

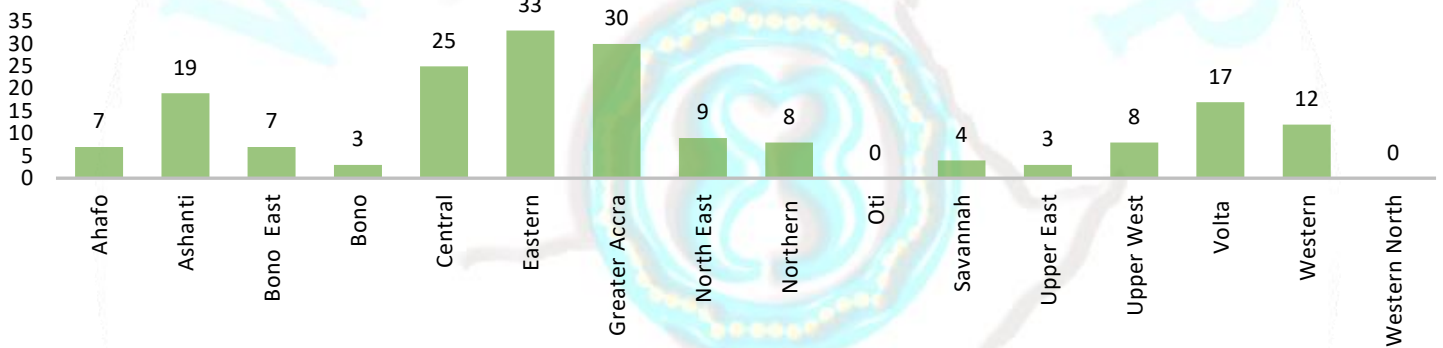


NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN- (WANEP-GHANA) (JULY 2023)

I- INTRODUCTION

The WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) recorded 185 human security incidents in July 2023¹. An accumulated casualties of 469 from these incidents is further disaggregated into 83 fatalities (66 males, 17 females) and 386 injuries (245 males, 11 females, 130 inconclusive on gender of victims, per the reports) for the reporting period.²

Figure 1: Incident Frequencies in the 16 Regions



Source: WANEP Ghana NEWS Monitoring

From figure 1 above, the 183 incidents and associated 469 casualties recorded in the period are spread across the 16 administrative regions of the country. The data on all incidents, as monitored by WANEP Ghana, indicates the Eastern region as the region with the highest frequency of incidents (33) in the country in the reporting month.³ The most pressing issues recorded included homicides, road accidents and theft, assaults, armed attacks, flooding, farmer-herder tensions, building collapses, influx of displaced persons along the border areas etc.

The highest fatalities were caused by road accidents (24) and homicides (23) incidents that occurred across the country. From table 1 below, the highest total of casualties was reported from the Central and Eastern region, indicating the need for interventions in those regions.⁴

¹ WANEP National Early Warning System Data

² WANEP National Early Warning System Data

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

Table 1: Reported Casualties for the Period of July 2023

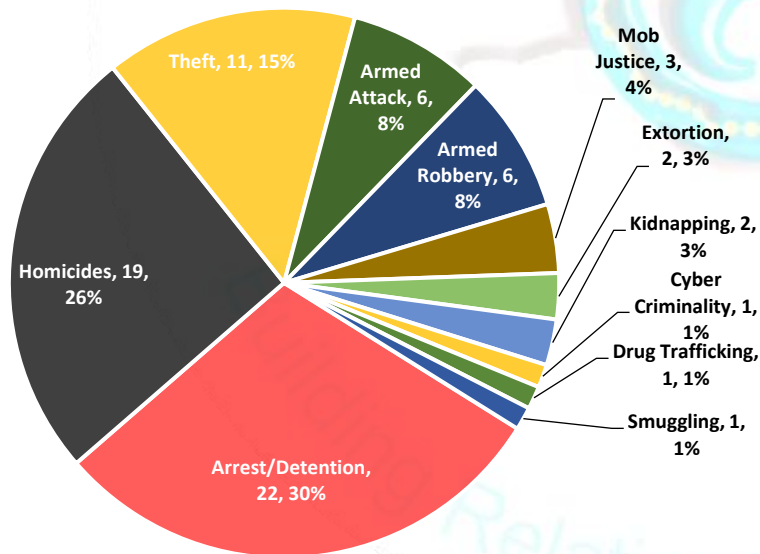
Regions	Ahafo	Ashanti	Bono East	Bono	Central	Eastern	Greater Accra	North East	Northern	Oti	Savannah	Upper East	Upper West	Volta	Western	Western North	Totals
Fatalities	5	10	5	2	7	28	12	4	0	0	0	1	2	1	6	0	83
Injuries	10	33	7	0	137	81	37	43	7	0	0	0	7	3	21	0	386
Total Casualties	15	43	12	2	144	109	49	47	7	0	0	1	9	4	27	0	469

