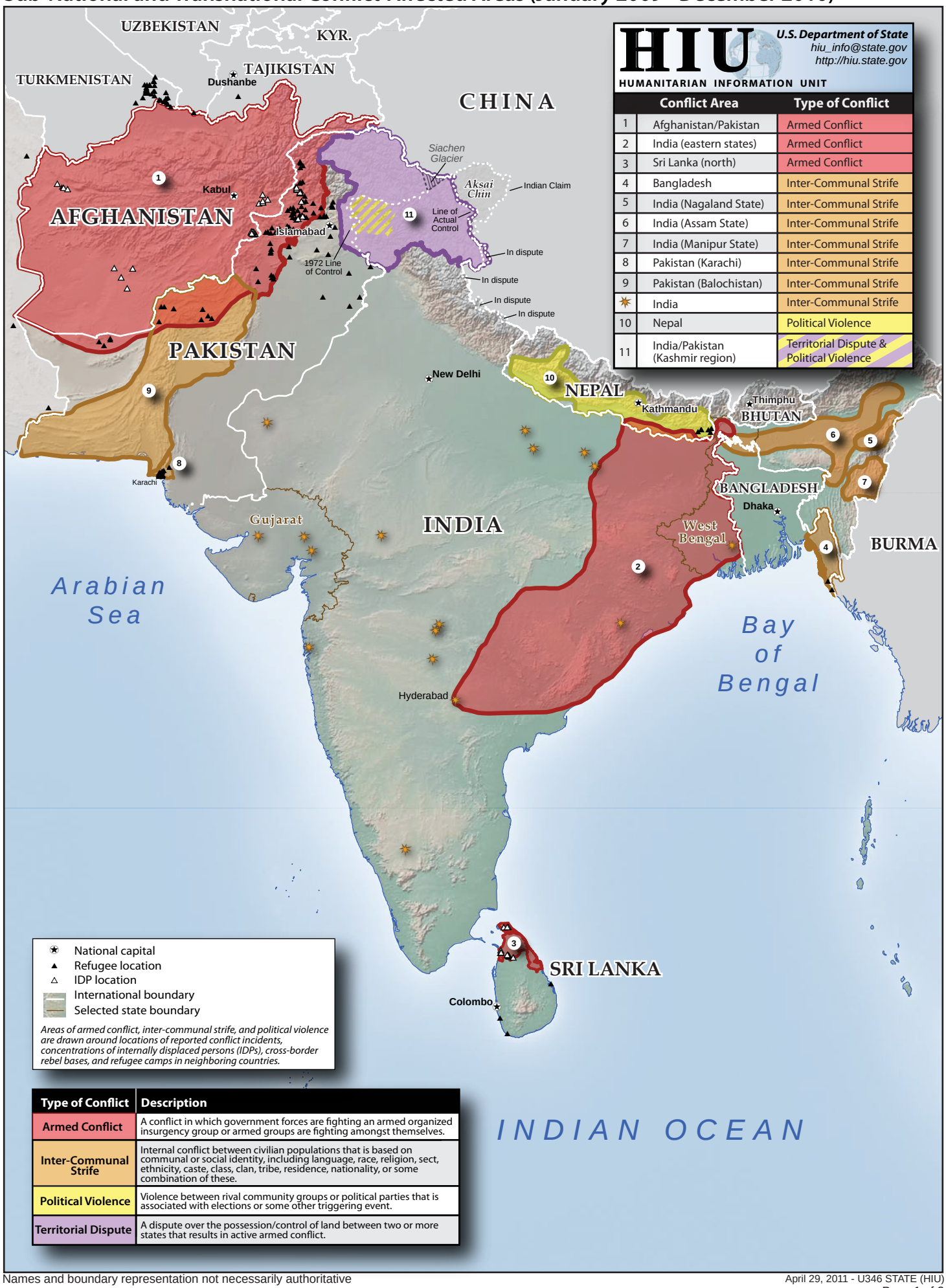
South Asia: Conflicts Without Borders

Sub-National and Transnational Conflict-Affected Areas (January 2009 - December 2010)



	Conflict Area	Type of Conflict
1	Afghanistan/Pakistan	Armed Conflict
2	India (eastern states)	Armed Conflict
3	Sri Lanka (north)	Armed Conflict
4	Bangladesh	Inter-Communal Strife
5	India (Nagaland State)	Inter-Communal Strife
6	India (Assam State)	Inter-Communal Strife
7	India (Manipur State)	Inter-Communal Strife
8	Pakistan (Karachi)	Inter-Communal Strife
9	Pakistan (Balochistan)	Inter-Communal Strife
✶	India	Inter-Communal Strife
10	Nepal	Political Violence
11	India/Pakistan (Kashmir region)	Territorial Dispute & Political Violence

