

VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN GHANA

A MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

violent incident
economic violence
fosda
open source intelligence
early warning mechanism
personal security
gun violence
media monitoring
physical violence
ghana

2nd Qtr. April - June 2026

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



Prevailing/Emerging Security themes and Recommendations to Enhance Safety and Security

#	Incident Themes	Recommendations
1	Armed Robbery and Violent Crime	• Encourage businesses, filling stations, gold dealers, and MoMo vendors to adopt security measures such as CCTV, panic alarms, and secure cash handling systems. • Conduct targeted operations against known armed robbery networks and illegal firearms suppliers.
2	Assault and Domestic Violence	• Strengthen public education on conflict resolution and anger management. • Establish community-based mediation structures for dispute resolution.
3	Chieftaincy, Land and Communal Conflicts	• Strengthen alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for chieftaincy and land disputes. • Establish early warning and conflict monitoring systems in high-risk communities.
4	Illegal Mining (Galamsey)	• Continuously prosecute financiers and sponsors of illegal mining operations. • Promote alternative livelihood programs in affected communities. • Strengthen NAIMOS and deploy technology such as drones and satellite monitoring to detect illegal mining activities.
5	Illegal Possession of Firearms and Ammunition	• Intensify intelligence gathering on weapons trafficking networks. • The Small Arms Commission should conduct periodic weapons recovery operations in high-risk areas. • Strengthen border surveillance to prevent firearm smuggling. • Improve firearms licensing compliance and monitoring.
6	Sexual Offences and Child Abuse	• Strengthen child protection systems and reporting channels. • Intensify public awareness campaigns on child safeguarding. • Improve support services for victims, including counseling and medical care. • Increase monitoring of online platforms used for exploitation.
7	Police and Security Misconduct	• Enhance professional standards and ethics training. • Strengthen internal disciplinary and accountability mechanisms. • Promote human rights-based policing approaches.
8	Mob Justice and Vigilantism	• Intensify public education on the dangers of mob justice. • Promote community trust in the criminal justice system. • Prosecute individuals involved in mob violence.
9	Threats, Political Violence and Public Disorder	• Strengthen pre-election security planning and monitoring. • Monitor social media for incitement and threats while respecting legal safeguards. • Establish local peace committees in politically sensitive areas.



Executive Summary

FOSDA's **Second Quarter (Q2) 2026 Violent Incidents Monitoring Report** recorded **228 violent incidents** across all sixteen regions of Ghana, confirming a continued deterioration in the country's security environment. This represents a **13% increase** over the **202 incidents** recorded in the first quarter (Q1) of 2026 and a **51% increase** compared to the **151 incidents** documented during the same period in 2025. Notably, Q2 2026 recorded the **highest number of violent incidents in a single quarter** since FOSDA's monitoring began in 2022, surpassing the previous record of 227 incidents in Q3 2025.

Physical violence remained the most prevalent form of violence, accounting for **89 incidents (39%)**, followed by **gun violence** with **52 incidents (22.8%)** and **economic violence** with **50 incidents (21.9%)**. Other categories included **social violence (11 incidents; 5%)**, **sexual violence (11 incidents; 5%)**, **psychological violence (10 incidents; 4%)**, and **political violence (5 incidents; 2%)**. The sustained prevalence of physical and firearm-related violence underscores persistent challenges relating to violent crime, inter-personal violence, communal conflicts, armed robbery, vigilantism, and the proliferation of illicit small arms.

The **Ashanti Region** recorded the highest number of incidents (**49; 21.5%**), followed by **Greater Accra (41; 18%)**, **Central (27; 11.8%)**, and **Eastern (22; 9.6%)**. From a zonal perspective, the **Middle Zone** accounted for **104 incidents (46%)**, followed by the **Coastal Zone** with **89 incidents (39%)**, while the **Northern Zone** recorded **35 incidents (15%)**. Importantly, every region recorded at least one violent incident during the quarter, highlighting that violence remains a nationwide concern requiring both national and localized responses.