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)

Figure 2: % Frequency of Criminal Incidents



Source: WANEP Ghana NEWS Monitoring

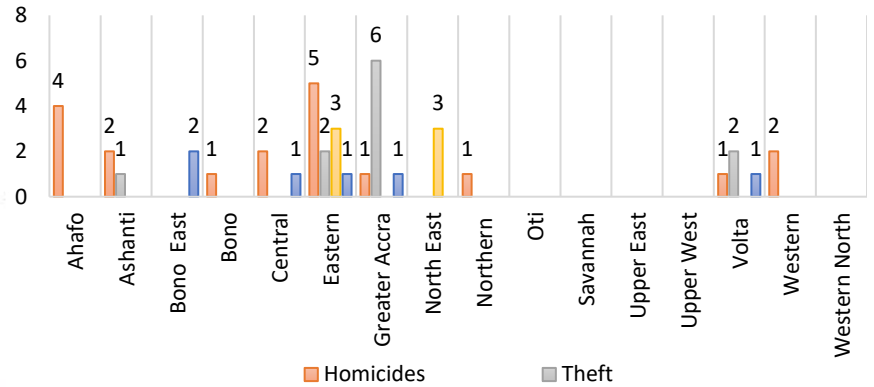
Within the month of July, 74 incident data monitored suggests a range of criminal activities, including theft, armed robbery, homicides, cyber criminality, drug trafficking, armed attacks, mob justices/lynching, smuggling, and kidnapping, were reported mostly. From the data gathered within the period, as presented in the pie chart beside, homicides incidents represented 26% out of the 74 total number of incidents.

Per the data gathered on homicides this month, homicides were prevalent in the Eastern and Ahafo regions, although one or two incidents were recorded in the Ashanti, Bono, Central, Greater Accra Northern, Volta and Western regions.⁵ In previous periods, the Central and Ashanti regions were the locations

⁵ NEWS Monitoring data

with the highest instances of homicides, while the Ahafo region almost recorded a paltry of the incident. Circumstances leading to the homicide incidents included misunderstandings between groups or individuals and lynching of suspected armed robbers or thieves. For other incidents, victims were either targeted to be assassinated or were allegedly killed by

Figure 3: Spread of Top 4 Criminal Incidents Recorded Within the Period



Source: WANEP Ghana NEWS Monitoring

accident as happened in the Aboabo incident in Kumasi where a 14-year-old boy was killed by a stray bullet.⁶

Regarding the ongoing feud between Kusasis and Mamprusis in the Bawku Municipality, a proxy clash in the North East region on July 21, 2023, occurred where a Bawku bound bus was shot at, accosted, and burnt, injuring passengers as well as killing some of them in the process.⁷ Reports suggest that an earlier incident that happened in Bawku involving a vehicle being burnt by factions in Bawku, may have triggered the retaliation on the Walewale route in the North East region. Police are reportedly on a manhunt for the suspects responsible for the act.⁸

III- GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY (GPS):

The month of July was dominated by issues of defilement. The first case was reported in Hohoe in the Volta Region, when a 40-year-old commercial motor rider defiled an 11-year-old girl. The culprit was found guilty and convicted after court proceedings.⁹ Another case of defilement was recorded in Yeji in Bono East Region, where a man believed to be in his forties allegedly raped a 14-year-old girl. This encounter led to the young girl contracting HIV and tuberculosis.¹⁰ One case of defilement was reported in Cape Coast when a 32-year-old coconut seller was arrested for defiling a 13-year-old girl. Another case was recorded in Twifo Atimorkwa District, when a 3-year-old was suffering from vaginal pox after she had been defiled. The mother of the victim pleaded with the police to expedite investigations to bring the suspected criminal to justice.¹¹ The occurrence of

⁶ <https://3news.com/one-person-dead-two-injured-at-aboabo-fire-festival/>

⁷ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Police-launches-manhunt-for-persons-behind-the-attack-on-Bawku-bound-bus-that-killed-one-1809137>

