



# VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN GHANA

## A MEDIA MONITORING REPORT



2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. April-May 2023

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





## **Executive Summary**

From FOSDA's 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2023 monitoring of violent incidents in Ghana, the number of violent incidents tracked amounted to One Hundred and Forty-three (143). This is an increase by 74% compared to the 82 incidents recorded in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

The overall breakdown of cases monitored during the period includes:

- 1. Physical Violence - 98 cases, representing 68%**
- 2. Gun Violence - 37 cases, representing 26%**
- 3. Sexual Violence - 8 cases, representing 6%**

There were no cases recorded for four (4) types of violence monitored including psychological, social, economic and political violent incidents.

For the second time this year, Central Region leads the incident count after recording 30 incidents which contributed 21% of total incidents. Ashanti Region followed with 25 incidents, representing 18%. Greater Accra and Eastern Region recorded 15 incidents each representing 11% respectively. Western North Region recorded 10 incidents representing 7%. Northern region also recorded 9 incidents representing 6% and Western region 7 incidents that contributed 5%. Two regions, Volta and Upper East Regions recorded 6 incidents each which represents 4% for each. The Savannah and Upper West Regions also recorded 5 incidents each representing 3%. Bono and North East Regions also recorded 3 incidents each representing 2% for each. The Oti, Bono East and Ahafo Regions recorded 2 incidents and 1 incident respectively.

Seventy-seven (77) injuries and 86 deaths occurred during the period under review. Overall, 37 men representing 48% were injured compared to 15 children and 11 women representing 20% and 14% respectively. Similarly, 51 men representing 59% of deaths reported were men, women who died were 17 representing 20% and children 3 representing 4% died. The monitoring shows that, the direct impact of violent incidents on men are higher compared to women and children. Details of 14 cases of injuries and 15 cases of deaths reported were not provided.

Gun violence has increased from 31 in the 1st quarter to 37 in the 2nd representing 19% increase. Sexual violence which did not record an incident in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter now has 8 cases. In this monitoring period, all the 16 regions recorded a violent incident.

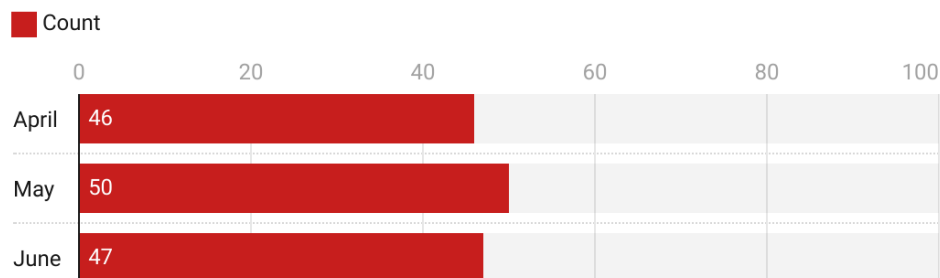
# VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN GHANA

## A MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

### 1.1 General Overview

This media monitoring report covers a period of 3 months i.e., April to June 2023. A total of one-hundred and forty-three violent incidents were reported by ten (10)<sup>1</sup> media houses including online and print media sources. The monitoring focused on seven (7) major categories of violence; Economic, Physical, Gun, Sexual and Psychological, Political and Social violence. Three (3) categories of these violence were recorded in this specific monitoring period, i.e., Physical Violence with 98 cases, representing 68%. Thirty-seven (37) of the incidents representing 26% of the total incidents were Gun related. Sexual Violence recorded 8 incidents representing 6%. The remaining four (4) categories did not record any incident.

### Number of Violent Incidents recorded from April-June, 2023



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Between April to June 2023, reports of violent incidents by the selected media were almost equally spread across the months with slight increases and decrease. The incidents recorded in April amounted to 46 representing 32% of share for the quarter. This increased by 4 incidents to 50 in May representing 35% for the quarter. The count then decreased to 47 in June (33%) for the quarter.

