

Internal displacement in the current migratory crisis

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Abstract

Today, international society faces the worst migratory crisis since World War II. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), by the end of 2016 there were 65.6 million people who were forced to leave their homes. Of these 65.6 million, about 40 million are internally displaced, nearly twice as many as 22.5 million refugees. That is, the number of people who were forced to flee but failed to cross the borders of their own country is much higher than those who have achieved. Therefore, the humanitarian crisis currently experienced by international society is extremely serious. Despite the high number of internally displaced people, in 2016 there was the first reduction, albeit small. It was the first reduction since the beginning of the Arab spring, when the current humanitarian crisis began. Based in this scenario, this article aims to analyze the factors that led to the reduction of the number of internally displaced people in 2016. Therefore, this article was divided into three sections. First, it aims to study the definition of internally displaced persons and their protection under international law. Afterwards, it shows and compares the data on IDPs between 2011 and 2016. At the end, it analyses the circumstances leading to a reduction in the number of internally displaced people in the period between 2015 and 2016.

Keywords: Human rights. Internally displaced person. International Humanitarian Law. International law. Migration.

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Introduction

Migrations have existed since the beginning of civilization, and there are several reasons for people migrate. When there is no intervention of external factors, it is said that migration is voluntary. It is different when the will to migrate does not exist and there are external factors forcing people to migrate, such as in places where there are serious violations of human rights, for example.¹

Today, international society faces the worst migratory crisis since World War II. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), by the end of 2016 there were 65.6 million people who were forced to leave their homes. Of these 65.6 million, about 40 million are internally displaced, nearly twice as many as 22.5 million refugees. That is, the number of people who were forced to flee but failed to cross the borders of their own country is much higher than those who have achieved.² Therefore, the humanitarian crisis currently experienced by international society is extremely serious.

Despite the high number of internally displaced people, in 2016 there was the first reduction, albeit small.³ That is, it was the first reduction since the beginning of the Arab spring, when the current humanitarian crisis began. Based in this scenario, this article aims to analyze the factors that led to the reduction of the number of internally displaced people in 2016.

This issue is very relevant, once the legal protection of people in a dangerous situation is one of the most polemic themes nowadays.⁴ Given that internally displaced people are potential refugees, the current refugee crisis experienced by cross-border countries (the Middle East, Africa and Europe) could become even worse.

Therefore, this article was divided into three sections. First, it aims to study the definition of internally displaced persons and their protection under international law. Afterwards, it shows and compares the data on IDPs between 2011 and 2016. At the end, it analyses the circumstances leading to a reduction

¹ JUBILUT, Liliana Lyra; MENICUCCI, Silvia. A necessidade de proteção internacional no âmbito da migração. *Revista Direito GV*. São Paulo, v. 6, n. 1, p. 275-294, jan./jun. 2010. p. 281.

² INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER (IDMC). *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2017*. IDMC, 2017. Available in: <<http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2017/>>. Consulted in: 10 jul 2017.

³ IDMC, 2017.

⁴ OLIVEIRA, Eduardo Cançado. A proteção jurídica internacional dos deslocados internos. *Revista do Instituto Brasileiro de Direitos Humanos*. v. 5, n. 5, 2004, p. 73.

in the number of internally displaced people in the period between 2015 and 2016.

This is a qualitative, based in quantitative data and exploratory research, which was based on primary and secondary sources. As primary sources it was used international treaties and other legal documents, General Assembly of the United Nations resolutions, UNHCR documents and United Nations Human Rights Council (OHCHR). Besides these documents, it was also used books, articles and research on the United Nations (UN) website, UNHCR website and African Union Organization websites. For the purposes of statistical data about IDPs, the IDMC bases will be used, since UNHCR bases indicate smaller numbers of IDPs because they are restricted to the agency's locations (29 countries, in 2016). In addition, the UNHCR itself indicates the IDMC as data source. For data on the migratory crisis, including refugees, the UNHCR database will also be used.

