



NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN- (WANEP-GHANA)

(APRIL 2023)

I- INTRODUCTION

WANEP's National Early Warning System (NEWS) recorded 172 human security incidents in April 2023¹. An accumulated casualty of 280 from these incidents is further disaggregated into 92 fatalities (58 males, 34 females) and 188 injuries (131 males, 57 females) for the period.² In the reporting period, the data collected on all incidents monitored in the country indicated the Central region as the location with the highest frequency of occurrence of incidents (26).³ The Western and Greater Accra regions followed with 27 and 22 incidents respectively with all other regions recording less than 15 incidents.⁴

From figures 1 and 2, 67% of the total casualties recorded within the period were males, while 33% were females.

From table 1 below, the number of recorded casualties was highest for the Central region (64 casualties), followed by the Central and Eastern regions with 34 and 27 casualties respectively, as depicted.⁵

The highest casualties recorded within the period were again because of the intensity and frequent number of road accidents recorded in the period.⁶

Figure 1: Percentage Casualties Disaggregated by Gender.

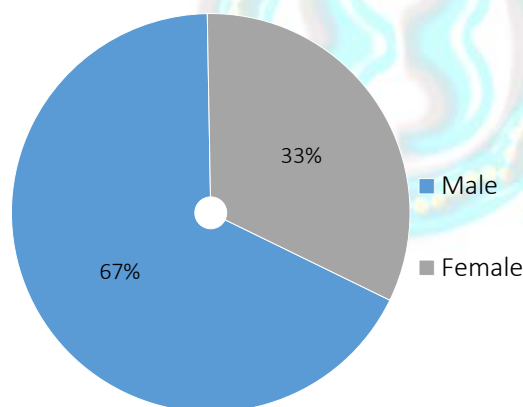
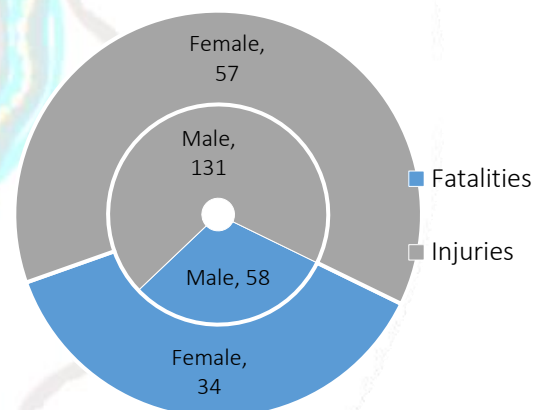


Figure 2: Fatalities & Injuries Disaggregated by Gender.