⁸ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Police-launches-manhunt-for-persons-behind-the-attack-on-Bawku-bound-bus-that-killed-one-1809137>

⁹ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/crime/Motor-rider-jailed-seven-years-for-defilement-1809641>

¹⁰ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/crime/40-year-old-man-arrested-for-allegedly-defiling-minor-and-infecting-her-with-HIV-1812905>

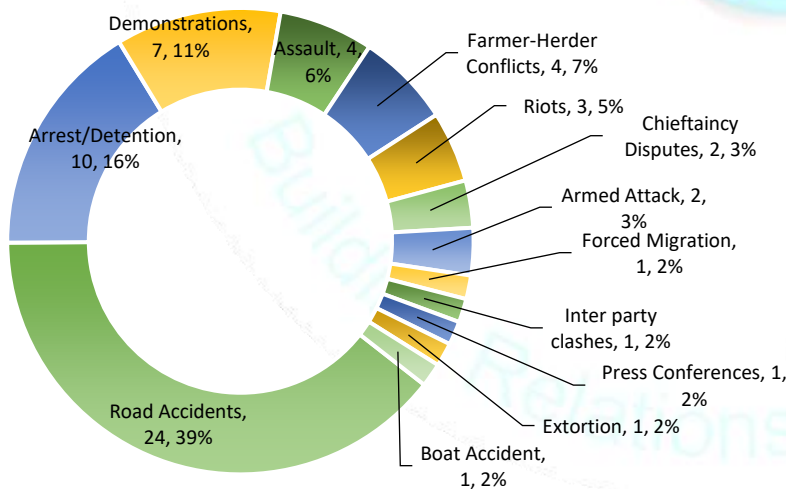
¹¹ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/crime/Coconut-seller-sentenced-10-years-for-defilement-at-Twifo-Praso-1814867>

defilement in different parts of the country may be an indication that defilement needs to be addressed holistically by relevant stakeholders such as the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) and the Ghana Police Service by ensuring that perpetrators are arrested and made to face the law fully. Additionally, the punishment for defilement may not be deterrent enough which may explain its regular occurrence, especially in the Central region where most cases are recorded month on month.

There were also a few recorded cases of femicide. The first case occurred on July 18, 2023, when a 17-year-old student was allegedly beaten to death by her boyfriend at Duayaw Nkwanta in the Ahafo Region. It was not clear what caused it, but the suspect has been arraigned before the Magistrate Court in Duayaw Nkwanta.¹² The second incident occurred at Dunkwa-on-Offin when a man known to be in his thirties allegedly butchered his girlfriend over a misunderstanding, according to a report on July 21, 2023. It is thus important for the Ministry of Gender and other relevant stakeholders like the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) to investigate the causes and identify relevant and efficient interventions to reduce the occurrence of the action.

IV- DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (DG):

Figure 4: % of Democracy & Governance Related Incidents



Source: WANEP Ghana NEWS Monitoring

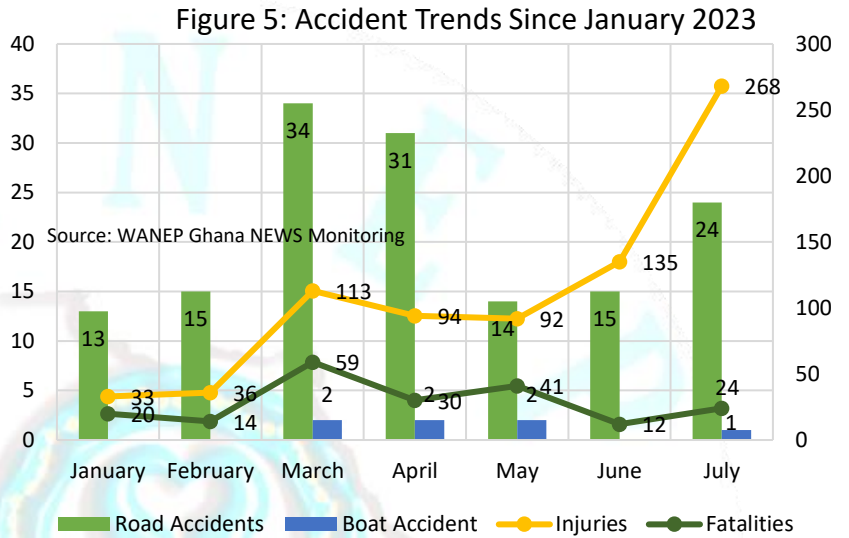
Sixty-one issues related democratic governance in Ghana were monitored within the month. These included incidents such as road accidents, arrest/detention, demonstrations, assault, farmer-herder conflicts, riots, chieftaincy disputes, armed attack, forced migration, inter party clashes, press conferences, extortion, and a boat accident.

