VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN GHANA

A MEDIA MONITORING REPORT



3rd Quarter: July - September 2026

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

Executive Summary

FOSDA's **Third Quarter (Q3) 2026 Violent Incidents Monitoring Report** recorded **232 violent incidents** across all sixteen regions of Ghana, reflecting a persistent pattern and suggesting that the country's security environment remains largely unchanged. This represents a 2**% increase** over the **228 incidents** recorded in the second quarter (Q2) of 2026 and a **2.2% increase** compared to the **227 incidents** documented during the same period in 2025. Notably, Q3 2026 recorded the **highest number of violent incidents in a single quarter** since FOSDA's monitoring began in 2022, surpassing the previous record of 228 incidents in Q2 2026.

Physical violence remained the most prevalent form of violence, accounting for **108 incidents (47%)**, followed by **gun violence** with **76 incidents (33%)** and **economic and sexual violence** with **13 incidents (6%) each**. Other categories included **political violence** (**9 incidents; 4%**), **psychological violence** (**8 incidents; 3%**), and **social 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 (**58; 25%**), followed by **Greater Accra** (**51; 22%**), **Eastern** (**35; 15.1%**), and **Central** (**21; 9.1%**). From a zonal perspective, the **Middle Zone** accounted for **113 incidents (49%)**, followed by the **Coastal Zone** with **85 incidents (37%)**, while the **Northern Zone** recorded **34 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 **133 injuries** and **73 deaths** arising from the recorded incidents. Men continued to bear the greatest impact, accounting for **50% of injuries** and **73% 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 3 quarters of 2026 has now recorded a cumulative **662 violent incidents**, marking the **first time three consecutive quarters have each exceeded 200 incidents** since FOSDA began its monitoring initiative. If the current trajectory continues, Ghana could record **more than 900 violent incidents by the end of 2026**, making it the most violent year since the inception of the monitoring system.

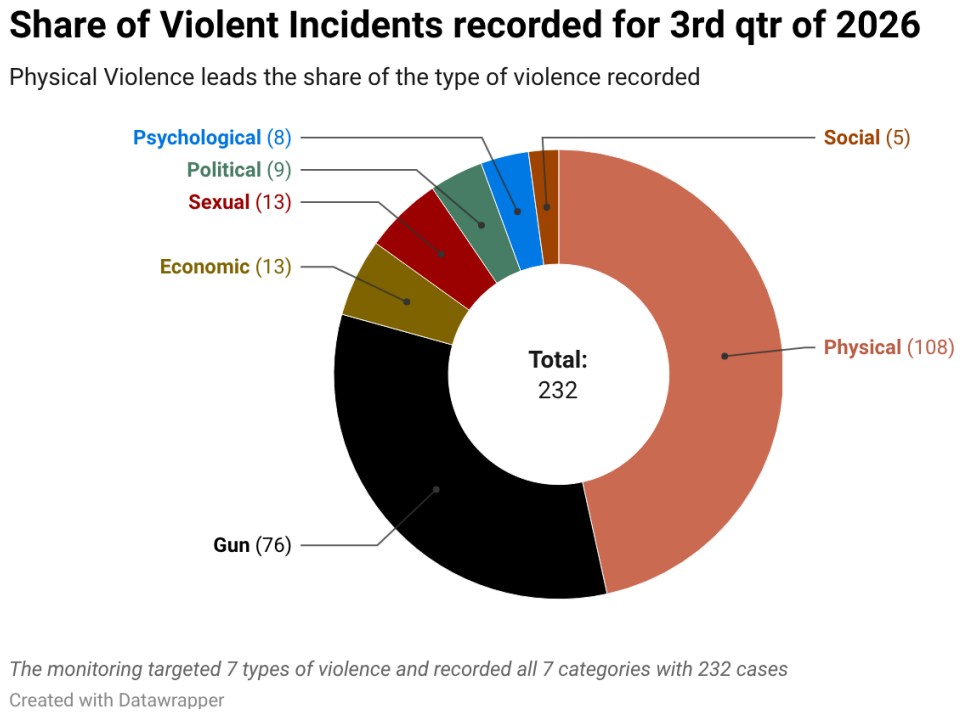
These findings call for urgent, coordinated and sustained action by government, security agencies, civil society, traditional authorities, and development partners. FOSDA recommends strengthening preventive and early warning mechanisms, enhancing community policing and intelligence-led security operations, 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.

