Konstanz One-Sided Violence Event Dataset (KOSVED)
Codebook
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When using the data, please cite Schneider, Haer, Bussmann (forthcoming), as well as this codebook whenever appropriate. Include the version number when using the dataset as this will facilitate replication of your analysis.
1. Introduction
This document describes the Konstanz One-Sided Violence Event Dataset (KOSVED), a project financed by the German Peace Foundation (DSF) and conducted at the Department of Politics and Management, University of Konstanz, in the period from October 1, 2007, to March 31, 2010. The project team consisted of Margit Bussmann and Gerald Schneider as principal investigators, Roos Haer as a project coordinator and several student assistants who are listed on the project homepage (http://www.polver.uni-konstanz.de/gschneider/kosved). While this document describes KOSVED in detail, Schneider, Haer and Bussmann (forthcoming) offer insight in the data set, comparison with related data gathering efforts and discussion of the reliability of the measures introduced below.

The unit of analysis in this KOSVED dataset is the individual event of one-sided violence. The dataset is constructed so as to be compatible with the Armed Conflict Location and Events Dataset (ACLED), which is mainly focused on individual battle events, transfer of military control from the government to the rebel groups and vice versa, and the location of rebel group strongholds (see Raleigh et al. 2011). KOSVED enlarges this dataset by making more detailed information on one-sided violence events available. It describes not only the location and time of such events but also provides as detailed as possible information on the type of weapons used in the conduct of the atrocities, the number of civilians killed or harmed as well as the nationality, ethnicity, gender and age of the civilian targets. If possible, we have also collected the nationality, ethnicity, and the formal organizational name of the perpetrators and whether these actors were affiliated with the government or the rebels in the conflict under scrutiny. KOSVED also offers information on tactics that accompanied the one-sided violence; these related activities include, for example, looting and kidnapping. Finally, we provide information on the number of news reports that mentioned the event, whether the status of the event is contested, and whether the report is based on a primary or secondary account.

2. Terms and Definitions
The project’s definition of one-sided violence builds on Eck and Hultman (2007). Schneider, Haer and Bussmann (forthcoming) discuss in detail where the KOSVED definition of one-sided violence differs from the one of Eck and Hultman (2007). The most important addition to their definition of one-sided violence is the distinction between this form of violence with civilians either as primary or secondary targets.

One-sided violence
Violent acts perpetrated by an organized group, which can be either a rebel organization or government troops, directed against a group of unarmed non-combatants during, shortly before, or after a conflict. These acts result in the immediate physical harming or death of more than one non-combatant

The separate elements of the definition are operationalized as follows:

- **Violent acts**: The usage of any form of physical force to inflict immediate severe harm or death to a non-combatant. The arms used to this end include any material means, e.g. manufactured weapons but also sticks, stones etc. employed to harm or kill civilians or unarmed soldiers.
- **Organized group**
- **Rebel**: A group of people who employ a distinctive name and who are challenging the authority of the government or a competing group through the threat to use violence or through the usage of it. This definition includes militias operating in conjunction or alliance with the rebel group. These groups are supported, armed, or allied to the rebel forces.

- **Government**: An internationally recognised regime that is assumed to control the territory of the state and whose sovereignty is not disputed by another internationally recognised regime. The groups included in this definition are typically official state actors, like the military or police forces, but can also be militias operating in conjunction or alliance with the recognized government. These groups are supported, armed, or allied to the government forces.

- **Non-combatant**: Following Valentino (2001: 8), a non-combatant is defined as “any unarmed individual who is not a member of a professional or guerrilla military group and who does not actively participate in hostilities by tending to cause physical harm to enemy personnel or property.”

- **Conflict**: As defined by the UCDP/PRIO data set, a conflict is any incompatibility concerning government and territory contested by arms with at least 25 battle-related deaths in a given year. This version of KOSVED includes internal armed conflicts and internationalised internal armed conflicts (i.e. internal conflicts with intervention from other states) but excludes extra-systemic conflicts and interstate conflicts (see Gleditsch et al. 2002). To make sure that the process leading to the outburst of conflict and to the stabilisation of peace is sufficiently surveyed we coded two years before the onset of the (internationalised) internal armed conflict and two years after its conclusion according to the length of conflict reported in the UCDP/PRIO data set (Version 4-2007). Most conflicts were selected on the basis of their severity but others were selected based on their reputation of cruelty against civilians, i.e. some minor conflicts were selected since we expected a considerable amount of one-sided violence.

