

Annex C. Chronology 2019

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This chronology lists the significant events in 2019 related to armaments, disarmament and international security. Keywords are indicated in the right-hand column.

January

<i>1–2 Jan.</i>	Ethnic clashes in response to a suspected jihadist attack kill nearly 50 people in the Centre-Nord region of Burkina Faso.	Burkina Faso
<i>3 Jan.</i>	The Philippines ratifies the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).	CCM; Philippines
<i>10 Jan.</i>	Venezuela enters a presidential crisis as opposition leader Juan Guaidó and the National Assembly declare incumbent President Nicolás Maduro ‘illegitimate’.	Venezuela
<i>15–16 Jan.</i>	Al-Shabab militants kill at least 21 civilians in an attack on a Nairobi hotel and office complex.	al-Shabab; Kenya
<i>16 Jan.</i>	Adopting Resolution 2452 (2019), the United Nations Security Council establishes a UN Mission to support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA).	UNMHA; UN Security Council; Yemen
<i>16 Jan.</i>	A four-month-old UN ceasefire in Tripoli breaks down after clashes between rival armed groups.	Libya
<i>17 Jan.</i>	A car bomb attack claimed by the National Liberation Army (ELN) at a police academy in Bogotá, Colombia, kills at least 21 people.	Colombia; ELN
<i>21 Jan.</i>	A referendum endorses the new Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in the Philippines—an essential part of the peace process.	Philippines
<i>21 Jan.</i>	A Taliban attack on an Afghan military base outside of Kabul kills more than 40 people.	Afghanistan; Taliban
<i>23 Jan.</i>	After Venezuelan opposition leader Guaidó declares himself president, he is supported by some countries including the United States. Venezuelan President Maduro severs diplomatic ties with the USA.	USA; Venezuela
<i>23 Jan.</i>	Russian President Vladimir Putin holds talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on a joint Russian–Turkish plan to stabilize Idlib province in Syria.	Russia; Syria; Turkey
<i>24 Jan.</i>	The Central African Republic (CAR) Government and 14 armed groups begin peace negotiations in Khartoum, Sudan.	CAR; peace process

<i>27 Jan.</i>	The Islamic State claims responsibility for a cathedral bombing in Sulu province, the Philippines, that kills at least 20 people. The attack is blamed on the IS-aligned armed group Abu Sayyaf.	Islamic State; Philippines
<i>28 Jan.</i>	US and Taliban negotiators agree on a bilateral framework that includes a ceasefire and a promise from the Taliban not to harbour terrorists in exchange for US withdrawal from Afghanistan.	Afghanistan; Taliban; USA
<i>28 Jan.</i>	Turkish President Erdogan announces his intention to establish safe zones in northern Syria to allow the return of millions of Syrian refugees who currently reside in Turkey.	refugees; Syria; Turkey
<i>28 Jan.</i>	The US Justice Department charges Chinese tech firm Huawei with multiple counts of fraud, raising US-China tensions.	China; USA
<i>28 Jan.</i>	Israel announces that the mandate of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH), a civilian observer mission established to protect residents in the Palestinian city of Hebron in the West Bank, will not be renewed.	Israel; Palestine; TIPH
<i>31 Jan.</i>	The European Union (EU) begins the formal process of registering the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), a financial mechanism aiming to preserve European trade with Iran in the face of unilateral US sanctions.	EU; Iran; JCPOA; SPV
<i>February</i>		
<i>1 Feb.</i>	The USA formally suspends the 1987 Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty) with Russia. The next day Russia follows suit.	INF Treaty; Russia; USA
<i>3 Feb.</i>	The USA deploys an additional 3750 troops to the US-Mexican border, raising the total number of soldiers at the border to about 6000.	Mexico; USA
<i>5 Feb.</i>	Russia hosts Afghanistan peace talks between Taliban representatives and senior Afghan politicians, but excludes the Afghan Government.	Afghanistan; Russia; Taliban
<i>6 Feb.</i>	The CAR Government and 14 armed groups sign a peace agreement following talks in Sudan.	CAR; peace agreement
<i>13 Feb.</i>	Zimbabwe becomes the 168th state to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).	CTBT; Zimbabwe
<i>14 Feb.</i>	At least 45 Indian paramilitary police are killed in an attack on Indian security forces in Indian-administered Kashmir. The Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad claims to have carried out the attack.	India; Kashmir; Pakistan
<i>23 Feb.</i>	Facing the longest wave of protests since independence, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir declares a national state of emergency, dismisses the federal government and sacks all state governors.	Sudan
<i>25 Feb.</i>	The UN Secretary-General and the head of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) pledge to strengthen efforts to combat sexual violence in conflict settings.	ICRC; sexual violence; UN

