An Administrative Note on UCDP for 2015

Professor Peter Wallensteen left as a Director of UCDP on July 31, 2015 after serving as the founder and leader of the program since 1978. He has been replaced by Professor Erik Melander as of August 1, 2015. Wallensteen continues to serve as a Senior Advisor for UCDP.

During 2015, Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) could maintain the same staff for most of the year. The geographical coding of conflicts in primarily Asia and Middle East continued throughout the year. Much time has been devoted to the conflicts in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Iraq. The three first countries together have more conflict events than the whole of Africa (where geo-coding was completed in 2012 and now is regularly updated). During 2015, datasets for both Asia and the Middle East with the time period 1989-2014 were released. The coding of remaining countries will continue in 2016, with the goal of releasing a global dataset in 2016.

The work financed by VR, the Swedish Research Council, for developing the infrastructure of the database was finished in 2015. All UCDP data has been imported into the new system that now is fully functional.

During 2015 the work on a new front-end, a replacement of the current UCDP homepage was instigated. To this end, an interaction designer was hired to work with designing the new homepage. The interaction designer, Elif Akmanlar, began working during the autumn. The project has also employed two programmers and two research assistants from the core UCDP staff have been involved in the project as well. Overall project manager has been Margareta Sollenberg.

The UCDP Update Alert was sent out three times during 2015 to about 700 recipients. In addition, a couple of extra GED release alerts were sent out to the same recipients. UCDP newsletters, publications etc. have also been promoted by the UCDP via social media.

The cooperation with MSB (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency), with focus on updating texts on their website “sakerhetspolitik.se”, also continued in 2015.

UCDP had one intern during 2015, Nicklas Fredriksson, who worked with maps and GIS representations of UCDP data.

Below follows an outline of UCDP’s activities throughout 2015.

Research Funding

Applications submitted

UCDP applied for a project grant from Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (RJ) for the project “External Involvement and Civil War Outcomes”. The principal investigator was Dr. Margareta Sollenberg.

UCDP submitted another project proposal to Vetenskapsrådet for the same project (“External Involvement and Civil War Outcomes”). Principal investigator: Dr. Margareta Sollenberg.

UCDP also submitted a project proposal to Vetenskapsrådet for the project “Mapping for prevention. Tracing the developments in fragmented and extremist conflicts”. Principal investigator: Dr. Magnus Öberg.
Grants received
None of the applications received funding.

Datasets
UCDP GED versions 1.9 - East Asia, 2.0 - Asia + Africa and 3.0 Asia + Africa + Middle East.
UCDP have had 10 058 downloads of GED data between 1 November 2015 and 22 February 2016, and 7 548 between 15 December (date of GED 3 release) and 22 February 2016.

UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset v.4-2015, 1946 – 2014 was released on 22 June 2015.

UCDP Battle-Related Deaths Dataset v.5-2015, 1989-2014 was released on 22 June 2015.

UCDP Dyadic Dataset v. 1-2015, 1946 - 2014 was released on 22 June 2015.

UCDP Actor Dataset v.2.2-2015 was released on 12 October 2015.

UCDP Non-State Conflict Dataset v. 2.5-2015, 1989-2014 was released on 12 October 2015.

UCDP One-sided Violence Dataset v 1.4-2015, 1989-2014 was released on 12 October 2015.

Press releases
UCDP released four press releases through the Uppsala university press office in 2015:


“Antalet konflikter i världen ökar” and “Global conflicts on the rise”, 17 June 2015.

“Ny konfliktstatistik:: 2014 ett våldsamt år” and “New conflict data: 2014 was a very violent year”, 12 October 2015.