### 3. Variables in the Konstanz One-Sided Violence Event Dataset

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Brief description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Country name</td>
<td>The name of the country in which the event took place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CountryPart</td>
<td>Part of the country</td>
<td>The part of the country (North, South, East, or West) where the event took place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Name of the region</td>
<td>The name of the region in which the event took place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RegionPart</td>
<td>Part of the region</td>
<td>The part of the region (North, South, East, or West) where the event took place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Place name</td>
<td>The name of the place in which the event took place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latitude</td>
<td></td>
<td>The latitude of the place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longitude</td>
<td></td>
<td>The longitude of the place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td></td>
<td>The date of the event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precision</td>
<td>Precision of date</td>
<td>The level of precision for the date of the event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Week number</td>
<td>Part of the month in which the event took place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ReportBase</td>
<td>Basis of report</td>
<td>Whether the event was directly witnessed or not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Status of the event</td>
<td>Whether the event was contested by one of the warring parties or not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NumberReports</strong></td>
<td>Number of reports</td>
<td>The number of reports that mention the event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TargetReport</strong></td>
<td>Reporting of the target</td>
<td>Civilians targeted as primary or secondary target.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CivilDefinition</strong></td>
<td>Civilian definition</td>
<td>Description of target as “civilian” or as “people”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D-Primitive</strong></td>
<td>Death by primitive weapons</td>
<td>The number of civilians killed by primitive weapons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D-Shooting</strong></td>
<td>Death by shooting</td>
<td>The number of civilians killed by shooting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D-Bombing</strong></td>
<td>Death by bombing</td>
<td>The number of civilians killed by bombings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D-Suicide</strong></td>
<td>Death by suicide attacks</td>
<td>The number of civilians killed by suicide attacks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D-Tank</strong></td>
<td>Death by tank attacks</td>
<td>The number of civilians killed by tank attacks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D-Aircraft</strong></td>
<td>Death by aircraft attacks</td>
<td>The number of civilians killed by aircraft attacks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D-WMD</strong></td>
<td>Death by WMD</td>
<td>The number of civilians killed by weapons of mass destruction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D-Unclear</strong></td>
<td>Death by unclear means</td>
<td>The number of civilians killed by unclear or unknown means.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H-Sexual</strong></td>
<td>Harmed by sexual violence</td>
<td>The number of civilians harmed by sexual violence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H-Primitive</strong></td>
<td>Harmed by primitive weapons</td>
<td>The number of civilians harmed by primitive weapons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H-Shooting</strong></td>
<td>Harmed by shooting</td>
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</tr>
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<td><strong>H-Suicide</strong></td>
<td>Harmed by suicide attacks</td>
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<td><strong>H-Aircraft</strong></td>
<td>Harmed by aircraft attacks</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H-WMD</strong></td>
<td>Harmed by WMD</td>
<td>The number of civilians harmed by weapons of mass destruction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H-Unclear</strong></td>
<td>Harmed by unclear means</td>
<td>The number of civilians harmed by unclear or unknown means.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td>Ethnicity of the target</td>
<td>The ethnicity of the targets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-Nationality</strong></td>
<td>Nationality of the target</td>
<td>The nationality of the targets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-MaleGeneral</strong></td>
<td>Male as targets</td>
<td>The number of males as targets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-MaleChild</strong></td>
<td>Boys as targets</td>
<td>The number of boys as targets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-MaleAdult</strong></td>
<td>Male adults as targets</td>
<td>The number male adults as targets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-MaleElders</strong></td>
<td>Male elders as targets</td>
<td>The number of male elderly as targets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-FemaleChild</strong></td>
<td>Girls as targets</td>
<td>The number of girls as targets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-FemaleAdult</strong></td>
<td>Female adults as targets</td>
<td>The number of female adults as targets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-FemaleElders</strong></td>
<td>Female elders as targets</td>
<td>The number of female elders as targets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-UnclearGeneral</strong></td>
<td>Unclear gender targets</td>
<td>The number of persons targeted of unknown gender.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-UnclearChild</strong></td>
<td>Unclear gender children target</td>
<td>The number of children with unknown gender.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-UnclearAdult</strong></td>
<td>Unclear gender adult target</td>
<td>The number of adults with unknown gender.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-UnclearElders</strong></td>
<td>Unclear gender elderly target</td>
<td>The number of elderly with unknown gender.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-Condition</strong></td>
<td>Condition of target</td>
<td>The condition of targets before the event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P-Name</strong></td>
<td>Name of the perpetrator</td>
<td>The formal name of the perpetrator of the event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P-Acronym</strong></td>
<td>Acronym of the perpetrator</td>
<td>The acronym of the perpetrator of the event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P-Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td>Ethnicity of the perpetrator</td>
<td>The ethnicity of the perpetrator of the event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P-Nationality</strong></td>
<td>Nationality of the perpetrator</td>
<td>The nationality of the perpetrator of the event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P-StateChar</strong></td>
<td>State actors as a perpetrator</td>
<td>The state characteristics of the perpetrator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P-NstateChar</strong></td>
<td>Non-state as a perpetrator</td>
<td>The non-state characteristics of the perpetrator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P-NStatecode</strong></td>
<td>Non-state actor code</td>
<td>Non-state actor code of UCDP Non-state Actor Dataset v. 1-2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Govobserv</strong></td>
<td>Governmental observers</td>
<td>The presence of governmental observers during an event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NGOobserv</strong></td>
<td>NGO observers</td>
<td>The presence of NGOs during an event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IGOobserv</strong></td>
<td>IGO observers</td>
<td>The presence of IGOs during an event.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Profit observable
- **Profit companies as observers**: The presence of profit organizations during an event.