<i>26–27 Feb.</i>	India carries out an air strike against an alleged Jaish-e-Mohammad training camp in Balakot, Pakistan. During a counter-air strike on India the next day, Pakistan shoots down an Indian combat aircraft and detains one of the pilots. The pilot is freed on 1 March.	India; Kashmir; Pakistan
<i>27–28 Feb.</i>	US President Donald J. Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrive in Hanoi, Vietnam, for a second bilateral summit on North Korea's nuclear programme. The talks break down after both sides fail to agree on conditions for relieving US sanctions.	North Korea; nuclear weapons; USA
<i>March</i>		
<i>1 Mar.</i>	The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Fact-finding Mission in Syria reports 'reasonable grounds' for believing a chemical weapon attack took place in Douma in April 2018.	chemical weapons; OPCW; Syria
<i>14 Mar.</i>	Two rockets fired at Tel Aviv from the Gaza Strip lead to over 100 retaliatory air strikes by Israel.	Israel; Palestine
<i>17 Mar.</i>	The Philippines officially withdraws from the International Criminal Court (ICC), one year after announcing its intention to do so over the ICC's preliminary examination of President Rodrigo Duterte's drug war.	ICC; Philippines
<i>21 Mar.</i>	President Trump calls for US recognition of Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights, a region captured from Syria in 1967 and annexed in 1981.	Israel; USA
<i>22 Mar.</i>	Twenty-three soldiers are killed in a Boko Haram attack in south-western Chad.	Boko Haram; Chad
<i>23 Mar.</i>	The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) alliance captures the Islamic State's last territory in Syria.	Islamic State; SDF; Syria
<i>23 Mar.</i>	Gunmen massacre about 160 Fulani herders in the village of Ogossagou in central Mali, following a cycle of increasing intercommunal tensions.	Mali
<i>25–26 Mar.</i>	Following military clashes between Hamas and Israel in Gaza, a ceasefire is brokered by Egypt.	ceasefire; Hamas; Israel
<i>27 Mar.</i>	India announces that it has successfully tested an anti-satellite weapon for the first time.	India; space security
<i>29 Mar.</i>	The Security Council extends the mandate of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) for nine months and calls for an independent strategic review of the mission, including consideration of an exit strategy.	DRC; MONUSCO; UN
<i>29 Mar.</i>	Azerbaijan and Armenia hold their first official summit on Nagorno-Karabakh and commit to strengthening the ceasefire, improving communications and implementing humanitarian projects.	Armenia; Azerbaijan; Nagorno-Karabakh
<i>April</i>		
<i>4 Apr.</i>	The Libyan National Army seizes the town of Gharian, 100 km south of Tripoli, in an escalation of the armed conflict in Libya.	Libya

8 Apr.	President Trump designates Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a foreign 'terrorist' organization. Iran declares the USA a 'state sponsor of terrorism'.	Iran; USA
11 Apr.	Following four months of large-scale protests, Omar al-Bashir, President of Sudan since 1989, is deposed in a coup.	Sudan
18 Apr.	North Korea says it conducted a test of a new type of 'tactical guided weapon', its first such missile test in nearly six months.	North Korea; missile proliferation
21 Apr.	Suicide bombings kill 259 people and injure at least 500 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The government blames a local Islamist militant group with foreign support; Islamic State also claims responsibility for the attack.	Islamic extremism; Sri Lanka
25 Apr.	North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin meet for their first-ever summit in the Russian city of Vladivostok.	North Korea; Russia
26 Apr.	President Trump announces that he will withdraw the USA from the international Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).	ATT; USA
29 Apr.– 10 May	The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Preparatory Committee meets in New York, but divisions on several issues prevent any agreement on joint recommendations for the 2020 Review Conference.	NPT PrepCom
30 Apr.	Venezuelan opposition leader and disputed interim president Guaidó leads an attempted uprising against President Maduro.	Venezuela
May		
1 May	US and Taliban negotiators begin a new round (the sixth) of peace talks in Doha, Qatar.	Afghanistan; Taliban; USA
3 May	Parties to the armed conflict in South Sudan meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, agree a six-month extension of the deadline to form a transitional power-sharing government.	South Sudan
4–5 May	The Gaza–Israel conflict escalates after the Israeli military launches air strikes into Gaza killing at least 22 Palestinians.	Israel; Palestine
6 May	In its first report since 2005, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) warns that biodiversity loss is 'accelerating', with over a million species now threatened with extinction.	climate change; IPBES
6 May	The Syrian Army launches a major ground offensive against one of the last rebel strongholds in Idlib province.	Syria
8 May	Iran announces that it will reduce its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) every 60 days, unless the other parties manage to compensate for the US sanctions.	Iran; JCPOA
12 May	The United Arab Emirates (UAE) says four commercial ships off the coast of Fujairah 'were subjected to sabotage operations'.	UAE; Persian Gulf