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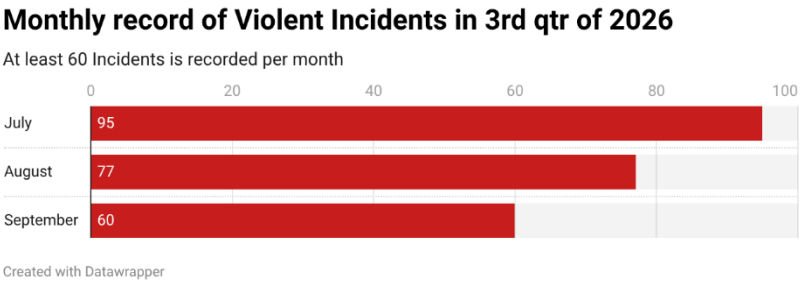
1.1 General Overview

This Media Monitoring Report covers the 3rd quarter i.e., July-September 2026. A total of Two Hundred and thirty-two (232) 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 108 cases representing 47%, Gun Violence 76 cases, representing 33%. This is followed by 13 cases each of Economic and Social related violence representing 6% for each case. Political Violence and Psychological violence recorded 9 and 8 cases representing 4% and 3% respectively whereas Social Violence contributed 5 (2%) of the cases.



The monthly records show that the violent incidents declined from 95 in July to 77 in August and 60 in September. Overall, at least 60 incidents are recorded per month in the 3rd quarter of 2026 compared to at least 63 and 62 incidents per month record in the 1st and 2nd quarters respectively for 2026.

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



1.2 Regional Distribution of Violent Incidents Monitored

The Ashanti Region leads the violent incidents count with 58 (25%) incidents. This is followed by Greater Accra Region with 51 (22%). In third position is the Eastern Region with 35 (15.1%) incidents. Central Region recorded 21 (9.1%). Northern Region recorded 14 (6%). Western and Upper East Regions recorded 10 (4.3%) incidents each. The remaining nine regions recorded single digit incident ranging from 6 and 1. All the 16 regions recorded an incident for the 3rd quarter.

