

# VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN GHANA

A MEDIA MONITORING REPORT



2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. April-June 2025

By: Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (FOSDA)



## Public Alerts and Recommendations to Enhance Safety and Security

This 2nd qtr report is raising alarm about the easy access to locally made and industrial weapons and their use in the commission of violence. Perpetrators of gun violence mostly youth are not afraid to engage in a shootout with the police or military and it raises concern about adequate preparation for the state security. Targeted murders especially MoMo vendors is a monthly phenomenon driven by the vulnerability of their operations. The jurisdiction is recording increasing cases of a host and transit for trafficking of person for sexual activity and illicit products. Nigerians, Ivorians and Ghanaians have been reported to be involved in sexual and economic violence. Lastly, the Western Region continues to record sexual violence every quarter. Against this back ground the following recommendations are provided;

1. Citizens are advised to surrender in circumstance of gun violence to avoid fatalities (death and injuries). This will also facilitate Police investigations and apprehend perpetrators.
2. Ban or strictly regulate the firing of live ammunition at festivals, funerals, and all public gatherings and collaborate with traditional leaders, civil society organizations, and the media to promote safer cultural practices and discourage celebratory gunfire.
3. The Police and Military should be adequately equipped in their line of duty to help them respond to emergency gun attacks and other emergency situation in a timely manner.
4. As much as possible Momo vendors should not operate in isolation and also try to instal mini-CCTV cameras in their premises.
5. There is the need to deepen public education on risk factor and vulnerability to sexual violence.

## Executive Summary

From FOSDA's 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2025 monitoring of violent incidents in Ghana, the number of violent incidents tracked totaled One Hundred and Fifty-One (151). This is a 40% increase compared to the 108 incidents recorded in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025. It also represents an increase by 65 cases (76%) in comparison to the 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr. of 2024 and by eight cases (6%) in comparison to the 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr. of 2023.

The overall breakdown of cases monitored during the current period includes:

1. Gun Violence - 58 cases, representing 38.4%
2. Physical Violence - 57 cases, representing 37.7%
3. Economic Violence – 20 cases, representing 13.2%
4. Sexual Violence – 8 cases, representing 5.3%
5. Political Violence – 4 representing 3% each
6. Psychological Violence – 2 cases representing 1%
7. Social Violence—2 cases representing 1%

For the second time in 2025 Greater Accra Region leads the violent incidents count with 36 (23.8%) reported incidents. Ashanti Region follows with 31 (20.5%) incidents. In third position is the Central Region following with 17 (11.3%) incidents. Upper East Region recorded 15 (9.9%) incidents and Western region 14 incidents accounting for 9.3%. The remaining 10 regions recorded single digit incident between 9 and 1. The Savannah Region did not record any reported violent incident in the media space.

At the zonal level, the Coastal regions (Greater Accra, Central, Western and Volta) recorded the highest counts with 68 incidents representing 45%. The Middle zone regions (Ashanti, Eastern, Oti, Western North, Bono, Bono East and Ahafo) followed with 62 incidents representing 41%. The Northern regions (Upper East, Upper West, North East, Savannah and Northern) contributed 21 incidents representing 14%.

Ninety-five (95) injuries and seventy-four (74) deaths were recorded. The data shows that, violent incidents continue to affect more men than women and children combined. Gun, violence contributed the highest share of injuries i.e 38% followed by Physical and Economic violence which contributed 29% and 22% of injuries and respectively. On the death count, Gun violence again contributed 41 deaths representing 55% of all deaths reported compared to physical violence which contributed 29 (39%) of deaths. There were approximately 2 deaths for every violent incident in the middle zone.

# VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN GHANA

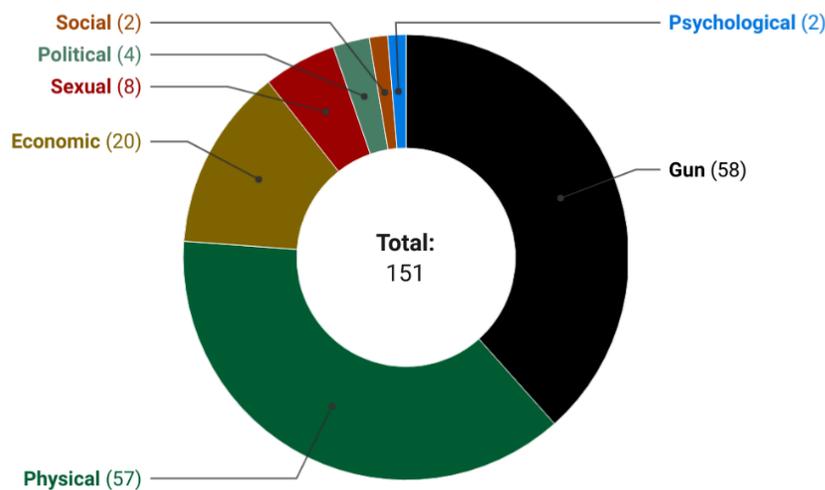
## A MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

### 1.1 General Overview

This Media Monitoring Report covers the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter i.e., April-June 2025. A total of One Hundred and Fifty-One (151) violent incidents were reported by ten (10) <sup>1</sup>media houses including online sources. The monitoring focused on seven (7) major categories of violence including Economic, Physical, Gun, Sexual, Psychological, Political, and Social violent incidents. In this specific monitoring period, all the seven (7) categories of violence were recorded i.e., Gun violence 58 cases representing 38.4%, Physical Violence 57 cases, representing 37.7%. This is followed by 20 cases of economic-related violence representing 13.2% of the total cases. Sexual Violence recorded 8 incidents representing 5.3%. Political violence recorded 4 (3%). Social and Psychological violence recorded 2 each representing 1% respectively.

### Share of Violent Incidents recorded for 2nd qtr of 2025

Gun Violence leads the share of the type of violence recorded



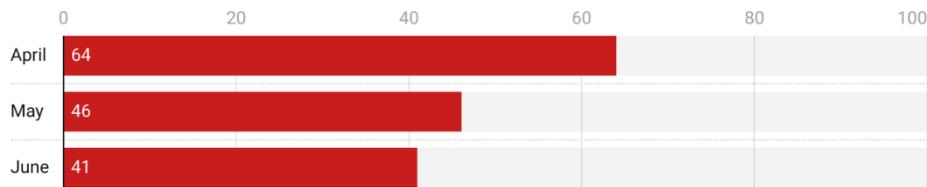
The monitoring targeted 7 types of violence and recorded all 7

Considering the monthly records, the violent incidents appear to have reduced from April through to June. The data actually shows a decline from 64 in April to 46 in May representing a 28% decrease. It declined again from 46 in May to 41 in June representing 10.8% decrease. However, it is observed that at least 41 incidents occurred per month.

<sup>1</sup> There were 10 main monitoring sources including 1 print media i.e., Daily Graphic

## Monthly record of Violent Incidents in 2nd qtr of 2025

More than 40 Incidents is recorded per month



Created with Datawrapper

### 1.2 Regional Distribution of Violent Incidents Monitored

The Greater Accra Region leads the violent incidents count with 36 (23.8%) incidents. Ashanti Region follows with 31 (20.5%) incidents. In third position is the Central Region following with 17 (11.3%) incidents. Upper East Region recorded 15 (9.9%) incidents and Western region 14 incidents accounting for 9.3%. The remaining 10 regions recorded single digit incident between 9 and 1. Only Savannah Region did not record a violent incident in the media space.