<i>14 May</i>	Yemen's Houthi rebels launch drone attacks on Saudi Arabia, striking an oil pipeline and taking it out of service.	Houthis; Saudi Arabia; Yemen
<i>19 May</i>	A further allegation of chemical weapon use in Kabanah, north-western Syria is investigated by the OPCW.	chemical weapons; OPCW; Syria
<i>30 May</i>	A second round of talks in Norway between representatives of Venezuelan President Maduro and opposition leader Guaidó aimed at resolving the nation's political crisis end without agreement.	Venezuela
<i>June</i>		
<i>3 June</i>	Sudan's security forces kill at least 100 unarmed protesters outside the military's headquarters in Khartoum.	Sudan
<i>6 June</i>	The African Union (AU) suspends Sudan's membership with immediate effect after the Khartoum massacre.	AU; Sudan
<i>9 June</i>	Large-scale protests take place in Hong Kong against proposed legislation regarding extradition to China.	China; Hong Kong
<i>9–10 June</i>	A Boko Haram attack in the Far North region of Cameroon kills at least 16 soldiers and 8 civilians.	Boko Haram; Cameroon
<i>10 June</i>	An armed attack on a Dogon village in the region of Mopti in central Mali kills at least 95 people.	Mali
<i>12 June</i>	Russia and Turkey broker a ceasefire in Syria's Idlib province between Syrian Government forces and rebels, but it fails to halt the fighting.	Russia; Syria; Turkey
<i>13 June</i>	A Japanese and a Norwegian oil tanker are attacked in the Gulf of Oman. The USA accuses Iran of carrying out the attacks.	Gulf of Oman; oil tanker attacks; Iran; USA
<i>16–17 June</i>	At least 30 people are killed in multiple, unclaimed suicide attacks in the north-eastern state of Borno in Nigeria. A day later, 15 soldiers are killed in an attack on an army base by the Boko Haram group, Islamic State in West African Province (ISWAP).	Nigeria; ISWAP
<i>19 June</i>	Five years after Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was shot down over Ukraine killing 298 people, a Dutch-led investigation announces charges against 4 suspects in the case (3 Russians and 1 Ukrainian).	Netherlands; Russia; Ukraine
<i>19 June</i>	A UN investigation finds the Saudi Arabian Government responsible for killing journalist Jamal Khashoggi.	Saudi Arabia
<i>20 June</i>	British arms sales to Saudi Arabia are ruled unlawful by the Court of Appeal in the United Kingdom, in a judgment that also accuses ministers of ignoring whether air strikes that killed civilians in Yemen broke humanitarian law.	arms transfers, Saudi Arabia; UK; Yemen
<i>20–21 June</i>	Iran shoots down a US military drone; the USA and Iran disagree about whether it was in international or Iranian airspace. The USA calls off a retaliatory air strike, instead responding with cyberattacks against Iranian intelligence and military assets.	Iran; USA