The monitoring further documented **121 injuries** and **69 deaths** arising from the recorded incidents. Men continued to bear the greatest impact, accounting for **47% of injuries** and **64% of fatalities**, significantly exceeding the number of women and children affected. This trend reinforces the need for targeted interventions addressing the drivers of interpersonal and armed violence, particularly among young men who remain the most exposed demographic.

The first half of 2026 has now recorded a cumulative **430 violent incidents**, marking the **first time two consecutive quarters have each exceeded 200 incidents** since FOSDA began its monitoring initiative. If the current trajectory continues, Ghana could record **more than 1,000 violent incidents by the end of 2026**, making it the most violent year since the inception of the monitoring system.

These findings call for urgent, coordinated action by government, security agencies, civil society, traditional authorities, and development partners. FOSDA recommends strengthening conflict prevention and early warning mechanisms, enhancing community policing and intelligence-led security operations, intensifying efforts to combat the illicit proliferation and misuse of small arms, and addressing the socioeconomic and governance factors that continue to fuel violence across the country. Sustained investment in evidence-based violence prevention and local peacebuilding initiatives will be critical to reversing the current trend and safeguarding Ghana's peace and security.

VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN GHANA

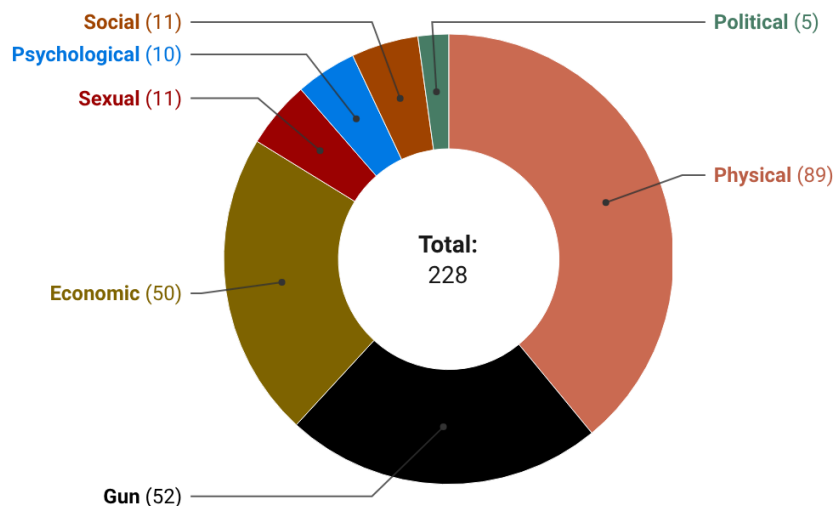
A MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

1.1 General Overview

This Media Monitoring Report covers the 2nd quarter i.e., April-June 2026. A total of Two Hundred and Twenty-Eight (228) violent incidents were reported by ten (10)¹ 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 seven categories of violence were recorded** i.e., Physical violence 89 cases representing 39%, Gun Violence 52 cases, representing 22.8%. This is followed by 50 cases of Economic-related violence representing 21.9% of the total cases. Social Violence and Sexual violent recorded 11 incidents each representing 5% for each whereas Psychological (10) and Political (5) contributed 4% and 2% respectively.

Share of Violent Incidents recorded for 2nd qtr of 2026

Physical Violence leads the share of the type of violence recorded



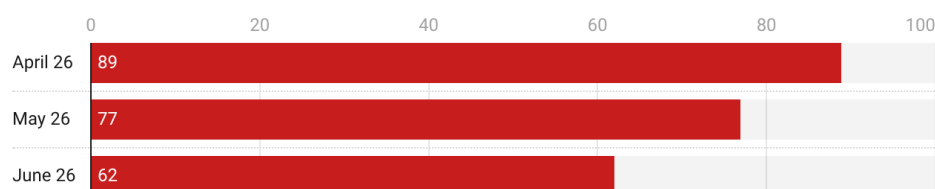
The monitoring targeted 7 types of violence and recorded all 7 categories with 228 cases

The monthly records show that the violent incidents declined from 89 in April to 77 in May. This declined again to 62 in June. Overall, at least 62 incidents are recorded per month in the 2nd quarter of 2026 compared to at least 63 per month record in the 1st quarter of 2026.