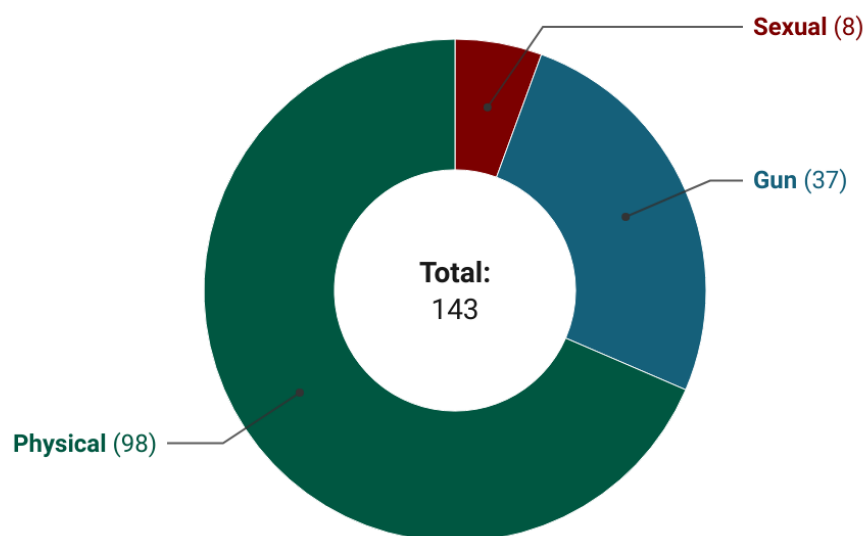
<sup>1</sup> There were 10 main monitoring sources including 1 print media i.e., Daily Graphic

**Table 1:** Record of Violent Incidents from April-June 2023

Category of violence	Count of reported incidents	%
Physical Violence	98	68%
Gun Violence	37	26%
Sexual Violence	8	6%
Psychological Violence	0	0%
Social Violence	0	0%
Economic Violence	0	0%
Political Violence	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Share of Violent Incidents recorded from April-June, 2023

Physical, Gun and Sexual violence were recorded in the period



*The monitoring targeted 7 types of violence but only 3 were recorded*

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## 1.2 Regional Distribution of Violent Incidents Monitored

Central Region for the second time in 2023, leads the violent incidents count after recording 30 incidents which contributed 21% of total incidents. Ashanti Region followed with 25 incidents, representing 18%. Greater Accra and Eastern Region recorded 15 incidents each representing 11% for each. Western North Region recorded 10 incidents representing 7%. Northern 9 incidents representing 6% and Western region 7 incidents contributed 5%. Two regions that is, Volta and Upper East Regions recorded 6 incidents each which represents 4% for each. The Savannah and Upper West Regions also recorded 5 incidents each representing 3%. Bono and North East Regions also recorded 3 incidents each representing 2% for each. The Oti, Bono East and Ahafo Regions recorded 2 incidents and 1 incident respectively.

Regional Breakdown of the total reported violent incidents are as represented in the table 2 below.

**Table 2:** Regional Breakdown of the total reported violent incidents

<b>Region of Violence</b>	<b>Count of reported incidents</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
<b>Central Region</b>	30	<b>21%</b>
<b>Ashanti Region</b>	25	<b>18%</b>
<b>Greater Accra Region</b>	15	<b>11%</b>
<b>Eastern Region</b>	15	<b>11%</b>
<b>Western North Region</b>	10	<b>7%</b>
<b>Northern Region</b>	9	<b>6%</b>
<b>Western Region</b>	7	<b>5%</b>
<b>Volta Region</b>	6	<b>4%</b>
<b>Upper East Region</b>	6	<b>4%</b>
<b>Savannah Region</b>	5	<b>3%</b>
<b>Upper West Region</b>	5	<b>3%</b>
<b>Bono Region</b>	3	<b>2%</b>
<b>North East Region</b>	3	<b>2%</b>
<b>Oti Region</b>	2	<b>1%</b>
<b>Bono East Region</b>	1	<b>1%</b>