### Regional Breakdown of the total reported violent incidents in 2nd qtr 2025

Greater Accra leads the Chart by 5 counts compared to Ashanti

Regional	Count	% Total
Greater Accra Region	36	23.8%
Ashanti Region	31	20.5%
Eastern Region	17	11.3%
Upper East Region	15	9.9%
Western Region	14	9.3%
Volta Region	9	6%
Central Region	9	6%
Oti Region	4	2.6%
Western North Region	4	2.6%
North East Region	3	2%
Upper West Region	2	1.3%
Bono Region	2	1.3%
Ahafo Region	2	1.3%
Bono East Region	2	1.3%
Northern Region	1	0.7%
Savannah Region	0	0%

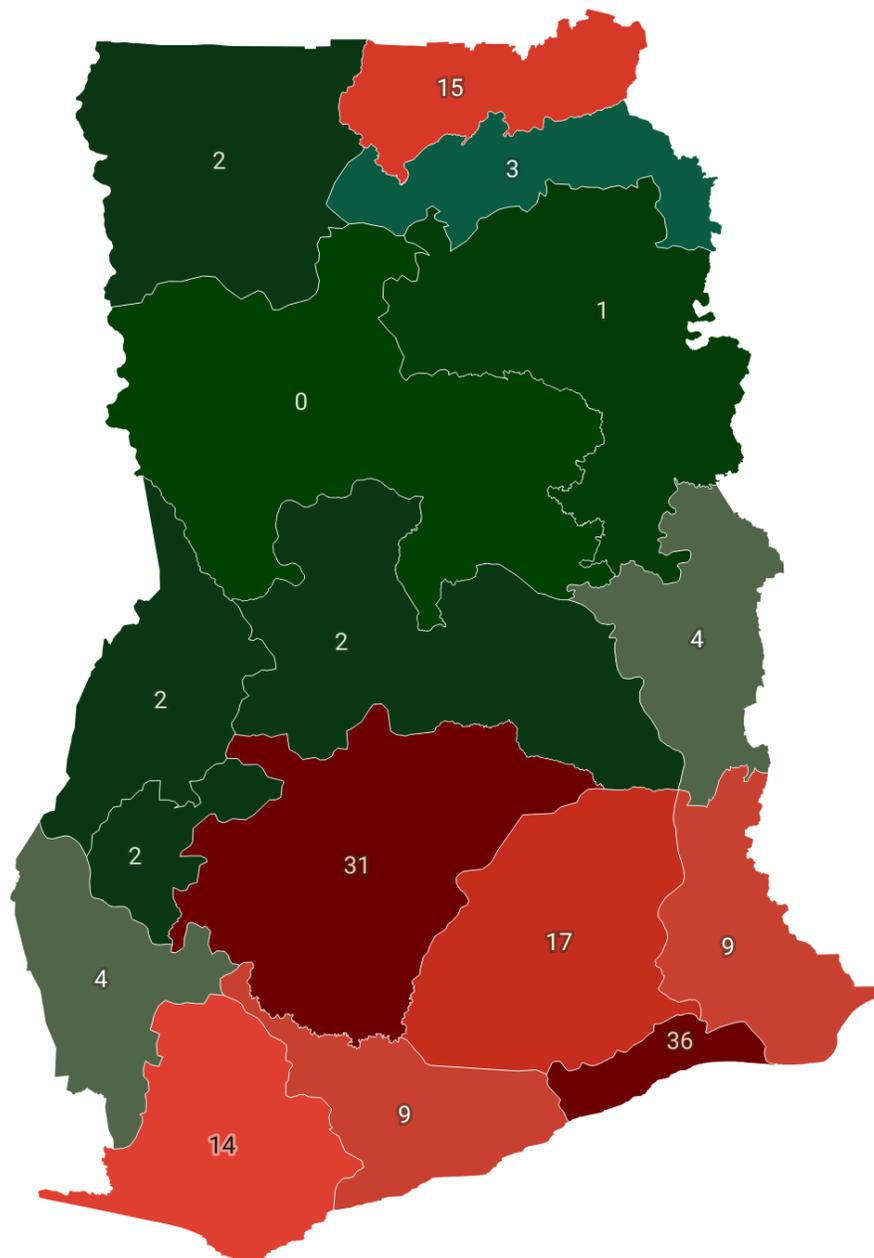
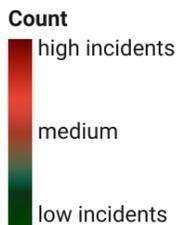
The table also show that 5 regions i.e. Greater Accra, Ashanti, Eastern, Upper East and Western Regions recorded double digit incidents. Together they account for 113 incidents and contribute 75% of the total cases reported. The gap in terms of actual count between the leading regions i.e. Greater Accra and Ashanti

is 5 incidents. The count in Greater Accra Region alone is 4 cases more than the combined total in Eastern and Upper West combined.

