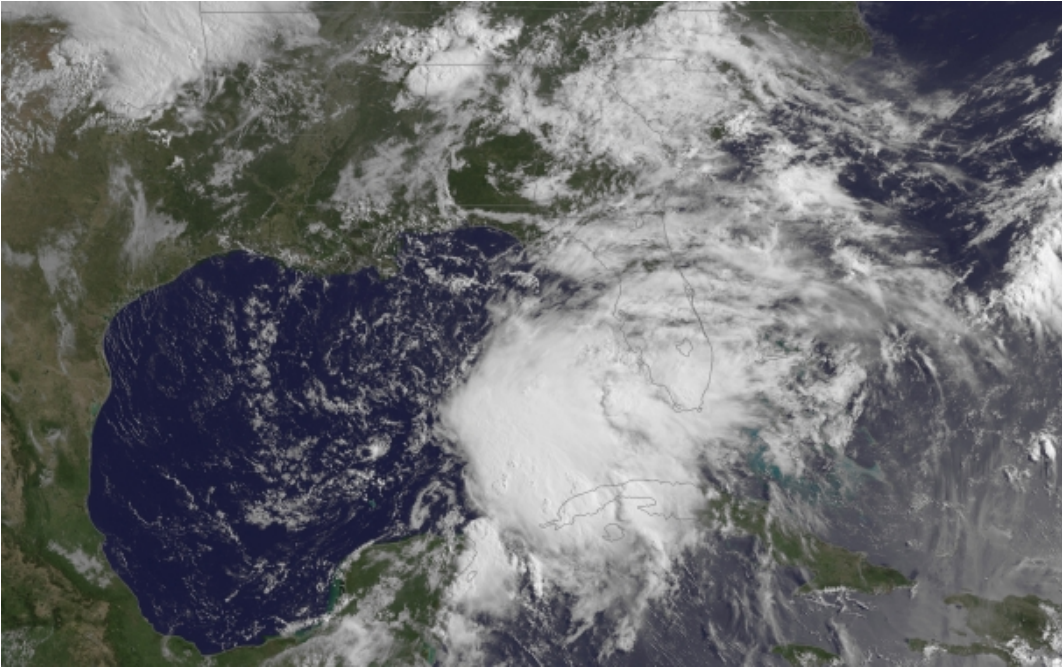


# Design&Trend

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## STUDY: Increase In Violence Due To Climate Change

By Timothy Koppe



Hurricane



## Violence in Egypt

### Can climate change really be a reason for an increase in human violence?

A team of researchers from the University of California, Berkeley studied changes in climate in various areas around the world, and found that even small changes in temperature or rainfall correlated with a rise in assaults, rapes and murders, as well as group conflicts and war.

If their model holds, the team says that, with current projected levels of climate change, the world is likely to become a much more violent place.

The study, which was **published in Science**, researchers looked at 60 studies from around the world, with data spanning hundreds of years. It's examples include an increase in domestic violence in India during recent droughts, and a spike in assaults, rapes and murders during heat waves in the US.

The report also suggests rising temperatures correlated with larger conflicts, including ethnic clashes in Europe and civil wars in Africa.

Mr Burke said: "We want to be careful, you don't want to attribute any single event to climate in particular, but there are some really interesting results."

The team of researchers say they are now trying to understand the link is this relationship.

"One of the main mechanisms that seems to be at play is changes in economic conditions. We know that climate affects economic conditions around the world, particularly agrarian parts of the world," Marshall Burke, one of the scientists on the team, reportedly said. "There is lots of evidence that changes in economic conditions affect people's decisions about whether or not to join a rebellion, for example."

They estimate that a 2C (3.6F) rise in global temperature could see personal crimes increase by about 15%, and group conflicts rise by more than 50% in some regions.