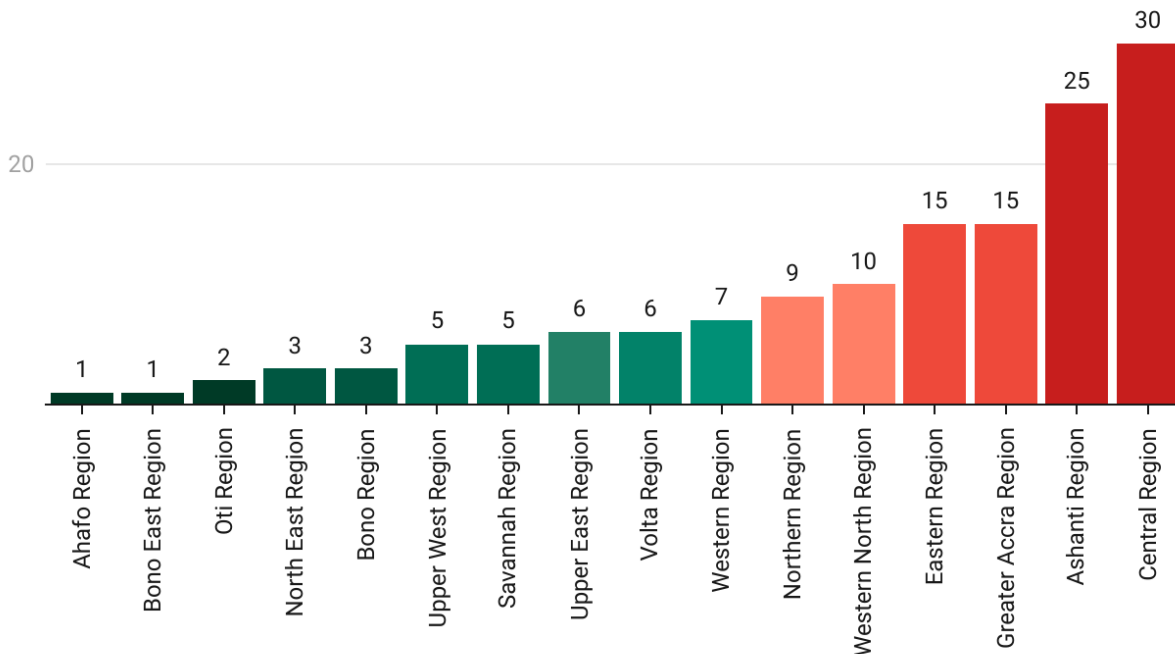
<b>Ahafo Region</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100%</b>

In this monitoring period, all the 16 regions recorded a violent incident. Five (5) out of the 16 regions recorded double digit violent incidents. Together they contribute 68% of the total cases. Particularly for Central Region, the violent incidents is 5 times more than the Ashanti regions cases, 15 times more than Greater Accra or Eastern Region and 20 times more than Western North Region. leads the incident count after recording 23 incidents. Ashanti follows with 15 incidents.