Regional Breakdown of the total reported violent incidents in 3rd qtr 2026

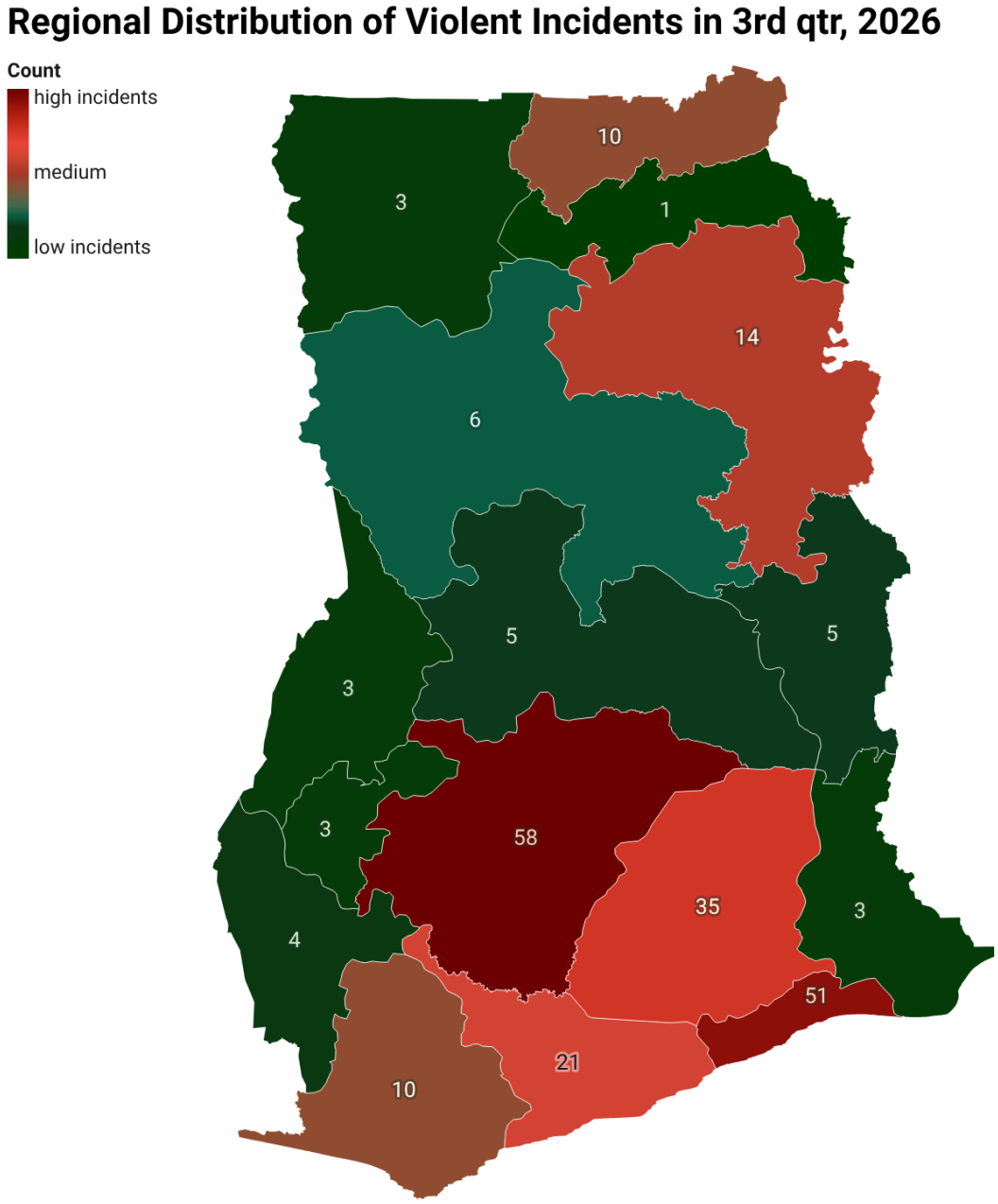
Ashanti Region leads the Chart with a gap of 7 more incidents compared to Greater Accra Region

Regional	Count	% Total
Ashanti Region	58	25%
Greater Accra Region	51	22%
Eastern Region	35	15.1%
Central Region	21	9.1%
Northern Region	14	6%
Western Region	10	4.3%
Upper East Region	10	4.3%
Savannah Region	6	2.6%
Bono East Region	5	2.2%
Oti Region	5	2.2%
Western North Region	4	1.7%
Volta Region	3	1.3%
Ahafo Region	3	1.3%
Bono Region	3	1.3%
Upper West Region	3	1.3%
North East Region	1	0.4%

The table also show that 7 regions i.e. Ashanti, Greater Accra, Eastern, Central, Northern, Western and Upper East Regions recorded double digit incidents. Together they account for 199 incidents and contribute 86% of the total cases reported. The count in Ashanti and Greater Accra Regions (109) alone is more than 3 times the total cases (i.e 33) recorded in the nine regions that recorded single digit incidents.

At the zonal level, the Middle zone (Ashanti, Eastern, Oti, Western North, Bono, Bono East and Ahafo) recorded the highest cases with 113 incidents representing 49%. This is followed by the Coastal regions (Western, Central, Greater Accra and Volta) which recorded 85 (37%). The Northern regions (Upper East, Upper West, North East, Savannah and Northern) contributed 34 incidents representing 15%.