<i>22 June</i>	The USA unveils the economic part of its new Israeli–Palestinian peace initiative, including a pledge of \$50 billion in investment in Palestine and neighbouring countries after a peace deal.	Israel; Palestine; USA
<i>28–29 June</i>	At the Group of 20 (G20) Summit in Japan, China and the USA agree to temporarily halt their trade war, with the USA pausing additional tariffs and China agreeing to purchase more US agricultural products.	China; G20; USA
<i>30 June</i>	Mass protests take place in Sudan following a military crackdown in June in which over 120 people were killed across the country.	Sudan
<i>30 June</i>	President Trump meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in the Korean Demilitarized Zone and they agree to restart negotiations over the North Korean nuclear programme.	North Korea; nuclear weapons; USA
<i>July</i>		
<i>1 July</i>	The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirms that Iran has exceeded a stockpile limit for low-enriched uranium established by the 2015 nuclear agreement (JCPOA).	IAEA; Iran; JCPOA
<i>2 July</i>	An air strike on a migrant detention centre outside Tripoli, Libya, kills at least 53 people. The UN condemns the attack as a possible war crime.	Libya
<i>4 July</i>	The British Navy seizes a tanker off the coast of Gibraltar suspected of carrying Iranian oil to a refinery in Syria in violation of EU sanctions.	Iran; UK; EU sanctions
<i>5 July</i>	The Sudanese Military Transition Council and a coalition of opposition and protest groups reach a power-sharing agreement following months of protests.	Sudan
<i>7–8 July</i>	A two-day peace conference in Qatar between the Taliban and influential Afghans, including government officials, agrees a ‘roadmap for peace’ designed to end the 18-year war.	Afghanistan; peace process
<i>8 July</i>	Bosco Ntaganda, a former militia leader in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), is convicted of war crimes by the ICC for offences committed in 2002–2003. He is subsequently sentenced to 30 years in prison.	DRC; ICC
<i>8 July</i>	Iran announces that it has passed the uranium enrichment cap set in its international nuclear deal (JCPOA). The IAEA verifies that the cap has been breached.	IAEA; Iran; JCPOA
<i>8 July</i>	The UAE announces a withdrawal from the Yemeni port city of Hodeidah in compliance with a UN-brokered ceasefire.	UAE; Yemen
<i>9 July</i>	A report by the OPCW suggests that Syria continues to possess chemical nerve agents and poison gas, in light of ‘growing evidence of deliberately false declarations’ by the Syrian Government.	chemical weapons; OPCW; Syria
<i>12 July</i>	An attack by the Islamist group al-Shabab on a hotel in Kismayo, Somalia, kills at least 26 people.	al-Shabab; Somalia

<i>17 July</i>	The World Health Organization (WHO) declares the Ebola outbreak in the DRC a 'public health emergency of international concern'.	DRC; Ebola; WHO
<i>17 July</i>	At a meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group (Ukraine, Russia and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe), the parties commit to another ceasefire in eastern Ukraine.	Ukraine
<i>17 July</i>	The USA removes Turkey from the F-35 programme after Turkey accepts delivery of S-400 air defence systems from Russia.	Russia; Turkey; USA
<i>17 July</i>	Leaders of the Sudanese military and civilian opposition sign the power-sharing agreement (reached on 5 July), which provides for a transitional military-civilian council followed by a transitional civilian government and finally national elections.	Sudan; peace agreement
<i>18 July</i>	The Trump administration communicates to the UN Secretary-General that the USA does not intend to become a party to the ATT and thus has no future legal obligations stemming from signature.	ATT; USA
<i>19 July</i>	Iran seizes a British oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz amid rising tensions in the Gulf.	Iran; UK
<i>22 July</i>	Multiple air strikes by Syrian Government forces target a market in a rebel-held region of north-western Syria, killing at least 43 people.	Syria
<i>27 July</i>	A Boko Haram attack on a funeral and villages near Maiduguri in north-eastern Nigeria kills over 70 people.	Boko Haram; Nigeria
<i>August</i>		
<i>1 Aug.</i>	The Mozambican Government and the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO) sign a peace agreement bringing an end to the recent six-year period of armed clashes.	Mozambique; RENAMO
<i>2 Aug.</i>	The USA announces its formal withdrawal from the INF Treaty.	INF Treaty; USA
<i>5 Aug.</i>	India revokes the special status of Kashmir under Article 370 of the Indian constitution and also moves to split the state into two federal territories.	India; Kashmir
<i>7 Aug.</i>	Turkey and the USA announce plans for a jointly managed buffer zone in north-eastern Syria.	Syria; Turkey; USA
<i>10 Aug.</i>	Southern separatists in Yemen aligned with the UAE seize the Yemeni city of Aden from the Saudi Arabian-backed government of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi.	Saudi Arabia; UAE; Yemen
<i>17 Aug.</i>	At least 92 people are killed and 142 wounded in a suicide bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan. The Islamic State claims responsibility for the attack.	Afghanistan; Islamic State
<i>17 Aug.</i>	Sudan's pro-democracy movement and the country's ruling military council finalize a power-sharing agreement, paving the way for a transition to civilian-led government after months of unrest.	Sudan
<i>18 Aug.</i>	The USA tests a ground-launched cruise missile that would have been prohibited under the INF Treaty.	missile proliferation; USA

