



PRIO

Nicholas Marsh

# Armed violence, development and the post-2015 agenda

United Nations, 18 June 2014

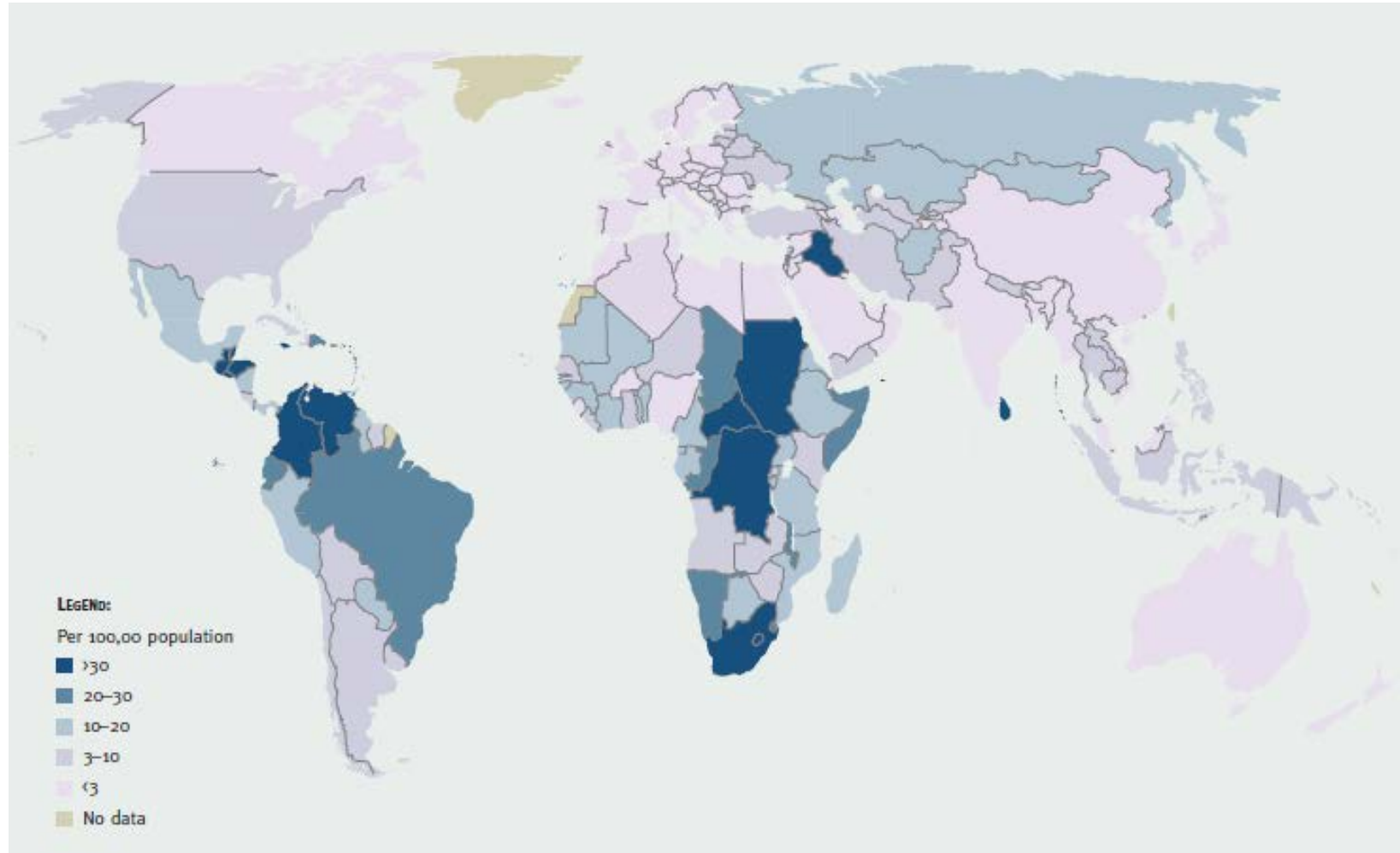
Peace Research Institute Oslo

Independent • International • Interdisciplinary

# Outline

- *Effects of armed violence on development*
- *What can be done to prevent violence*
- *Open Working Group*
- *Why aren't we better at stopping it*