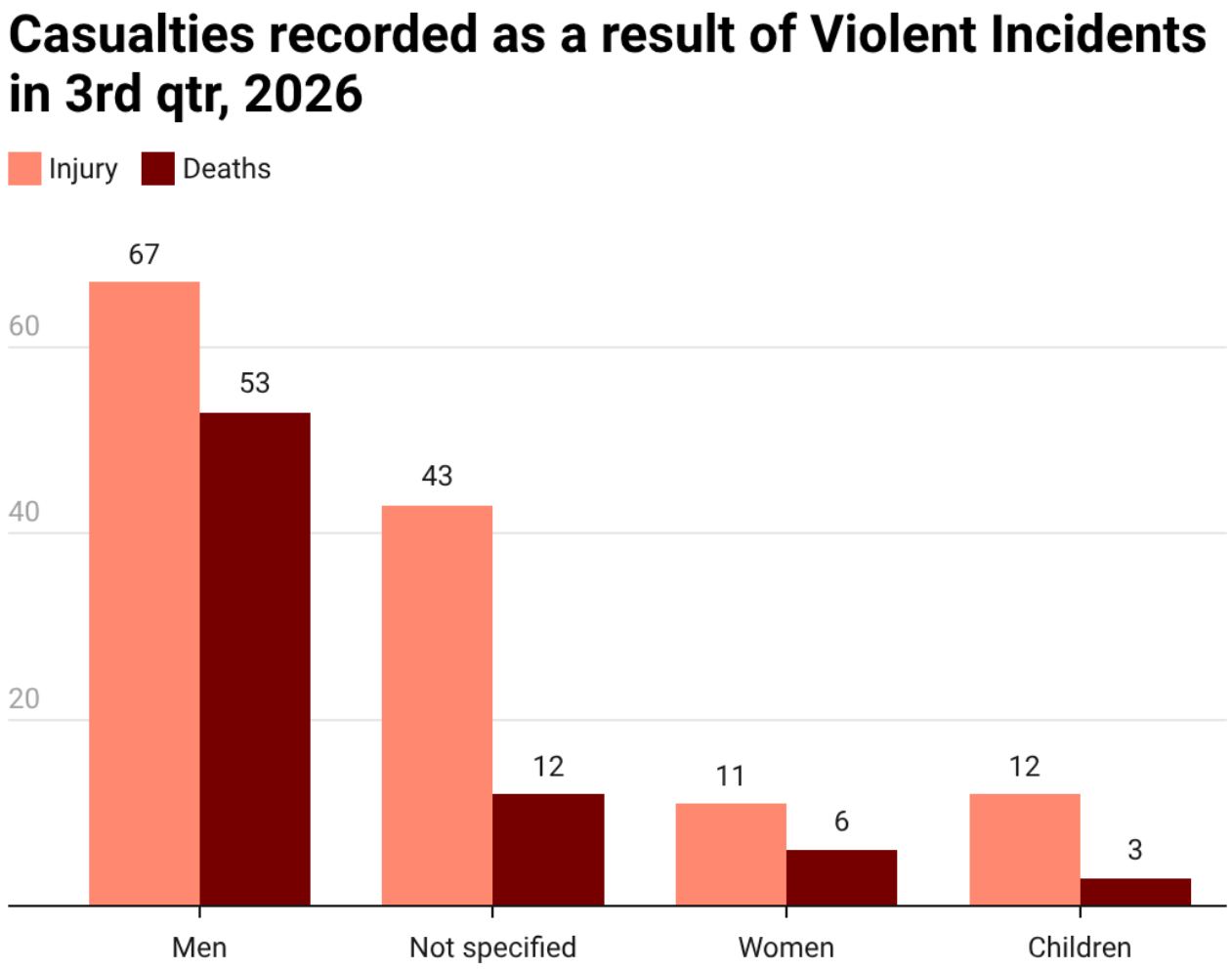
The **Map** below shows the regional distribution of the incidents recorded.



1.3.1 CASUALTIES RECORDED

During this monitoring period, One Hundred and Thirty-three (133) injuries and Seventy-three (73) deaths were recorded. From the injury record, 67 men representing 50% were affected compared to 12 (9%) children and 11 women representing 8%. Unspecified category of injuries was 43 (32%). Similarly, from the deaths record, 53 men representing 73% were counted to have died. Women who were recorded to have died were 6 representing 8% and two (2) children representing 3% were recorded to have also died. Unspecified deaths were 12 representing 16%. 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 41% and 54% of injuries respectively. On the death count, Gun violence contributed 47 deaths representing 67% of all deaths reported compared to physical violence which contributed 22 (31%) of deaths.



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 Middel zone contributed 51% of the total casualties compared to the 33% and 16% in the Coastal and Northern zones respectively. At least 1 person was reported to have been injured or died in each violent case in all the

zone. However, the Northern zone is a place of concern because even though it recorded 34 incidents, 33 casualties were recorded. This implies that there was only 1 incident which did not record a casualty.