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

Monthly record of Violent Incidents in 2nd qtr of 2026

At least 62 Incidents is recorded per month



1.2 Regional Distribution of Violent Incidents Monitored

The Ashanti Region leads the violent incidents count with 49 (21.5%) incidents. This is followed by Greater Accra Region with 41 (18%). This is 8 incidents less compared to the count in the Ashanti Region. In third position is the Central Region with 27 (11.8%) incidents. Eastern Region recorded 22 (9.6%). Four regions recorded between 10 to 14 incidents. They are Western 14 (6.1%), Upper East 13 (5.7%), Oti 11(4.8%) and Northern 10 (4.4%). Eight regions recorded single digit incident ranging from 7 and 2. All the 16 regions recorded an incident for the 2nd quarter.

Regional Breakdown of the total reported violent incidents in 2nd qtr 2026

Ashanti Region leads the Chart with a gap of 8 more incidents compared to Greater Accra Region

Regional	Count	% Total
Ashanti Region	49	21.5%
Greater Accra Region	41	18%
Central Region	27	11.8%
Eastern Region	22	9.6%
Western Region	14	6.1%
Upper East Region	13	5.7%
Oti Region	11	4.8%
Northern Region	10	4.4%
Western North Region	7	3.1%
Volta Region	7	3.1%
Upper West Region	7	3.1%
Bono East Region	6	2.6%
Bono Region	6	2.6%
Savannah Region	3	1.3%
Ahafo Region	3	1.3%
North East Region	2	0.9%

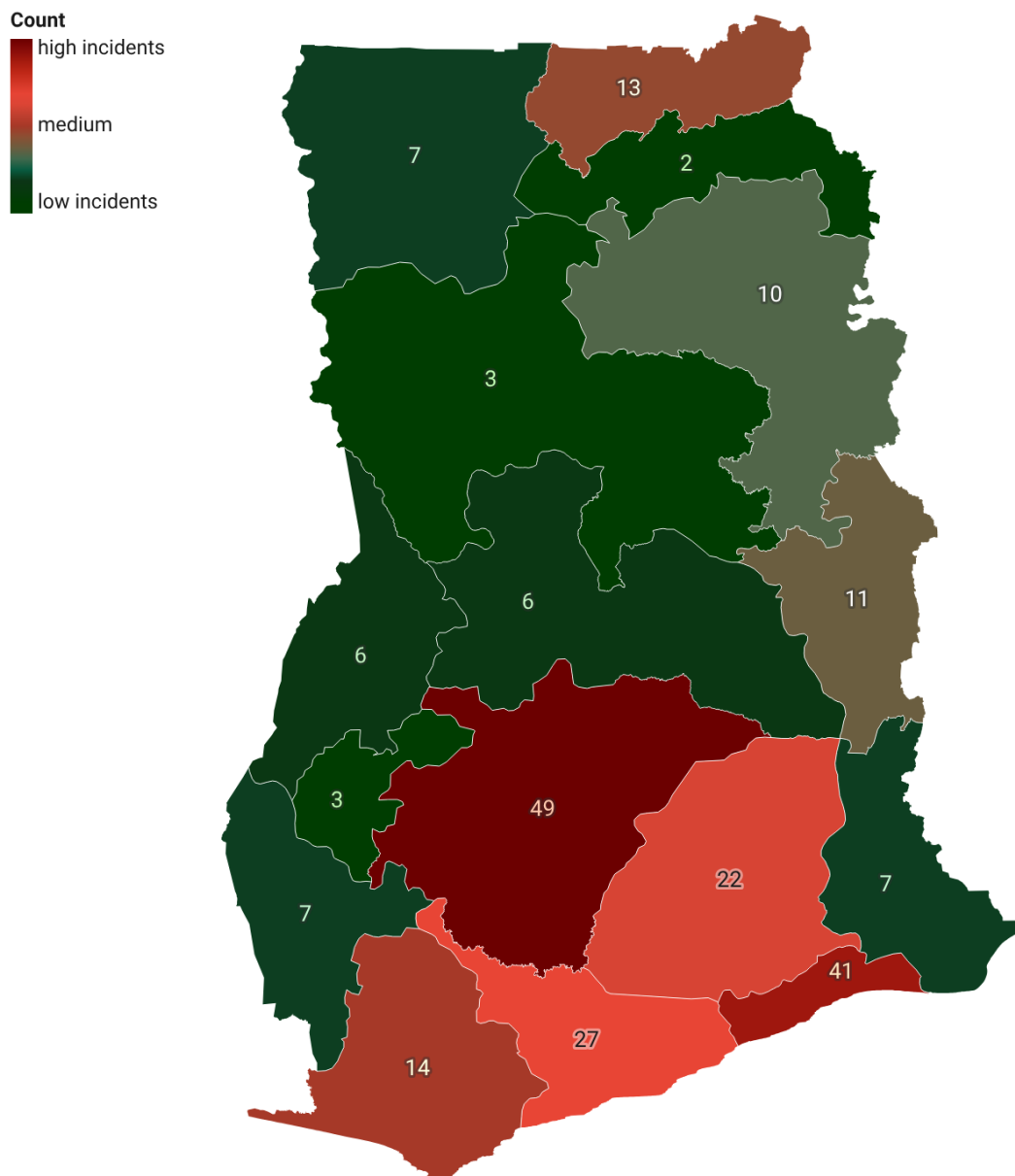
The table also show that 8 regions i.e. Ashanti, Greater Accra, Central, Eastern, Western, Upper East, oti and Northern Regions recorded double digit incidents. Together they account for 187 incidents and contribute 82% of the total cases reported. The count in Ashanti Region (49) alone is more than 2 times the

