



The Atlas of Impunity 2024: A People's Perspective

Impunity is the exercise of power without accountability. In its clearest form, it is the commission of crimes without punishment. While the chief perpetrators of impunity are often a country's most powerful actors, its victims are generally ordinary people.

The Atlas of Impunity is a quantitative assessment of this holistic definition, measured by a series of publicly available indicators from credible, independent sources. It assesses impunity across the five dimensions of unaccountable governance, abuse of human rights, economic exploitation, conflict and violence, and environmental degradation.

The newest edition of the Atlas scores and ranks the degree of impunity faced by the typical resident in 170 countries. It provides partial, indicative scoring for another 27. Scores are expressed on a scale of 0 to 5, with greater values corresponding to a higher degree of impunity. The country where people face the most impunity ranks highest.

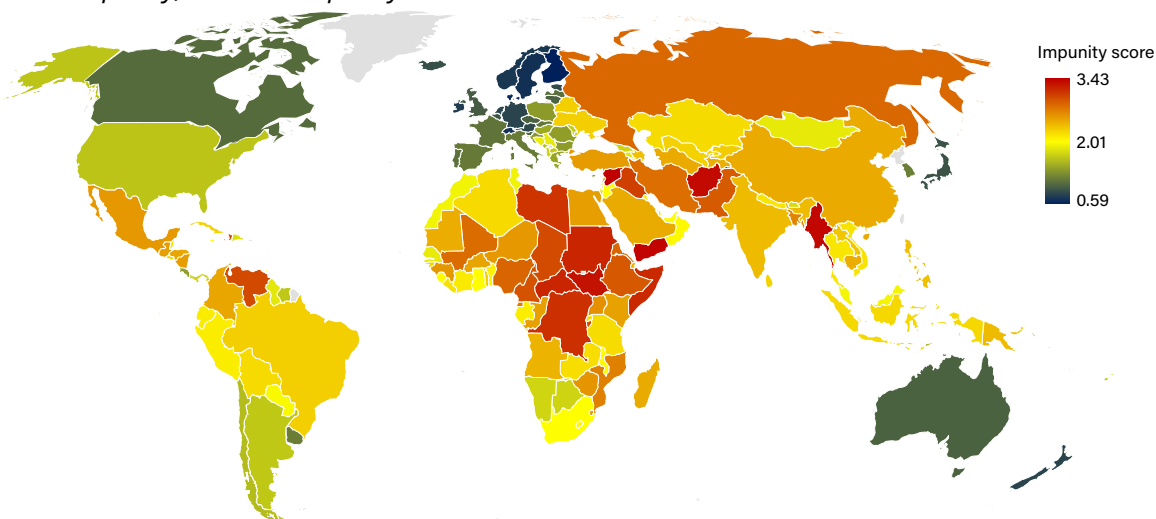
Now in its third edition, the 2024 Atlas takes a citizen-centric approach, putting a country's people at its core. The report's data for last year and its historical series have been revised to more directly measure impunity as it is experienced by a country's residents. Some of the report's key findings are as follows.

- Syria records the greatest degree of impunity in 2024, with an overall score of 3.43 out of 5. Following 13 years of civil war, the fall of Bashar al Assad's regime in December offers Syrians hope for a new political process that stabilizes the country and restores accountability if further infighting can be averted.
- Some of the Atlas's most improved countries in 2024, including Sierra Leone and Guatemala, provide further reasons for optimism. In Sierra Leone, where residents have seen the most improvement on these Atlas metrics since 2019, reduced violence and a series of reforms have greatly improved accountability. In Guatemala, the third-most improved country year-on-year, the election of anticorruption candidate Bernardo Arevalo in 2023 and the failure of authorities' efforts to keep him out of office or overturn the presidential vote have also underpinned greater accountability.
- In what was a major year for electoral politics, the Atlas recorded a notable uptick in unaccountable governance, both globally and in geographic regions. The indicators driving this trend are largely backward-looking, reflecting developments that took place in 2023 or early in the year. Rather than a response to outcomes at the polls, the rise should be understood as the context against which 2024's elections unfolded. A plausible interpretation of the worsening scores in the unaccountable governance dimension is that voters' mounting frustration with the political process contributed to the backlash against incumbents at the polls.

- With a record number of wars ongoing, many of the Atlas’s highest-scoring countries are ravaged by conflict. Global and regional averages on the conflict and violence dimension of the Atlas remained relatively stable in 2024, but underlying raw data from key indicators point to a rise in levels of violence. Much of this fighting is concentrated in a small number of countries and territories that have recorded high scores on this dimension for several years—which explains the stability in the global average.
- The Atlas report focuses on quantitative measures, but it also acknowledges the importance of qualitative data in fighting impunity. Such documentation can raise awareness of abuses, help to mobilize campaigns for change, and provide evidence of systematic human rights violations, especially where statistical data are scarce. This can be an important tool in seeking legal redress.