Source: WANEP Ghana NEWS Monitoring

¹ WANEP National Early Warning System Data

² WANEP National Early Warning System Data

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

Table 1: Reported Casualties for the Period of April 2023

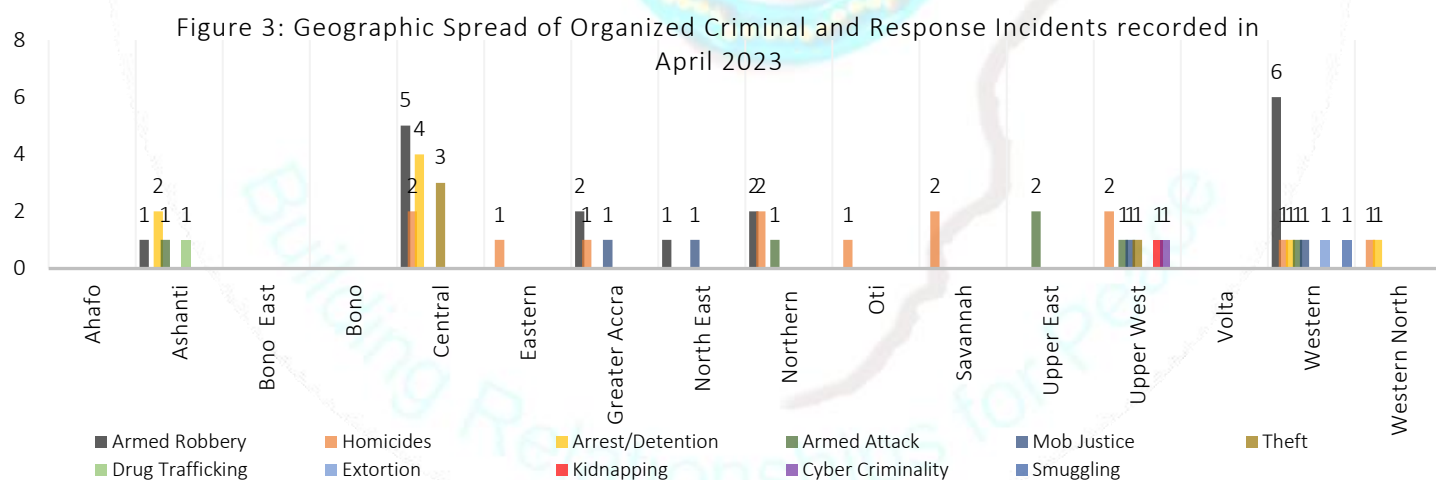
Regions	Ahafo	Ashanti	Bono East	Bono	Central	Eastern	Greater Accra	North East	Northern	Oti	Savannah	Upper East	Upper West	Volta	Western	Western North	Totals
Fatalities	0	8	1	3	11	11	2	2	7	3	6	8	11	0	16	3	92
Injuries	0	15	0	5	53	16	3	10	10	0	15	2	12	3	18	26	188
Total Casualties	0	23	1	8	64	27	5	12	17	3	21	10	23	3	34	29	280

Source: WANEP NEWS

The *Monthly Bulletin* provides analysis of the incident data recorded in the reporting period based on the following four thematic areas: 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 are presented under the thematic areas highlighted below:

II- ORGANIZED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM (OCVE)

Fifty-seven (57) incidents related to organized crimes and violent extremism were captured within the month of April 2023. Armed robberies were the most reported incident in the month, especially in the Western and Central regions. From the bar graph below, six incidents were reported in the Western region while five were reported in the Central region.⁷



Source: WANEP Ghana NEWS Monitoring

Homicides were the second most reported issue within the period. A total of 13 were recorded by the WANEP Ghana NEWS⁸. The homicides were spread across the Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Northern, Oti, Savannah,

⁷ WANEP National Early Warning System Data

⁸ National Early Warning System

Upper West, Western and Western North regions, as shown in the bar graph above. Other incidents recorded within the period also included 6 armed attacks, 4 mob attacks, 4 thefts, drug trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, cybercrime, and smuggling. The locations of these incidents are indicated in figure 3 above.

III- GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY (GPS):

Four rape incidents were identified in the Central and Volta regions. Three were reported in the Central region while one was reported from the Volta region. At Gomoa Ojobi, a woman was allegedly gang-raped by five Fulbe herdsmen⁹, after they had attacked the husband of the victim and tied him up.¹⁰ While the victim has received treatment at a hospital and the case reported to the police, an arrest of the suspects is yet to be made.

A Nigerian woman was also arrested for indulging in human trafficking as well as aiding prostitution in Ghana. She allegedly trafficked two women from Nigeria to Ghana under the pretext of finding them work, but subsequently forced them into prostitution.¹¹ In previous years, similar situations have occurred where under-aged children are trafficked into and out of the country and forced into prostitution. Per data shared on the Ghana Police website, Nigerians and Chinese are among the nationals involved in the trafficking of young girls into the country.¹² Some Ghanaians have also been arrested for trafficking young girls to Nigeria to engage in sexual exploitation. The lapses in the country's immigration control efforts have enabled the trafficking in persons to continue to this day. Although several arrests and prosecutions have been made by the security services as well as the judicial systems, attention needs to be placed on inter-state collaboration to stimulate prevention, especially on the immigration-control lines.