18 Aug.	Chad declares a state of emergency in two eastern provinces, after about 100 people died in violent intercommunal clashes earlier in the month.	Chad
24–26 Aug.	The Group of Seven (G7) Summit hosted by France ends without a formal joint declaration for the first time in its 44-year history.	G7 Summit
26–30 Aug.	The Fifth Conference of States Parties to the ATT is held in Geneva, Switzerland, and makes progress in establishing language on how key aspects of the treaty should be implemented.	ATT
29 Aug.	Three former senior rebel commanders from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) announce their return to armed struggle in Colombia, becoming the highest-ranking rebels to withdraw from the 2016 peace deal.	Colombia; FARC
<i>September</i>		
3 Sep.	The USA imposes sanctions on Iran's civilian space agency and two research organizations, claiming that they are carrying out ballistic missile research.	Iran; USA
4 Sep.	Hong Kong announces the withdrawal of a controversial anti-extradition bill and sets up an independent study to review social and economic inequality within the territory.	China; Hong Kong
5 Sep.	As US–Taliban peace talks close in on an agreement, the Taliban claims responsibility for an attack near the US embassy in Kabul that kills at least 16 people, including a US soldier.	Afghanistan; Taliban; USA
7 Sep.	A major Russia–Ukraine prisoner exchange takes place with each side releasing 35 individuals, including the 24 Ukrainian sailors taken captive by Russia in November 2018.	Russia; Ukraine
8 Sep.	President Trump announces the cancellation of previously secret arrangements to meet with the Taliban and Afghan Government, declaring the peace talks 'dead'.	Afghanistan; Taliban; USA
8 Sep.	Two attacks by armed groups in the north of Burkina Faso kill at least 29 people.	Burkina Faso
14–15 Sep.	Two major oil installations are attacked in Saudi Arabia. Houthi rebels in Yemen claim responsibility for the attack, but the USA accuses Iran of direct involvement. President Trump tweets the day after the attack that the USA is 'locked and loaded'.	Iran; Saudi Arabia; USA; Yemen
15 Sep.	Talks to end Venezuela's protracted crisis collapse as the main opposition group pulls out of Norwegian-sponsored negotiations in Barbados.	Venezuela
16 Sep.	Russia and Turkey agree to create a buffer zone in Syria's Idlib province.	Russia; Syria; Turkey
16 Sep.	After almost two years, a review of the EU Common Position on Arms Exports is completed with the adoption of a new Council Decision.	EU Common Position
18–19 Sep.	As part of a wave of violence following the collapse of Afghan peace talks, an attack by the Taliban kills at least 22 people in Zabol province and a US air strike kills at least 30 people in Nangarhar province.	Afghanistan; Taliban; USA