At the zonal level, the Coastal regions (Greater Accra, Central, Western and Volta) recorded the highest counts with 68 incidents representing 45%. The Middle zone regions (Ashanti, Eastern, Oti, Western North, Bono, Bono East and Ahafo) followed with 62 incidents representing 41%. The Northern regions (Upper East, Upper West, North East, Savannah and Northern) contributed 21 incidents representing 14%.

The chart below shows the regional distribution of the incidents recorded.

### Regional Distribution of Violent Incidents in 2nd qtr, 2025

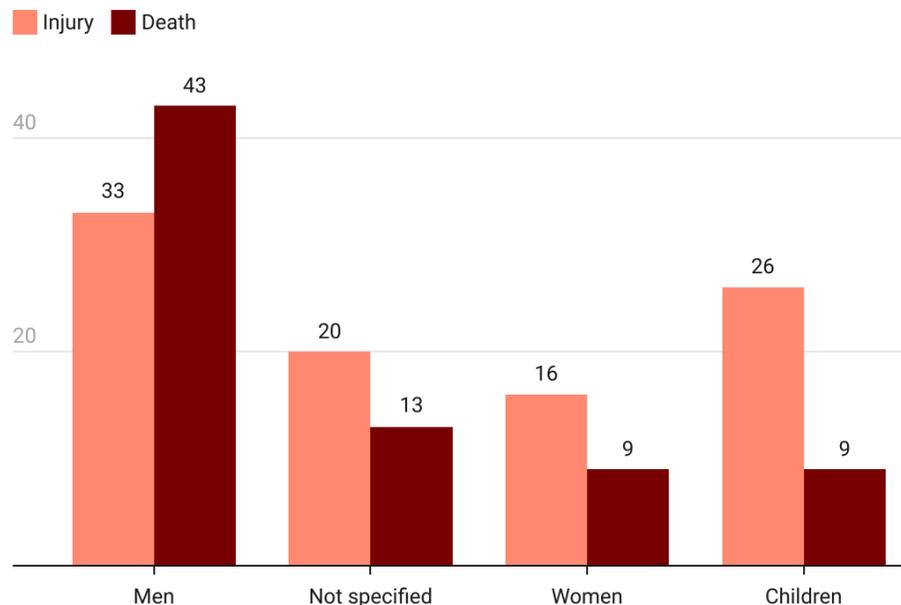


### 1.3.1 CASUALTIES RECORDED

During this monitoring period, ninety-five (95) injuries and seventy-four (74) deaths were recorded. From the injury record, 33 men representing 35% were affected compared to 26 (27%) children and 16 women representing 17%. Unspecified category of injuries was 20 (21%). Similarly, from the deaths record, 43 men representing 55% were counted to have died. Women who were recorded to have died were 9 representing 12%. Additionally, nine (9) children representing 12% were recorded to have also died. Unspecified deaths amounted to 13 representing 18%. The monitoring shows that, violent incidents continue to affect more men than women and children combined.

It is also important to highlight that Gun and Physical violence contributed to 38% and 29% of injuries and respectively. Whiles sexual violence contributed 11%. On the death count, Gun violence contributed 41 deaths representing 55% of all deaths reported compared to physical violence which contributed 29 (39%) of deaths.