# Average annual violent death rates per 100,000, 2004–2009



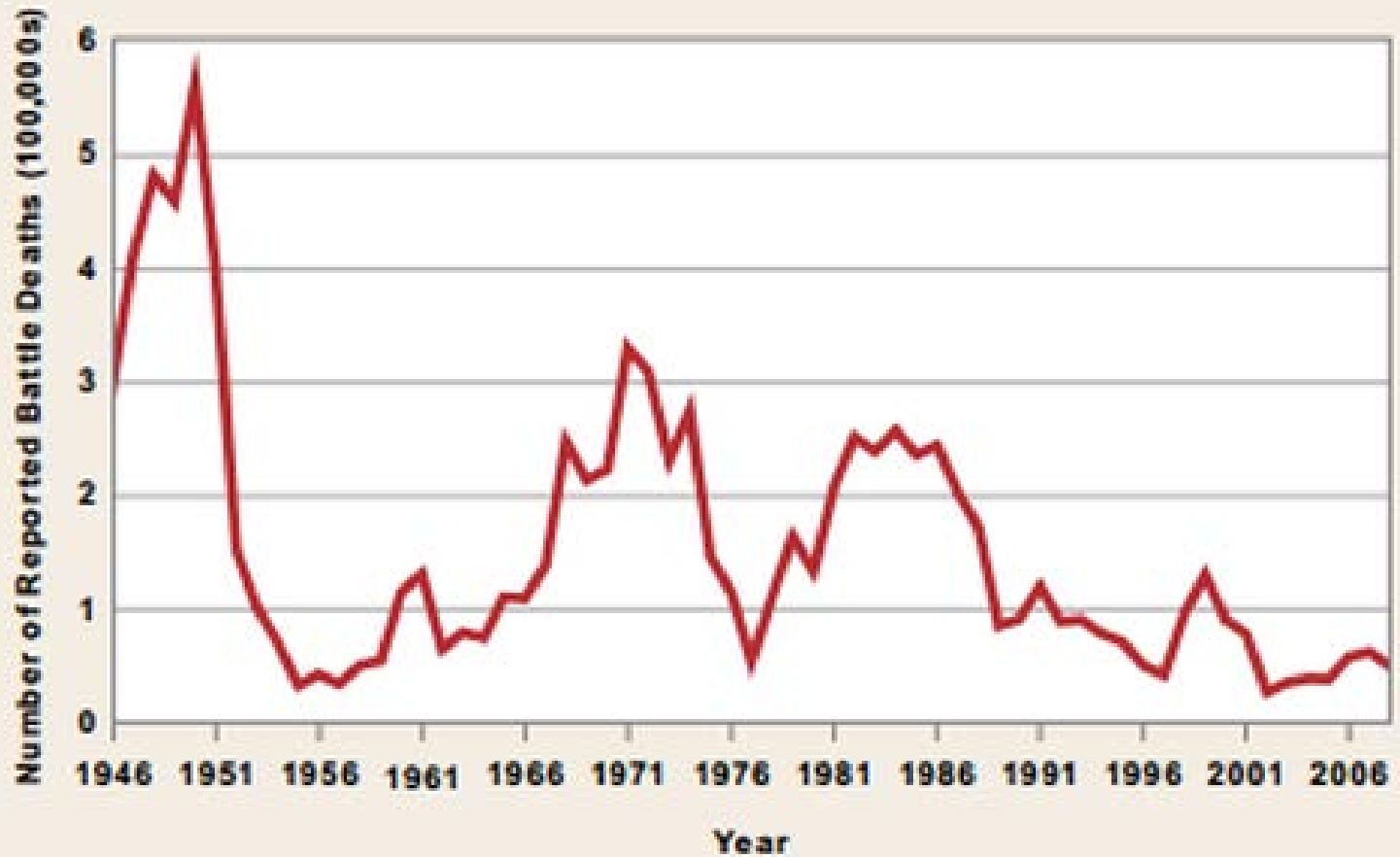
# Effects of armed violence on development

- GBAV 2011 estimate 526 000 violent deaths per year (55 000 direct conflict deaths).
- Profoundly gendered
- Many indirect effects
  - Maternal healthcare
  - Infant and child mortality
  - HIV prevalence
  - Clean drinking water and sanitation
  - Enrolment in primary education