⁹ Fulbe rather than Fulani, as they have indicated the latter is derogatory to them

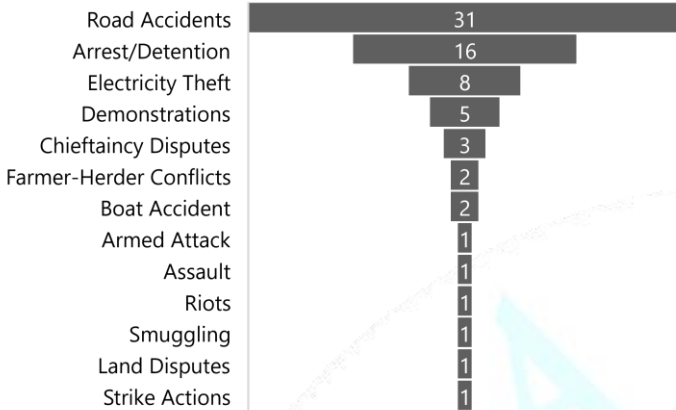
¹⁰ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/crime/C-R-5-Fulani-herdsmen-allegedly-gang-rape-woman-at-Gomoa-Ojobi-1746470>

¹¹ <https://www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh/trader-jailed-6-years-for-human-trafficking-aiding-prostitution/>

¹² <https://police.gov.gh/anti-human-trafficking-unit---ahtu.html>

IV- DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (DG):

Figure 4: Incident Frequency

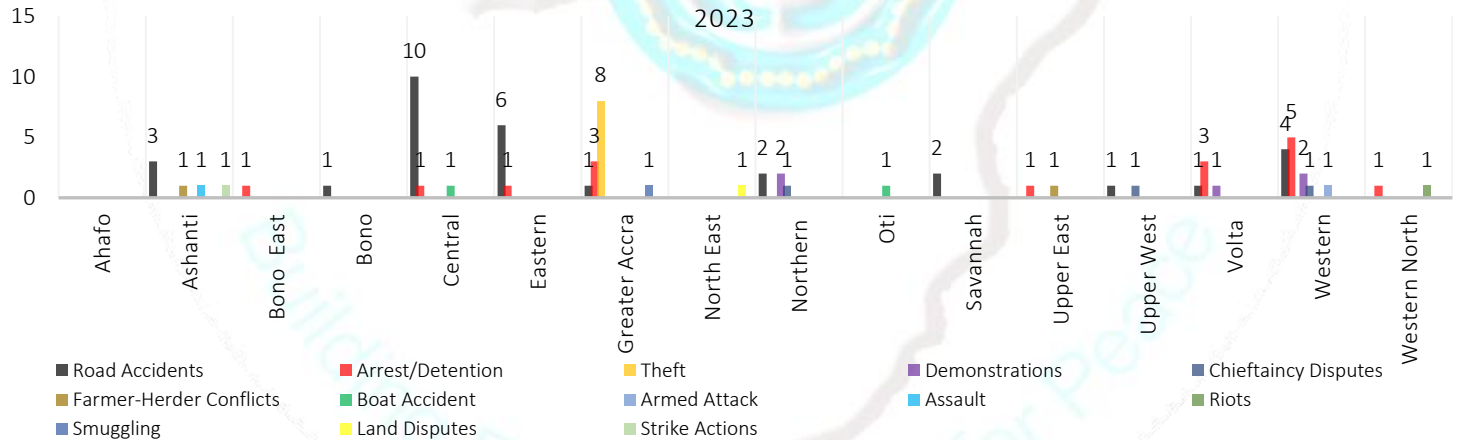


Source: WANEP Ghana NEWS Monitoring

A total of 73 incidents were reported under democracy and governance. Road accidents emerged as the most frequently reported incident.¹³ With 31 instances as shown in the graph beside, figure 5 below shows that the most was reported in the Central region (10). The accidents occurred mostly in the Gomoa areas, especially at Gomoa Onyadze, Gomoa Akraman, Gomoa Buduatta, and Gomoa Potsin. Other areas where accidents occurred in the region also included Assin South and Awutu Kweku Ansa.