20 Sep.	The USA imposes new sanctions on Iran that specifically target the country's central bank and national development fund.	Iran; USA
20–30 Sep.	Egyptian security forces crack down on anti-government protests, reportedly arresting around 2000 people.	Egypt
22 Sep.	At least 40 people are killed as a result of an attack by Afghan Government forces in Helmand province that was meant to target a Taliban cell.	Afghanistan; Taliban
23 Sep.	At least 30 people are killed in Indonesia's Papua province, as security forces clash with protesters in Wamena and Jayapura, the provincial capital.	Indonesia
23 Sep.	The UN Climate Action Summit ends with few significant new commitments. Russia announces that it will ratify the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate agreement.	climate change; Paris Agreement; Russia
25 Sep.	The 11th Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT is held in New York, USA. The USA declines to participate for the first time.	CTBT; USA
26 Sep.	For the first time since the outbreak of the 2008 war between Georgia and Russia, their foreign ministers hold talks about the conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.	Georgia; Russia
27 Sep.	The Maldives accedes to the CCM.	CCM; Maldives
27 Sep.	China announces at the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly that it has initiated the domestic legal procedures to join the ATT.	ATT; China
28 Sep.	Afghanistan holds presidential elections that were originally scheduled to take place in April.	Afghanistan
<i>October</i>		
1–6 Oct.	The number of deaths from nearly a week of anti-government rallies in Iraq exceeds 100, with thousands more injured.	Iraq
2 Oct.	North Korea announces that it has test-launched 'a new type' of submarine-launched ballistic missile called the Bukkeukseong-3.	North Korea; missile proliferation
2 Oct.	Attacks on two army camps in Boulkessy and Mondoro in Mali kill 25 soldiers and leave 60 missing.	Mali
4–5 Oct.	Denuclearization negotiations between North Korea and the USA in Stockholm, Sweden, fail to break the deadlock.	North Korea; nuclear weapons; USA
6–7 Oct.	President Trump announces the withdrawal of US troops from north-eastern Syria, but the next day warns that he would 'destroy and obliterate' the Turkish economy if any offensive went too far.	Syria; Turkey; USA
7–11 Oct.	The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) resumes holding an annual plenary (it was not held in 2018), this year in Auckland, New Zealand	MTCR
9 Oct.	Turkey announces the start of military operations in north-eastern Syria to create a 'safe zone' to allow for the return of Syrian refugees.	Syria; Turkey

11 Oct.	The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed Ali, for his contributions to ending Ethiopia's decades-long war with Eritrea and for his mediation assistance in Sudan.	Ethiopia; Nobel Peace Prize
14 Oct.	The Jalisco New Generation Cartel ambush and kill 14 police officers in the state of Michoacán, Mexico.	Mexico
14 Oct.	The USA imposes sanctions on Turkish Government agencies in response to Turkey's incursion into Syria. The sanctions are lifted 10 days later, although the incursion continued.	Syria; Turkey; USA
15 Oct.	The UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) completes its mandate, ending 15 years of peacekeeping operations in the country. It is replaced by a political mission, the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH).	Haiti; BINUH; MINUJUSTH
17 Oct.	Turkey and the USA negotiate a five-day ceasefire in northern Syria to allow Kurdish fighters to withdraw from the safe zone, but fighting continues.	Syria; Turkey; USA
18 Oct.	An explosion at a mosque in eastern Afghanistan kills at least 60 people. No group claims responsibility for the attack.	Afghanistan
22 Oct.	Russia and Turkey agree deploy their forces across north-eastern Syria in order to force the withdrawal of Kurdish fighters from the region.	Russia; Syria; Turkey
26 Oct.	President Trump announces that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State, has been killed in a US military operation in Syria.	Islamic State; Syria; USA
30 Oct.– 8 Nov.	150 delegates representing Syria's government, opposition and civil society groups meet in Geneva, Switzerland, in the first round of talks to draft a new Syrian constitution.	Syria
31 Oct.	The Islamic State announces that Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qorashi is the group's new leader.	Islamic State
31 Oct.	The Iraqi Prime Minister, Adil Abdul Mahdi, resigns after weeks of anti-government protests.	Iraq
<i>November</i>		
1 Nov.	The Islamic State in the Greater Sahel (ISGS) kills 53 Malian soldiers and 1 civilian in an attack on an army base in Indelimane, near the Malian–Nigerian border.	ISGS; Mali
4 Nov.	The USA formally notifies the UN of its intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change in Autumn 2020.	USA; climate change; Paris Agreement;
5 Nov.	The Yemeni Government and separatists represented by the Southern Transitional Council sign the Riyadh Agreement to end a power struggle in southern Yemen.	Riyadh Agreement; Yemen
6 Nov.	An attack on a Canadian mining company's convoy in Burkina Faso kills at least 37 people.	Burkina Faso
11 Nov.	On behalf of Rohingya Muslims, Gambia files a lawsuit against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), accusing Myanmar's leadership of genocide.	Gambia; ICJ; Myanmar