Zonal casualties of Violent Incidents for 3rd qtr 2026

Zone	Violence	%of Total Violence	Injuries	Deaths	Total Casualties	%share of casualties	Ratio of Casualty/Violent Incident
Coastal	85	37%	46	22	68	33%	0.8
Middel	113	49%	72	33	105	51%	0.9
Northern	34	15%	15	18	33	16%	1

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

1.4 Distribution of top 4 Violent Incidents

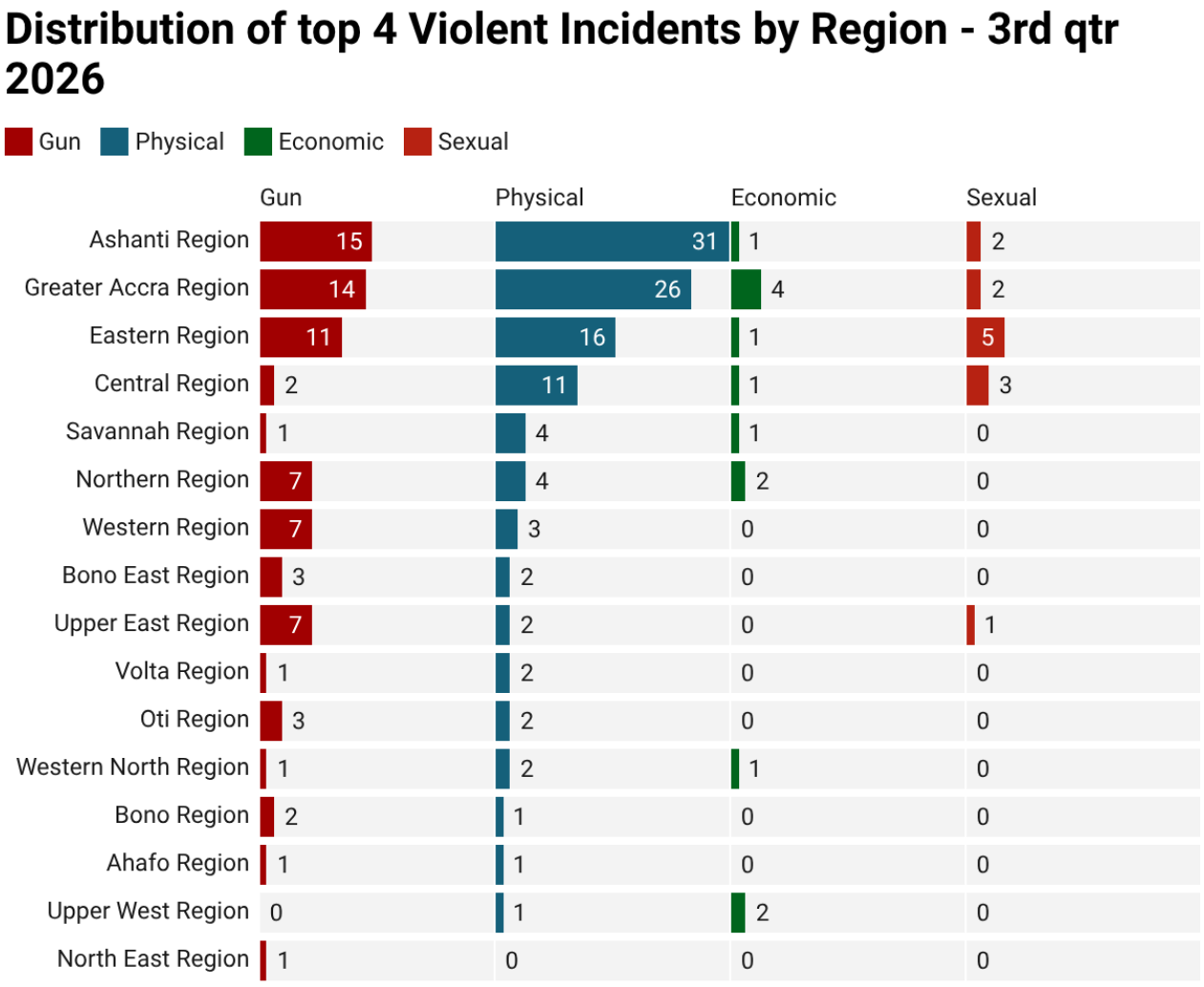
Physical Violence: There were 108 cases of physical violence recorded across 15 regions excluding North East region. The Ashanti Region account for 31 cases followed by Greater Accra Region with 26 cases. Eastern and Central recorded 16 and 11 cases respectively.