Internally Displaced Persons

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are those people who suffer persecution or violence but are unable to leave their country of origin and, unlike refugees, have only recently come to the attention of the international community. Until the late 1980s, the expression “internally displaced person” was used only when organizations recognized those people as a potential refugees. Nevertheless, internal displacement is a problem as old as migration between countries, but this subject has just gained notoriety since the 1990s.⁵

The first international legal rules about refugee were created by the League of Nations, and the major milestone was the establishment of UNHCR in 1950, the Refugee Statute in 1951 and the 1967 Additional Protocol⁶. These documents are the basis of the International Refugee Law and define who can apply for asylum and which are the basic treatment conditions and rights to these people. The 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol foresaw that any person who is suffering persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, and is outside the

⁵ OLIVEIRA, 2004, p. 74.

⁶ UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR). *Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees*. Geneva: UNHCR, 2010. Available in: <http://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10>>. Consulted in: 10 set. 2017.

country of his nationality may apply for asylum. So, besides the persecution, it is also necessary that people flee from their own country.

However, these treaties do not assist IDPs, because they remain within the borders of their states. And until the late 1980s the international community worried only about migrants who crossed the borders of their own country.

Two Conferences held in the end of 1980s highlighted the problem concerning IDPs. In 1989, the International Conference on Plight of Refugee, Returnees and Displaced Persons took place in Southern Africa⁷ and the International Conference on Central America Refugees took place in Guatemala City.⁸ In fact, no international treaty was drawn up in these meetings, but United Nations (UN) Secretary-General published the first UN Report on Internally Displaced Persons. However, the definition has focused on the difference between these people and refugees, emphasizing that countries of origin have primary responsibility to protect their displaced people.⁹ The issue was getting more attention and the UN Commission on Human Rights drafted its first resolution in 1991. Although it did not define the expression “internally displaced”, it emphasized the need for their protection and requested a report from the UN Secretary-General.¹⁰

In 1992, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to designate a representative to deal specifically with issues related to displaced people.¹¹ In response to that request, a Special Representative of the Secretary-General of Internally Displaced Persons was assigned for the following functions: to develop international, regional and national laws; to coordinate missions in the States and to research related issues.¹² And one of the Special Representative’s findings was the absence of an international legal document regulating the needs of those people, as well as the absence of UN organs that could

⁷ ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNION. *International conference on the plight of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Southern Africa*. CM/Res/1181 (XLIX). 25 fev 1989. Available in: <<http://www.peace-au.org/uploads/cm-res-1181-xlix-e.pdf>>. Consulted in: 11 jul. 2017.

⁸ ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES. *General Assembly AG/RES 1021(XIX-O/89)*. OEA, 18 nov 1989. Available in: <https://www.oas.org/dil/AG-RES_1021_XIX-O-89_eng.pdf>. Acesso em: 11 jul. 2017.

⁹ NOGUEIRA, Maria Beatriz Bonna. A proteção dos deslocados internos na sociedade internacional: evolução conceitual e normativa. *Revista da Faculdade de Direito da UFRGS*, volume especial, 2014, p. 74.

¹⁰ UNITED NATIONS. Commission on Human Rights. *E/CN.4/RES/1991/25*. 5 mar 1991. Available in: <<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=3b00f0b1c>>. Consulted in 11 jul 2017.

¹¹ UNITED NATIONS. Commission on Human Rights. *E/CN.4/RES/1992/73*. 05 mar 1992. Available in: <<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=3b00f0e71c>>. Consulted in: 11 jul. 2017.

¹² UNITED NATIONS. *Un introduction to international protection: protecting person of concern to UNHCR*. Geneva: 2005, p. 12.

act in emergency situations. Regarding to these agencies, it was established that a mechanism for mobilizing activities would be created among the various agencies that provide humanitarian aid. In regard to a legal document, it was proposed the “Guiding Principles on Internally Displacement”, which was unanimously approved by the Commission on Human Rights in 1998.¹³ These Principles¹⁴ define internally displaced persons as follows:

[...] persons or group of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.

Therefore, the main elements of the concept of IDPs are: forced migration which does not go beyond the borders of the State of origin. It should also be noted that, unlike the provisions of the Refugee Statute, there is no provision about persecution based on nationality, race, ethnic origin, religion or political opinion in the Guiding Principles. The reasons for the migration set forth in this document are wider than those foreseen by the Convention. The document does not intend to provide legal status to the IDPs, so it does not determine the reasons to flee.