2024 impunity score

0 = least impunity; 5 = most impunity

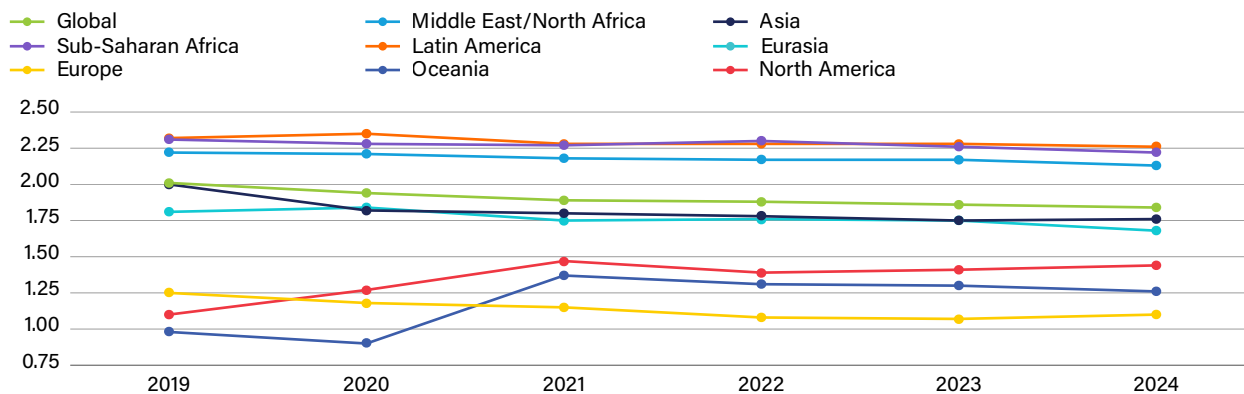


Source: Eurasia Group

Highest level of impunity			Middle ten			Lowest level of impunity		
Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score	Rank
Syria	3.43	1	Ivory Coast	2.13	82	Netherlands	0.83	161
Yemen	3.41	2	Ecuador	2.12	83	New Zealand	0.82	162
Myanmar	3.39	3	Kuwait	2.12	84	Germany	0.82	163
Afghanistan	3.38	4	Qatar	2.11	85	Luxembourg	0.78	164
South Sudan	3.33	5	Gabon	2.11	86	Ireland	0.77	165
Sudan	3.23	6	Peru	2.11	87	Norway	0.74	166
CAF	3.22	7	Benin	2.09	88	Switzerland	0.71	167
Somalia	3.20	8	Oman	2.05	89	Sweden	0.70	168
Congo - Kinshasa	3.17	9	Lesotho	2.04	90	Denmark	0.63	169
Libya	3.14	10	Jamaica	2.04	91	Finland	0.59	170

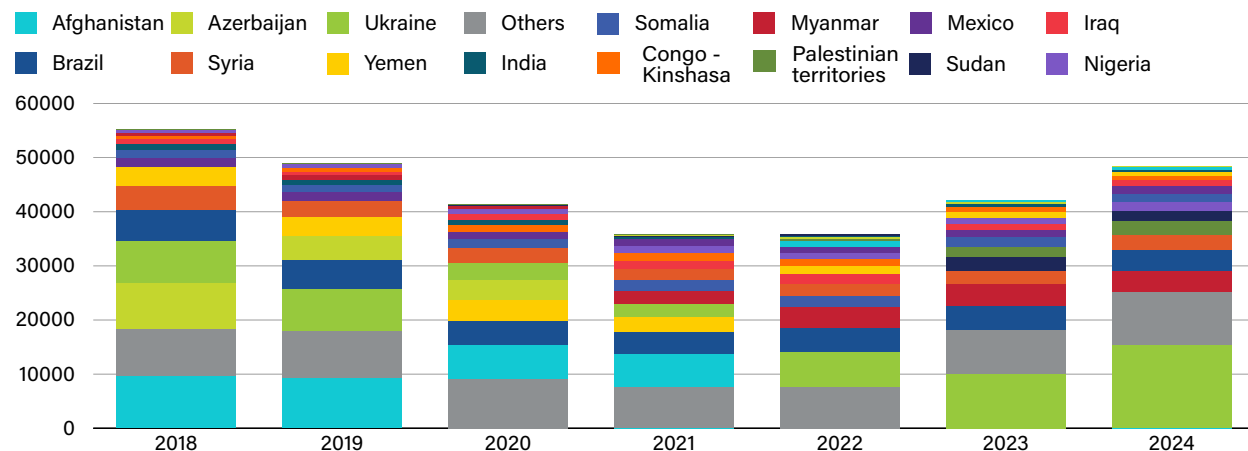
Average CV scores remain highest in Latin America, Africa, and Asia

Average of ranked countries; higher scores mean more impunity



People in 15 countries endure about 80% of the world's armed conflict

Number of battles



Source: ACLED