Gun Violence: This contributed 76 incidents representing 33% of the entire cases during the period. The Ashanti region recorded 15 cases whereas Greater Accra and Eastern regions recorded 14 and 11 cases respectively. There were cases in all regions except the Upper West Region.

Economic Violence: This contributed 13 incidents representing 6% of the entire cases during the period. Greater Accra Region recorded the highest share with 4 cases followed by Northern and Upper West Regions with 2 cases each. The Eastern, Western North, Central, Savannah and Ashanti regions recorded 1 case each.

Sexual Violence: This also contributed 13 incidents representing 6% of the entire cases during the period. Eastern Region recorded the highest share with 5 cases followed by Central with 3 cases. Ashanti and Greater Accra regions recorded 2 cases each whiles the Upper East region recorded 1 case.

The 3rd 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 and Sexual violence also shows strong signs of geographical spread with prevalence in at least a third (i,e 5) of the 16 regions.



2.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

Violent incidents have increased significantly from the 3rd quarter perspectives overtime. In 2022 there were 156 cases, this decreased to 122 in 2023 followed by a further decline to 105 in 2024 and a sharp increase to 227 and now a marginal increase to 232 in 2026. This current record represents the highest incident count per quarter since inception.

All the 16 regions have recorded some form of violence in the period under review. In terms of casualties at the zonal level the Northern Zone remains volatile considering that an incident records a casualty. The most affected group in terms of injuries and deaths continue to be men (50% and 73%) respectively based on available media data with the unspecified category recording a significant number of casualties averaging 24% of total cases. Gun violence was observed to have occurred in 15 of the 16 regions.

This 3rd quarter monitoring of violent incidents adds to the overall, cumulative observation from inception in the 2nd qtr of 2022. Available date shows that the 202 and 228 in the 1st and 2nd quarters add to the 232 in the 3rd qtr and bring the total to 662 and also represents the first time that in a year of recording more than 200 incidents for 3 quarters in a row. Additionally, the 232 recorded in the current monitoring period is highest incident recorded per quarter and it surpasses the 228 recorded in the 2nd quarter of 2026. 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 around 900 cases by the end of 2026. Against this background following recommendations is proposed

Recommendations to Enhance Safety and Security

Armed robbery, theft and extortion

- The Ghana Police Service should strengthen security along identified highway and junction hotspots through increased, intelligence-led patrols and strategically positioned checkpoints. Beyond conventional patrols, the Police should adopt innovative, proactive and preventive policing approaches, including predictive hotspot mapping, risk-based patrol scheduling, mobile patrol units, community-based intelligence gathering and the strategic use of surveillance technology. These measures should prioritise early detection, deterrence and disruption of criminal activities before they occur, rather than relying primarily on reactive responses to reported incidents.
- Teleco's should develop new technologies against MoMo fraud and PIN-coercion safeguards.
- The Ghana Police through its TV channel should provide education and safeguards on bulk cash handling.

Firearms, Ammunition Seizures, Shootings and killings

- Small Arms Commission should be empowered to enhance regulation, tracking local gunsmiths and running of periodic amnesty and recovery programmes.
- The District Security Committees (DISEC) should promote and fund community early-warning and mediation systems.
- Discourage the use of live bullets in hunting expedition.

Mob justice and lynching

- Undertake mass sensitisation on the legal consequences of mob action.

Conduct of security forces

- Set up independent, visible complaints and investigation mechanisms, and publish outcomes of investigation on security brutality.
- Strengthen use-of-force and de-escalation training among the security agencies and forces.

Sexual violence and child abuse

- Support child-protection and victim-support services.
- Undertake publicise convictions as a deterrent in sexual violence cases.

Illegal mining, forests and land

- Enforce the ban on land guards and speed up land dispute resolution.

Communal, chieftaincy and religious conflict

- Leverage on traditional councils and mediation bodies in early stages of chieftaincy conflict.