### Related Tactics
- **Loot**: The use of looting as a related tactic.
- **Scorched earth**: The use of scorched earth tactics as a related strategy.
- **Starvation**: The use of starvation as a related tactic.
- **Human shields**: The use of human shield as a related tactic.
- **Assassinations**: The use of assassination attempts as a related tactic.
- **Torture**: The use of torture as related tactic.
- **Hostage taking**: The use of hostage taking as a related tactic.
- **Kidnapping**: The use of kidnapping as a related tactic.
- **Deportation**: The use of deportation and forced migration as a related tactic.
- **Disappearances**: The disappearance of non-combatants.
- **Camps**: The use of camps as a related tactic.
- **Sieges**: The use of sieges as a related tactic.

### Geographical Information
- **Country**: The geographical country where the one-sided violence event took place. Country is a string variable.
- **CountryPart**: In some news reports it is mentioned that the one-sided violence event took place in a specific part of the country. Four dummy variables were created to capture this information:
  - **CountryPart_North**: This variable is 1 if the one-sided violence event took place in the North of the country, 0 otherwise.
  - **CountryPart_South**: This variable is 1 if the one-sided violence event took place in the South of the country, 0 otherwise.
  - **CountryPart_East**: This variable is 1 if the one-sided violence event took place in the East of the country, 0 otherwise.
  - **CountryPart_West**: This variable is 1 if the one-sided violence event took place in the West of the country, 0 otherwise.
- **Region**: The name of the geographical region in which the one-sided violence event took place. Region is a string variable.
- **RegionPart**: Some news reports mention that the one-sided violence event took place in a specific part of the region. Four dummy variables were created to capture this information:
  - **RegionPart_North**: This variable is 1 if the one-sided violence event took place in the North of the region, 0 otherwise.
  - **RegionPart_South**: This variable is 1 if the one-sided violence event took place in the South of the region, 0 otherwise.
  - **RegionPart_East**: This variable is 1 if the one-sided violence event took place in the East of the region, 0 otherwise.
  - **RegionPart_West**: This variable is 1 if the one-sided violence event took place in the West of the region, 0 otherwise.
- **Place**: The name of the geographical place in which the one-sided violence event took place. Place is a string variable.
- **Latitude**: The latitude (in degrees) of the place where the one-sided violence event took place.
- **Longitude**: The longitude (in degrees) of the place where the one-sided violence event took place.
3.2 Time information