Media
Appearances in the media

- A press release on the increase in the number of wars was sent out on 6 January and picked up by UNT on 6 January, Verdens Gang 18 January, SvD 7 January, Aftonbladet 6 January.
- Peter Wallensteen commented on armed conflict and arms trade data in Swedish Radio, Studio Ett, on 16 March.
- Marie Allansson was interviewed by Swedish Radio, P4 Uppland, on the topic of Yemen on 26 March.
- Therése Pettersson was interviewed by Danish newspaper Berlingske on trends in armed conflict on 26 April.
- Therése Pettersson was interviewed by Swedish Radio, P4 Dalarna, on trends in armed conflict on 7 May.
- Peter Wallensteen was interviewed by Swedish Radio, P4, Radiosporten, on sport and conflict, in May.
- Erik Melander was interviewed by Swedish Radio, Godmorgon Världen, on 9 June.
Therése Pettersson was interviewed by Svenska Dagbladet in connection to the release of the JPR article and 2014 data, article online 17 June and in the newspaper on 18 June.

Peter Wallensteen was interviewed by Dagens Nyheter in connection to the release of the JPR article and 2014 data, 17 June.

Therése Pettersson was interviewed by Swedish Radio, P4 Uppland, on trends in armed conflict on 17 June.

Peter Wallensteen was interviewed by TT in connection to the release of the JPR article and 2014 data, on 17 June. The TT article was published by, among other, Helsingborgs Dagblad.

Peter Wallensteen was interviewed by TT and Dagens Nyheter on conflict trends on 17 June.

Peter Wallensteen was interviewed by Swedish Radio, Godmorgon Världen, on the topic of “Is the world becoming more vulnerable?” on 5 July.

Marie Allansson was interviewed by Swedish Radio, P4 Uppland, on the topic of Syria on 15 September.

Therése Pettersson was interviewed by Swedish Radio, Morgonpasset I P3, on data collection and trends in armed conflict on 26 September.

A press release on trends in organized violence was sent out on 12 October and picked up by Forskning.se, and Science Nordic on 24 October (http://sciencenordic.com/2014-was-record-year-conflicts).

Peter Wallensteen was interviewed by Scholar’s Circle, Radio, New Zealand on quality peace and with reference to UCDP work, on 19 November.

A press release on conflicts in 2015 was sent out on 28 December.

Therése Pettersson was interviewed by TT in connection to the press release on 28 December. The TT article was published by, among others, Svenska Dagbladet, Aftonbladet, UNT, Metro, SVT.se, Eskilstuna-Kuriren, and Hufvudstadsbladet, on 28 December.

Therése Pettersson was interviewed by Swedish Television, Aktuellt, on Syria and conflict trends on 28 December.

Therése Pettersson was interviewed by Swedish Radio, P4 Uppland, on conflict trends in 2015 on 29 December.

Stina Högbladh was interviewed by Swedish Radio, Studio Ett, P1, on the election in the Central African Republic, on 30 December.

Media referring to UCDP (selected)

- Blog post on Foreign Police by Jay Ulfelder on 15 May (http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/05/14/genocide-is-going-out-of-fashion/).
- Two articles in Dagens Nyheter referred to UCDP on 17 June.
- The Finish news paper Helsingin Sanomat referred to UCDP in early July.
- Joshua S. Goldstein wrote about UCDP data on battle-deaths in “World Backsliding on Peace”, The Huffington Post on 3 August.
- Steven Pinker wrote about UCDP data in his article “Now for the good news: things are really getting better” in The Guardian on 11 September.
- A news article in Svenska Dagbladet titled ”Nej, tredje världskriget har inte börjat” on 15 September referred to UCDP data on battle-deaths.
- UCDP was quoted in a piece on conflict costs and fatalities in “Wojen jest mniej, ale stały się dużo bardziej krwawe” in the Polish newspaper Gazeta Prawna on 15 November. There were also citations from Therese Pettersson based on the press release from 12 October.
• UCDP was presented in Global Peace Operations Review published by *International Crisis Group* on 8 December.
• Andrew Mack and Robert Muggah wrote about UCDP and SDGs in “Countries must be honest about conflict deaths to know the true impact of war on development”, *The Guardian* 21 December.
• The German magazine *Stern* wrote about UCDP and conflict trends in “Warum die Welt nicht schlechter wird” on 22 December.