It should be noticed that there are two regional treaties which emerged from the Guiding Principles: the Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (2006) and the Kampala Convention (2009). In any case, they are both restricted to the regional scope.

Then, there are only a few documents to regulate the issue of IDPs. So, it is difficult to say that there is an international protection for them. But, nowadays this issue is coming to the attention of international community and is being recognized as a humanitarian problem. And, although it is not a treaty, the Principles set forth in the Guiding Principles reflect the rights foreseen in others international treaties and customary law. In addition, it should be noticed that the Refugee Statute and the 1967 Protocol may also be applied to IDPs by analogy, in cases that these people can be compared to refugees. The International Committee of the Red Cross states that:

¹³ OLIVEIRA, 2004, p. 75.

¹⁴ UNITED NATIONS. Commission on human rights. *Guiding principles on internal displacement*. Geneva: UN, 11 feb 1998. Available in: <<http://www.un-documents.net/gpid.htm>>. Consulted in 09 jul 2017.

These principles reflect currently International Law and are widely recognized towards an international framework for the protection of these people during all stages of displacement, including return, resettlement and reintegration.¹⁵

Anyway, the Guiding Principles provides that national authorities have primary responsibility for IDPs. However, it should be noted that, sometimes, these authorities are oppressive and, therefore, they are the reason for forced migration. Another bad situation is when the State is not oppressive, but cannot guarantee the minimum rights of these people. In this case, as foresaw in the Guiding Principles, States should ask international agencies for humanitarian aid.

Although there is no specific agency to assist IDPs, the UNHCR also play the role to provide vital assistance for these people whenever the reasons for internal displacement are the same reasons to apply for asylum. Depending on the situation, it is possible that other agencies also provide assistance for IDPs, such as World Health Organization and The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), but the UNHCR is the main responsible for that matter. There is a Special Representative to IDPs, who is responsible for identifying the needs of these people, although there is no operational mandate. The Special Representative has several functions, such as: to negotiate free passage to displaced people, to negotiate protection and humanitarian assistance and to coordinate resources mobilization. The Special Representative may act at the request of the UN Secretary-General, together with the consent of national authorities of the affected country and under the condition of adequate resources, such as security.¹⁶

Internal Displacement from 2011 to 2016

In 1997 there were already 33.9 million forced migrants. It was the highest number of migrants since World War II. However, the current migratory crisis is related to events that occurred after 2011/2012, because from this time on thousands of people were forced to flee from their cities of origin, which made the number of forced migrants reaching about 65 million by 2015. This was

¹⁵ COMITÉ INTERNACIONAL DA CRUZ VERMELHA. *Como o DIH protege os refugiados e os deslocados internos?* 22 jan 2015. Available in: <<https://www.icrc.org/pt/document/como-o-dih-protege-os-refugiados-e-os-deslocados-internos>>. Consulted in: 12 jul 2017. Tradução do autor.

¹⁶ UNITED NATIONS, 2005, p. 88-89.

due in particular to the Syrian civil war, in addition to the conflicts in Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic and South Sudan.

Although the number of refugees is very high, about 22,5 million, the vast majority of forced migrants are internally displaced persons, and the difference between the number of IDPs and refugees has increased considerably since 1997.¹⁷

The number of IDPs has doubled between the year 2000 and the end of 2016, and the great increase has been in the last 5 years. By the end of 2016, however, there were 40.3 million IDPs, while at the end of 2015 there were 40.8 million IDPs. Therefore, there has been a reduction in the period of 1 year. It was a small reduction, in fact, but for the first time in the last 5 years, there was a reduction. See table below:

Table #1 – Internal displacement from 2011 to 2016

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Internally displaced person	26,4 million	28,8 million	33,3 million	38 million	40,8 million	40,3 million

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Center¹⁸

This data are related to the total number of IDPs, but if one analyze country-by-country, the IDMC database shows that in some countries there was a decrease, while in others there was an increase in the number of IDPs. That is, the table above shows a decrease in the overall number of displaced persons, but this does not mean that there was no displacement in 2016. On the contrary, there were still 6.9 million new displaced people in 2016, due to the war.

¹⁷ IDMC, 2017.