- **Date:** The date, in a ‘yyyyymmdd format’, of the one-sided violence event.
  - **Precision:** The level of precision for the date of the event. For some events, it is impossible to pinpoint the exact day, week, or even month due to a lack of precise information. Precision is coded to highlight the level of certainty for the date variable. It is a string variable that indicates whether the precision is at the level of “year”, “month”, “week”, or “day”.
- **Week:** Some reports indicate the time frame during which the event allegedly took place. One example is the statement: “in the beginning of January”. These instances are coded as happening in the first week (coded as 1). Reports about one-sided events in “mid-February” will be coded as the event happening in the second or third week of the month (coded as 2). Lastly, sometimes it is mentioned that the one-sided violence event took place in “late-March”. These instances are coded for the last week of that particular month (coded as 3).

Note that we randomly selected dates when some information on a specific event data was missing for the temporal aggregation of the data set. Schneider, Haer and Bussmann (forthcoming) and the country-specific codebooks available on the project website inform about the details of these data imputations and their frequency.

3.3 Reporting

- **Reportbase:** This indicator looks at the empirical basis of the reports. Some news reports for instance quote a witness who described the event or in which the journalist him/herself witnessed the act of one-sided violence (coded as 1). Other reports only mention the one-sided violence event on the basis of a secondary account (coded as 2).
- **Status:** If one of the warring parties denies the existence or responsibility of an act of one-sided violence, we code this as a contested event (coded as 1). If the event was not contested by any of the parties involved it was coded as 0. Note that this dummy variable does not capture possible disagreements about the number of non-combatants killed or harmed.
- **NumberReports:** The number of news reports that mention the one-sided violence event.
- **TargetReport:** This category distinguishes whether the event was an instance of one-sided violence with the killing and harming of non-combatants as primary or secondary target. If it was clear from the news reports that the perpetrator had the intention to kill or harm non-combatants it was coded as 1. These cases of one-sided violence were only entered in the dataset as long as they resulted in the killing/harming of more than one civilian. This allowed us to exclude assassination attempts. Sometimes, the killing or harming of innocent civilians was collateral damage resulting from a violent action directed against another primary aim such as a military unit (coded as 2). We entered these events as long as they resulted in more than nine civilians injured or killed. Our interpretation is that the conflict party was clearly willing to accept civilian victims in order to reach the primary goal. This number is of course arbitrary, but close to the threshold used in other datasets. When we could not establish whether the civilians were either primary or secondary targets, this variable received a value of 3.

**CivilDefinition:** This variable captures how the news reports describe the targets of acts of one-sided violence. Sometimes these targets are described as “civilians” or “non-combatants” (coded as 1) or as “people”, “farmers” etc. (coded as 2). This distinction is important as it is often impossible to extract whether “people” are part of the warring parties or not. Sometimes, however, this distinction was difficult to make. This is for instance the case when the news report
under consideration talks about “several bodies lying on the street”. In these instances, the civilian status was difficult to determine, and therefore we coded them as 3.

3.4 One-sided violence resulting in the death of non-combatants

The following variables specify the number of non-combatants killed in general and with a specific weapon. In case we have several news reports on the same event with differing numbers of civilians harmed and killed, we list the minimum, maximum, mean, and average number of victims given in the reports. All these variables have five categories:

- D-(Weapon)Min: The minimum number of non-combatants killed.
- D-(Weapon)Max: The maximum number of non-combatants killed.
- D-(Weapon)Av: The average number of non-combatants killed.
- D-(Weapon)Med: The median number of non-combatants killed.
- D-(Weapon)Index: Some reports do not include a clear number of killed non-combatants, but provide a verbal estimate instead. When news reports mention keywords like “few”, “a number of”, “several”, the event is coded as 1. Keywords like “ten” or “a dozen” lead to a coding in the category “2”, while keywords like “tens” and “scores” are coded as 3. We classify events which are accompanied by descriptions like “hundreds” and “tens of dozens” into the category “4”. “Thousands” are coded as 5, and words like “tens of thousands” are coded as 6.

