

# UCDP One-sided Violence Codebook

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Uppsala Conflict Data Program

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*This version compiled and updated by Therése Pettersson (2012)  
Replacing the earlier versions by Joakim Kreutz (2008)  
and Joakim Kreutz & Kristine Eck (2005)*

## Citation for the dataset:

Eck, Kristine and Lisa Hultman, 2007. 'One-sided violence against civilians in war: insights from new fatality data', *Journal of Peace Research* 44(2): 233-246.

(When appropriate) also cite this codebook. Always include the Version number in analyses using the dataset.

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## Introduction

This document describes the One-sided Violence Dataset, a project within the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. The UCDP One-sided violence project has been developed with support from the Human Security Report Project, Simon Fraser University, in Vancouver, Canada.

Case-specific information about the cases of one-sided violence is available at [www.ucdp.uu.se/database](http://www.ucdp.uu.se/database). Questions regarding the definitions and the content of the dataset can be directed to [Therese.Pettersson@pcr.uu.se](mailto:Therese.Pettersson@pcr.uu.se)

## Definition of One-sided violence

One-sided violence is the use of armed force by the government of a state or by a formally organized group against civilians which results in at least 25 deaths. Extrajudicial killings in custody are excluded.

The separate elements of the definition are operationalized as follows:

- (1) *Use of armed force*: use of arms in order to exert violent force, resulting in death
  - (1.1) Arms: any material means, e.g. manufactured weapons but also sticks, stones, fire, water, etc
- (2) *25 deaths*: a minimum of 25 civilian deaths per year and per actor
- (3) *Government*: the party controlling the capital of the state
- (4) *Formally organized group*: any non-governmental group of people having announced a name for their group and using armed force
- (5) *State*: a state is
  - (5.1) an internationally recognized sovereign government controlling a specified territory,
  - or*
  - (5.2) an internationally unrecognized government controlling a specified territory whose sovereignty is not disputed by another internationally recognized sovereign government previously controlling the same territory.
- (6) *Extrajudicial killings in custody*: when the government of a state kills a person in its custody
  - (5.1) *custody*: when the person is located in a prison or another type of governmental facility

## Variables in the One-sided violence dataset

**ActorID.** For some purposes it may be necessary to follow the same actor which is responsible for one-sided violence during several years. Thus, each actor recorded in the dataset is given a unique Actor ID, taken from the UCDP Actor Dataset (Pettersson & Themnér, 2012). For one-sided violence with multiple actors fighting together a temporary coalition ID has been assigned. A list of temporary coalition IDs can be found below.

**CoalitionComponents.** For one-sided violence with multiple actors fighting together, the actors' separate Actor IDs, taken from the UCDP Actor Dataset, are listed in this variable and separated by a comma (',').

**ActorName.** The government of a state or the name used by a formally organized group according to the UCDP one-sided violence definition.

**Year.** The calendar year of observation. UCDP employs a threshold for inclusion of at least 25 deaths caused by one-sided violence for each actor in a calendar year. There are cases when actors are responsible for one-sided violence of a scale that does not meet the threshold. These observations are coded as absence of one-sided violence.

### **Best, Low and High fatality estimates.**

The general rule for UCDP's estimation of one-sided violence is moderation. All incidents have to be verified in one way or another, and all estimates reported are based on UCDP expertise of each particular conflict. As a general rule, all figures are disaggregated as far as possible and any figures that are not trustworthy are disregarded in the coding process. Due to the great uncertainty of reports from conflict areas, the project provides three estimates concerning battle-related deaths for each year.

(a) ***BestFatalityEstimate.*** The UCDP Best estimate consist of the aggregated most reliable numbers for all incidents of one-sided violence during a year. If different reports provide different estimates, an examination is made as to what source is most reliable. If no such distinction can be made, UCDP as a rule include the lower figure given.

(b) ***LowFatalityEstimate.*** The UCDP Low estimate consists of the aggregated low estimates for all incidents of one-sided violence during a year. If different reports provide different estimates and a higher estimate is considered more reliable, the low estimate is also reported if deemed reasonable.

(c) ***HighFatalityEstimate.*** The UCDP High estimate consists of the aggregated high estimates for all incidents of one-sided violence during a year. If different reports provide different estimates and a lower estimate is considered more or equally reliable, the high estimate is also reported if deemed reasonable. If there are incidents when there is some uncertainty about what party have been involved, these may also be included in the high estimate.

**IsGovernmentActor.** For some purposes it may be necessary to disaggregate between government and non-governmental actors in the dataset. This variable records if the actor is the government of a state and is coded as 1 for government actors and 0 for non-governmental actors.

**Location.** The geographical country/countries where the one-sided violence is observed in a given year. Location is a string variable, listing all countries in which the actor is active. More detailed information about the location for each actor is available in the UCDP database [www.ucdp.uu.se/database](http://www.ucdp.uu.se/database).

**GWNOLocation.** This field contains the country code(s) for the state(s) listed in the Location variable. Thus, it lists the country codes for the primary party/parties in the conflict. GWNOLocation is a string variable, where the numbers are separated by a comma (',' ). A full list of country codes is available in the UCDP Dyadic Dataset Codebook (Themnér, 2012).

**Region.** Region of location.

- 1 Europe
- 2 Middle East
- 3 Asia
- 4 Africa
- 5 Americas

**Version.** The version number of the dataset.

## IDs for temporary coalitions

<b>Actors</b>	<b>Actor IDs</b>	<b>Temporary coalition ID</b>
Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina, Serbian irregulars	1182, 1214	534601
FAPC, FNI	1457, 1460	549015
FNI, FRPI	1460, 1961	549003
FNI, FRPI, RCD-K-ML	1460, 1961, 1650	549002
RCD-N, MLC	1511, 1269	549001
RCD-N, MLC, UPC	1511, 1269, 1960	549007
RCD-K-ML, FRPI	1650, 1961	549004
MAGRIVI, Interahamwe	1927, 1478	549017
Mayi Mayi Kifuafua, Raia Mutomboki	2090, 4148	549023