

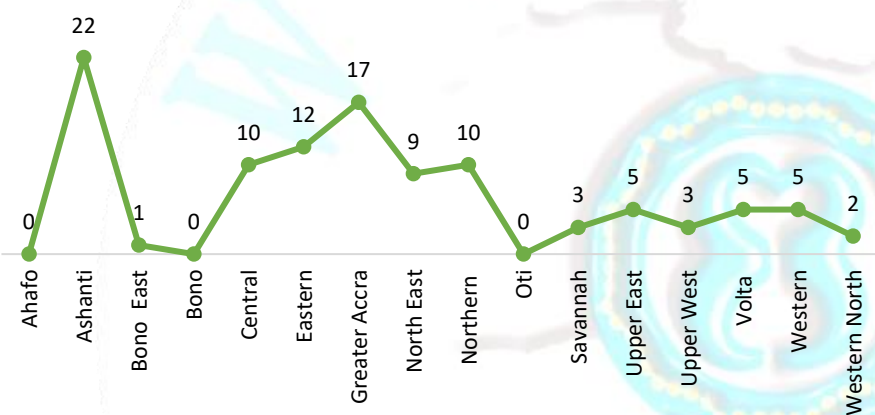


NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN- (WANEP-GHANA) (FEBRUARY 2022)

I- INTRODUCTION

In February 2022, the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) recorded 105 human security incidents¹. The incidents resulted in 43 fatalities and 76 injuries.² The fatalities recorded involved 21 males and 15 females and 7 other deaths of which the gender was unclear from reports.³ Cases of injuries recorded also consisted of 8 males and 14 females, while 54 other reported injuries were not clear on gender specifics.⁴

Figure 1: Incident Concentration



The distribution of the incidents, as depicted in figure 1 indicates the Ashanti region as the location with the highest occurrence (22 representing 21.2%) rate within the reporting period.⁵ The Greater Accra region followed with 17 incidents, representing 16.3% of the 104 incidents.

Figure 1: Indicates the spread of the incidents across the regions in the country. (Data Source: WANEP NEWS)

From table 1 below, the Eastern, Ashanti, Greater Accra and Bono East regions recorded the highest rate of casualties within the period.⁶

Table 1: Reported Casualties for the Period of February 2022

Regions	Ahafo	Ashanti	Bono East	Bono	Central	Eastern	Greater Accra	North East	Northern	Oti	Savannah	Upper East	Upper West	Volta	Western	Western North	Totals
Fatalities	0	12	0	0	5	8	1	4	2	0	1	2	0	7	1	0	43
Injuries	0	10	11	0	2	28	13	3	4	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	76
Total Casualties	0	22	11	0	7	36	14	7	6	0	2	4	2	7	1	0	119

¹ WANEP National Early Warning System Data
² WANEP National Early Warning System Data
³ Data gathered from the WANEP NEWS Monitoring
⁴ Ibid
⁵ Ibid
⁶ Ibid

The *Monthly Bulletin* provides analysis of the incident data recorded in the reporting period based on the following four themes: Organized Crime and Violent Extremism (OCVE), Democracy and Governance (DG), Gender, Peace and Security (GPS) and Environmental Security (ES). The details of these incidents and casualties have been detailed under the thematic areas identified.

II- ORGANIZED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM (OCVE)

Among the organized criminal incidents that occurred within the period, drug trafficking, homicides, armed robberies were part of the incidents that created insecurity within the period. The linkages between drug use and criminal act perpetration cannot be over emphasized enough. Within the period, 3 drug trafficking rings were stopped in their tracks upon intelligence gathered by security agencies. The spread of these incidents is depicted within figure 2 below.

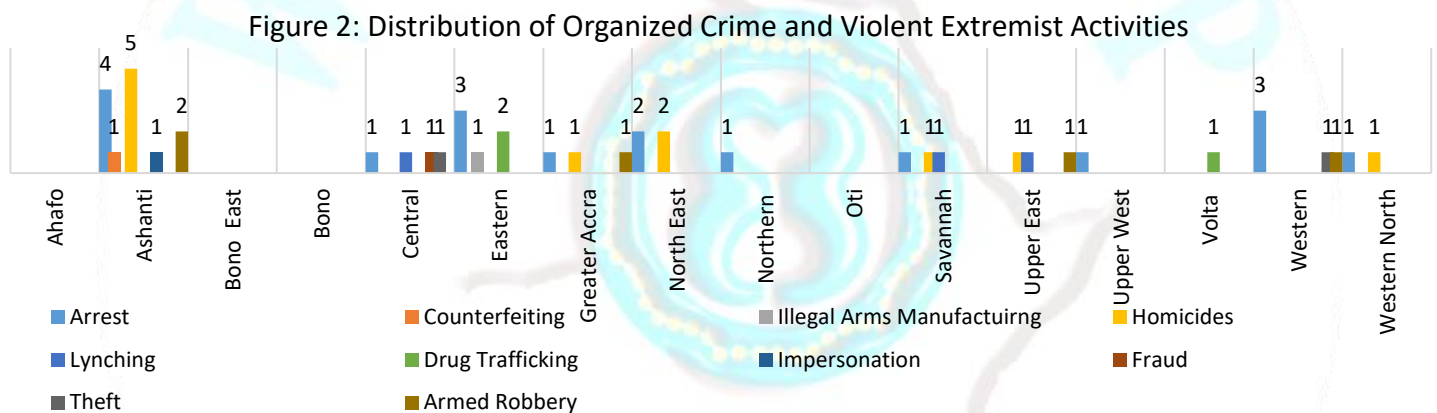


Figure 2 Indicates the spread of the OCVE incidents across the regions in the country. (Data Source: WANEP NEWS)

In the Eastern region, two instances were reported when two persons were arrested in possession of 88 parcels of narcotics⁷ and another woman arrested at Kpong in possession of and trading of cannabis.⁸ In the Volta region, 17 persons were arrested in connection with the peddling of Indian hemp.⁹ At the end of the continuum of activities of these drug peddlers are the end users who go under the influence of these narcotics to sometimes perpetrate acts such as armed robberies and homicides.

The armed robberies being reported in Ghana today have assumed a violent nature as the use of small arms and light weapons have become very available, and common. Within the reporting period, at least five instances were

⁷ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Two-nabbed-for-possession-of-88-parcels-of-narcotics-they-ve-labelled-MTN-1473059>

⁸ <https://www.myjoyonline.com/woman-24-remanded-for-selling-weed-tea-in-kpong/>

⁹ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Police-arrest-17-suspected-narcotics-dealers-1461730>

captured in WANEP Ghana’s monitoring of events in the country, and the spread is indicated in figure 2 above. For instance, in the Greater Accra region, some robbers who attempted to rob a bullion van at the Industrial Area in Accra, failed in the process as a police officer who was on duty in a nearby facility intervened to stop the robbery.¹⁰ This incident comes after several others that occurred in 2021, in which security officers and bystanders were killed in the process.

The Police Service and The Criminals Within

The Ghana Police Service, after several months of intelligence-led operations at the highest level, had made a breakthrough in the investigations into multiple bullion van robberies recorded in the Greater Accra between February 2021 and February 2022.¹¹ The investigations of which there has been the revelation of the involvement of security personnel in the robberies. The police administration has a huge task ahead of itself as it needs to take seriously the interdiction of rogue officers within the service, or it continually loses the trust of citizens. According to the Member of Parliament for Ningo Prampram, Sam Nartey George, the unprofessionalism and lack of basic comprehension skills displayed by some police officers is because of the porous recruitment system into the police system.¹²

III- GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY (GPS):

Gender issues, although with low incidences recorded in the reporting period, remains a major issue to be dealt with in Ghana. Eight Cases of defilement against minors, three homicides, two assaults and 2 suicides were reported within the period.¹³ Out of the 9 identified defilement issues reported within the period, six occurred in the Greater Accra region. The spread of all the defilement cases as well as other incidents is expressed in figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Distribution of Gender Peace and Security Incidents

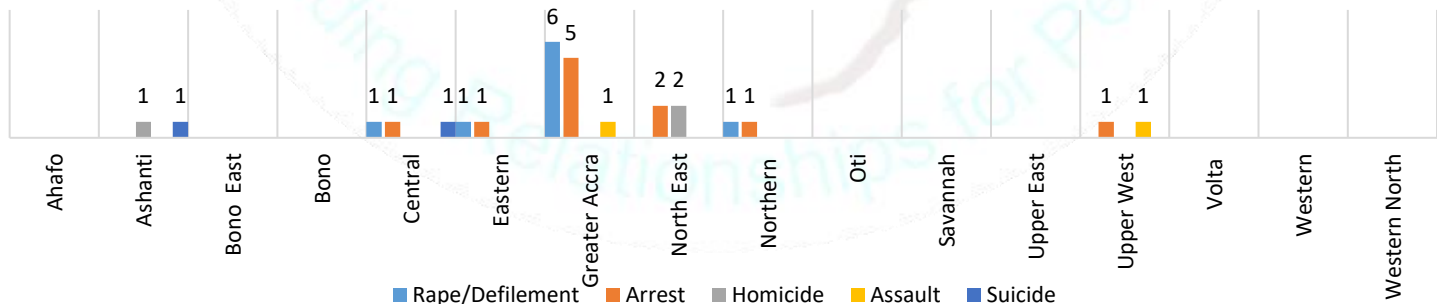


Figure 3 Indicates the spread of the GPS incidents across the regions in the country. (Data Source: WANEP NEWS)

¹⁰ <https://www.myjoyonline.com/police-foil-attempted-bullion-van-robbery-at-industrial-area-in-accra/>

¹¹ <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/two-policemen-fingered-as-brains-behind-multiple-bullion-van-robberies.html>

¹² <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/People-who-have-done-time-at-Nsawam-now-policemen-Sam-George-1485833>

¹³ WANEP NEWS Data

For example, a man was sentenced to eight years in prison for defiling a 13-year-old girl at Agbogboloshie in Accra.¹⁴ In another instance, a Nigerian was imprisoned for defiling his employer's 14-year-old daughter at Ashaley Botwe in the Greater Accra region.¹⁵ In Accra again, at Madina, a 16-year-old girl was defiled by the biological father¹⁶ and a 2 year old was defiled by a hotel attendant.¹⁷ In Dansoman, a 6 year old was a victim to defilement in this case. Other cases that were reported occurred in the Northern, Eastern and Central regions.

From all these cases, victims were between the ages of 2 years and 17 years. There has always been low patronage of services available for victims of defilement or rape although provisions have been made by state institutions to ensure access. Sometimes distrust of, and poor experience with, state authorities and public services also contribute to victims or their families not seeking help.

As regards assaults and homicides reported within the period, domestic issues were the triggers to such violent acts. Violence against women and girls (VAWG), including domestic violence and child abuse, is a violation of the basic human rights and therefore has a national and global concern. In recognition of this international attention, "eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres" is one of the targets against which Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 5 aims at achieving gender equality and empowering of all women and girls. For Ghana, considerable efforts have been made over the past decades to reduce the incidence of domestic violence.¹⁸ However, occasional occurrences seem to derail that drive to achieve all the tenets outlined in the SDG. Typical in this month is the violence perpetrated by a father against a 3-year-old and the mother, in the Mamprugu- Moadugri District of the North-East region, after a domestic quarrel.¹⁹ In another case, some three women were assaulted physically, raped in turns, and subsequently robbed in the Greater Accra region by a gang of five men.²⁰ It is these incidents that continually erode the progress made by the authorities, in achieving the development targets set.

IV- DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (DG):

Ghana remains a politically stable country despite the varied challenges experienced within the period. Despite the challenges experienced in the West African region, particularly where a number of successful and attempted

¹⁴<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/19-year-old-jailed-eight-years-for-defiling-girlfriend-s-friend-1473998>

¹⁵ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Security-man-jailed-10-years-for-defilement-1475987>

¹⁶ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Man-in-court-for-defiling-daughter-following-spiritual-direction-1469464>

¹⁷ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Hotel-attendant-in-court-for-allegedly-defiling-7-month-old-baby-1461796>

¹⁸ Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Ghana Statistical Services (GSS) and Associates (2016), *Domestic Violence in Ghana: Incidence, Attitudes, Determinants and Consequences*, Brighton: IDS. Page 26

¹⁹ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Man-arrested-for-killing-3-year-old-daughter-assaulting-wife-over-soap-1476248>

²⁰ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Two-remanded-for-assaulting-three-women-over-lesbianism-1464103>

coups have been perpetrated, the country continues to enjoy relative peace although there have been some seeming attempts to justify some occurrence of a coup in Ghana given the varied difficulties faced by citizens.

Within the review month, there were reports of road accidents, chieftaincy, demonstrations and associated political clashes some of which threatened the peace and security of the locations they occurred. The graph below shows the distribution of incidents per region. For this period, road accidents were high in frequency above other reported incidents.

Figure 4: Distribution of Democracy and Governance Incidents

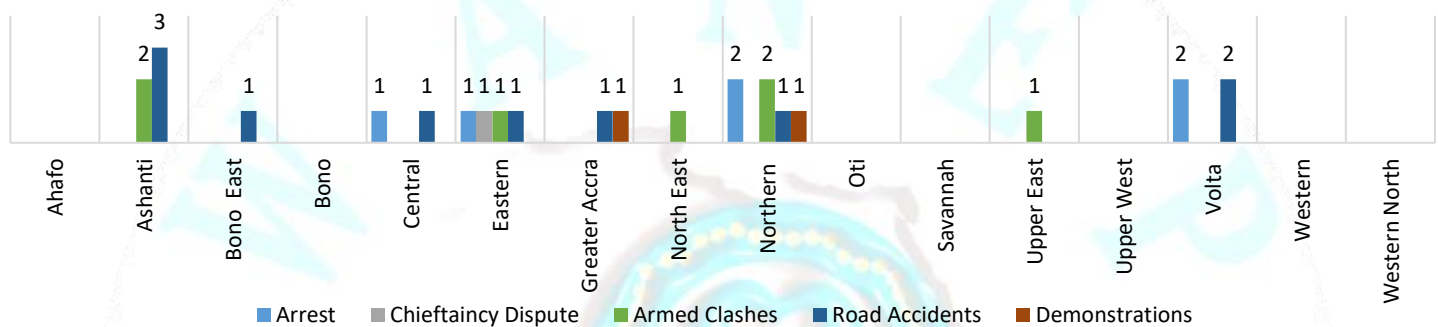


Figure 4 Indicates the spread of the DG incidents across the regions in the country. (Data Source: WANEP NEWS)

Road Accidents

The key road accidents identified within the period were 10, spread across the Ashanti, Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Northern and Volta regions, as depicted in figure 4 above.²¹ Rising frequencies of road accidents are manifestations of the neglect of road traffic regulations, over speeding, drunk driving, inadequate road infrastructure, and a lack of proper vehicle maintenance culture. The impact of these accidents is immediate on the victims, and subsequently their families. For the period under review, the road accidents identified resulted in 22 dead persons and 47 injuries in total.²²

The Fall in the Value of the Cedi and Increasing Fuel Costs

The life of every Ghanaian is impacted directly or indirectly as the prices of goods and services rise due to the inverse relationship between the value of the cedi and the rise in fuel cost. Over the past weeks, the price of fuel had shifted upwards severally, and thus affecting the purchasing power of consumers. The volatility is also blamed on the Russia-Ukraine war which has impacted the prices of fuel and other key commodities on the international market, and subsequently the purchasing power of individual states.²³ The petroleum price indicators as