Type of Conflict	Description
Armed Conflict	A conflict in which government forces are fighting an armed organized insurgency group or armed groups are fighting amongst themselves.
Inter-Communal Strife	Internal conflict between civilian populations that is based on communal or social identity, including language, race, religion, sect, ethnicity, caste, class, clan, tribe, residence, nationality, or some combination of these.
Political Violence	Violence between rival community groups or political parties that is associated with elections or some other triggering event.
Territorial Dispute	A dispute over the possession/control of land between two or more states that results in active armed conflict.

Names and boundary representation not necessarily authoritative

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	Type	Location	Background	Recent Events/Severity Indicators
1	Armed Conflict (Major)	Afghanistan, Pakistan: Federally Administered Tribal Areas & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province	Since 2001, the Afghan Taliban has waged armed conflict throughout Afghanistan against the NATO-led coalition and the new Afghan government. The Afghan Taliban maintain sanctuaries in Pakistan's Balochistan Province and tribal areas. In 2007, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan launched a guerrilla war against the Pakistani government. Over 1.5 million Afghan refugees continue to reside in Pakistan from earlier conflicts.[1]	In Afghanistan, the UN reports 2,777conflict-related civilian casualties in 2010, over 441,000 conflict-induced IDPs, and 7.8 million Afghans in need of food assistance.[2] In Pakistan, internal displacement figures are constantly in flux as a result of fighting in northwest Pakistan; approximately 1.5 million remained displaced by the end of Dec. 2010.[3]
2	Armed Conflict (Intermediate)	India: Eastern States	In 1967 the Maoist communist insurgency declared an armed struggle to re-distribute land in West Bengal state. Since then, small scale insurgent attacks have spread to 196 districts in 20 states of India.	In 2009, 997 people (591 civilians) were killed in clashes between the Naxalites and the Indian government.[4] In 2010, 1,180 people (733 civilians) were killed.[5] At least 148,000 people have been displaced since 2009 due to the conflict.[6]
3	Armed Conflict (Major 2009) (Minor 2010)	Sri Lanka: Northeastern provinces	Between 1983 and 2009, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam waged a major armed conflict against the government. They sought to create an independent Tamil state in the north and the east of the island. The Sri Lankan military defeated the Tamil Tigers in May 2009.	The Government of Sri Lanka and UNHCR report that 90% of the IDPs displaced by the conflict have been resettled. As of December 2010, nearly 250,000 IDPs returned to their places of origin, an additional 73,000 are living with host families in their districts of origin, and another 2,700 are in transit camps.[7,8] The number of casualties cannot be verified, but UN and other estimates range between 10,000 and 40,000 civilians killed in the final year.[9]
4	Inter-Communal Strife (Ethnic)	Bangladesh: Chittagong Hills Tracts, Rangamati Hill District	Shanti Bahini, the military arm of the United People's Party of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (PCJSS) began an armed insurgency in response to the movement of Bengali settlers into the area. The government and PCJSS signed the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord in 1997.[10]	In Feb. 2010, riots broke out between the indigenous peoples and Bengali settlers over on-going land disputes. Indigenous villages were burned, hundreds of people were injured, and several people were killed. IDMC estimates that between 60,000 and 500,000 people are displaced.[11]
5	Inter-Communal Strife (Ethnic/Separatist)	India: Nagaland State	Militant separatists from the Naga tribes have waged low-level conflict since Indian independence in 1947.	In 2009 there were 17 total deaths related to the insurgency, a dramatic decrease in deaths from the previous year.[12] 208,000 people remained displaced in north-east India in 2010.[13]
6	Inter-Communal Strife (Ethnic/Separatist)	India: Assam State	In the 1970s, several armed separatist groups emerged, fighting for sovereignty and over control of natural resources. In Nov. 1990, the Government deployed the military to Assam and various militant groups have engaged in low-intensity attacks against government and Hindi-speaking residents.	In 2009, 167 civilians, 21 security force personnel, and 183 militants were killed, representing a decrease of nearly 32% in civilian deaths and an increase of 45% in militant fatalities.[14] IDMC estimates 208,000 IDPs in Assam state, including 152,000 IDPs from conflicts in the 1990s and 2008.[15]