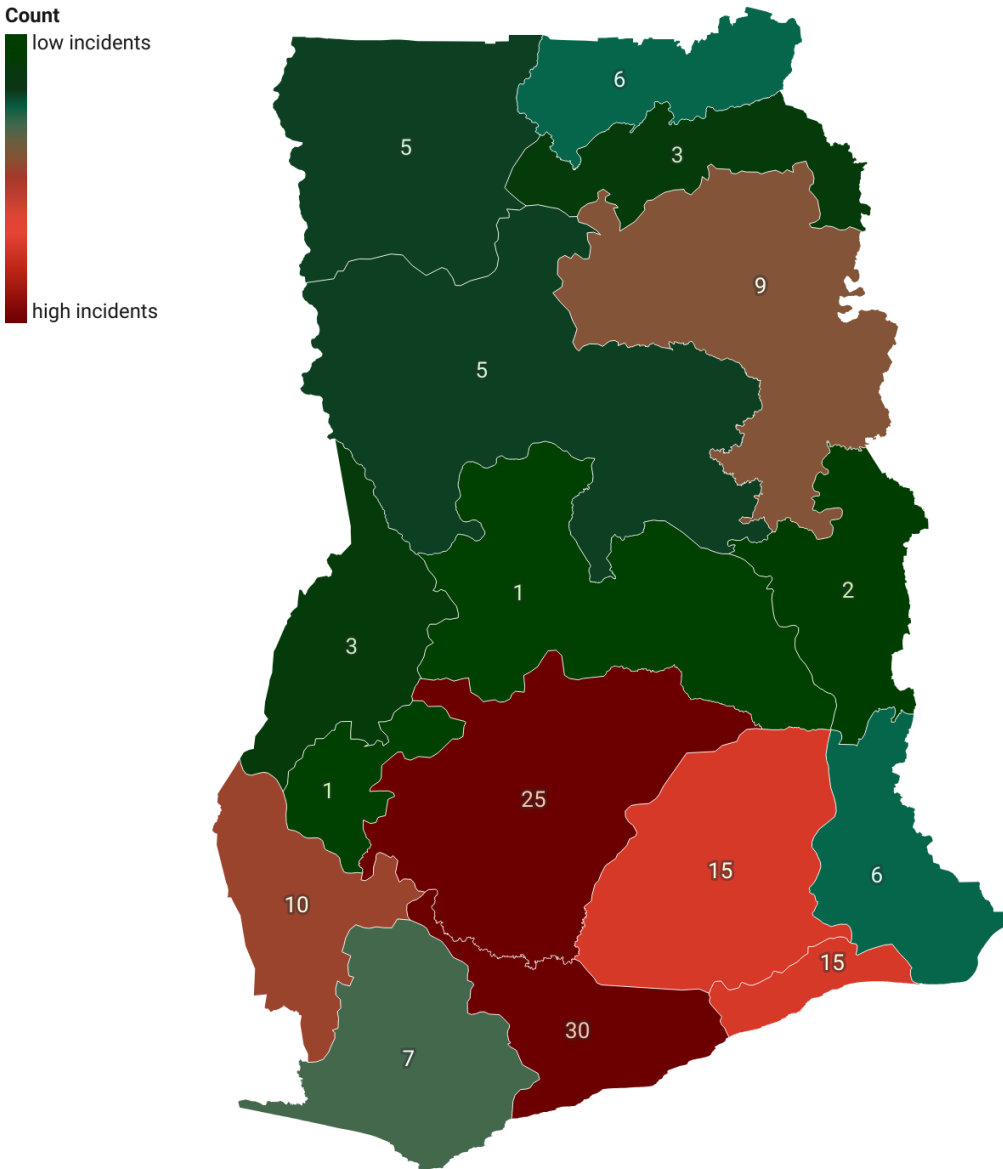
At the zonal level, the Coastal regions (Greater Accra, Central, Western and Volta) recorded the highest counts with 58 incidents representing 41%. The middle zone (Ashanti, Eastern, Oti, Western North, Bono and Ahafo) followed with 54 incidents representing 40%. The Northern regions (Upper East, Upper West, North East, Savannah and Northern) contributed 28 incidents representing 19%.

From this point of view, it can be observed that violence in Ghana is evenly distributed in the coastal and middle zones on Ghana compared to the Northern zones. The **chart** below shows the regional distribution of the incidents recorded.