¹⁸ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Internal displacement global overview 2011: people internally displaced by conflict and violence*. IDMC, abril 2012. INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Global overview 2012: people internally displaced by conflict and violence*. IDMC, abril 2013. INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Global overview 2014: people internally displaced by conflict and violence*. IDMC, maio 2014. INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Global overview 2015: people internally displaced by conflict and violence*. IDMC, maio 2015. INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *2016 global report on internal displacement*. IDMC, 2016.

IDMC, 2017.

However, if only the number of the newly displaced is compared, it is also possible to see a decrease in 2016 compared to previous years. See table #2 below:

Table #2 – New displacements from 2011 to 2016

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
New displacements	3,5 million	6,5 million	8,2 million	11 million	8,9 million	6,9 million

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Center¹⁹

Among the new IDPs, 2.1 million are in the Middle East and North Africa and 2.6 million in sub-Saharan Africa, representing 68.7% of the increase in new IDPs. According to the IDMC²⁰, this increase in the number of displaced people in 2016 occurred because of the conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa, especially DRC.

In addition, it should also be noted that more than 500.000 IDPs returned in 2016 in comparison to 2015. Thus, in 2016 there has been a slight shift in a growing picture of internal migration related to conflict and persecution.

The following countries are among the ones with the highest numbers of increase and reduction of IDPs:

¹⁹ IDMC, 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017.

²⁰ IDMC, 2017.

Table # 3 – Internal displacement in 2015 and 2016

Country	Internally displaced person in 2015	Internally displaced person in 2016	Increase	Reduction
Afghanistan	1.174.000 (335.000 new displacements)	1.553.000 (653.000 new displacements)	379.000	
Colombia	6.270.000 (224.000 new displacements)	7.246.000 (171.000 new displacements)	976.000	
Yemen	2.509.000 (2.175.000 new displacements)	1.974.000 (478.000 new displacements)		974.100
Iraq	3.290.000 (1.114.000 new displacements)	3.035.000 (659.000 new displacements)		255.000
Nigeria	2.096.000 (737.000 new displacements)	1.955.000 (501.000 new displacements)		141.000
Paquistan	1.459.000 (907.000 new displacements in 2014 and there is no data in 2015)	464.000 (2.400 new displacements)		536.000
DRC	1.500.000 (621.000 new displacements)	2.230.000 (922.000 new displacements)	730.000	
Syria	6.600.000 (1.300.000 new displacements)	6.326.000 (824.000 new displacements)		300.000
Somalia	1.223.000 (90.000 new displacements)	1.107.000 (113.000 new displacements)		116.000
Sudan	3.182.000 (144.000 new displacements)	3.300.000 (a maioria em Darfur) (97.000 New displacements)	118.000	
South Sudan	1.697.000 (199.000 new New displacements)	1.854.000 (281.000 New displacements)	157.000	

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Center²¹²¹ IDMC, 2015; 2016; 2017.

One can perceive that $\frac{3}{4}$ of internally displaced people are concentrated in 11 countries. And Colombia, DRC, Iraq, Sudan and South Sudan have been among the 11 countries since 2003.²²

Considering these 11 countries with the highest number of IDPs, it can be seen that there were 1.384,000 new displaced people, while there was a reduction of 2.322,100. At a first glance, it may appear that there is a tendency to reduce the number of IDPs. Indeed, the reduction is undeniable, but this fact did not occur because of tendencies to resolve conflicts in those countries. Part of this reduction was due to the fact that many IDPs crossed the borders of their countries to apply for asylum in others, increasing the number of asylum-seekers and refugees.²³ By analyzing table #3, despite of the reduction, there is no prospect for the problem of forced migration been solved. Even in countries where there has been a reduction of internally displaced people, new ones have still emerged. In fact, not all have become refugees, some of them returned to their hometowns. But if there were good conditions of return, why should there be new displacements? According to UNHCR²⁴, it has been the highest number of returns since 2011, but the majority have been in a precarious situation with land or property occupied, confiscated or destroyed.

In order to better analyze this issue, it is necessary to verify the current situation of conflicts in the above mentioned countries.