The number of non-combatants killed according to type of weapons

- **D-Primitive**: The number of non-combatants killed by the use of primitive weapons such as spears, axes, machetes, and clubs. (D-PrimitiveMin/ D-PrimitiveMax/ D-PrimitiveAv/ D-PrimitiveMed/ D-PrimitiveIndex).
- **D-Shooting**: The number of non-combatants killed through firearms (e.g., pistols, rifles, automatic firearms). (D-ShootingMin/ D-ShootingMax/ D-ShootingAv/ D-ShootingMed/ D-ShootingIndex).
- **D-Suicide**: The number of non-combatants killed by the use of explosive devices that also take the lives of the perpetrators. (D-SuicideMin/ D-SuicideMax/ D-SuicideAv/ D-SuicideMed/ D-SuicideIndex).
- **D-Bombing**: The number of non-combatants killed by means of bombs, grenades, or other explosive devices. The event occurred without the suicide(s) of the perpetrator(s). (D-BombingMin/ D-BombingMax/ D-BombingAv/ D-BombingMed/ D-BombingIndex).
- **D-Aircraft**: The number of non-combatants killed by means of aircraft attacks. (D-AircraftMin/ D-AircraftMax/ D-AircraftAv/ D-AircraftMed/ D-AircraftIndex).
- **D-WMD**: The number of non-combatants killed by weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological or radiological weapons). (D-WMDMin/ D-WMDMax/ D-WMDAv/ D-WMDMed/ D-WMDIndex).
- **D-Unclear**: The number of non-combatants killed by unclear, unknown or other means. (D-UnclearMin/ D-UnclearMax/ D-UnclearAv/ D-UnclearMed/ D-UnclearIndex).

3.5 One-sided violence resulting in injured non-combatants

Like for deadly events of one-sided violence, the following variables list the number of harmed non-combatants per weapon mentioned in the news reports. All these variables have five categories:

- H-(Weapon)Min: The minimum number of non-combatants harmed.
- H-(Weapon)Max: The maximum number of non-combatants harmed.
H-(Weapon)Av: The average number of non-combatants harmed.
H-(Weapon)Med: The median number of non-combatants harmed.
H-(Weapon)Index: Some reports do not include a clear number of harmed non-combatants, but provide a verbal estimate instead. When news reports mention keywords like “few”, “a number of”, “several”, the event is coded as 1. Keywords like “ten” or “a dozen” lead to a coding in the category “2”, while keywords like “tens” and “scores” are coded as 3. We classify events which are accompanied by descriptions like “hundreds” and “tens of dozens” into the category “4”. “Thousands” are coded as 5, and words like “tens of thousands” are coded as 6.