APPENDIX

Table 1: Gun related violence tracked during 3rd qtr. 2026 monitoring period

Month of Incident	Region of Incident	Description of Incident
July	Greater Accra Region	Two robbers **shoot** at momo vendors car and make away with 140,000
July	Greater Accra Region	Momo Vendor **shoot** and kill 1 robber as police recover 140,000, AK-47 assault rifle, two magazines loaded with a total of 55 rounds of live ammunition, an additional 11 rounds of live ammunition, five spent AK-47 shells and two spent pistol shells
July	Western North Region	Police **shoot** into rioting crowd in anti-drug operation
July	Eastern Region	Residents clash with illegal miners and **shots** are fired
July	Northern Region	Two **gunmen** fire shots in Zohe EP school, students and teachers flee in panic
July	Eastern Region	Young man **shot** and injured in youth and military clash
July	Ashanti Region	**Gunshots** fired during Sekyere East NPP constituency elections
July	Bono Region	Suspected armed robbers, believed to be Fulani herdsmen, **shoot** at a Toyota Land Cruiser at Mim Junction and make away with GHS25,000
July	Eastern Region	Police recover **locally made weapons** from suspects following intelligence operations
July	Ashanti Region	**Armed men** scattered ballot boxes and threatened election officials at Bidieso
July	Eastern Region	45-year-old male farmer **shot** dead over domestic dispute
July	Ashanti Region	25-year-old man, kill another in **armed** gang rivalry attack
July	Greater Accra Region	Police retrieve two **AK-47** assault rifles (serial numbers BABA405817 and AZ71551999) and two pistols, with 10 rounds of ammunitions from suspected trafficker
July	Eastern Region	Security guards of mining company fire **gunshot** to disperse restaurant customers
July	Greater Accra Region	Police Operation retrieve (1) **pump-action gun**, one (1) Stoeger ST-R9 pistol, one (1) dummy Austria pistol, twelve (12) BB cartridges, three (3) rounds of 9mm ammunition, one (1) AK-47 round of ammunition from 5-member gang
July	Ashanti Region	Police officer cocks' **gun** at KMA official during alleged disagreement
July	Greater Accra Region	Armed robbers engage Police in **gun** battle
July	Oti Region	35-year-old farmer **shoot** and kills a man attempting to steal sack of yam
July	Ashanti Region	Taxi driver **shot** and killed in his taxi

July	Western Region	Four killed after **gunfire** aimed at snake triggers dynamite explosion at mining site
July	Eastern Region	Robbers attack passengers at **gun** point and rob valuables
July	Volta Region	Police **shoot** at man driving with wife and child
July	Ashanti Region	**Gunshots** fired during illegal miners meeting
July	Ashanti Region	Illegal loggers **shoot** forest guard
July	Bono East Region	Forest Gurad **shot** by a logger
July	Ashanti Region	Military personnel fires warning **shot** turning wild protest into chaos
August	Western Region	Four killed after **gunfire** aimed at snake triggers dynamite explosion at mining site
August	Ashanti Region	26-year-old cobbler armed with **single-barrelled gun,** robs Nursing student of an Infinix Smart 6 mobile phone valued at GH¢1,400 and GH¢400 in cash
August	Bono Region	Armed robbers with **AK-47** rifles, attacked mobile money vendors; spent BB cartridge casings recovered at scene
August	Ashanti Region	Man **shot** for attempted robbery attack
July	Western Region	Police retrieve 1 **pump action shotgun**, 19 cartridges
July	Western Region	Police retrieve one **single-barrel** twelve (12) and gauge shortgun.
August	Greater Accra Region	Car dealer and wife **shot** by unknown gunmen
August	Greater Accra Region	Robbers exchange **gunfire** with police at Labone near Zenith Bank, blow **pistol** recovered
August	Northern Region	Disputed Yiidana chief and son **shot** dead by 3 gunmen
August	Greater Accra Region	Police recover **pistol** and ammunition from suspect of Tuba shooting
August	Central Region	Wildlife guard **shot** dead during patrol in Kakum, Police recover single-barrel firearm
August	Western Region	Robbery gang **shoot** and killed gold buyer in his shop
August	Western Region	Police recover **locally manufactured pistol** and two live BB cartridges from gang leader
August	Western Region	Police recover **locally manufactured pistol,** three live BB cartridges from accomplice in gold dealer robbery
August	Oti Region	Police recover **pump-action gun**, live ammunition, and locally made ammunition belt and a police uniform
August	Eastern Region	28-year-old allegedly **shot** dead during military assault under NAIMOS operation

