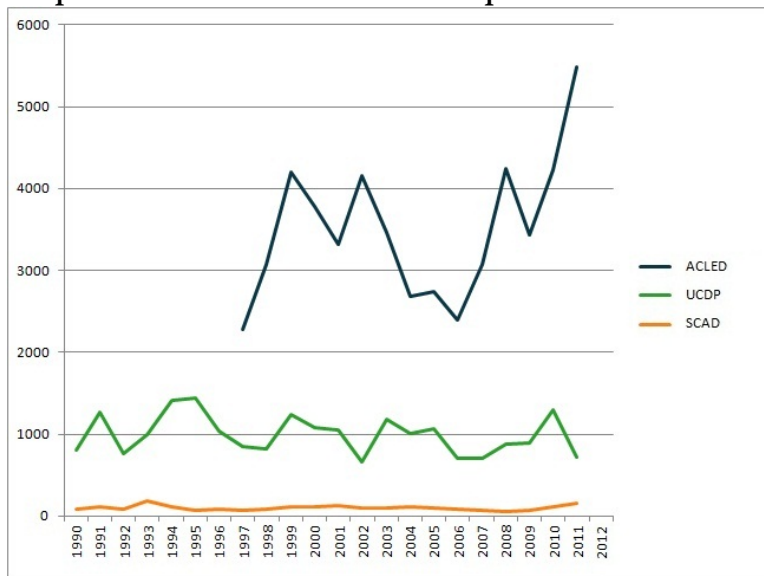


## Data Comparison 2: All Country Years and a Focus on Nigeria and South Africa

This second data comparison includes a brief review of all datasets and two case comparisons of Nigeria and South Africa. Both are included as Nigeria appears in both ACLED and SCAD’s ‘most violent countries’ list, while it is absent from the UCDP dataset. In addition, South Africa’s violence profile is reviewed. South Africa appears in both the UCDP and SCAD’s ‘most violent countries’ list.

In a general comparison of the three datasets over their coverage periods (ACLED 1997-2012; UCDP 1990-2010; SCAD 1990-2011), there are clear differences in the number of event totals for the same countries and years. When both SCAD and UCDP are combined, their coverage does not equal ACLED’s. This is due in part to (a) atomic events and (b) fatalities. On the data units, all of ACLED’s date entries are atomic, in that they are coded by day, location, actor and event-type. Each of ACLED data points refers to a distinct date. The other dataset have a ‘campaign’ or ‘summary’ unit definition, where the days, locations, actors and event types are aggregated over a report-defined period. Yet 83% of UACD-GED is a ‘day’ occurrence instead of multiple days. 64% of the SCAD dataset is a daylong event, and the average duration of an event in SCAD is twenty days. This is due, in part, to some events (28) lasting from 1000-9936 days. In a campaign event, it is not assumed that the event occurred on every day of the campaign, and in some cases (e.g. events last 1000 days), it is unlikely that it occurred on the majority of days. No reference to the likely number of occurrences is provided in these unit definitions. Please see Data Comparison sheet 1 for an example of how all three datasets coded events of political violence over the same area and time period.

**Graph 1: Dataset Event Count Comparison Across ACLED, UCDP and SCAD**



Two examples are presented to show the differences in coverage. The first is Nigeria, a very active country by both ACLED and SCAD standards, and an inactive country by UCDP’s standards, despite the dataset’s clear mandate to cover civil wars, non-government violence

and violence against civilians. As is clear from the information in Table 1, UCDP has less than one tenth of the events ACLED has collected (even coding for 6 fewer years); UCDP has less than one third of the events collected by SCAD. The average event count in total and compared to overlap years is quite stark. Further, this is largely due to not collecting information on political militias or the various actors that attack the military and civilians (e.g. Boko Haram). Finally, despite the main agents of UCDP's Nigeria set being "Gov't of Nigeria vs. Civilians" and 'Non-state" actions being the most common actions, both are drastically uncoded. Two years of the UCDP dataset- 1995 and 2007- have no events for Nigeria, and other years- 1990 etc.- have 1-2 events.

**Table 1: Nigerian Political Violence Compared Across ACLED, UACD and SCAD**

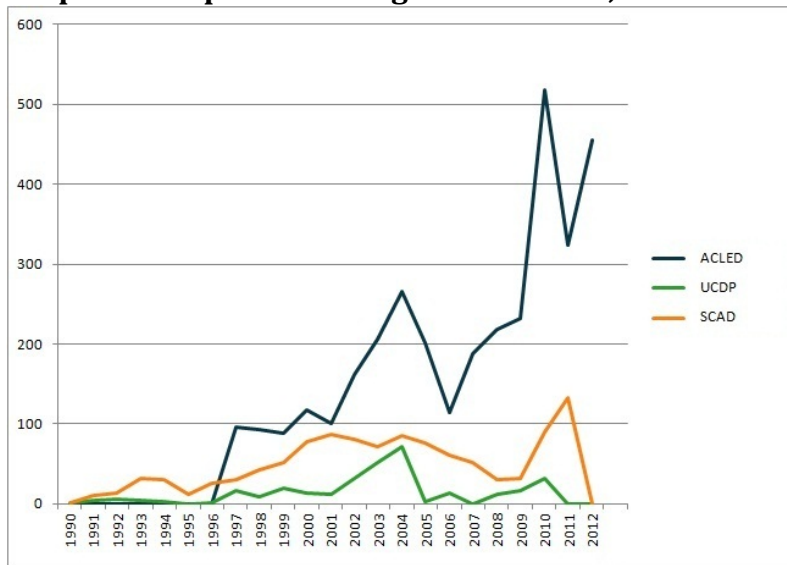
	ACLED (1997- June 2012)	UCDP (1990-2010)	SCAD (1990-2011)
Total Number of Events	3379	318	1124
Average Event Count/year	211	14	49
Average Event Count in Overlap Years (1997-2010)	185	22	62
Main Agents	Political Militias vs. Civilians (489) <sup>1</sup>	Gov't of Nigeria vs. Civilians (49)	Gov't of Nigeria vs. Civilians (61)
Main Type of Violence	Battles between armed groups (1,090)	Non-state (241)	Spontaneous violent riot (359)
Number of Distinct Actors	342	50 (dyads)	Unknown

Please see Table 3 (below) for annual dataset details.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes identified political militias (e.g. Boko Haram) and unidentified armed groups (see special ACLED review on these groups)

**Graph 2: Comparison of Nigeria in ACLED, UCDP and SCAD**



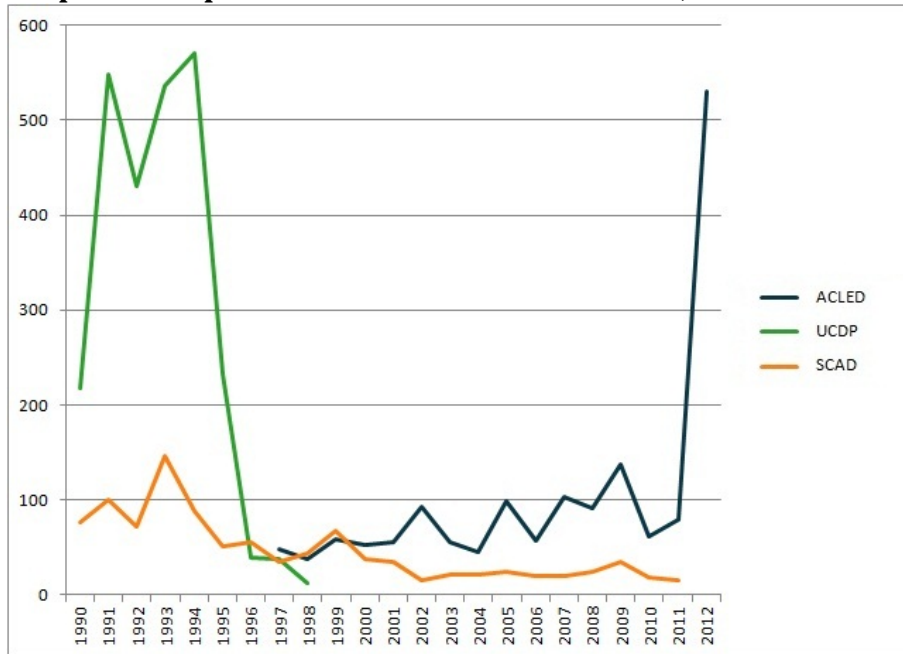
### South Africa

The South African example shows key trends in each dataset for a country with more non-traditional conflict (i.e. riots and protests) than the Nigerian case. Some important facts about the differences: (a) although South Africa is in the top 5 violent states in both UCDP and SCAD (number 2 in both), it is not in ACLED top 5, despite having a higher event total than SCAD for the covered years (this includes 6 additional years for SCAD’s coverage of South Africa’s apartheid violence); (b) despite UCDP’s high event count of 2624, UCDP does not include any events for South Africa after 1999. Every further year’s violence is recorded with zero events; (c) the average number of events for the same covered time period (1997-2010) has drastically different average events (ACLED at 71, UCDP at 4, and SCAD at 30). Further, the number of agents is far fewer in South Africa (at 84 for ACLED, 13 dyads for UCDP).

**Table 2: South African Political Violence Compared Across ACLED, UACD and SCAD**

	ACLED (1997-June 2012)	UCDP (1990-2010)	SCAD (1990-2011)
Total Number of Events	1606	2624	1024
Average Event Count/year	100	114	45
Average Event Count in Overlap Years (1997-2010)	71	4	30
Main Agents	Protestors (554) and Rioters (209)	Supporters of ANC vs. Supporters of IFP (1897)	‘Black Factions vs. Black Factions’ (96)
Main Type of Violence	Riots/Protests (735)	Non-state (2,162)	Extra Government Violence (425)
Number of Distinct Actors	84 Agents	13 Dyads	

**Graph 3: Comparison of South Africa in ACLED, UCDP and SCAD**



In summary, these datasets cover the same countries and largely the same years. However, they differ significantly in what constitutes a ‘political violent’ event, the unit of that event, who is a valid actor, and where information comes from. ACLED has the widest interpretation of how and what kinds of actors are included in order to capture the reality of political violence as experienced on the ground. Further, secondary source materials may not be specific to give names of groups, and groups may want to stay unidentified in order to obscure their actions, group basis and elite connections. For these reasons, ACLED includes a category of political militia called ‘unidentified armed groups’. The actions of these groups have been analyzed and compared to other types of groups and has uncovered that the actions of these groups follow closely the actions of named political militias operating within the same areas and time periods. Their status as ‘unidentified’ is largely due to a lack of detailed reporting and, more often, a wish to remain un-named. The report is available at:

[http://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/ACLED\\_Unidentified-Armed-Groups-Working-Paper\\_July-2012.pdf](http://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/ACLED_Unidentified-Armed-Groups-Working-Paper_July-2012.pdf)

The differences may also be attributable to source materials. ACLED coding uses over 50 sources for its compiled information; both UCDP and SCAD use far less (on average 2 (Schrodt, 2012)). A review of the source data for ACLED, and the precise types of information available by source and over time, is available at:

[http://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/ACLED\\_Sources-Working-Paper\\_July-2012.pdf](http://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/ACLED_Sources-Working-Paper_July-2012.pdf)

Please see Table 4 (below) for annual dataset details.

**Table 3: Review of Nigeria Data**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>ACLED</b>	<b>ACLED (Violent)</b>	<b>UCDP</b>	<b>SCAD</b>
1990	n/a	n/a	1	1
1991	n/a	n/a	4	10
1992	n/a	n/a	6	14
1993	n/a	n/a	4	32
1994	n/a	n/a	2	30
1995	n/a	n/a	0	12
1996	n/a	n/a	1	26
1997	96	90	17	30
1998	93	73	9	42
1999	88	87	19	51
2000	118	115	14	78
2001	100	100	12	87
2002	161	161	31	80
2003	206	203	51	72
2004	266	265	72	85
2005	202	200	2	76
2006	115	114	13	61
2007	188	185	0	52
2008	218	210	12	30
2009	232	210	17	32
2010	518	501	32	90
2011	323	317		133
<b>Total</b>	<b>3379</b>	<b>3252</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>1124</b>
<b>Average (total)</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Average (1997-2010)</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>62</b>

**Table 4: Review of South Africa Data**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>ACLED</b>	<b>ACLED Violent</b>	<b>UCDP</b>	<b>SCAD</b>
1990	n/a	n/a	218	76
1991	n/a	n/a	549	100
1992	n/a	n/a	430	72
1993	n/a	n/a	536	147
1994	n/a	n/a	570	88
1995	n/a	n/a	232	51
1996	n/a	n/a	39	55
1997	48	44	37	34
1998	38	35	13	43
1999	59	55	0	67
2000	53	51	0	37
2001	56	56	0	35
2002	93	89	0	16
2003	55	54	0	22
2004	45	41	0	22
2005	99	99	0	25
2006	57	55	0	20
2007	103	101	0	20
2008	91	90	0	24
2009	137	136	0	35
2010	62	61	0	19
2011	79	77	0	16
2012	531	527	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>1606</b>	<b>1571</b>	<b>2624</b>	<b>1024</b>
<b>Average (total)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Average (1997-2010)</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>30</b>