Analysis of countries with the highest number of IDPs

Analyzing the table #3, one can perceive that among the 11 countries with the highest number of IDPs there are some in which there was a reduction and others in which there was an increase of IDPs. See below brief observations on each of these countries.

a) Afghanistan

Afghanistan is one of the most violent countries in the world, with many armed conflicts, especially after the intervention that began in 2001. Adding

²² IDMC, 2017.

²³ UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES. *Global trends: forced displacement in 2016*. Geneva: UNHCR, 2017. Available in: <<http://www.unhcr.org/5943e8a34.pdf>>. Consulted in: 12 jul 2017.

²⁴ UNHCF, 2017.

this factor to terrorist attacks, poverty and the lack of basic services, one can understand the reason for the displacements.²⁵

Regarding the increase of IDPs in 2016, it is necessary to consider not only the conflicts in the country, but also the return of many Afghan refugees who were in Pakistan.²⁶ And, comparing the flow of the internally displaced in the last 6 years, it is perceived that there has been a gradual increase.

Table #4 – Internal displacement in Afghanistan

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Internally displaced person	450.000	492.000	631.000	805.000	1.174.000	1.553.000
New displacements	186.000	100.000	124.000	156.000	335.000	653.000

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Center²⁷

Thus, displacements in Afghanistan do not represent the overall data presented in Table #1, which shows a large increase in total volume between 2012 and 2015, and in Table #2, which shows a large increase in the number of new displaced person between 2012 and 2014.

It should be noticed that by the end of 2014, the mandate of the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF)²⁸ – created to assist the reconstruction of the country and the fight against the Taliban – was finished. With the end of the mandate, violence and conflicts in the country increased, and consequently, the number of IDPs.²⁹ Therefore, there is no prospect of a reduction of IDPs in Afghanistan in the short term.

b) Colombia

Colombia is the country with the largest number of IDPs and there are no returns in the database. It should be noted that there is a problem in Colom-

²⁵ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Afghanistan: country information*. IDMC, 2017. Available in: <<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/afghanistan/>>. Consulted in: 13 jul 2017.

²⁶ IDMC, 2017.

²⁷ IDMC, *Afghanistan*, 2017.

²⁸ UNITED NATIONS. Security Council. *S/Res/1386*. Geneva: UN, 24 dec 2011. Available in: <<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N01/708/55/PDF/N0170855.pdf?OpenElement>>. Consulted in: 31 jul. 2017.

²⁹ GLATZ, Anne-Kathrin; HOWARD, Caroline. *Afghanistan: new and long term IDPs risk becoming neglected as conflict intensifies*. 16 jul 2015. Disponível em: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/south-and-south-east-asia/afghanistan/2015/afghanistan-new-and-long-term-idps-risk-becoming-neglected-as-conflict-intensifies>. Consulted in: 12 jul. 2017.

bian legislation and database of IDPs. Under national law, registration of the displaced person is a way of facilitating reparation for victims. The law foresees that a person only loses his internal displaced status if he provides fraudulent information. That is, victims will always be recognized as IDPs if they do not provide false information, even if they ever return or start their lives elsewhere. This means that the number of IDPs in Colombia will never decrease. If the Colombian legal rules were applied in African countries, for example, the overall number of displaced persons would increase every year.³⁰ Anyway, in recent years new IDPs have emerged, with a very different flow than the average of the global flow.

Table #5 – Internal displacement in Colombia

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Internally displaced person	5.281.000	5.455.000	5.700.000	6.044.000	6.270.000	7.246.000
New displacement	103.000	230.000	157.000	137.000	224.000	171.000

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Center³¹

Therefore, table #1 and table # 2, that shows the flow of the global internal displacement in the last 6 years, does not represent the Colombian flow, which is quite unstable.

c) Yemen

IDPs in Yemen have increased in 2015, but by 2016 they began to decline, especially in the case of new IDPs.

Table #6 – Internal displacement in Yemen

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Internally displaced person	464.000	385.000	307.000	334.000	2.509.000	1.974.000
New displacements	165.000	132.000	20.000	100.000	2.175.000	478.000

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Center³²

³⁰ IDMC, 2017

³¹ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Colombia: country information*. 2017. Available in: <<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/colombia>>. Consulted in: 13 jul. 2017.

³² INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Yemen: country information*. 2017. Available in: <<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/yemen>>. Consulted in: 13 jul. 2017.