total cases in the bottom 8 regions. Similarly, count in Greater Accra Region (41) alone is equal to the count in the bottom half of the table.

At the zonal level, the Middle zone (Ashanti, Eastern, Oti, Western North, Bono, Bono East and Ahafo) recorded the highest cases with 104 incidents representing 46%. This is followed by the Coastal regions (Western, Central, Greater Accra and Volta) which recorded 89 (39%). The Northern regions (Upper East, Upper West, North East, Savannah and Northern) contributed 35 incidents representing 15%.

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

Regional Distribution of Violent Incidents in 2nd qtr, 2026

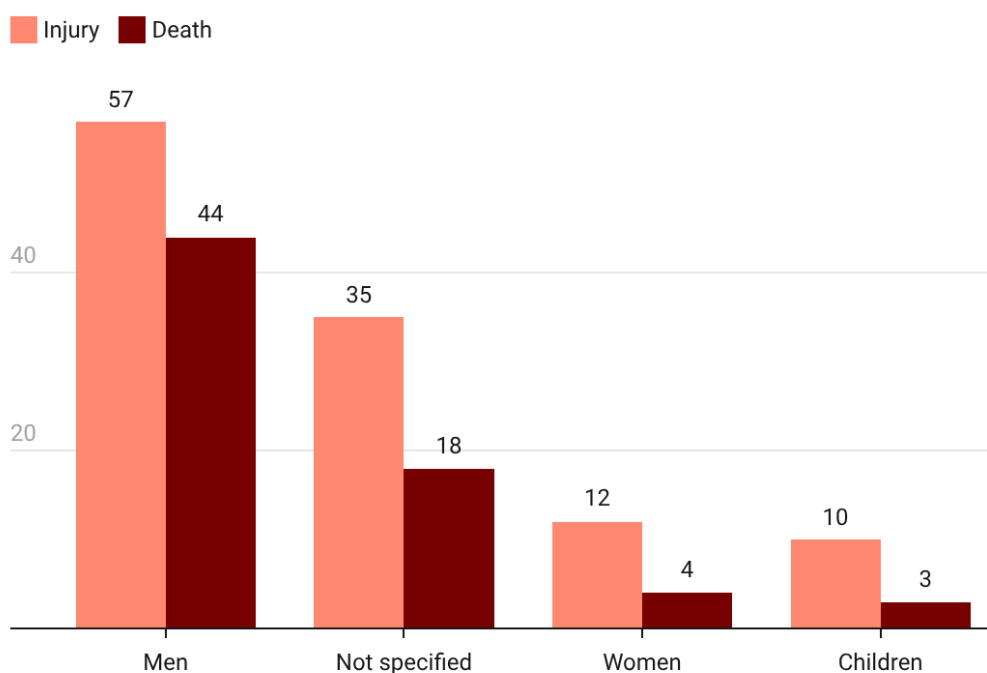


1.3.1 CASUALTIES RECORDED

During this monitoring period, One Hundred and Twenty-one (121) injuries and Sixty-Nine (69) deaths were recorded. From the injury record, 57 men representing 47% were affected compared to 10 (8%) children and 12 women representing 10%. Unspecified category of injuries was 42 (35%). Similarly, from the deaths record, 44 men representing 64% were counted to have died. Women who were recorded to have died were 4 representing 6% and three (3) children representing 4% were recorded to have also died. Unspecified deaths were 18 representing 26%. The monitoring shows that, violent incidents continue to significantly affect more men than women and children combined.

It is also important to highlight that Gun and Physical violence contributed to 20% and 77% of injuries respectively. On the death count, Gun violence contributed 36 deaths representing 53% of all deaths reported compared to physical violence which contributed 31 (46%) of deaths.

Casualties recorded as a result of Violent Incidents in 2nd qtr, 2026



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 zone contributed 54% of the total casualties compared to the 32% and 11% in the Middle and Northern zones respectively. In the Coastal zone at least 1 person was reported to have been injured or died in each violent case. This is more prevalent in the coastal zone with a ratio of 1:1 compared to 0:6 and 0:8 in the middle and northern zones respectively.