August	Upper East Region	Mining guards, Gbane youth clash in near **gun battle**
August	Savannah Region	3 **pump action guns** recovered as 10 suspected illegal miners arrested in Kpali operation
September	Central Region	**Gun battle** between residents of Gomoa Oguaakrom and New Winneba. Police recover locally made single-barrel gun and an empty AAA cartridge
August	Upper East Region	**Shooting** incidents recorded at Agenda 111
August	Upper East Region	**Shooting** incidents recorded in Aniisi
August	Upper East Region	**Shooting** incidents recorded in Gumyoko
September	Upper East Region	Joint Police Military operation recover **AK-47** and 28 rounds of Ammunition as suspect is shot
September	Ashanti Region	Police retrieve three **AK-47 rifles,** five magazines, 357 rounds of ammunition from suspects
September	Greater Accra Region	4 robber engage police in **gun fight,** 1 shot and killed as police recover AK-47 rifle and 186 rounds of ammunition
August	Ahafo Region	Illegal miners seized four **AK-47s** during anti-galamsey operation
August	North East Region	Robbers attack MoMo vendor, **fired gunshots** and bolt with cash and motorbike
August	Bono East Region	Police exchange **gunfire** with robbery suspects and kill 3. Police recover one pump-action gun with five live BB cartridges and a single-barrel gun
August	Northern Region	4-armed men **shot** and killed male traveler and bolt with 100 cedis and 3 mobile phones
August	Northern Region	**3-armed** men attacked motorist and bolt with Ghs 700,000, motorbike and iPhone
September	Northern Region	Attackers **open fire** on passenger bus and killed 2 people., bolt away with unspecified amount of money
August	Ashanti Region	Armed thugs with **pump action** guns attack 3 rapid response team of Foresty Commission
September	Ashanti Region	Police engage armed thugs in **gun fight**
September	Oti Region	Dapaa-Amanta residents live in fear after **gun attack** on Nkonyasuofohene
September	Upper East Region	Robbery gang exchange **gun fire** with police; Police retrieve two locally manufactured single-barrel guns, two pistols including a BRUNI 92, 11 rounds of 9mm ammunition, 18 live BB cartridges
August	Eastern Region	Robbers attack travelers at **gunpoint**
August	Greater Accra Region	200-armed **men,** accompanied by police officers evade race course
September	Eastern Region	Two **shot** in rival groups galamsey clash at Behenase in Eastern Region

September	Ashanti Region	Three suspected armed robbers killed in police **shootout**; one pump-action gun, 12 rounds of BB cartridges and eight rounds of .32 Auto ammunition recovered
September	Ashanti Region	Police recover one unmarked **AK-47 assault rifle** loaded with 16 rounds of 7.62x39mm ammunition and 2 unmarked pump-action guns and 24 rounds of BB cartridges from robber's hideout in bush
September	Greater Accra Region	Police recover **pistol** holster in blue car
September	Greater Accra Region	Police recover Smith **& Wesson pistol** loaded with six rounds of 9mm ammunition from fake police officer
September	Greater Accra Region	Police recover three **pump-action guns**, four pistols, 62 AA and BB cartridges, 54 rounds of .40-calibre ammunition
September	Greater Accra Region	Customs intercepts **assault rifles, pistols and 610 rounds** of ammunition
September	Eastern Region	Suspected land guards attack chief and palace elders at **gunpoint**
September	Eastern Region	Weed smoker bludgeoned 85-year-old with **gun** till death
September	Northern Region	**Gunmen** abduct native of Yendi and demanded GHS100,000 as ransom
September	Northern Region	Police recover two foreign-made **pistols,** two rounds of 9mm ammunition from scrap dealer
September	Upper East Region	Nursing mother, 27, **shot** dead in Bawku West
September	Bono East Region	Woman in critical condition after **shooting** at funeral grounds in Yeji

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;