7	Inter-Communal Strife (Ethnic/Separatist)	India: Manipur State	A separatist insurgency began in 1964, becoming violent armed conflict in 1978. In 1999 the three main insurgent groups formed the Manipur Peoples Liberation Front, demanding independence from India.	In 2009, 64 civilians, 13 Security Force personnel, and 292 insurgents were killed in Manipur, making Manipur the most violent state in India's Northeast. In 2010, violence decreased, with only 24 civilians, 7 Security Force personnel, and 103 insurgents killed.[16]
8	Inter-Communal Strife (Ethnic)	Pakistan: Karachi (Provincial capital of Sindh Province)	Karachi is dominated by the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), a party currently aligned with the Pakistan People's Party. The MQM represents the descendents of the Urdu-speaking migrants who resettled in Sindh Province in 1947. Since the 1980s, Karachi has been plagued with ethnic and political violence, partly instigated by the MQM.[17]	The Aug. 3, 2010 assassination of Raza Haidar, a senior politician from the MQM started riots, causing more than 90 deaths in fighting amongst the Pashtun, Sindhi, and Muhajir communities.[18,19]
9	Inter-Communal Strife (Ethnic/Separatist)	Pakistan: Balochistan	Since 1948, Baloch separatist groups waged successive armed conflicts against the Pakistani government and military in their fight for political and economic autonomy. In recent years, attacks have targeted Punjabi and other non-Baloch settlers in Balochistan province of Pakistan and spread to increased targeted attacks in southeastern Iran.[20]	In 2009, 148 civilians, 83 Security Force personnel, and 37 militants were killed in violence in Balochistan.[21] In Aug. 2010, the government of Pakistan has reported that up 100,000 settlers have been displaced by Baloch nationalist groups and Islamic sectarian violence in Balochistan, and more than 250 killed in targeted attacks, especially against teachers and schools.[22]
✶	Inter-Communal Strife (Religious)	India: Various locations	Tensions between Hindus and Muslims sporadically erupted into clashes. The worst clashes occurred in 1990, when 200 people were killed in Hyderabad and in 2002, when 1,000 people were killed in Gujarat State.	In 2009-2010, riots broke out between Hindus and Muslims in several cities in India, killing dozens, injuring hundreds, and destroying temples, mosques, and property.[23]
10	Political Violence	Nepal	From 1996-2006, the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) waged a self-proclaimed "Peoples War" against the monarchy and military. More than 16,000 people were killed and an estimated 100,000 to 150,000 people were internally displaced. It ended with a Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) signed on 21 Nov. 2006, which led to the abolishment of the monarchy in 2008, and competition between Maoist and Marxist-Leninist political parties over control of the government.	As of Nov. 2010, 12 civilians, 1 security force member, and 22 militants were killed in 2010, mostly resulting from factional or party rivalries.[24] It is estimated that between 50,000 and 70,000 people remain displaced in Nepal and an unknown number of externally displaced Nepalis without refugee status have resided in India since the mid 1990s.[25]
11	Territorial Dispute & Political Violence	India & Pakistan: Kashmir Region	Since partition in 1947, India and Pakistan claim sovereignty over Kashmir. The UN brokered a Cease-Fire Line in 1949 and a slightly modified Line of Control (LOC) in 1972 to form a de facto boundary. The LOC does not include the hotly contested and remote Siachen Glacier in the north, currently occupied by India. The region was the cause of Indo-Pakistani wars in 1947/48, 1965, and 1999 and is still host to significant military presence, stand-offs, and occasional skirmishes.	On Jun 11, 2010, a Kashmiri student was killed during a demonstration against Indian political control of Kashmir.[26] This incident sparked a new wave of violent anti-India protests. Indian security forces fired live ammunition on the protestors, resulting in 112 deaths in 2010.[27] IDMC estimates 265,000 people displaced in the Kashmir Valley since 1990, 15,000 of which were displaced by border fencing in 2009.[28]

Sources: USG; UNHCR[1, 8]; UNOCHA[2]; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)[3, 7, 11, 13, 15, 22, 23, 25, 28]; South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP)[4, 5, 9, 12, 14, 16, 21, 24]; Amnesty International, Deccan Chronicle[6]; Norwegian Refugee Council[23]; International Crisis Group[20]; The Guardian[17, 19]; CBC News[18]; Agence France-Presse (AFP)[26]; United States Institute for Peace (USIP)[27]; M. Ashiqur Rahman, Department of Environmental Studies, North South University, Bangladesh[10]

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