

deliberate coercion of civilians or "state terror". Cordon, search, and destruction of entire neighbourhoods and villages in the name of counterinsurgency, indiscriminate retaliation by security forces, and destruction of cultural and religious symbols (e.g. places of worship) is often indicative of such targeting. Massacres and genocide are the most extreme forms of this.

E) Military / Arms Supply

This category tracks the decisive shift from dialogue to coercive tactics by both the state and militant opposition. Have there been recent indications of a sudden increase in the internal deployment of security forces, and/or an increase in recruitment to such forces? Is there a concentration of such internal deployment to a minority and/or frontier region? Are there paramilitary militias or death squads which are suspected of being government-backed and -controlled? Has the government recently increased its imports of light and medium weapons (e.g. assault rifles, land mines, armoured personnel carriers, RPGs) which are more suited to the demands of waging a counterinsurgency campaign? Is there a ready supply of light weapons in the immediate region (perhaps in a neighbouring state) because of recent or ongoing internal wars? Arms supply to insurgent minority groups is particularly likely where such weapons are available across an international border from related ethnic/religious groups, or where a single ethnic group is divided by international borders. Another indicator of ascendant militancy is the removal and/or exile of moderate political leaders (who perhaps have advocated dialogue and compromise) and their replacement with militant leaders bent on military solutions.

F) External Support

The more numerous and committed the sources of external support for anti-state militants, the greater the likelihood of protracted conflict. Identity-based conflicts often involve an irredentist element, where a single ethnic or religious group may be present in two neighbouring sovereign states. This can create the conditions for the external support of a "proxy war": transborder encouragement (diplomatic and political), and supply of training, materiel (arms and supplies), and base camps for militant insurgent groups. The international status of the government under attack is also an important consideration in this calculation, as neighbouring states may feel a certain "obligation" to support the destabilisation of a pariah regime. Regional security and geopolitics is the context for the consideration of these indicators.

G) Other Context-Specific Factors

There will always be some measure of factors which are specific to the conflict