Hostilities and insecurity in the places where IDPs were hosted caused them to return, despite the risks in the cities of origin.³³ According to IDMC, the decrease in the number of new displaced people in 2016 compared to 2015 is misleading and does not reflect the dynamics of the displacements in the country. There are several displacements that have not been reported and quantified. Thus, it can not be said that there was a return due to appeasement in the conflict. In addition, the places where the IDPs are hosted are deprived of basic services and security.³⁴

Another factor to be noticed is that the blocking of Saudi Arabia by sea, land and air prevents people from leaving the country, so there are not many refugees but IDPs. Therefore, the flow of people is constant, and the decrease in 2016 is not a trend, because situation in the country is very unstable.

d) Iraq:

Iraq has a history of forced migration due to a combination of factors including armed conflict, political, ethnic and religious persecution. In relation to the displacements between 2011 and 2016, see table below:

Table #7 – Internal displacement in Iraq

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Internally displaced person	2.600.000	2.100.000	2.100.000	3.276.000	3.290.000	3.035.000
New displacements	8.000	—	12.000	2.177.000	1.114.000	659.000

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Center³⁵

Comparing the internal displacement in Iraq (table #7) with the internal displacement at global level (table #1 and table #2), one can perceive differences. In 2012 and 2013 the number of IDPs has decreased, whereas the internal displacement increased in global scope. However, in Iraq there was a larger increase in 2014, due to the emergence of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), which started to claim, among other issues, part of the territory of

³³ UNHCR, 2017.

³⁴ IDMC, 2017.

³⁵ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Iraq: country information*. 2017. Available in: <<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/iraq>>. Consulted in: 13 jul. 2017.

the country. That year, Iraq had the highest number of IDPs.³⁶ Gradually, the government has retaken its territory, which contribute to the return of some IDPs. Nevertheless, many of these people returned to areas with little infrastructure and destroyed cities.³⁷

Therefore, although many IDPs have returned, it is too early to say that it is a definitive return. Iraq is still a country in conflict, and, observing its past, we acknowledge that there has always been internal displacement.

e) Nigeria:

The crisis in Nigeria is due especially to Boko Haram, once their attacks have increased since 2014. But internal displacement has also other reasons, such as inter-communal clashes and economic, social and political factors. These inter-communal conflicts are fuelled by ethnic and religious tensions and, consequently, divide the Muslim north and the Christian south of Nigeria.³⁸ In relation to the displacements between 2011 and 2016, see table below:

Table #8 – Internal displacement in Nigeria

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Internally displaced person	-	-	3.300.000	1.075.000	2.096.000	1.955.000
New displacements	65.000	63.000	471.000	975.000	737.000	501.000

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Center³⁹

One can perceive that there is a very instable flow of internal displacement and, therefore, it does not represent the global flow.

Nigeria has a history of internal conflicts and in addition to endemic corruption⁴⁰ it is not possible to state that the reduction between 2015 and 2016 is

³⁶ CHARRON, Guillaume; HOWARD, Caroline; KILANI, Sarah. *Iraq: IDPs caught between a rock and a hard place as displacement crisis deepens*. 30 jun 2011. Available in: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/assets/library/Middle-East/Iraq/pdf/201506-me-iraq-overview-en.pdf>. Consulted in: 15 jul 2017.

³⁷ IDMC, 2017.

³⁸ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Nigeria: country information*. 2017. Available in: <<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/nigeria/>>. Consulted in: 13 jul 2017.

³⁹ IDMC, *Nigeria*, 2017.

⁴⁰ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Nigeria: multiple displacement crises overshadowed by Boko Haram*. 9 dec 2014. Available in: <<http://www.internal-displacement.org/sub-saharan-africa/nigeria/2014/nigeria-multiple-displacement-crises-overshadowed-by-boko-haram>>. Consulted in: 10 ago 2017.

a trend. Besides, there are many militant groups, which spread more violence and contribute to internal displacement.

f) Paquistão

Pakistan had a large reduction of IDPs in 2016, but it should be noticed that the flow of the total volume of IDPs, as well as the new displaced, does not follow the same pattern of the global flow of displacement. See table below:

Table #9 – Internal displacement in Pakistan

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Internally displaced person	900.000	758.000	747.000	1.900.000	1.459.000	464.000
New displacements	190.000	412.000	140.000	907.000	-	2.400

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Center⁴¹

From the beginning of the intervention in Afghanistan and the alignment of Pakistan in the fight against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, the country had to deal with the growth of Islamic movements. As a result, violence and terrorist attacks increased due to Islamic extremism and separatist movements, which resulted in military operations against non-state armed groups. "Repeated displacement is common because insecurity is continuous and living conditions are unsustainable."⁴² That is, the great decrease in 2016 should not be lasting, once it seems to be characteristic of the volatility of the situation of the country, which experiences outbreaks of violence.

g) Democratic Republic of Congo

DRC also has a history of forced migration due to chronic political instability, armed conflict and ethnic persecution. Thus, there has always been internal displacement in the country. Analyzing table #3, DRC had the highest number of new IDPs in 2016. In relation to the displacements between 2011 and 2016, see table below:

⁴¹ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Pakistan: country information*. 2017. Available in: <<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/pakistan/>>. Consulted in: 13 jul 2017.

⁴² GLATZ, Anne-Kathrin. *Pakistan: solutions to displacement elusive for both new and protracted IDPs*. 24 ago 2015. Available in: <<http://www.internal-displacement.org/assets/library/Asia/Pakistan/pdf/201508-ap-pakistan-overview-en.pdf>>. Consulted in: 13 jul 2017. p. 10

Table #10 – Internal displacement in DRC

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Internally displaced person	1.700.000	2.700.000	2.964.000	2.757.000	1.500.000	2.230.000
New displacements	168.000	1.000.000	1.000.000	1.003.000	621.000	922.000

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Center⁴³

One can perceive that there is a very instable flow of internal displacement and, it does not represent the global flow. As well as other African countries, DRC has a history of internal conflicts and its situation is getting worse.⁴⁴

h) Syria

The civil war in Syria began in 2011 and resulted in a forced migration of thousands of people. And, the emergence of the ISIS in 2014, which started to claim part of the territory of the country, made the conflict worse. In relation to the internal displacement, see table below:

Table #11 – Internal displacement in Syria

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Internally displaced person	600.000	3.000.000	6.500.000	7.600.000	6.600.000	6.326.000
New displacements	156.000	2.400.000	3.500.000	1.100.000	1.300.000	824.000

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Center⁴⁵

Comparing table #3 with table #7, it can be seen that internal displacement in Syria had an impact on the overall level of internal displacement. The government of Syria has retaken some territories from ISIS, but it does not mean the end of the civil war. The reduction of IDPs in 2015 and 2016 it is not a

⁴³ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Democratic Republic of Congo: country information*. 2017. Available in: <<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/colombia>>. Consulted in: 13 jul 2017.

⁴⁴ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Raising the alarm in DRC*. 2 nov 2017. Available in: <<http://www.internal-displacement.org/library/expert-opinion/2017/raising-the-alarm-in-drc>>. Consulted in: 20 nov 2017.

⁴⁵ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Syria: country information*. 2017. Available in: <<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/syria>>. Consulted in: 13 jul 2017.

trend, because of the instability of the conflict. Thus, it is not possible to predict how the next years will be.

i) Somália

Somalia has experienced many conflicts and political instability in the last years. Thus, there are always new and protracted internal displacements in the country. See table below:

Table #12 – Internal displacement in Somalia

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Internally displaced person	1.459.000	1.350.000	1.100.000	1.107.000	1.223.000	1.107.000
New displacements	100.000	185.000	80.000	89.000	90.000	113.000

Fonte: Internal Displacement Monitoring Center⁴⁶

Comparing table #1 and table #2 with table #9, one can perceive that the internal displacement in Somalia has a different pattern than the displacement in global scope. And the reduction of IDPs in 2016 does not mean future reductions. On the contrary, there seem to be some stability in the number of IDPs in Somalia, by analyzing the last years and the political and economic situation of the country.

j) Sudan and South Sudan

Sudan and South Sudan has been facing serious armed conflicts in the last years. This is the only region in the world where there are 3 UN Peacekeeping nowadays. There are some secessionist movements in Sudan, which are caused by ethnic and religious persecutions, as well as by oil dispute. These secessionist movements leading to the independence of South Sudan.⁴⁷

In relation to Sudan, it can be seen in the table below that there is an unstable flow of internal displacement and, therefore, does not represent the global flow.