### Chart distribution of Violent Incidents from April-June 2023



## Regional Distribution of Violent Incidents from April-June, 2023



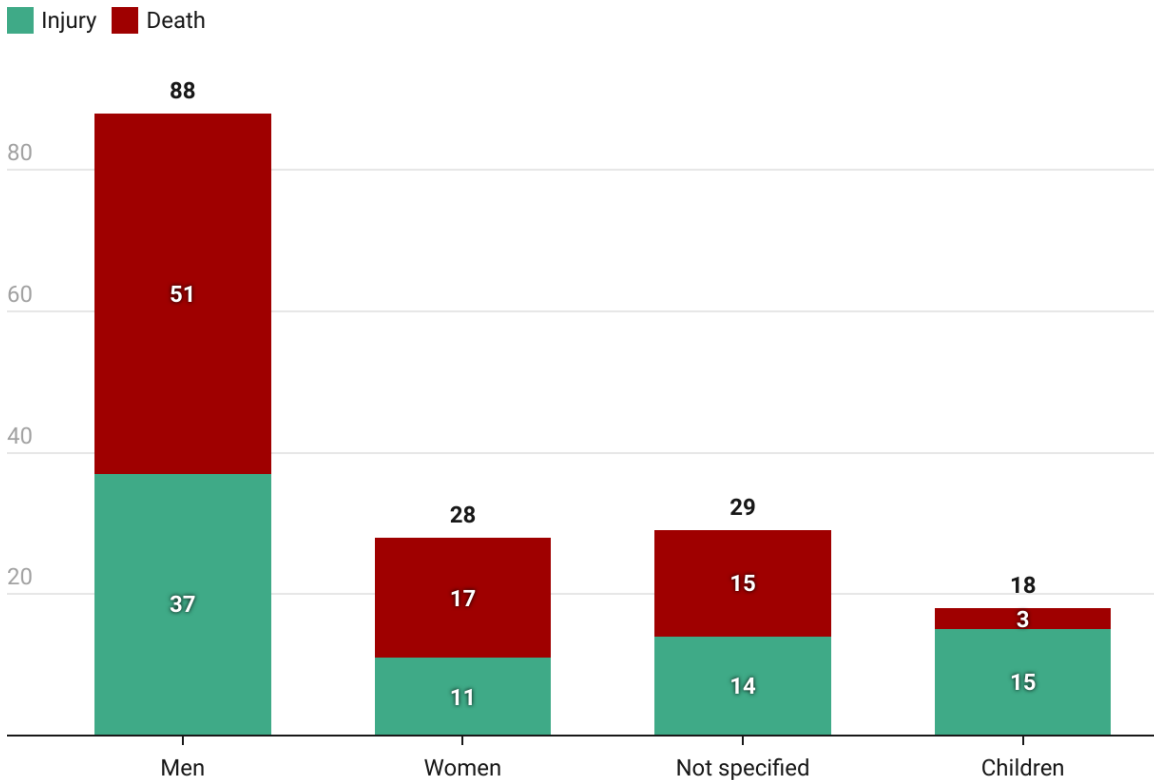
Map data: © OSM • Created with Datawrapper

### 1.3 CASUALTIES RECORDED

A total of seventy-seven (77) injuries and 86 deaths occurred during the period under review. From the injury record, 37 men representing 48% were affected compared to 15 children and 11 women representing 20% and 14% respectively. Similarly, 51 men representing 59% of death were men, women who died were 17 representing 20% and children 3 representing 4% died. The monitoring shows that, the direct impact of violent incidents on men are higher compared to women and children.

Comparatively, the injuries and deaths on men is 50% more than women and children.

## Casualties recorded as a result of violent incidents from April-June 2023



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### 1.4 Gun Violence

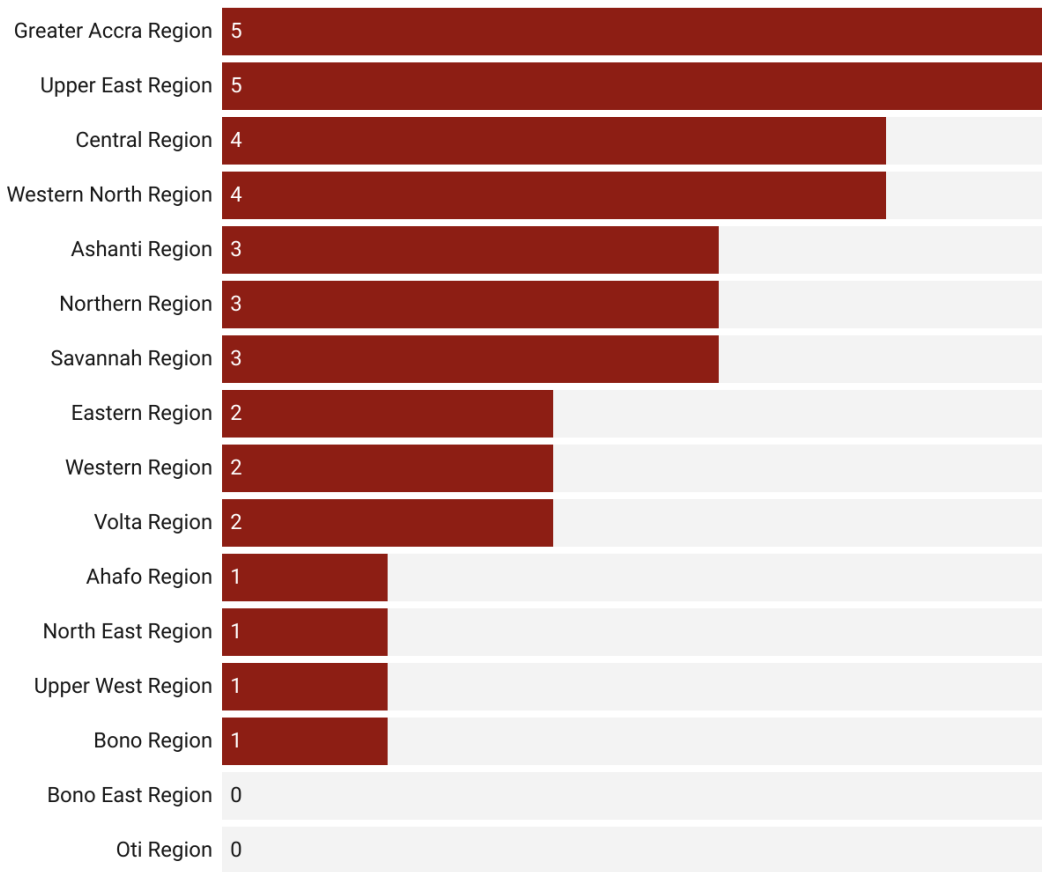
There were 37-gun related violence during the monitoring period. Thirteen (13) of these gun incidents occurred in the month of April, it reduced to nine (9) in the month of May and then increased to 15 in June.

Except Oti and Bono East Region all the 14 regions experienced a gun incident. The affected regions are Greater Accra and Upper East Region 5 incident each, Central and Western North Regions 4 incidents each, Ashanti, Savannah and Northern 3 incidents each, Western, Eastern and Volta recorded 2 incidents each. Finally, each of Bono, North East and Ahafo recorded 1 incident.