### Casualties recorded as a result of Violent Incidents in 2nd qtr, 2025



### 1.3.2 ZONAL CASUALTIES OF VIOLENCE

The table below shows a summary of the zonal casualties of the incident count. It shows that the Coastal and Middle zone contribute 89% of the total casualties. In these two zones there were 130 violent incidents

resulting in 84 injuries and 66 deaths combined. This translates to (0.9) approximately 1 casualty per each violent incident. The Northern zone on the other hand recorded only 21 incidents yet it resulted in 19 casualties translating to (1.1) approximately 1 casualty per each violent incident.

### Zonal casualties of Violent Incidents for 2nd qtr 2025

Zone	Violence	%of Total Violence	Injuries	Deaths	Total Casualties	%share of casualties	Ratio of Casualty/Violent Incident
Coastal	68	45%	34	12	46	27%	0.7
Middle	62	41%	50	54	104	62%	1.7
Northern	21	14%	11	8	19	11%	0.9

**Note:** Operational definition of casualty is death or injury

#### 1.4 Distribution of top 4 Violent Incidents

**Gun Violence:** There were 58 cases of gun violence recorded across 15 regions. The Ashanti Region leads reported gun violence cases with 14 cases. This is twice the number of cases in the Upper East Region and more than the Greater Accra and Western Regions combined. All the regions recorded at least a gun incident with the exception of the Savannah region.

**Physical Violence:** This contributed 57 incidents representing 37.7% of the entire cases during the period. Greater Accra recorded the highest share with 13 cases followed by Ashanti with 11 and then Eastern with 7. Four (4) regions including Savannah, Northern, Upper West and Bono East regions did not record physical violence according to the media sources.

**Economic Violence:** Twenty (20) case were recorded with Greater Accra and Ashanti leading with 12 and 4 cases respectively. There were no cases in 10 out of the 16 regions.

**Sexual Violence:** A total of 6 regions recorded sexual violence incidents. Western Region recorded 3 and five regions including Ashanti, Greater Accra, Volta, Central and Upper West recorded an incident each.

The general observation deduced from the chart indicates that at least with the electoral season over, the associated political violence has also decline drastically and not among the top 4 violent count. Also for the

first time since June 2022, Gun violence has emerged as the most occurring incident for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2025. Again, as observed, Economic violence case has increased significantly since inception of the incident count. Physical violence is still prevalent

## Distribution of top 4 Violent Incidents by Regions - 2nd qtr 2025

■ Gun ■ Physical ■ Economic ■ Sexual

	Gun	Physical	Economic	Sexual
Ashanti Region	14	11	4	1
Eastern Region	8	7	1	0
Upper East Region	7	6	1	0
Greater Accra Region	6	13	12	1
Western Region	6	4	1	3
Volta Region	4	4	0	1
Central Region	3	4	0	1
North East Region	2	1	0	0
Bono East Region	2	0	0	0
Oti Region	1	3	0	0
Western North Region	1	2	1	0
Bono Region	1	1	0	0
Ahafo Region	1	1	0	0
Upper West Region	1	0	0	1
Northern Region	1	0	0	0
Savannah Region	0	0	0	0

### 2.0 Conclusions

Violent incidents have increased from 108 in the 1<sup>st</sup> qtr to 151 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr. This is a 40% increment. All regions recorded an incident except the savannah region. In terms of casualties at the zonal level there has been a shift from the Northern Zone to the Middle zone considering the ratio of 1 incident to 1.7 (approximately 2) casualties. The most affected group in terms of injuries and deaths continue to be men based on available media data but it is clear that the unspecified category, if it was specified could change the

count and the impact on the groups. Gun violence was observed to have occurred in 15 regions in 94% coverage of the 16 regions in the country.

This 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter monitoring of violent incidents adds to the overall, cumulative observation from 2022. Available data show that the 151 incidents for this qtr is second highest in the dataset compared to the 156 recorded in the 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr of 2022.

These incidents paint a picture of an evolving insecurity landscape that requires a coordinated and consistent response. The rise in gun violence is worrying and raises concerns about the source and proliferation of guns in the country.