# What can be done to prevent violence

- Long term decline in deaths due to armed conflict
- Reduce homicide

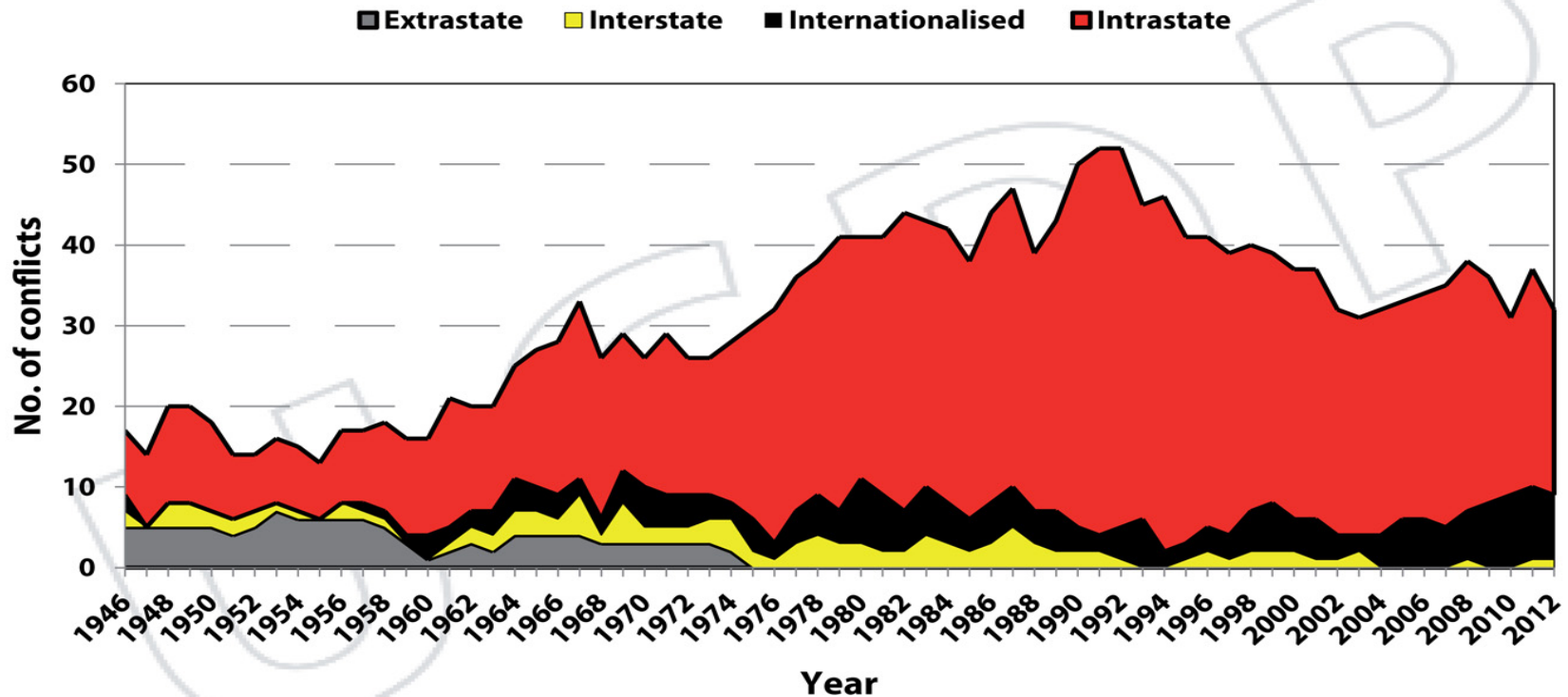
# Trend in battle deaths



Source: 2012 Human Security Report

# Trend in number of armed conflicts

## Armed Conflict by Type, 1946-2012

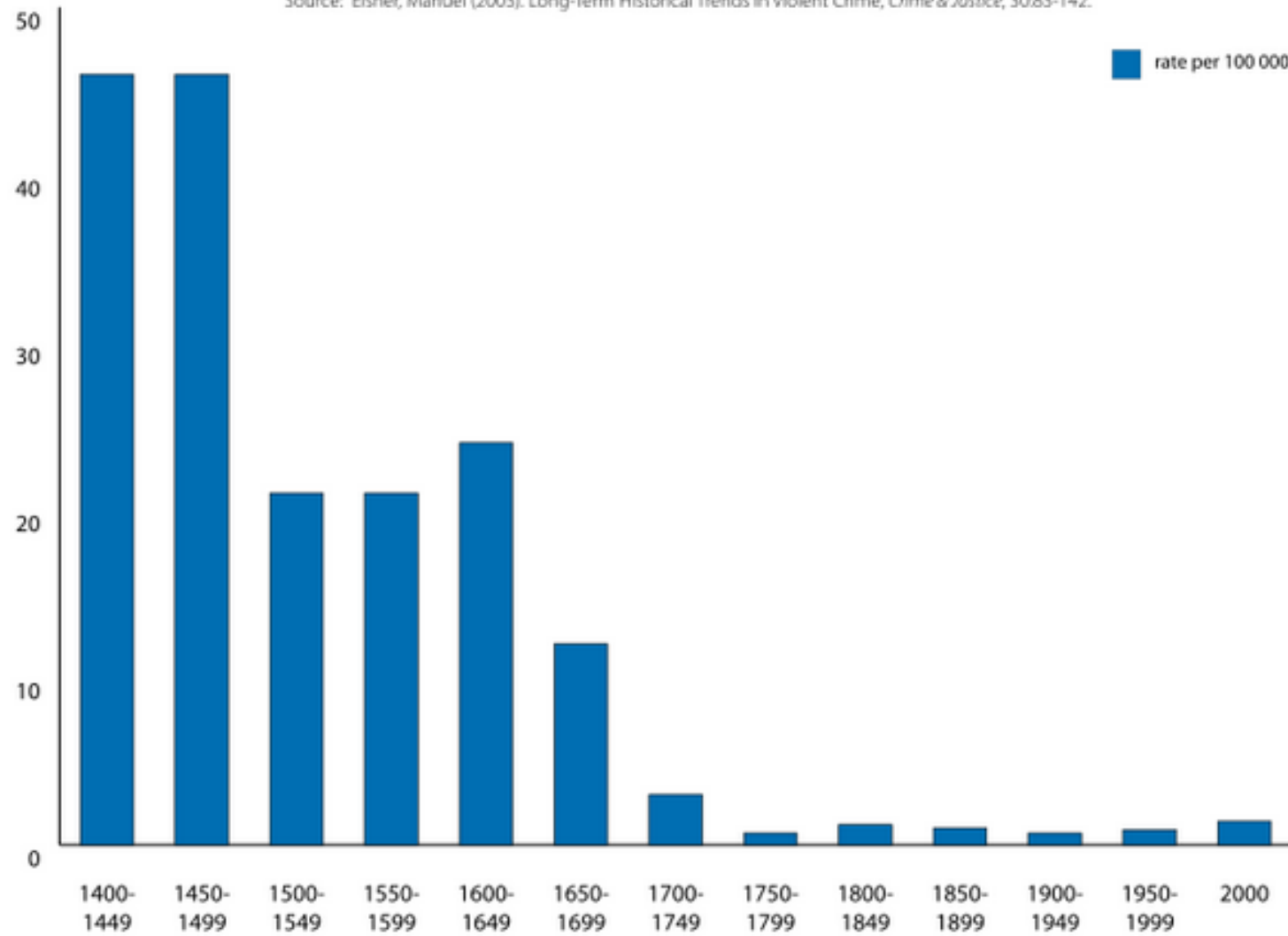


(c) UCDP 2013

Source: Uppsala/PRIO armed conflict dataset

# Homicide rate in Stockholm

Source: Eisner, Manuel (2003). Long-Term Historical Trends in Violent Crime, *Crime & Justice*, 30:83-142.





# Some strategies to reduce violence

- Improve policing where violence is concentrated
- Reduce access to means (firearms etc)
  - *Licensing; bans on public carrying; prevent illicit trafficking*
- Break the links with alcohol
  - *Reduce consumption, better drinking environments*
- Invest in youth (urban poor male)
  - *Start early; social skills; education; employment*
- Support parents of young children

# Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

- Established after the 2012 Rio Conference
- 30 member Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly
- Produced a 'zero draft'
- Currently being discussed

# 'Zero' draft

- Goal: Achieve peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law, effective and capable institutions
  - *by 2030 reduce levels of violence and related death rate by x%*
  - *by 2030 reduce illicit financial flows by x% and reduce money laundering and all forms of organized crime including human trafficking and illicit trade in arms, drugs and wildlife*
- Most points are on better governance processes, not on outcomes

# Politics of violence prevention

- Often a political problem
  - *Violence most affects marginalized peoples*
  - *Raising the issue often involves criticism of the government (eg police, army may be part of the problem)*
  - *Interests at stake (production and trade in arms)*
- Need for concerted action by civil society and parliamentarians