

## **Nigeria Social Violence Project Summary**

The Nigeria Social Violence Project is based at the African Studies Program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). The project enumerates and analyzes incidents of deadly social violence in Nigeria from 1998 (just prior to the inauguration of the current electoral Fourth Republic in May 1999) until the present day.

The Nigeria Social Violence project has constructed a database from domestic and international reports of “non-criminal” violence in the country. This excludes violence that is attributable to criminal actions or conflict between police and criminal suspects, as well as deaths associated with so-called “ritual” events as reported in local media.

The data is drawn from a comprehensive database of media reports covering the period January 1998-January 2015, with regular updates. Media reports (especially those from Nigeria’s domestic outlets, reported by local staff) provide an opportunity sample that offers the most extensive coverage of violent incidents in the country. This can be supplemented by credible (and often more precise) reporting from non-governmental organizations, particularly human rights monitors. However, such reports are episodic and not consistent in method, and should be treated cautiously.

The data is presented according both to the type of actor involved, and the region in which the violence occurred. Types of actors and regions were coded to be mutually exclusive from one another. The actors are:

- Communal
- Political
- Herder/Farmer
- State, Non-Boko Haram
- State/Boko Haram (*fatalities of/by security forces in connection with Boko Haram events*)
- Boko Haram (*fatalities associated with militant attacks*)

The regions are:

- Northwest (NW)
- Northeast (NE)
- North Central (NC)
- South-South (S-S)
- Southwest (SW)
- Southeast (SE)

### **Methodology**

The project used the following search string to systematically search Lexis-Nexis news headlines for deaths resulting from social violence:

(Nigeria AND HEADLINE(ethnic OR kill OR killed OR dead OR massacre OR attack OR religious OR parties OR clash OR violence OR death))

An individual ‘violent’ event, in which there was at least one reported fatality, comprises the core observation in our dataset. For each individual violent event, we used various news resources available to code the date in which the violence began, location (s), type of violence, number of deaths, number of injuries (if available), a brief description of the events, and news source(s) used. In cases where there were discrepancies in the numbers of casualties recorded, we entered in the highest and lowest estimates from news sources reporting on the event, and entered in our *minimum reasonable estimate* of casualties based on our consultation of a variety of sources. The minimum reasonable casualty estimate is NOT usually the same as the minimum number of casualties reported in the news, as numbers from major casualty events tend to go up as more deaths are confirmed.

### **Definition and Description of Variables**

*Year* (Column A) is the calendar year in which the event took place.

*Quarter* (Column A) is the quarter in which the event took place. Quarter 1 comprises all events from January 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>, Quarter 2 from April 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>, Quarter 3 from July 1<sup>st</sup> – September 31<sup>st</sup>, and Quarter 4 from October 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Boko Haram* fatalities are those attributed to the militant group known as Boko Haram.

*State/Boko Haram* fatalities are fatalities of or by security forces in connection with Boko Haram events.

*State/Other* fatalities are fatalities of or by security forces with no apparent connection to Boko Haram events.

*Communal* fatalities are those attributed to actors primarily divided by cultural, ethnic, or religious communities and identities.

*Herder-Farmer* fatalities are those attributed to herders (in particular the Fulani or Hausa) or farmers (in particular the Tiv or Tarok), typically involving disputes over land and/or cattle.

*Political* fatalities are fatalities attributed to actors evidently divided by reasons of partisan rivalry, political dissension, or committed by or against politicians.

*Northwest fatalities* are those occurring in Jigawa, Katsina, Kano, Kaduna, Zamfara, Sokoto or Kebbi states.

*Northeast fatalities* are those occurring in Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe or Taraba states.

*North Central* fatalities are those occurring in Plateau, Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa, Kwara or Niger states, as well as the Federal Capital Territory.

*South* fatalities are those occurring in Delta, Bayesla, Rivers, Cross River, Edo or Akwa Ibom states.

*Southeast* fatalities are those occurring in Enugu, Anambra, Ebyoni, Abia or Imo states.

*Southwest* fatalities are those occurring in Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo or Ekiti states.

*TOTAL* fatalities are those occurring in each quarter, regardless of regional or typographical categorization.