## APPENDIX

Table 1: Gun related violence tracked during 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr. 2025 monitoring period

Month of Incident	Region of Incident	Description of Incident
April	Greater Accra Region	Man captured discharging firearm in Jamestown
April	Eastern Region	8-Armed robbers' assault and rob passengers at gunpoint in Afram Plains
April	Upper East Region	Suspected gunman arrested for possessing M16, Ak47, G3 rifle and 320 and 120 rounds of ammunition respectively
April	Ashanti Region	One dead, three injured in shootout clash with GAF
April	Upper East Region	Unidentified youth opened gunfire on Police around Bawku Market
April	Upper East Region	Robbers shoot 2 police officers to death at Poyamirea
April	Upper West Region	Farmer shot dead over land dispute
April	Ashanti Region	Machomen fire gunshots amidst KNUST jama group as student is stabbed during NPP "Thank You Tour"
April	Ashanti Region	Form 2 Adventist SHS student discharge a locally made weapon in class
April	Ashanti Region	Youth gang clash and shoot against each other as pistols were brandished
April	Upper East Region	Violent confrontation between security and youth group leads to gun fire
April	Ashanti Region	Police gun down four persons suspected of armed robbery
April	Volta Region	Momo vendor shot dead; 3 Ghanaians and a Nigerian involved
April	Bono East Region	Robber shot and kill 1 taxi occupant
April	Eastern Region	Police retrieve 2 automatic pump action guns from 7 illegal miners

April	Western Region	Police retrieve pump-action guns from 26 illegal miners (6-chinese, 2 Koreans and 18 Ghanaians)
April	Volta Region	Police intercept over 130 cartons of gun ammunition enroute to Benin
April	North East Region	Man, connived with gun men to rob Momo vendor
April	Western Region	Driver and employee of gold company robbed at gunpoint; police arrest and retrieve pump action gun, 9mm pistol, locally manufactured guns and ammunitions
April	Upper East Region	Man, allegedly shot dead and burnt along with motorbike in Binduri
April	Upper East Region	Military exchange gunfire with Unknown gunmen
April	Eastern Region	Illegal miners arrested; a pistol loaded with 7 rounds of ammunition recovered
April	Greater Accra Region	Domeabra and Danchira landuards clash as gunshots are fired
April	Ashanti Region	Armed men kill bus conductor on Kumasi highway
April	Western Region	Gun wielding robbers evade but saved and arrested by police; Shotgun and cartridge recovered
April	Central Region	Suspected motorbike thief threatens with Gun by hunter and sets ablaze
April	Eastern Region	Man shot in the thigh during Dipo rite
May	Western Region	Police arrest 3 for unlawful possession of firearms; Sub-machine Gun (SMG) and 30rounds of ammunition retrieved
May	Eastern Region	Deadly shooting claims 5 lives over sand winning
May	Northern Region	Three arrested for possession of illegal arms; police retrieve AK47, SMG, Pistol, single barrel gun and rounds of ammunitions
May	Western North Region	Police recover 4 locally manufactured guns and pump action gun following robbery at a mining site
May	Ashanti Region	Student arrested for possessing local firearm
May	Eastern Region	3 killed in shooting incidence in Nkawkaw
May	Eastern Region	One dead, others injured in bloody clash after a shooting incident between students and community youth
May	Ashanti Region	29-year- shoots and kill filling station employee and steals item
May	Volta Region	Man arrested in possession of Single barrel, local made pistol and cartridges believe to be used in crime commission
May	Volta Region	Fulani man shot and killed
May	Western Region	Man arrested in Western Region for illegal firearm possession; police recover locally manufactured pistol
May	Ashanti Region	Police intercept 3 after robbing 2 residents at gun point; Pistol and single barrel gun and ammunitions recovered