Zonal casualties of Violent Incidents for 2nd qtr 2026

Zone	Violence	%of Total Violence	Injuries	Deaths	Total Casualties	%share of casualties	Ratio of Casualty/Violent Incident
Middle	104	46%	43	17	60	32%	0.6
Coastal	89	39%	71	31	102	54%	1.1
Northern	35	15%	7	21	28	11%	0.8

Note: Operational definition of casualty is death or injury

1.4 Distribution of top 4 Violent Incidents

Physical Violence: There were 89 cases of physical violence recorded across 14 regions excluding North East and Ahafo regions. The Ashanti Region account for 21 cases followed by Greayer Accra Region with 17 cases.

Gun Violence: This contributed 52 incidents representing 22.8% of the entire cases during the period. The Upper East Region recorded the highest share with 8 cases followed by Ashanti Region with 7 and then Greater Accra and Eastern Regions with 5 cases each. Three regions including Central, Northern and Oti Regions recorded 4 incidents each whereas Western and Volta regions also recorded 3 cases each. The Savannah region did not record a gun incident

Economic Violence: This contributed 50 incidents representing 21.9% of the entire cases during the period. Greater Accra Region recorded the highest share with 13 cases followed by Ashanti Region with 10 cases. Central region recorded 6 cases. Eastern also recorded 5 cases. Volta and Oti recorded 3 cases each while Western North, Western, Northern and Upper West Regions recorded 2 cases each. Upper East and Bono East regions recorded a case each. There were no cases in Bono, Savannah, Ahafo and North East Regions.

Sexual Violence: A total of 11 (4.8%) of the incidents were reported across 7 regions including Ashanti (4), Eastern (2), Upper East (1), Greater Accra (1), Western North (1) and Savannah (1) regions.