⁴⁶ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Somalia: country information*. 2017. Available in: < <http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/somalia/>>. Consulted in: 13 jul 2017.

⁴⁷ UNITED NATIONS. *United Nations Peacekeeping*. Available in: <<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en>>. Consulted in: 10 ago 2017.

Table #13 – Internal displacement in Sudan

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Internally displaced person	2.200.000	3.000.000	2.427.000	3.100.000	3.182.000	3.300.000
New displacements	115.000	500.000	470.000	578.000	144.000	97.000

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Center⁴⁸

In relation to South Sudan, there are armed conflicts since its independence. But the situation got worse from 2014. See table below:

Table #14 – Internal displacement in South Sudan

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Internally displaced person	350.000	350.000	383.000	1.498.000	1.697.000	1.854.000
New displacements	350.000	190.000	383.000	1.304.000	199.000	281.000

Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Center⁴⁹

As in Sudan, internal displacement in South Sudan does not follow the pattern of global displacement. On the contrary, there is an increase of IDPs in the country and it seems to be a trend. That is, the humanitarian crisis will get worse.

Conclusion

The internal displacement has increased since 1990s, and the current migratory crisis has become a humanitarian emergency. Between 2015 and 2016 there was a small reduction in displacements, but by analyzing the countries with the highest number of IDPs, it can be conclude that this decrease it is not a trend.

The aforementioned countries are regions with protracted conflicts and even with some IDPs returning, it is not a definitive return. These are people who are at risk of constant migration and are likely to become IDP again or refugee.

⁴⁸ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *Sudan: country information*. 2017. Available in: <<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/sudan/>>. Consulted in: 13 jul 2017..

⁴⁹ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT MONITORING CENTER. *South Sudan: country information*. 2017. Available in: <<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/south-sudan/>>. Consulted in: 13 jul 2017.

Syria, Iraq and Yemen, for example, had more than half of IDPs in 2015 and the decline in the number of displaced people in these countries in 2016 reflected rare moments of "relative stabilization of conflicts" or it was due to the risks of extreme violence on the escape route or the risk of family separation.

Unfortunately, there is no accurate data to analyze whether returnees did so because conditions at their homeland improved or because conditions in the host city were unsustainable. But, considering the situation of the abovementioned countries, there is some evidence that the return was due to the unsustainability of the host city.

In order to find a durable solution for the IDPs, it is important that returns are safe, voluntary, and monitored.

Os deslocados internos na atual crise migratória

Resumo

Atualmente, a sociedade internacional enfrenta a pior crise migratória desde a Segunda Guerra Mundial. De acordo com o Alto Comissário das Nações Unidas para os Refugiados (ACNUR), no final de 2016 havia 65,6 milhões de pessoas que foram forçadas a deixar suas casas. Destes 65,6 milhões, cerca de 40 milhões são deslocados internos, quase o dobro do que 22,5 milhões de refugiados. Ou seja, o número de pessoas que foram forçadas a fugir, mas não conseguiu atravessar as fronteiras de seu próprio país, é muito maior do que aqueles que conseguiram. Portanto, a crise humanitária atualmente vivida pela sociedade internacional é extremamente séria. Apesar do elevado número de pessoas deslocadas internamente, em 2016 houve a primeira redução, embora pequena. Foi a primeira redução desde o início da primavera árabe, quando a atual crise humanitária iniciou. Com base neste cenário, este artigo pretende analisar os fatores que levaram à redução do número de pessoas deslocadas internamente em 2016. Para esta análise, o artigo foi dividido em três seções. Na primeira, estuda-se a definição de pessoas internamente deslocadas e sua proteção ao abrigo do direito internacional. Posteriormente, examinam-se os períodos dos deslocamentos internos entre 2011 e 2016. No final, analisam-se as circunstâncias que levaram a uma redução no número de pessoas deslocadas internamente no período entre 2015 e 2016.

Palavras-chave: Deslocados internos. Direitos humanos. Direito humanitário internacional. Direito internacional. Migração.

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