The number of non-combatants harmed according to type of weapons
- **H-Sexual**: The number of non-combatants harmed by sexual violence (harm by raping, coerced undressing and non-penetrating sexual assault such as sexual mutilation (Wood 2006)). (H-SexualMin / D-SexualMax / H-SexualAv / H-SexualMed/H-SexualIndex).
- **H-Primitive**: The number of non-combatants harmed by the use of primitive weapons such as spears, axes, machetes, and clubs. (H-PrimitiveMin / D-PrimitiveMax / H-PrimitiveAv / H-PrimitiveMed/H-PrimitiveIndex).
- **H-Shooting**: The number of non-combatants harmed through firearms (e.g., pistols, rifles, automatic firearms). (H-ShootingMin/H-ShootingMax/H-ShootingAv/H-ShootingMed/H-ShootingIndex).
- **H-Suicide**: The number of non-combatants harmed by the use of explosive devices that also take the lives of the perpetrators. (H-SuicideMin/ H-SuicideMax/H-SuicideAv/H-SuicideMed/H-SuicideIndex).
- **H-Bombing**: The number of non-combatants harmed by means of bombs, grenades, or other explosive devices. This is done without the suicide(s) of the perpetrator(s). (H-BombingMin/ H-BombingMax/ H-BombingAv/ H-BombingMed/H-BombingIndex)
- **H-Tank**: The number of non-combatants harmed by means of tank attacks. (H-TankMin/ H-TankMax/ H-TankAv/H-TankMed/H-TankIndex).
- **H-Aircraft**: The number of non-combatants harmed by means of aircraft attacks. (H-AircraftMin/ H-AircraftMax/ H-AircraftAv/ H-AircraftMed/ H-AircraftIndex).
- **H-WMD**: The number of non-combatants harmed by weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological or radiological weapons). (H-WMDMin/ H-WMDMax/ H-WMDAv/ H-WMDMed/H-WMDIndex)
- **H-Unclear**: The number of non-combatants harmed by unclear, unknown or other means. (H-UnclearMin/ H-UnclearMax/ H-UnclearAv/ H-UnclearMed/ H-UnclearIndex).

3.6 **Target information**
- **T-ethnicity**: The ethnicity of the targeted civilians. T-ethnicity is a string variable.
- **T-nationality**: The nationality of the targeted civilians. T-nationality is a string variable.

The following variables disaggregate the number of killed and harmed non-combatants by gender and age group if such information appears in the news reports. All these variables have five categories: they report the minimum, maximum, average, median, and/or a possible index of civilian casualties (harming and killing).
- **T-MaleGeneral**: The number of killed or harmed male non-combatants. (T-MaleGeneralMin/ T-MaleGeneralMax/ T-MaleGeneralMed/ T-MaleGeneralAv/T-MaleGeneralIndex).
• **T-MaleAdult**: The number of killed or harmed male adults (age 17-54). (T-MaleAdultMin/ T-MaleAdultMax/ T-MaleAdultMed/ T-MaleAdultAv/T-MaleAdultIndex).

• **T-MaleElders**: The number of killed or harmed male elderly (age 55+). (T-MaleEldersMin/ T-MaleEldersMax/ T-MaleEldersMed/ T-MaleEldersAv/T-MaleEldersIndex).

• **T-FemaleGeneral**: The number of killed or harmed female non-combatants. (T-FemaleGeneralMin/ T-FemaleGeneralMax/ T-FemaleGeneralMed/ T-FemaleGeneralAv/ T-FemaleGeneralIndex).


• **T-FemaleAdult**: The number of killed or harmed female adults (age 17-54). (T-FemaleAdultMin/ T-FemaleAdultMax/ T-FemaleAdultMed/ T-FemaleAdultAv/T-FemaleAdultIndex).

• **T-MaleElders**: The number of killed or female elderly (age 55+). (T-FemaleEldersMin/ T-FemaleEldersMax/ T-FemaleEldersMed/ T-FemaleEldersAv/T-FemaleEldersIndex).

• **T-UnclearGeneral**: The number of killed and harmed civilians with unknown gender. (T-UnclearGeneralMin/ T-UnclearGeneralMax/ T-UnclearGenderAv/ T-UnclearGenderMed/ T-UnclearGeneralIndex).

• **T-UnclearChild**: The number of killed and harmed children (age 0-16) with unknown gender. (T-UnclearChildMin/ T-UnclearChildMax/ T-UnclearChildAv/T-UnclearChildIndex).

• **T-UnclearAdult**: The number of killed and harmed adults (age 17-54) with unknown gender. (T-UnclearAdultMin/ T-UnclearAdultMax/ T-UnclearAdultAv/T-UnclearAdultIndex).

• **T-UnclearElders**: The number of killed and harmed elderly (age 55+). (T-UnclearEldersMin/ T-UnclearEldersMax/ T-UnclearEldersAv/T-UnclearEldersIndex).

• **T-Condition**: The condition of the target(s) before the attack. This variable takes the value of 1 for previously injured civilians, 2 for ill civilians, 3 for pregnant women, 4 for prisoners of war and 5 when the condition of the targets is unknown or unclear.