**Lectures, presentations, visits and teaching**

• Erik Melander held a lecture on “Trends in Armed Conflict and Peacebuilding”, Rotary Center for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, 20 January.
• Erik Melander held a lecture on “Measuring the Political Difference: Thailand and Pat(t)ani”, Deep South Watch, Patani, Thailand, 25 January.
• Erik Melander held a lecture on "Honor, Masculinity, and Political Violence", Prince of Songkla University, Pattani, 26 January.
• Peter Wallensteen talked about UCDP at the ABF event “Går världen mot kaos?” (Is the world going toward chaos?) In Stockholm on 29 January.
• Peter Wallensteen gave a lecture on Peace and Development, using UCDP data, on 5 February in Stockholm, in connection to receiving the FUF Prize.
• Samuel Taub, Stina Högladh and Peter Wallensteen presented UCDP at the Diplomatic Forum in Stockholm on 11 March.
• Samuel Taub presented UCDP at the Folke Bernadotte Academy on 18 March.
• Peter Wallensteen presented “A World of Conflict. Facts and Changes” at Hamncentralen, Uppsala, Science Café on 23 March.
• Peter Wallensteen presented the latest UCDP finding for the Advisory Council, European Institute of Peace (EIP), Brussels, on 26 March.
• Stina Högladh held a lecture on Transforming conflicts in Eastern DRC, at UKK, Uppsala, on 20 April.
• Samuel Taub was part of a panel discussion on the topic of terrorism, organized by Pax et Bellum, on 22 of April.
• Samuel Taub held a lecture on the PASA (Peace and Security in Africa) course presenting UCDP on 19 of May.
• Peter Wallensteen gave a lecture on the origin, definitions, trends etc of the UCDP at the PASA course on 19 May.
• Erik Melander participated in the Civil Military Relations Course, Swedish Armed Forces International Center (Swedint), 9 June.
• Peter Wallensteen gave two lectures (one of Conflict Patterns and one on Peace Processes) to the UNITAR-IPI fellowship program on conflict prevention, in Oslo Norway, on 30 June.
• Peter Wallensteen participated in the “Morning Discussion in the Sofa” arranged by Uppsala university on 3 July in Visby. The discussion, led by Stig-Björn Ljunggren, focused on conflict trends in the world.
• Peter Wallensteen held a lecture on Peace and Conflict Prevention for the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs on 14 August. 25 UN Ambassadors from ‘g7 plus’ group participated.
• Peter Wallensteen held a lecture on Peace and Conflict Prevention for the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs on 19 August 10 UN-Ambassadors participated.
• Samuel Taub presented UCDP to the A-course students on 3 September.
• Samuel Taub presented the UCDP encyclopedia to the A-course students on 30 September.
• Lotta Themnér held a lecture on “Trends in organised violence” at Lund University on 8 October. The lecture was held within the framework of their Thursday seminar series, which is an open lecture series in peace and conflict studies.
• Peter Wallensteen presented UCDP to the Uppsala University US Alumni Chapter, New York, on 13 October.
• Samuel Taub presented UCDP to the Master students on 14 October.
• Peter Wallensteen gave a presentation on 9 points for peace and their relevance for disarmament and Sustainable Development Goals for the Swedish Physicians against Nuclear Weapons, Academic Council, on 20 October.
• Erik Melander held a lecture on “Gender and Masculine Honor Ideology: Why They Matter for Peace”, Hiroshima University, on 2 November.
• Erik Melander held a lecture on “The complexity and diversity of conflicts and crises today”, EU Senior Mission Leaders Course, Bruges, on 18 November.
• Erik Melander participated in the Civil Military Relations Course, Swedish Armed Forces International Center (Swedint), on 25 November.
• Erik Melander held a presentation on “Genusperspektiv på väpnad konflikt”, Kvinna till Kvinna, on 2 December.

Awards
Peter Wallensteen was awarded the FUF-price 2014 (Föreningen för Utvecklingsfrågor). [The Annual Award of the Swedish Association for Development Issues], December 2014. Award lecture February 2015.