## Regional count of Gun violent incidents

Greater Accra and Upper East Regions co-lead lead gun violence chart



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### 1.5 Physical Violence

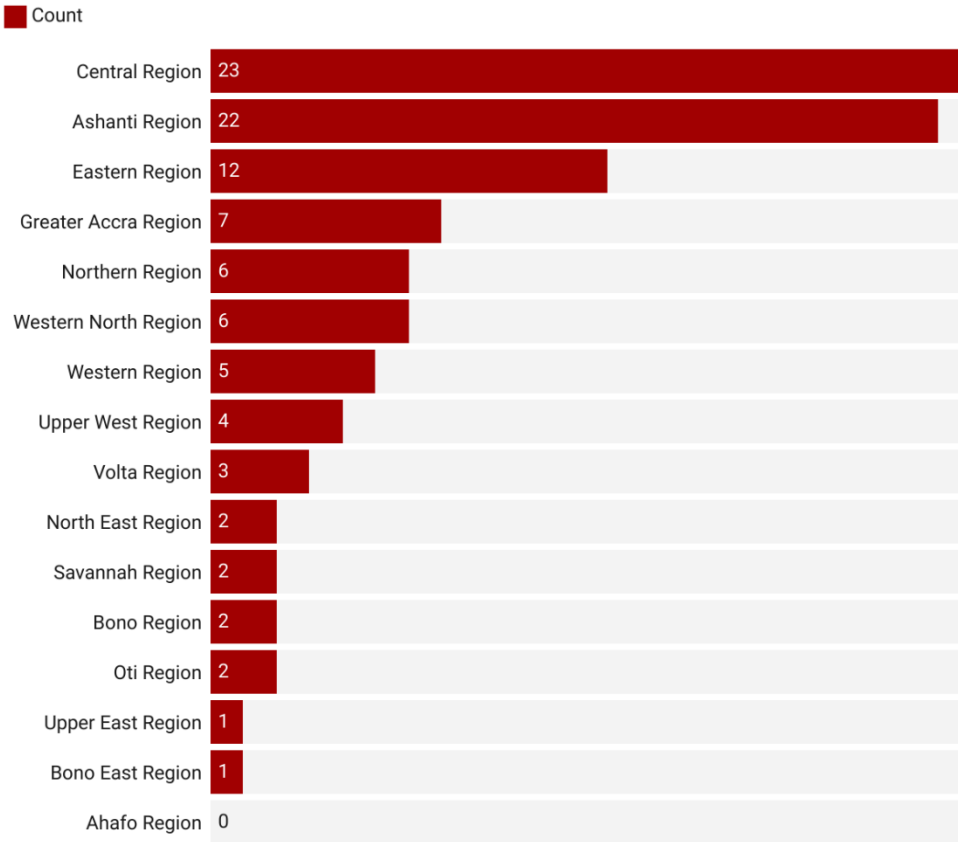
Physical violence recorded 98 out of a total 143 cases. The physical violent incidents occurred in 15 out of 16 regions. Central region leads with 23 cases representing 24%, followed by Ashanti region with 22 cases (23%), Eastern Region recorded 12 cases representing 12%. Greater Accra recorded 7 cases, Western North and Northern regions had 6 cases each. Western regions had 5 cases, Upper West had 4 and Volta region had 3 cases respectively.

Four regions i.e Savannah, Bono, North East and Oti recorded 2 cases each. Also, Upper East and Bono East regions recorded an incident each. There were no physical violence incidents in the Ahafo region.

The *figure below* shows the count and share of physical violence from a regional point of view.

## Regional count of physical violent incidents

Central Region leads physical violence chart



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### 1.6. Sexual Violence

In this monitoring report, 8 cases of sexual violence were recorded. 4 out of 16 regions recorded these cases including Greater Accra with 3 incidents, Central Regions also with 3 cases. Eastern and Volta Regions recorded 1 incident each.

### 2.0 Conclusions

Physical violence in 15 regions and gun related violence in 14 regions continue to dominate the media monitoring of violent incidents. In the current monitoring report sexual violence recorded 8 cases compared to the zero cases in the first quarter. From April to June ending 2023 violent incidents has both increased and decreased quite significantly. Central region and Ashanti regions continue to dominate the chart contributing close to 40% of total incidents. Also, Greater Accra, Eastern and

Western Regions recorded double-digit incidents raising the double-digit incidents to 5 regions. In sum, all the 16 regions recorded a violent incident with over 50% of total injuries and deaths affecting men compared to women and children.

## APPENDIX

**Table 1: Gun related violence tracked during April-June 2023 monitoring period**

Month of Gun Incident	Region	Description of Gun Violent Incident
April	Upper East Region	Immigration officer and a tricycle operator <b>shot</b> dead while two others suffered multiple gunshot wounds by unknown assailants
<b>April</b>	Greater Accra Region	Suspected land guards wielding <b>guns</b> have attacked and burnt an office injuring two persons
<b>April</b>	Northern Region	A sub-chief believed to be in his late 50s was <b>shot</b> dead by some unknown assailants in connection to ongoing chieftaincy disputes.
<b>April</b>	Western North Region	Two persons have been <b>shot</b> and another brutalised by the police
<b>April</b>	Western Region	Police are on a manhunt for a gang of robbers who attacked a cash collection point at <b>gunpoint</b> and made away with some monies
<b>April</b>	Western North Region	Some youths have sustained <b>gunshot</b> wounds and several properties vandalized after irate youth besieged a police station to demand the release of a 20-year-old man
<b>April</b>	Upper East Region	<b>Gun</b> wielding assailants attacked and damaged the car of a member of Parliament
<b>April</b>	Central Region	A 28-year-old woman, Naana Abban has been robbed at <b>gunpoint</b> in broad daylight after a trip to the bank
<b>April</b>	Central Region	A 26-year-old man is fighting for his life after he was <b>shot</b> in his waist by armed robbers