The 2nd quarter incidents record continues to shows Physical incidents as the dominant incident for the period. This is followed by Gun violence as the 2nd most occurring incident. Economic violence also shows strong signs of geographical spread with prevalence in 12 regions.

Distribution of top 4 Violent Incidents by Region - 2nd qtr 2026

Gun Physical Economic Sexual

	Gun	Physical	Economic	Sexual
Upper East Region	8	2	1	1
Ashanti Region	7	21	10	4
Greater Accra Region	5	17	13	1
Eastern Region	5	8	5	2
Central Region	4	14	6	1
Oti Region	4	4	3	0
Northern Region	4	3	2	0
Western Region	3	8	2	0
Volta Region	3	1	3	0
Bono East Region	2	1	1	0
Ahafo Region	2	0	0	0
Upper West Region	2	1	2	0
North East Region	1	0	0	0
Western North Region	1	3	2	1
Bono Region	1	4	0	0
Savannah Region	0	2	0	1

2.0 Conclusions

Violent incidents have increased significantly from the 2nd quarter perspectives overtime. In 2023 there were 143 cases, this decreased to 86 in 2024 followed by a sharp increase to 151 in 2025 and now a huge increase to 228 in 2026.

All the 16 regions have recorded some form of violence in the period under review. 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 approximately 1 casualty per incident. The most affected group in terms of injuries and deaths continue to be men based on available media data with the unspecified category, recording a significant number of casualties averaging 30% of total cases. Gun violence was observed to have occurred in 15 of the 16 regions. This 2nd quarter monitoring of violent incidents adds to the overall, cumulative observation from the 2nd qtr of 2022. Available date shows that the 202 and 228 in the 1st and 2nd qtrs bring the total to 430 and also represents the first time that 2 quarters in a year has recorded more than 200 incidents. Additionally, the 228 recorded in the current monitoring period is highest incident recorded per quarter and it surpasses the 227 recorded in the 3rd quarter of 2025. If the trends continue the year 2026 could be one of the years with the

highest count of incidents to be recorded since inception. This is estimated to be 1000 cases by the end of 2026.

APPENDIX

Table 1: Gun related violence tracked during 2nd qtr. 2026 monitoring period

Month of Incident	Region of Incident	Description of Incident
April	Eastern Region	Land Dispute Turns Deadly as Man Shoots and Kills 23-Year-Old During Demolition Exercise
April	Volta Region	Armed Robbers Shoot Worker and Three Residents During Drinks Company Robbery
April	Greater Accra Region	Gun Armed Rival Faction Members Attack Traders at Adjen Kotoku Onion Market
April	Ashanti Region	Armed Robbery Gang Opens Fire on Police in Highway Ambush Attempt
April	Northern Region	Police retrieve pistol in robbery suspects room
April	Northern Region	Pistol Recovered from UDS Students' Hostel Rooms
April	Eastern Region	Suspect Opens Fire on Police, Killed After Two-Hour Gunfight in Akropong
April	Western North Region	Three Pump-Action Guns and 37 Cartridges Seized at Illegal Mining Site
April	Ashanti Region	Armed Robbers Open Fire on Football Team Bus, Kill Player on Highway
April	Northern Region	Pistol -Wielding Men Invade Closed-Door UDS Council Meeting
April	Greater Accra Region	Robbers Shoot Mobile Money Vendor in Leg Before Fleeing on Motorbike
April	Greater Accra Region	Police engage in shootout with robbers and retrieve 9mm Lugar Pistol with 3 rounds of Ammunitions
April	Ashanti Region	Robbers Block Road and Open Fire on Cargo Truck, Hit Driver in Abdomen
April	Bono East Region	Wanted Suspect Shot Dead After Exchange of Fire with Police in Prang
April	Bono East Region	Foreign-Made Pistol and Ammunition Retrieved from Suspect After Police Shootout in Prang
April	Ashanti Region	Two Pump-Action Guns and 102 Cartridges Seized from Chinese Illegal Miners' Hideout
April	Upper East Region	Unknown Gunmen Attack Military Convoy Protecting 140 Civilians, Kill Three