### 3.7 Perpetrator information

• **P-Name**: The formal name of the organization that perpetrated the act of one-sided violence. This can be the name of a rebel movement but also the government of a particular country. P-Name is a string variable.

• **P-Acronym**: The acronym of the organization (state or non-state actor) that perpetrated the act of one-sided violence.

• **P-Ethnicity**: The ethnicity of the perpetrator. P-Ethnicity is a string variable.

• **P-Nationality**: The nationality of the perpetrator. P-Nationality is a string variable.

• **P-StateChar**: Indicates whether the perpetrator of the act of one-sided violence was identified as a state actor.
  - **P-StateChar_Military**: Dummy variable coded as 1 if the attackers are identified as uniformed members of an official state military force, 0 otherwise.
  - **P-StateChar_Police**: Dummy variable coded as 1 if the attackers are identified as law enforcement officers, 0 otherwise.
  - **P-StateChar_Mercenaries**: Dummy variable coded as 1 if the attackers are identified as part of a private army or were mercenaries hired by the state, and 0 otherwise.
3.8 International Monitoring

We also included information on the possible presence of international actors at the time of the violent acts. While we did not systematically search with specific keywords, we incorporated these variables if our coders came across relevant information on international presence in one of the news reports.

- **Govobserv**: The name of the country of third party government observers who were present at the time of the event of one-sided violence. Presence means in close proximity (max. 100 km) to the place where the event happened. Govobserv is a string variable.

- **NGOobserv**: The name of the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) which was present at the time of the event of one-sided violence. Presence means in close proximity (max. 100 km) to the place where the event happened. NGOobserv is a string variable that lists the formal names of all the NGOs present during the event.

- **IGOobserv**: The name of the Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) which was present at the time of the event of one-sided violence. Presence means in close proximity (max. 100 km) to the place where the event happened. IGOobserv is a string variable that lists the formal names of all the IGOs that were present during the event.

- **Profitobserv**: The name of the profit organization which was present during an event of one-sided violence. Presence means in close proximity (max. 100 km) to the place where the event happened. Profitobserv is a string variable that lists the formal names of all profit organizations that were present during the event.
3.9 Related tactics

In some instances, the perpetrators use tactics that accompany the use of violence against civilians. These related tactics are captured in dummy variables (1 if employed, 0 otherwise); they are only coded when they are mentioned in the context of an instance of one-sided violence.

- **R-Loot**: Looting means indiscriminate stealing of goods by force.
- **R-Scorched**: Scorched earth tactics include wide-scale burning of houses and other buildings, destruction of infrastructure such as roads, power lines, and water treatment systems, and other tactics used to make an area uninhabitable.
- **R-Starvation**: Tactics related to starvation include the deliberate withholding of food aid, deliberate destruction of crops, attacks on food-aid convoys, and interference with the delivery of medical or humanitarian aid.
- **R-Shields**: Using human shields involves moving non-combatants onto battlefield as protection of the armed group, hiding in hospitals, hiding among crowds, etc.
- **R-Assassin**: Assassinations are discrete events of killing a leader of one of the involved organized groups.
- **R-Torture**: Torture is a deliberate physical act to inflict severe suffering or pain on the human body.
- **R-Hostage**: Taking hostages is the forceful abduction (of children or adults) until specific demands are met or money is handed over.
- **R-Kidnapping**: Kidnapping is the forceful abduction (of children or adults) for the use as fighters.
- **R-Deport**: Deportation is forced banishment of civilians from a certain area.
- **R-Disappear**: Non-combatants disappear without evidence of death or abduction. This will also occur when there are reports of additional victims who cannot be accounted for among the known dead.
- **R-Camps**: A guarded enclosure for the detention or imprisonment of political prisoners, prisoners or war, aliens, refugees.
- **R-Sieges**: Situations where the freedom of movement of non-combatants is restricted to a limited geographical area, but where the targeted individuals and groups were not forcefully transported to these locations. Usually the inhabitants maintain internal control of the area to which they are restricted because of the siege.

4. References


Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol 1)