<b>April</b>	Upper West Region	A young man was <b>shot</b> and killed by unknown assailants believed to have crossed the border from Burkina Faso
<b>April</b>	Ashanti Region	Police have arrested a police officer allegedly <b>shot</b> and killed a woman believed to be his girlfriend.
<b>April</b>	Eastern Region	A man in his 50s has <b>shot</b> and killed another man for attempting to steal his mangoes
<b>April</b>	Upper East Region	Six persons have been <b>shot</b> dead at an Eid gathering
<b>May</b>	Western Region	Suspected armed robbers have <b>shot</b> dead a National Democratic Congress (NDC) branch Chairman
<b>May</b>	Western North Region	An assistant police superintendent has <b>shot</b> dead a police Constable during a heated argument
<b>May</b>	Ahafo Region	Suspected Illegal miners reportedly <b>shoot</b> eight persons with pump action gun
<b>May</b>	Western North Region	Two police officers saved from violent church attacker who possessed a <b>gun</b> .
<b>May</b>	Greater Accra Region	Bortianor family head <b>shot</b> dead by unknown assailants
<b>May</b>	Central Region	A farmer has <b>shot</b> his girlfriend over chop money
<b>May</b>	Northern Region	One person has died while several others injured and homes burnt following renewed clashes between feuding brothers. <b>Gunshots</b> were fired.
<b>May</b>	Greater Accra Region	Husband <b>shoots</b> wife dead in front of 4year old son
<b>May</b>	Savannah Region	Gonjaland Youth Association PRO attacked by unknown <b>gunmen</b> and his car vandalized
<b>June</b>	Savannah Region	81-year-old man <b>shot</b> dead in tribal violence while 3 suspects sustained gunshot wounds
<b>June</b>	Central Region	Land guards invade and threaten farming community with <b>guns</b>
<b>June</b>	Savannah Region	Unidentified assailant <b>shot</b> seven people dead, and several others injured in Gonja and Mamprusi tribal violence

<b>June</b>	Greater Accra Region	Police fatally <b>shoot</b> nine suspected land guards in gun battle
<b>June</b>	Volta Region	Police arrest <b>gun</b> -wielding suspect who threatened violence during football match
<b>June</b>	North East Region	Son arrested for <b>shooting</b> mother to death during fight with wife
<b>June</b>	Eastern Region	27-year-old electrician found dead with multiple <b>gunshot</b> wounds
<b>June</b>	Volta Region	Popular motor rider <b>shot</b> dead by unknown assailants
<b>June</b>	Greater Accra Region	Gang of robbers <b>shot</b> and kill police officer during operation
<b>June</b>	Upper East Region	Two Binduri Youth have been <b>shot</b> and killed by six gun-wielding young people
<b>June</b>	Upper East Region	Unidentified assailants have <b>shot</b> the assemblyman of the Nayoko Electoral Area
<b>June</b>	Bono Region	Mobile money agent battling for life after being <b>shot</b> by suspected armed robbers
<b>June</b>	Ashanti Region	Suspected gun armed robbery run over by bus after an attempted robbery
<b>June</b>	Northern Region	Two arrested arrested in connection to chieftancy dispute that resulted in multiple <b>shooting</b>
<b>June</b>	Ashanti Region	A 48-year-old farmer <b>shot</b> dead multiple times by unknown assailants

### 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	<a href="http://www.dailyguidenetwork.com">www.dailyguidenetwork.com</a>
9	Online	<a href="http://www.gna.com/">www.gna.com/</a>
10	Online	<a href="http://www.ghanaweb.com">www.ghanaweb.com</a>

### **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.