April	Upper East Region	G3 Automatic Rifle and 216 Rounds of Ammunition Retrieved from Fleeing Attacker at Mosque
April	Northern Region	Unidentified Gunmen Open Fire on Police During Weapons Recovery Operation Near Fumbisi
April	Upper East Region	CZ Assault Rifle, AK-47, Pump-Action Gun and Single-Barrel Rifle Recovered from Buried Gang Cache
April	Oti Region	Truck Concealing Pump-Action Gun and Over 11,000 Rounds of Ammunition Intercepted at Police Barrier
May	North East Region	Gunmen ambush VIP passenger bus on Walewale–Nasia Road and kill 2
May	Oti Region	Gunmen shoot and kill 28-year-old food vendor
May	Oti Region	Hunter mistakes 48-year-old woman for animal and shoots her dead during early morning hunting expedition
May	Eastern Region	Five pump-action rifles , twenty-three live cartridges recovered from armed faction in Adambrobe chieftaincy dispute
May	Volta Region	Stray police bullet hits innocent 19-year-old SHS student in waist during demolition exercise dispersal at Danchira
May	Upper East Region	Gang Suspects lead Police to retrieve AK-47 and 87 round of live ammunitions from a farm
May	Central Region	Youth Chief of Ayanfuri accidentally shoots himself with pump-action shotgun during funeral rites, dies of abdominal wound
May	Western Region	Three Chinese nationals detained after pump action gun , ammunition seized during galamsey operation on Tano River
May	Ashanti Region	Gang hijacks Honda vehicle at gunpoint using roadside deception on Asante Mampong stretch
May	Western Region	Task force retrieves weapons including 2 pump action guns and 82 ammunitions from armed thugs at mining site in violent confrontation
May	Bono Region	Four illegal firearms 3 pump action and 1 single barrel with 14BB ammunition seized at Drobo palace during chieftaincy clash
May	Oti Region	Motor rider shot on Odomi–Challah Road during Nkwanta South clashes
May	Western Region	Community envoy shot dead by illegal mining security operatives
May	Ashanti Region	Fleeing galamsey operator spotted carrying pump-action gun during NAIMOS raid at Dankai River
May	Upper West Region	Two men shot dead at Gbelonosi section of Funsu during chieftaincy dispute
May	Eastern Region	Four masked gun armed robbers' storm GOIL filling station at Nsawam-Okanta
May	Eastern Region	Security guard and pump attendant shot during robbery
May	Upper East Region	Armed faction attacks chief-elect's home on enskinment day, kills one and injures several. Police retrieved a pistol

May	Central Region	Driver caught transporting 3,500 shotgun cartridges without licence on Accra-Assin Fosu Road
May	Volta Region	Man shoots two with gunshot wounds to knee and eye after group demolishes his fence wall
April	Ahafo Region	Man shot and killed on the Akyiresu to Kwame Dwomo Sreso road
June	Ahafo Region	AK-47, pump-action gun and 9 ammunitions recovered from police robber shootout
June	Upper East Region	Criminal networks stockpile NATO ammunition and illegal weapons across five Upper East districts
June	Central Region	Armed robbers shoot MoMo vendor dead at Gomoa Dominase market
June	Greater Accra Region	Suspect dies of gunshot wound in carjacking incident
June	Greater Accra Region	Security guards shoot at Adwoa Safo's vehicle in Kwabenya
June	Upper East Region	Armed men shoot couple dead
June	Central Region	Motorbike occupants shoot police assistant
June	Upper West Region	Police seize 50,000 rounds of ammunition near Wa
June	Ashanti Region	Locally made pistol and ammunition seized from suspects in Kunsu
June	Upper East Region	Police command raids hideouts recovering combat ammunition and arresting suspects

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. Possession of any kind of weapon is considered a violent act.
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; sexual relationship with a minor even if they consent; 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; sharing someone's images with
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;