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In this pioneering study, Daniel Strandow is the first to explicitly study whether United Nations targeted sanctions have a positive effect on the chances of ending a civil war, when controlling for the impact of battlefield outcomes. This work selects three types of sanctions, imposed during on-going internal armed conflicts, which target: arms, individuals (travel bans and asset freezes), and commodities (diamonds and timber). A conclusion with significant statistical support is that implemented arms embargos have a substantial influence: such sanctions increase the likelihood that the parties move towards conflict resolution. The results are based on an in-depth analysis of more than a hundred conflict-months in the civil conflicts in Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire during the first part of this decade.

This is a report from the Special Program on the Implementation of Targeted Sanctions (SPITS) at Uppsala University's Department of Peace and Conflict Research. A parallel report by the full SPITS team assesses recent developments in UN sanction policy on Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire.

Department of Peace and Conflict Research
Uppsala University
P.O. Box 514, SE 751 20 Uppsala, Sweden
Phone +46-18-471 00 00
Telefax +46-18-69 51 02
Webste <www.peace.uu.se>
ISBN: ISBN 91-506-1896-2
Universitetstryckeriet, Uppsala, 2006

Sanctions and Civil War: Targeted Measures for Conflict Resolution

Daniel Strandow