

PRESS RELEASE  
27 November 2015

## Global Militarisation Index 2015 \ **Militarisation and human development**

More information:  
SUSANNE HEINKE

*Head of Public Relations  
Leiterin Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit*

+49 228 911 96-44, Fax -22  
pr@bicc.de

**Militarisation remains a controversial concept. While many observers assume the militarisation always means an increase in the military potential of a state, the Global Militarisation Index (GMI) of BICC depicts the relative weight of the military apparatus of one state in relation to its society as a whole. For this reason, the authors Jan Grebe and Max M. Mutschler have explored the relationship between militarisation and human development for the first time by correlating the GMI 2015 with the Human Development Index (HDI).**

**“High GMI and high HDI rankings can coincide in strong national economies, as is shown by Israel (position 1), Singapore (position 2) and South Korea (position 5)—countries that can ‘afford’ a high level of militarisation,”** explains **Max Mutschler**. But he also poses the question of how low levels of militarisation may affect states with low human development, such as Liberia (position 149) and Sierra Leone (position 146). **“Here, we need to find out whether shortcomings in the state security sector contribute to low human development against the background of violent conflict,”** Mutschler comments.

Countries such as Angola (position 31), Chad (position 42) and Mauritania (position 41) show a relatively high level of militarisation accompanied by low human development. **“The relationship between militarisation and human development may entail disproportionately high spending on the armed forces draining resources that are vital for development,”** infers **Mutschler**. The opposite seems to be the case for Iceland (position 151) or Malta (position 143). They are among the least militarised countries and yet enjoy very high human development.

### **The GMI**

The Global Militarisation Index presents on an annual basis the relative weight and importance of a country’s military apparatus in relation to its society as a whole. It, for instance, compares military expenditures with a state’s gross domestic product (GDP) and its health expenditure (as share of its GDP). The GMI 2015 covers 152 states and is based on the latest available figures (in most cases data for 2014). The index project is financially supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ).