Select Publically Available Political Violence Datasets- Regional
Typology Overview (September, 2015)

ACLED — Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project

Dataset	ACLED	GTD	INSCR/CSP 1	INSCR/CSP 2	RDWTI	UCDP- GED
Title and Institution	Armed Conflict Location Event Dataset Project (ACLED)	Global Terrorism Database/National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START)	Integrated Network for Societal Conflict Research/Center for Systemic Peace- Major Episodes of Political Violence	Integrated Network for Societal Conflict Research/Center for Systemic Peace- High Casualty Terrorist Bombings	RAND Database of Worldwide Terrorism Incidents (RDWTI)	Uppsala University Conflict Data Project: Georeferenced Event Dataset (GED)
Website	www.acleddata.com	http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/	http://www.systemicpeace.org/inscrdata.html	http://www.systemicpeace.org/inscr/HCTBSep2014list.pdf	http://www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/terrorism-incidents	http://www.ucdp.uu.se/ged/
Focus	Political violence event data, disaggregated by time, agent, type and space across Africa and Asia	Systematic data on domestic and international terrorist events	Data on major episodes of political violence (international).	Data on high casualty terrorist bombings (international)	Data on terrorism incidents (international)	Event-based and georeferenced dataset on organized violence in Africa and East Asia
Time Frame	1997-2015 in real time	1970-2014	1946-2014	1989-2014	1968-2009	1989-2010; 1989- 2013 for select East Asian States
Key Definitions	A politically violent event is an single altercation where often force is used by one or more groups for a political end. Some instances including protests and strategic development are included to capture the potential precursors or critical junctures of a conflict.	For an incident to qualify as a terrorist act it in the GTD it must satisfy three criterion: a) be intentional; b) incident must entail some level of violence or immediate threat of violence; and c) the perpetrators of the incidents must be sub-national actors. The database does not include acts of state terrorism	Major episodes of political violence are defined by the systematic and sustained use of lethal violence by organized groups that result in at least 500 directly-related deaths over the course of the episode.	High casualty bombings are carried out by non-state actors resulting in fifteen or more deaths. Armed assaults on civilian targets that use firearms or other hand-held weapons are not included.	Terrorism is defined by the nature of the act, not by the identity of the perpetrators or the nature of the cause; key elements include: violence or the threat of violence, calculated to create fear and alarm, intended to coerce certain actions, motive must include a political objective, generally directed against civilian targets, can be a group or an individual.	An act of organized violence between or across state groups, non state groups and/or civilians. An event can occur across one or more days (e.g. a single recorded events can occur across several years) in a location (e.g. a single event can be recorded as occurring in the entire country). The event must result in at least one fatality.
Coverage	60 + countries	190+ countries	Location of incident	Location of incident	9 regions/location of incident	38 countries
Event Totals	100,000 events	140,000 counts of terrorism	9,392 events (in the annual dataset)	1,120 incidents	40,030 incidents	21,860 events
Event Types	*Battle- No Change of Territory*; *Battle- Non-State Actor Overtake Territory*, *Battle-: Gov't Regains Territory*; Strategic Developments *Non-Violent Transfer of Territory*; *Headquarters or Base*	*Assassination; Hijacking; Kidnapping; Barricade Incident; Bombing/Explosion; Unknown Armed Assault Unarmed Assault*	*International violence; International war; International Independence war; Civil violence; Civil war; Ethnic Violence; and Ethnic War.*	Case list of *bomb attacks* on non-combatant (civilian and political) targets by non-state actors resulting in 15 or more deaths.	*Domestic/international incidents; US casualty/property attacks; suicide missions; attacks claimed; coordinated attacks; interrupted attacks.*	*State-based; Non-state One-sided.* Violent attacks and those resulting in or presenting a risk of serious injury (campaigns

	Establishment; *Riots;* *Protests,* *Violence Against Civilians*	*Facility/Infrastructure Attack*				of eviction, arson or rape) by conflict actors are not recorded; neither are non-violent events such as protests or riots in which no person is killed.
Actor Types	Government or mutinous forces Rebel force Political militia Communal militia Rioters Protesters Civilians Outside/external force (e.g. UN)	The "Perpetrator Group Name" field contains the name of the group that carried out the attack. In order to ensure consistency in the usage of group names for the database, the GTD database uses a standardized list of group names that have been established by project staff to serve as a reference for all subsequent entries.	Actors not recorded	Non-combatants (civilian and political) and non-state actors.	Named Perpetrator 1: Group responsible for the attack. Named Perpetrator 2: Second group responsible for the attack. Named Multi Perp (>2) : Default setting is 'no'. If more that two groups are responsible than 'yes' is entered.	UCDP-GED recognises governments of independent states, as well as organized groups as relevant actors. UCDP does not record events in which one of the actors is an unidentified conflict group engaging in state based, non-state and one sided violence. e.g. Government of Algeria ANC supporters
Time Scale	Daily/Event	Daily/Event	Daily/Event	Daily/Event	Daily/Event	Daily/Event
Location Scale	Local	Local	National	Local	Local	Local
Location Precision	Georeferenced by town/village Adm1, 2 and 3 reference Additional geographic precision measure	Georeferenced. Identifies the geospatial resolution of the latitude and longitude fields of events.	Country	City	City	Georeferenced. Geographic precision between 1 and 7 indicates greater or lower precision.
Fatality Accounting	Records estimates of fatalities when reported by source materials. Fatalities not a determinant of inclusion.	Includes number of total confirmed fatalities for each incident. The number includes all victims and attackers who died as a direct result of the incident	Includes estimates of "directly-related" deaths	Includes estimates of death totals.	Records injuries and fatalities counted.	At least one direct fatality arising from the event is a condition of inclusion in the UCDPGED dataset. Where fatalities are reported in a range of geographic locations, UCDP-GED utilises a 'Deathsplit' variable, to indicate the total number of fatalities has been evenly split across geographic locations to create multiple events.

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Data Sources	ACLED uses daily local, regional, national and continental media, NGO and humanitarian agency reporting, and supplementary Africa-focused news reports to provide source materials.	GTD uses publicly available, open-source materials. These include electronic news archives, existing data sets, secondary source materials such as books and journals, and legal documents.	INSCR uses (unlisted) various sources.	INSCR uses (unlisted) various sources.	The RAND data is based on various (unlisted) sources (unlisted).	UCDP sources are news agencies, research reports, monographs, and documents of international and multinational agencies and NGOs. Documents of actors themselves (such as warring parties) are used when available.
Benefits	Records a full range of political instability and violence by discrete event. Data structure designed for maximum comparability Includes 'Unidentified Armed Groups'; Atomic (day, location, actor, event);	Includes data on weapon type used in incidents.	Captures large scale events only.	Captures high casualty events only.	Includes data on weapon type used in incidents and whether attack was claimed by the perpetrator or not.	Easily 'linkable' to other datasets such as GeoEPR through docking datasets like ACD2EPR, allowing researchers with questions about ethnicity & conflict test their theories.
Codebook	http://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/ACLED_Codebook_2015.pdf	http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/downloads/Codebook.pdf	http://www.systemicpeace.org/inscr/MEPVcodebook2014.pdf	N/A	http://www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/terrorism-incidents/about/definitions.html	Code book available in data zip file: http://www.ucdp.uu.se/ged/data.php

Additional Regional Datasets

Arab Awakening Project
http://merp.osu.edu/node/3
Coverage: 18 Arab states in the Middle East North Africa region as well as Iran, Sudan, Israel/Palestine and Cyprus, from 2010-2011
Event types: protests and coercive policing
Event totals: 6,863

The Arab Awakening Project is not included in the above selection because it only covers one year of activity. It is, however, a comprehensive database of the political events that occurred over the course of the Arab Spring.

GDelt Dataset
http://gdeltproject.org/
Coverage: Incident location, January 1, 1979 to present
Event types: Media coverage of wide range of events, emotions, counts, and quotes
Event totals: +2.5 billion

GDelt data is not included in the above selection because it does not provide a robust account of conflict events but rather serves as a comprehensive media analysis tool. It also does not record acts of political violence as the above datasets do.

The Social Conflict in Africa Dataset (SCAD)
 http://ccaps.strausscenter.org/scad/p ages/sp-using
Coverage: African States, 1989-Nov 2010
Event types: social violence or: protests, riots, strike, extra government activity, state repression, anti-government activity, intra-government activity
Event totals: 7,300

SCAD is not included in the selection datasets above because its core focus are acts of social violence, defined as a disturbance occurring for one or more days (e.g. a single recorded events can occur across several years), is not in keeping with the definition of political violence in the above datasets. It includes various types of violence without clear indications of their differences or whether they are thoroughly coded.