

Introduction:

Conflicts in the Middle East and Africa are a reflection of the complexity of protracted conflicts; The way in which they interact, their longevity, the behaviour and demands of the perpetrators, the parties' terms of settlement, the dynamism of which they are characterized, and the intensity of their competition reflect their complexity.

This complexity increases as these conflicts interact with global changes as interests become more overlapping and complex, and the challenges surrounding political settlements increase in order to increase the importance of careful follow-up and analysis of such interactions as to enable us to set the record straight for choosing the most appropriate policies and preparing for the scenarios presented, In this number, together with tracking regional conflicts, we are approaching their internal interlinkages and international and regional interaction.

The eleventh issue of the Shaf Centre's monthly Conflict Trail Report highlights the Middle East and Africa arena of conflict States, tracking important issues, highlights and local, regional and international interactions. The report covers the conflict situation in 10 States (Ethiopia, Somalia, Iraq, Yemen, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Lebanon and Mali)

Executive Summary

Before we shed light on developments in the situation of conflict in the regions to be dealt with, the situation of conflict in the 10 States of concern is broadly presented before proceeding to the detailed report.

- **Ethiopia:** Ethiopia is experiencing a climate of uncertainty, instability and vulnerability, which would, Its inclusion in a series of bloody wars, its incursion into terrorism and its posture of a threat to regional security as well as disrupting its movements towards the completion of the Renaissance Dam project, which is the basis of the dispute between it and the downstream States The reason for the crisis in the State is the resumption of fighting between the "Ethiopian army". Tigray Liberation Front ", after a five-month truce breakthrough, as well as a renewed bloody ethnic conflict between the Amhara and Oromo in the west of the country, and to break that impasse, the Ethiopian Government must reach a peaceful settlement and solutions; So that conflicts don't turn into war.
- **Sudan:** The balance between the civilian and military components and the achievement of a mutually acceptable and satisfactory formula at the level of management of the next phase will be a major determinant of the situation in the Sudanese landscape. The basis for this consensus will be the establishment of security and stability in the country, the building of a transitional system of governance that delays electoral entitlements and urgent action to address the country's crises.

- **Somalia:** In August, Somalia witnessed a continuation of the relatively stable situation, following the Government's inception and formation. The voices of opposition to the formation and functioning of the Government are expected, but remain within its potential limits. With regard to "Al-Shabaab " movements, it can be said that their expansion within the Ethiopian territory is a qualitative development, but the best way to contain this acute development is through joint Ethiopian-Somali action, which would contain diplomatic tension between the parties and possible consequences for the parties; As a result of this escalation, it enhances the parties' potential as a united side, limiting Al-Shabaab activities.
- **Iraq:** It can be said that August saw a serious escalation, in Iraq's interior, after which the situation did not return to what it was. Although the month ended with a national dialogue session, which was absent from the Sadr stream, it is likely that the trend began closer to holding early parliamentary elections, with a specific date, and under the formation of a new Government.
- **Syria:** In conclusion, developments in Syria reflect the continued fact that international interventions are a catalyst for continuing instability. On the one hand, the security chaos these interventions create, Or at the level of functional groups within Syria that serve at the direction of these international parties In the absence of a clear horizon for Syria's political solution, indications are mounting of continuing instability in future periods.

- **Yemen:** The United Nations armistice faces a state of repercussions, especially as it proved unsuccessful in its first period by not being able to put the necessary pressure on the Houthis to open a road to the besieged Ta 'izz governorate for eight years. The Houthis have disappointed Yemenis and proved their lack of seriousness in working for lasting peace, as they see the armistice as a supply point for continuing their war against the right, trading in the humanitarian file and blackmailing the

- **South Sudan:** In August, South Sudan is experiencing the completion of the stumbling block; resulting from the weak political will of the government of national unity to take serious steps, In the implementation of the bills, linked to the comprehensive realization of the peace process, and the country's return to the democratic path the government's decision to "procrastinate and extend the transition period", amid various international reactions, the persistence of human suffering and the persistence of intra-country congestion may mean. The vision of the current political leadership, however, is reflected in the activation of the diplomatic divide. Moreover, constant working on the activation of bilateral companies with neighbouring countries.

- **Lebanon:** At the tone of the Government's vacuum and economic crisis, Lebanon is living in the hope that the presidential entitlement will occur on time, preaching a breakthrough, facing the crunch interior; In terms of the formation of the Government, the introduction of economic aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as agreement on the maritime boundary demarcation file, the situation in Beirut is almost disappointing;

Lebanon is inside a dark tunnel, owing to several reasons, namely political polarization, inherent in rival political forces, which favor personal interest from the national interest, ambiguity about the electoral due date, candidates, as well as threats to Hizbullah, made from the speculated agreement between Lebanon and Israel.

- **Libya:** After the worst round of fighting in two years, which killed 32 people and injured 159 others in the Libyan capital Tripoli late on Friday, 26 August, and lasted for the following day, a state of relative calm is now camped out in Libya, coinciding with Arab and international calls for all Libyan parties to seize control and control the security situation. In order to avoid renewed clashes again, a genuine and transparent dialogue between all Libyan parties must be launched as soon as possible.

- **Mali:** Mali can be said to be capable of achieving much, in the area of economic recovery, by opening up to the states, trying to overcome the "diplomatic, economic" isolation, such as "Russia, Iran", and therefore we see each other's readiness; To contain Mali's requirements, and to work with the ruling military junta, as an alternative to historic Western partnerships, in particular, to replace France.