In the Eastern region 6 incidents were reported at Somayna, Amamprobi, Budu on the Suhum highway, and Nsawam. In the Volta region, the four accidents recorded happened in Ho the regional capital. The Ashanti region only recorded three at Obuasi, Sokoban, and on the Kumasi-Techiman Road. Other incidents as indicated in figure 4 above, have their frequencies indicated, and their spread also shown in figure 5 below.

Figure 5: Geographic Spread of Democracy and Governance Incidents recorded in April 2023



Source: WANEP Ghana NEWS Monitoring

Considering the impact on peace and security, some incidents such as the chieftaincy disputes in the Upper West, Western and Northern regions led to insecurity in the affected areas. For instance, in the Upper West region, disputes between the Viise and Gudaayiri communities in the Wa-East district resulted in the death of about 4 persons and many left injured.¹⁴ At Karaga in the Northern region, a sub chief was killed while his aide was injured

¹³ WANEP National Early Warning System Data

¹⁴ Reports received from WANEP Ghana's monitors in the region.

by some unknown gunmen on April 6, 2023. Sources from the district revealed that the Sub Chief's alliance with the paramount chief may have contributed to his attack.¹⁵

Also, herder conflicts were reported within the reporting period in Bongo-Soe, the Upper East region. A confrontation between a farmer and herdsman subsequently led to physical retaliations against Fulbe persons in the Bongo-Soe area. Reports suggested that about 800 Fulbes were rendered homeless and displaced after their houses were torched by angry youths. After the attacks, the District Security Council (DISEC) launched an investigation to determine the cause of the attack. This led to eleven (11) people being arrested in connection with the attack.¹⁶

V- ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY (ES)

Environmental security issues in the period included 7 cases of flooding, 3 fire outbreaks, 6 destructive rainstorms, drowning, measles outbreak and illegal mining.¹⁷ The rainstorms and subsequent flooding situations monitored in the period occurred in the Bono East, Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Northern, Volta and Western North regions. Destruction to property, displacement, injuries and loss of lives were the impacts associated with these incidents. For instance, at the Sefwi Bekwai Senior High School in the Bibiani Anhwiaso Bekwai Municipality of the Western North Region, a rainstorm destroyed major infrastructures in the school as well as a health center. At least 16 students were reported to have been hospitalized because of the incident.¹⁸

Fire outbreaks were also reported in the Greater Accra and Northern regions. Per the data WANEP Ghana gathered for the period, only an injury was reported regarding a fire outbreak that occurred at the Business Senior High School (BISCO) in Tamale, Northern region.¹⁹

The issue of illegal mining was also newsworthy within the period particularly because of a leaked report written by Professor Frimpong Boateng, the former Minister for Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation and who was also the Chairperson of the erstwhile Inter-Ministerial Committee on Illegal Mining (IMCIM) to the president. The key effects of illegal mining have been the destruction of water bodies, farmlands as well as forest covers. Indeed, medical experts have warned of adverse health impacts to miners as well as mining communities as a whole, especially when the use of heavy metals including mercury, exceeds the occupational exposure limits.

¹⁵ Reports received from WANEP Ghana's monitors in the region.

¹⁶ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Bongo-Fulani-herdsmen-attacked-several-of-them-displaced-11-suspects-arrested-1743803>

¹⁷ WANEP National Early Warning System Data

¹⁸ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Rainstorm-devastates-parts-of-Sefwi-Bekwai-1743158>

¹⁹ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Tamale-BISCO-Boys-dormitory-destroyed-by-fire-1745738>

Consultant Pathologist at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) in the Ashanti Region, Paul Poku Sampene Osei purported that a pathological study by the Department of Pathology School of Medical Sciences, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST) revealed the existence of large quantities of these heavy metals in the wombs of women found in illegal mining areas in the country.²⁰ Children and infants are tipped to absorb about 50 percent of these heavy metals when they inhale or ingest them, while adults absorb between 15 to 20 percent.²¹ Unborn children may suffer the worst impacts of illegal mining if measures are not put in place to curb the use of heavy metals.

