

1. Title: "COVID-19 and Conflict"

2. Authors:

Jeffrey R. Bloem (bloem023@umn.edu)

Colette Salemi (salem043@umn.edu)

3. Abstract: What does COVID-19, and more specifically national responses to the pandemic, mean for inter-group conflict worldwide? We start by drawing an important distinction between inter-personal conflict (including, e.g., domestic violence) and inter-group conflict. Although concerns of increases in inter-personal conflict is well-studied, less is known about trends of inter-group conflict (including, e.g., armed conflict, riots, protests, and violence against civilians) in the midst of government mandated stay-at-home orders and curfews around the world. Using data on inter-group conflict events from ACLED, we next document a global reduction of inter-group conflict. We then highlight important heterogeneity—across various contexts and different types of inter-group conflict—in this trend by conducting several quantitative case studies.

4. Data description: The Armed Conflict Location and Event Data project.

5. JEL codes for the project: D74, F51, Q34

6. Key-words: COVID-19, Armed Conflict, Violence, Riots, Protests, Governance