Participation in conferences, seminars and workshops
• Peter Wallensteen presented a paper together with Mikael Eriksson at the ISA, New Orleans on 18 February. The paper on Targeted Sanctions and Armed Conflicts used UCDP data.
• Marie Allansson, Mihai Croicu, Stina Högladh, Therése Pettersson, and Samuel Taub participated in the ISA Annual conference in New Orleans on 18-21 February. UCDP had a booth in the exhibition hall.
• Mihai Croicu and Joakim Kreutz presented a paper on territorial control, using UCDP data, at the ISA Annual conference in New Orleans on 18-21 February.
• Peter Wallensteen chaired the UCDP seminar ‘UCDP: Present and Future’ at the Department on 26 February.
• Stina Högladh, Samuel Taub and Peter Wallensteen participated in the Uppsala University Diplomatic Forum, Stockholm on 11 March and held a presentation of UCDP.
• Margareta Sollenberg and Maria Greek participated in European Network for Conflict Research (ENCoRe) workshop in Bonn 5-7 March. Greek gave the presentation ‘The Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) Georeferenced Event Dataset (GED)’ on one of the panels and Sollenberg represented UCDP in the ENCoRe Management Committee and ENCoRe Working Group 1, ‘Dataset coordination’.
• Mihai Croicu participated in the ENCoRe Data Visualization Workshop on 24-27 March.
• Erik Melander participated in a conference on Forecasting and Early Warning of Conflict, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Oslo, 22-23 April.
• Peter Wallensteen gave a speech to the Dinner-Seminar on Mediation in Africa, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (MoFA), DIRCO Conference Centre, Pretoria, South Africa, building on UCDP data, on 23 April. The UN Academic Council on Mediation.
• Stina Högbladh participated in a seminar on DR Congo in the Swedish Parliament, on 6 May.
• Peter Wallensteen moderated the Stockholm Forum session: 2015-30 Sustainable Development Goals and Fragility, at Munchenbryggeriet, Stockholm on 13 May. During the session, he introduced and discussed UCDP data.
• Erik Melander presented a paper on “Gender and Civil War”, International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) workshop on PSG1, OECD, Paris, on 19 May.
• Erik Melander was co-organizer (with Håvard Hegre), Workshop on Collecting and Analyzing Conflict Event Data, Uppsala, on 30 May.
• Peter Wallensteen participated in a one-day seminar, Intelligence Futures Seminar, at the University of Warwick on 8 July.
• Mihai Croicu participated in the ENCoRe Fall 2015 Conference and Meeting in Barcelona, on 1 - 2 October 2015.
• Peter Wallensteen participated in a research seminar (Reflections on Quality Peace, Kroc Institute, using UCDP data) at the Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame on 16 October.
• Mihai Croicu participated in the ENCoRe - East Asian Peace Annual Conference, Singapore, 5 - 8 November 2015. Presented paper (co-authored with Joakim Kreutz) : Gods and Monsters, Is there a global surge in religious violence?
• Stina Högbladh participated in the event “Allt ljus på Kongo”, at Fredens Hus, Uppsala, on 17 November.

International cooperation
Continued cooperation with the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, USA, notably its Projects on the Peace Accords Matrix and Quality Peace.

UCDP is a core partner in the European Network for Conflict Research (ENCoRe), funded by the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) [European Union]. The Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO), ETH Zurich and University of Konstanz are examples of institutes that the UCDP has increased cooperation with within the ENCoRe network.

2015 employees
Marie Allansson
Mihai Croicu
Garoun Engström
Maria Greek
Helena Grusell
Stina Högbladh
Publications (by members of UCDP)

Book chapters

Journal Articles

Conference Papers
- Mihai Croicu and Joakim Kreutz presented a paper on territorial control, using UCDP data, at the ISA Annual conference in New Orleans on 18-21 February.
- Peter Wallensteen presented a paper together with Mikael Eriksson at the ISA, New Orleans on 18 February. The paper on “Targeted Sanctions and Armed Conflicts” used UCDP data.
- Erik Melander presented a paper on “Gender and Civil War”, International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) workshop on PSG1, OECD, Paris, on 19 May.

UCDP Papers

Publications, using UCDP data (selected)

Book Chapters

Journal articles