²¹ WANEP NEWS Monitoring Data

²² WANEP NEWS Monitoring

²³ <https://www.myjoyonline.com/fuel-prices-to-hit-%C2%A211-per-litre-from-wednesday-march-16/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CThe%20petroleum%20price%20indicators%20as,to%20GH%C2%A2727%20per>

published by the National Petroleum Authority predicted that the price of Gasoil (diesel) would increase by 30.41% from GH¢8.22 per litre to Gh¢10.721 per litre beginning March 16, 2022 and ex-pump prices of Gasoline (petrol) would increase by 18.25% from GH¢8.22 per litre to GH¢727 per litre within the same period.²⁴

Given the above indicators, the economic hardships induced by the rising prices of commodities and fuel on population and household's livelihoods has potential to trigger demonstrations in labour demands for better conditions of service. This will further impact negatively on delivery of social services in the country. Importantly, the ripple effect of the rising cost of living on the many unemployed youth and attendant consequences on social cohesion in the country are a cause for concern.

V- ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY (ES)

Fire outbreaks have become a threat to life and property especially within the harmattan season where the weather presents very dry conditions that aid fire hazards. Within the period, three key incidents were reported, and these were experienced in the Ashanti region at Adum, Greater Accra region at Circle, and in the Northern region at the Tamale Central Market. All three locations are very populated areas in the town centres, although there were no human casualties involved in any of the incidents. Although the cause of two of the fire incidents were not immediately determined, the fire incident that occurred in the Ashanti region was caused by human error²⁵, which could have been avoided.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Government should continue to strengthen the capacity of state institutions including the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service and the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and increase partnership with NGOs, CSOs and the media to support victims of rape or sexual abuse and give education to women and girls especially on safety from sexual and gender-based-violence.
- The Government should continue to increase security agencies' capacity to respond effectively to criminal activity in the country. This includes Government's efforts to increase coordination with local governments and traditional authority to revive community policing as a means of assisting security services and strengthen security in local communities.

²⁴ <https://www.myjoyonline.com/fuel-prices-to-hit-%C2%A211-per-litre-from-wednesday-march-16/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CThe%20petroleum%20price%20indicators%20as,to%20GH%C2%A2727%20per>

²⁵ <https://www.adomonline.com/another-fire-outbreak-destroys-shop-at-adum/>

CONCLUSIONS

Despite persistent challenges and conscious efforts to address human security challenges facing the country, the threats persist, with negative impact on populations. It is thus imperative that relevant stakeholders increase collaboration and institutional capacity to effectively tackle crimes and other social challenges that threaten the country's human security. This is critical to enhance the resilience of communities across the country.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FROM THE WANEP NEWS

THEMATIC AREA	NO OF INCIDENTS	CASUALTIES	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
ORGANIZED CRIME & VIOLENT EXTREMISM:	46	13	4
Arrest	18	-	-
Counterfeiting	1	-	-
Illegal Arms Manufacturing	1	-	-
Homicides	11	13	1
Lynching	3	-	-
Drug Trafficking	3	-	-
Impersonation	1	-	-
Fraud	1	-	-
Theft	2	-	-
Armed Robbery	5	0	3
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:	26	23	57
Arrest	6	-	-
Homicide	0	-	-
Chieftaincy Dispute	1	-	-
Ethnic Disputes	0	-	-
Suicide	0	-	-
Armed Clashes	7	1	10
Road Accidents	10	22	47
Demonstrations	2		
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY	6	0	0
Drowning	0	-	-
Building Collapse	0	-	-
Fire Outbreak	3	-	-
Flooding	0	-	-
Illegal Mining	0	-	-

Arrest	1	-	-
Explosion	1	-	-
Disease Outbreak	1	-	-
WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY:	26	7	15
Rape/Defilement	8	0	8
Arrest	11	-	-
Homicide	3	3	1
Assault	2	0	5
Suicides (including attempts)	0	4	1
Total	104	43	76

Source: WANEP NEWS

Through its National Early Warning System (NEWS), the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP- Ghana) develops and disseminates a monthly bulletin on Human Security at the end of each month to inform the different actors and / or partners and formulates recommendations to different decision-makers for targeted responses to the given alerts. This monthly monitoring is based on information gathered from the field by the WANEP-GHANA field monitors, and information also gathered from the various national and international media.

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