Regional Overview: Europe 17 – 23 November 2019

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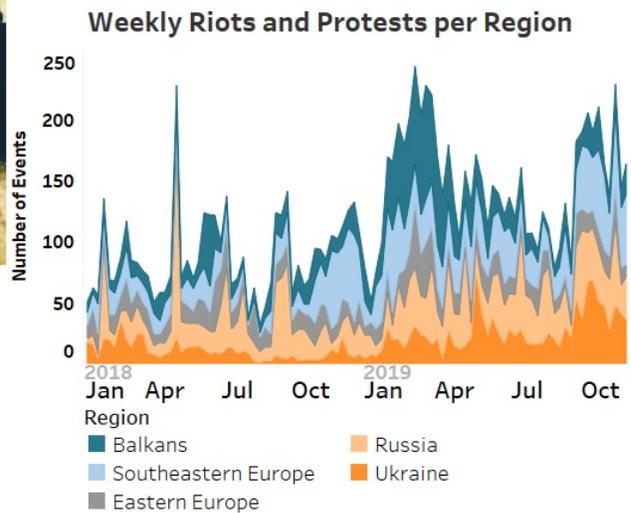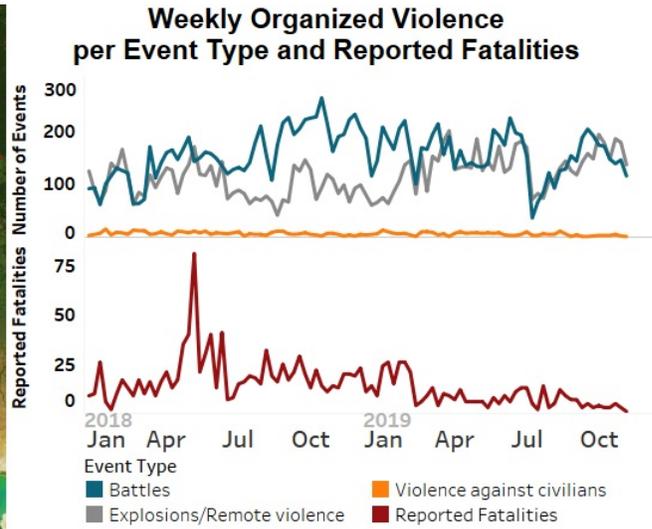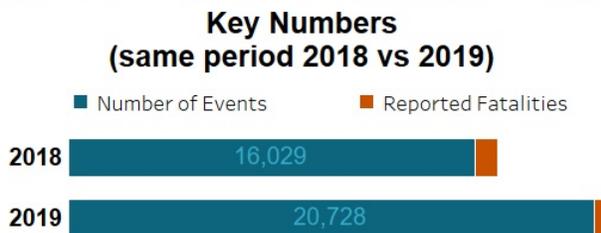
Lennart Landman

November 26, 2019

Last week, demonstration events were reported in the Balkans, Southeastern Europe and Eastern Europe over a wide range of local and national issues. Notable developments were: protests and the nomination of a new head of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina; student and anarchist demonstrations and violence in Greece; peaceful parliamentary elections in Belarus; and a drop in the fighting in the Donbass region of Ukraine.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, protests were held in several cities for four consecutive days, with protesters demanding an investigation into child abuse in a care facility for children with developmental disabilities (Balkan Insight, 21 November 2019). Zoran Tegeltija was nominated Chairman of the Council of Ministers, effectively the country's prime minister, after more than 13 months of post-election political deadlock. The nomination of Tegeltija, a Serb nationalist of the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD), raises concerns about the new government's commitment to the 1995 Dayton peace accords and its geopolitical orientation toward Russia and NATO (RFE/RL, 20 November 2019).

In **Greece** demonstrations and violence by students and anarchist groups spiked. Tens of thousands took part in marches, commemorating the 1973 student uprising, protesting various issues, including the government's education reforms (Deutsche Welle, 18 November 2019; Ekathimerini, 19 November 2019).

In **Belarus**, parliamentary elections were held on 17 November with no violence being reported. Little changed in the authoritarian Belarusian political system, as nearly all elected Members of Parliament remain loyal to President Alexander Lukashenko. The elections were condemned by national and international observers over widespread fraud, voter intimidation, constraints imposed on public political gatherings and bans of opposition candidates (RFE/RL, 18 November 2019).

In the Donbass region of **Ukraine**, reports of fighting between Ukrainian government forces and separatist rebels dropped below the yearly average, with 115 armed clashes and 134 shelling incidents resulting in one reported fatality.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE & PROTESTS IN EUROPE (1 Jan 2018 - 23 Nov 2019)

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Number of Events
1
200
400
≥ 600

Key Numbers
(same period 2018 vs 2019)

- Number of Events
- Reported Fatalities

2018 16,029
2019 20,728

Weekly Organized Violence per Event Type and Reported Fatalities

Reported Fatalities   Number of Events

300
200
100
0

75
50
25
0

2018 Jan Apr Jul Oct 2019 Jan Apr Jul Oct

Event Type
- Battles
- Explosions/Remote violence
- Violence against civilians
- Reported Fatalities

Weekly Riots and Protests per Region

Number of Events

250
200
150
100
50
0

2018 Jan Apr Jul Oct 2019 Jan Apr Jul Oct

Region
- Balkans
- Southeastern Europe
- Eastern Europe
- Russia
- Ukraine