

## **WHY IS ENDING VIOLENCE SO DIFFICULT FOR NON-STATE ARMED GROUPS AROUND THE WORLD?**

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Ending violence for non-state armed groups (NSAGs) is a complex issue, and several factors contribute to the difficulty. Here are some key reasons:

- **Diverse Goals and Motivations:** NSAGs have varying objectives, ranging from political power to economic gain, making it challenging to address their grievances and negotiate an end to violence.
- **Lack of Clear Leadership:** Many NSAGs have decentralized or fragmented leadership structures, making it difficult to identify and engage with key decision-makers.
- **Illicit Economies and Financing:** NSAGs often rely on illicit economies, such as drug trafficking or extortion, to fund their activities, creating a financial incentive to continue violence.
- **State-NSAG Relations:** The relationship between states and NSAGs can be complex, with some states supporting or tolerating certain groups while opposing others, creating an uneven playing field.
- **International Cooperation and Diplomacy:** The lack of international cooperation and diplomacy can hinder efforts to address the root causes of violence and negotiate peaceful resolutions.
- **Local Community Support:** NSAGs often have support from local communities, which can make it difficult to isolate and pressure them to end violence.
- **Complexity of Conflict Dynamics:** Conflicts involving NSAGs often involve multiple actors, including state forces, other NSAGs, and civilians, creating a complex web of relationships and interests.
- **Humanitarian Concerns:** NSAGs often disregard humanitarian law and human rights, leading to significant humanitarian concerns and challenges in negotiating ceasefires and peace agreements.

To effectively address violence by NSAGs, it's essential to understand these complexities and develop tailored strategies that address the specific context and drivers of violence. This may involve:

- Engagement and Dialogue: Establishing dialogue with NSAGs can help build trust and create opportunities for peaceful resolution.
- Addressing Grievances: Addressing the grievances and concerns of NSAGs and their supporters can help reduce tensions and create a more conducive environment for peace.
- Economic and Development Initiatives: Supporting economic and development initiatives in areas affected by NSAG violence can help reduce poverty and inequality, making it less appealing for individuals to join armed groups.
- International Cooperation: Enhancing international cooperation and diplomacy can help address the root causes of violence and support peaceful resolution efforts.
- Humanitarian Access: Ensuring humanitarian access to affected populations is crucial for providing assistance and protection.

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