12–13 Nov.	An Israeli air strike in Gaza kills Baha Abu al-Ata, a senior commander of the militant group Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ). PIJ responds with hundreds of rocket launches and further Israeli air strikes kill at least 34 Palestinians.	Israel; Palestine
15–19 Nov.	At least 100 protesters, in 21 cities across Iran, are killed in five days of protests that started in response to an increase in oil prices.	Iran
16 Nov.	Leaked files and internal documents reveal how the Chinese Government carried out an extensive programme to crack down on Uighurs in Xinjiang, while publicly presenting the efforts as benevolent.	China
18 Nov.	Ireland convenes the first of a series of open consultations about a political declaration on explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA), with a view to finalizing and adopting a declaration in 2020.	EWIPA; Ireland
18 Nov.	The USA announces that it will no longer consider Israeli settlements in the West Bank to be a violation of international law. Two days later, the 14 other members of the UN Security Council strongly oppose the announcement.	Israel; Palestine; UN Security Council; USA
18–22 Nov.	The Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction holds its first session at the UN in New York. It is boycotted by Israel and the USA, but adopts a political declaration.	WMD-free zone; Middle East
25 Nov.	Thirteen French troops are killed in a helicopter collision in Mali. It is the biggest single loss of life for the French military since the 1980s.	France; Mali
25 Nov.	The World Meteorological Organization reports that levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have reached another new record high of 407.8 parts per million, with ‘no sign of a slowdown, let alone a decline’.	climate change
25–29 Nov.	The Fourth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mines Convention (APM Convention) is held in Oslo, Norway. Seven states parties are granted extensions to their mine clearance deadlines.	APM Convention
25–29 Nov.	The 24th Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) adopts two decisions to amend the Annex on Chemicals for the first time.	CWC
<i>December</i>		
2–13 Dec.	The annual UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) held in Madrid, Spain, ends with few new commitments. Australia, Brazil and the USA block action on several issues.	Australia; Brazil; climate change; UN; USA
3–4 Dec.	North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) leaders meet in the UK for a 70th anniversary summit and agree to initiate a ‘forward-looking reflection process’ on how to strengthen its political dimension.	NATO

<i>4–5 Dec.</i>	The Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) holds its annual plenary in Vienna, Austria, and adopts a set of new control list items, including new controls on certain types of cyber-surveillance technologies.	WA
<i>7 Dec.</i>	Iran and the USA undertake a prisoner swap.	Iran; USA
<i>9 Dec.</i>	The leaders of Russia and Ukraine hold their first face-to-face talks at a summit in Paris, hosted by France and Germany. They agree to implement a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine by the end of the year.	Russia; Ukraine
<i>10 Dec.</i>	A revised version of the US–Mexico–Canada Agreement, a new trade deal, is signed in Mexico City	Canada; Mexico; USA
<i>10–12 Dec.</i>	Three days of public hearings of charges of genocide against Myanmar take place at the ICJ.	ICJ; Myanmar
<i>11 Dec.</i>	Islamist militants kill 71 soldiers in an attack on a military camp in Inatès, Niger, near the border with Mali.	Niger
<i>12 Dec.</i>	The USA tests a ground-launched ballistic missile that would have been prohibited under the INF Treaty.	USA; missile proliferation
<i>18 Dec.</i>	The US House of Representatives approves two articles of impeachment against President Trump on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.	USA
<i>19 Dec.</i>	Libya's Government of National Accord activates a cooperation accord with Turkey, allowing for a potential Turkish military intervention in Libya.	Libya; Turkey
<i>20 Dec.</i>	The USA founds the US Space Force, a branch of the US Armed Forces dedicated to space warfare.	space; USA
<i>20 Dec.</i>	Members of the British Parliament vote 358 to 234 in favour of a bill to leave the EU on 31 January 2020.	Brexit; EU; UK
<i>22 Dec.</i>	Afghanistan's election commission announces that President Ashraf Ghani is set to win a second five-year term as president, based on delayed preliminary results of the September presidential election.	Afghanistan
<i>28 Dec.</i>	A framework agreement for future direct talks is reached between the Sudanese Government and some armed groups in Darfur.	Sudan
<i>28 Dec.</i>	A truck bomb attributed to al-Shabab kills at least 81 people and wounds 125 in Mogadishu, Somalia.	al-Shabab; Somalia
<i>29 Dec.</i>	The Taliban's ruling council agrees to a temporary ceasefire in Afghanistan, opening for a potential peace agreement with the USA.	Afghanistan; Taliban; USA
<i>31 Dec.</i>	A pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, China, is reported to the WHO Country Office in China.	China; COVID-19; WHO