May	Eastern Region	Man arrested for possessing 2 pump action guns, ammunitions and knives
May	North East Region	2 young men break into Immigration officers' room to steal Pistol and ammunitions
May	Greater Accra Region	Robbers attack Jos bakery and fire shots from locally made arm to scare public
May	Ashanti Region	Police arrest man with assorted rounds of Ammunitions
May	Ahafo Region	Military fire warning shot over rioting citizens in Yamfo town
June	Bono East Region	Boyfriend shoots and kill lover
June	Oti Region	Stray bullet kills Nkwanta SHS student
June	Greater Accra Region	Seven rob residents at gunpoint in Ashaiman Sakasaka
June	Greater Accra Region	Seven rob residents at gunpoint at Ashaiman Dagomba
June	Ashanti Region	Police retrieve 2 automatic pump action guns from illegal miners
June	Ashanti Region	One suspected robber killed in a gun battle with Police; several others arrested during police high-risk operation
June	Upper East Region	Pharmacist's shot and killed in Bolgatanga
June	Ashanti Region	Gunfight between police and 5 robbers; Pump action gun retrieved
June	Ashanti Region	50-year-old man shot in the chest and killed
June	Central Region	Tipper truck driver shot in the eye by armed robbers
June	Greater Accra Region	Shooting mars naming ceremony at Gbawe Zero, one dead
June	Bono Region	Driver shot and killed on Ntotroso-Sunyani Highway
June	Western Region	Police arrest robber and retrieve locally made gun
June	Central Region	Police arrest 3 robbers and retrieve 2 pump action guns

#### Media Portals where Monitoring was Conducted

#	Nature	Source
1	Online	www.adomonline.com
2	Online	www.citinewsroom.com
3	Online	www.peacefmonline
4	Online	www.myjoyonline.com
5	Online	www.3news.com
6	Print & online	www.graphic.com.gh   Daily Graphic
7	Online	www.starrfm.com
8	Online	www.dailyguidenetwork.com
9	Online	www.theGhanareport.com
10	Online	www.ghanaweb.com

## About the FOSDA Violent Incidents Monitoring

*The FOSDA Violent Incidents Monitoring is a media-based monitoring that focuses on 7 types of broad-based violence i.e., Physical (including gun violence), Political Violence, Social Violence, Economic Violence, Sexual Violence and Psychological Violence and places where they occur. The target sources of monitoring are mainly the most sought-after online media news outlets. This is completed by reportage in the print media. The monitoring offers an opportunity for analysis, mapping and policy options on these incidents as they impact human security. A call on key stakeholders to act is the ultimate intent.*

### Operational Definition of Violent Incident types

1. Physical Violence – slapping, pushing, shoving, hitting, kicking, dragging or throwing objects at someone; choking, strangling or burning someone; using a weapon (not necessarily a Gun), hazardous chemicals or substances against someone; or kicking or pulling someone’s external genitalia (for male respondents only);
2. Gun Violence is a priority to FOSDA: Gun-related violence is violence committed with the use of a firearm.
3. Political violence is violence which is perpetrated in order to achieve political goals. It can include violence which is used by a state against civilians and non-state actors, and violence which is used by violent non-state actors against states and civilians.
4. Social Violence – acts of controlling behaviour, such as preventing someone from seeing friends or family of birth; stopping someone from leaving the house; requiring to know where someone is at all times; stalking; spreading false information, videos or photos without permission; or forcing women and girls to have an abortion;
5. Sexual Violence – acts of unwanted sexual comments or physical contact; rape by physical force, or otherwise forced sex (for instance, by blackmail or threats); denial of using protection during sex; a sexual partner hiding their HIV status; sexual acts or intercourse that were performed on the basis of feeling there was no option; or penetration with an object against someone’s will;
6. Psychological Violence – insults, belittling or humiliation in private or in front of others; threats of abandonment; being ignored or treated indifferently; intimidations and acts aimed at scaring someone; threats of using weapons against someone; or threats of hurting someone or someone one cares about;
7. Economic Violence – Any act or behaviour which causes economic harm to an individual. Economic violence can take the form of property damage, restricting access to financial resources, education or the labour market, or not complying with economic responsibilities, such as alimony. Unsolicited taking of money;