Implications for Peace and Security

As stated earlier, the activities of illegal miners continue to impact negatively on the health security of populations in vulnerable communities. The pollution of water sources with heavy metals such as mercury, cyanide and lead would be harmful to the fate of the unborn generation in mining communities. As turbidity levels in water sources increase, the cost of operation of the Ghana Water Company as well as other water producers increases, and subsequently increasing the cost of clean water to consumers. Fire stations in illegal mining areas have also bemoaned the impact of illegal mining on their operations as access to water is near impossible because of turbidity level increases. Thus, in the event of fires, the Ghana National Service may not be able to intervene as needed. This underscores the urgent need for urgent action to protect the country's water resources.

The insecurity created by suspected jihadist attacks in Burkina Faso, which has led to the influx of migrants into northern Ghana has continued to impact livelihoods and social services in especially the border communities. Again, in Bawku, an area close to the border with Burkina Faso and where there are constant gun attacks, has become a volatile location where crimes such as armed robberies, armed attacks and homicides have prevailed. Moreover, weak border control mechanisms could serve as enabling grounds for infiltration of violent extremists, arms, and ammunition as well as drugs trafficking.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- For issues of human trafficking, state collaboration between the contiguous countries (Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria) needs to be intensified. The Immigration services and police services of the respective states must intensify their efforts to share information on operational loops holes that allow the traffickers to successfully traffic people between states and identify ways of plugging the lapses.

²⁰ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Galamsey-Large-quantities-of-heavy-metals-discovered-in-women-wombs-Pathologist-1765598>

²¹ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Galamsey-Large-quantities-of-heavy-metals-discovered-in-women-wombs-Pathologist-1765598>

- The Government should increase its fiscal commitment to enhancing road infrastructure. It is also crucial to provide significant logistical support to the Motor Traffic and Transport Department (MTTD) of the Ghana Police Service as well as the National road Safety Authority (NRSA) to ensure the enforcement of traffic laws, thereby monitoring and controlling road users effectively.
- On the premise of the Accra Initiative, the heads of the security agencies, for instance the Armed Forces, Police and the Immigration services of Ghana and Burkina Faso especially, may need to convene and share updated intelligence information on cross border security, as well as measures to combat violent extremist activities as well as other cross border crimes.

CONCLUSIONS

The period under review recorded incidents of road accidents, homicides, armed robberies, as the highest occurring incidents. Also, ethno-chieftaincy disputes impact the peace and security in the country. Road accidents alone accounted for about 44% of the casualties, indicating the need for further intervention from relevant stakeholders in the sector. It is imperative that the accidents as well as other challenges identified, get the required attention from critical stakeholders to prevent or mitigate the negative impact on human security in the country.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FROM THE WANEP NEWS

THEMATIC AREA	NO OF INCIDENTS	CASUALTIES	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
ORGANIZED CRIME & VIOLENT EXTREMISM:	57	34	29
Armed Attack	6	10	12
Armed Robbery	17	3	9
Arrest/Detention	8	-	-
Drug Trafficking	1	-	-
Extortion	1	-	-
Mob Justice	4	5	2
Theft	4	0	3
Homicides	13	15	3
Kidnapping	1	-	-
Cyber Criminality	1	1	0
Smuggling	1	-	-
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:	73	38	131
Demonstrations	5	0	2
Armed Attack	1	0	3

Road Accidents	31	30	94
Farmer-Herder Conflicts	2	0	1
Arrest/Detention	16	0	5
Assault	1	-	-
Riots	1	0	10
Smuggling	1	-	-
Theft	8	-	-
Boat Accident	2	3	0
Land Disputes	1	1	10
Strike Actions	1	-	-
Chieftaincy Disputes	3	4	6
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY	21	12	17
Flooding	7	3	0
Fire Outbreaks	3	0	1
Rainstorms	6	4	16
Lightning Strike	1	2	0
Drowning	2	3	0
Illegal Mining	1	-	-
Disease Outbreak (Measles)	1	-	-
WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY:	21	8	11
Suicides	3	3	0
Rape/Defilement	4	0	5
Theft	1	-	-
Assault	7	2	6
Human Trafficking	1	-	-
Arrest/Detention	3	-	-
Homicides	2	3	0
Total	172	92	188

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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