¹² <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Boyfriend-allegedly-beats-17-year-old-girlfriend-to-death-in-Terchire-1814861>

As seen from the chart beside, road accidents constituted 39% of the 61 incidents that were monitored within the period. Consequently, the most casualties recorded within the period were as a result of road accident incidents that were monitored during the period. As seen from the trend analysis chart seen below, this period saw injuries amounting to at least 269 victims while at least 24 fatalities were confirmed.¹³

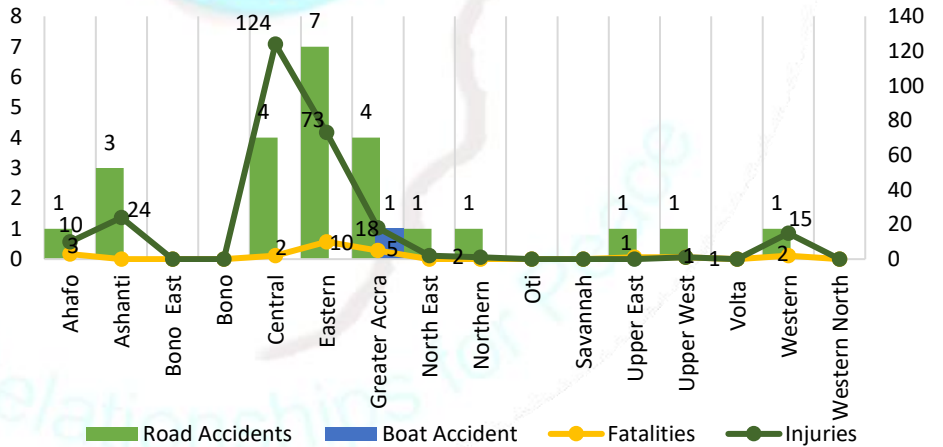
While the month of July has not recorded the highest incident of road accidents since the year begun, in terms of the frequency of casualties, however, the period recorded the highest injuries (269 victims). So far, the highest number of road accidents (34) were reported in March 2023, same as the highest number of fatalities for the entire period (59 victims).¹⁴

The 24 fatalities identified because of road accidents represent the fourth highest since January 2023. In terms of spread of the accidents this month, the bar graph below presents the various



bar graph below presents the various frequencies in each region. The highest for this month was recorded in the Eastern region (7 incidents), followed by the Greater Accra and Central regions (4 each). Although the highest occurrence of accidents was in the Eastern region, the impact in terms of casualties were significantly recorded in the Central region.

Figure 6: Regional Frequencies: Incidents, Fatalities & Injuries in July 2023



¹³ WANEP Ghana Monitoring Data

¹⁴ WANEP Ghana Monitoring Data

The causes of these accidents as monitored within the period included over speeding & reckless driving, disregard for road regulations, poor road infrastructure, poor vehicle maintenance, and driver fatigue.

The trends in road accidents as represented in the data shown in figure 5 indicate a pitch up in frequency, despite the reduction in occurrence this month.

In other incidents that occurred within the month, citizens trust for the Ghana Police Service took a further downturn as three incidents particularly contributed to insecurity. At Asawase in the Ashanti region, some youths besieged the Asawase Police Station and vandalized properties following the alleged killing of their colleague who was in the custody of the police.¹⁵ In the same region, at Dagomba Line, Asokore Mampong, police service personnel were accused of alleged extortion during police swoop operations in the area. The claim was that the officers allegedly charged as much as GHC 500 per suspect arrested at the scene.¹⁶ Again, in the Ashanti region, a police officer was seen in a viral video abusing the right of a suspect he had apprehended at Dadease.¹⁷ According to an Afrobarometer survey, undertaken by the Ghana Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) in the year 2022, 65 percent of Ghanaians believe most police officers were corrupt, while 31 percent believed only some police were corrupt.¹⁸ The Ghana Police Service was regarded as the government agency with the lowest level of credibility in the same report. Only 17% of Ghanaians had a high level of faith in the police, while 41% have no trust at all.¹⁹ The dwindling public trust and confidence in the security agency is driven by incidences of police brutality, negligence, corruption, and perceived political bias. Overall, there is distrust, hostility, unhappiness, and suspicion between the general populace and the police in Ghana, thus the occurrence of the incidents witnessed against the police personnel and police infrastructure in this reporting period.

V- ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY (ES)

The major challenge to the environment in the period stemmed from the occurrence of floods across the country. Residents of Ho Municipality of the Volta Region faced significant losses following a three-hour rainfall which flooded the municipality. The floods devastated several homes and businesses.²⁰ Similar situations were also recorded in the Bono East region, where torrential rains had caused a river to overflow its banks, which led to the

¹⁵ <https://myjoyonline.com/asawase-police-station-in-kumasi-attacked-by-irate-youth>

¹⁶ <https://myjoyonline.com/police-swoops-dagomba-line-residents-accuse-police-of-extortion>

¹⁷ <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/police-interdict-police-officer-seen-in-viral-video-dragging-suspect.html>

¹⁸ Extracted from this online media report (<https://citinewsroom.com/2022/07/ghana-police-service-reacts-to-reports-labeling-it-as-most-corrupt-institution/>)

¹⁹ See The Lack of Political Impartiality of the Police in Ghana and its Effect on the Public's Trust and Confidence in the Police and on Public Perception of Police Legitimacy, A thesis presented by Kwabena Osei-Adubofour

²⁰ <https://citinewsroom.com/2023/07/flooding-in-volta-region-residents-count-losses-after-downpour/>

killing a six-year-old female child among travelers on a tricycle, on July 17, 2023.²¹ In Tarkwa, Western region, the highway from Takoradi to Tarkwa was blocked from Saturday July 22 evening to Sunday July 23, 2023, due to the heavy floods. Reports suggested that some parts of the road had been destroyed, thus halting commercial activities of road users.²²

Illegal mining, which has been a major environmental issue especially in the southern parts of the country, appears to be creeping up north as reports of escalating illegal mining activities along the Black Volta River have been monitored.²³ Particularly in areas such as Jama, Jugboi, Carpenter and Bamboi in the Savannah Region have been identified. The activities of the illegal mining operators have allegedly destroyed the integrity of the river, affected agriculture and critical infrastructure, notably the Bui Power Generation Dam and Akosombo Power Generation Dam downstream.²⁴ This would impact negatively on communities connected to the power grids of these dams and impact individually farming communities along the river.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Government needs to consciously support the improvement of early warning systems to ensure timely flood risk alerts. This should include an enhanced 24-hour monitoring and warning service during peak rain seasons and an education program that could help communities understand the risks, respect the warnings, and know how to respond. Again, social protection mechanisms like affordable social housing could move more people out of informal settlements built in flood prone zones.²⁵
- The Government needs to bolster its financial investments in the training of law enforcement agencies like the Ghana Police's specialized units, i.e., the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) as well as the Homicide Units, and the justice system. This could bolster the delivery of support services, the speed at which homicide investigations are carried out, and the swift response in justice delivery.
- The government needs to allocate more funds to improve road infrastructure. Additionally, it is essential to give the National Road Safety Authority (NRSA) and the Motor Traffic and Transport Department

²¹ Reports from field monitors in the region (<https://ln.run/EUIYL>).

²² Reports from field monitors in the region(<https://ln.run/4Jlrm>)

²³ <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/galamsey-on-black-volta-minister-warns-of-crackdown-on-culprits.html>

²⁴ <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/galamsey-on-black-volta-minister-warns-of-crackdown-on-culprits.html>

²⁵ https://reliefweb.int/report/ghana/ghana-must-move-coping-floods-adapting-them?gclid=Cj0KCQjwnrmlBhDHARisADJ5b_m0wKEEJJOpwOuo04EbwEIOZQ_1FVmUPKxWoJBDrbfQkzeiPOehEcaArliEALw_wcB

(MTTD) of the Ghana Police Service significant logistical support to ensure that traffic regulations are enforced, effectively monitoring, and regulating road users.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the varied security threats monitored within the reporting period and attendant consequences on the country's security landscape require and urgent need for stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and capacities of institutions and agencies to effectively respond and mitigate impacts. This will doubtlessly contribute to enhancing the resilience of communities across the country against the varied threats facing the country.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FROM THE WANEP NEWS

THEMATIC AREA	NO OF INCIDENTS	CASUALTIES	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
ORGANIZED CRIME & VIOLENT EXTREMISM:	74	33	59
Theft	11	-	-
Mob Justice	3	-	-
Armed Robbery	6	4	5
Homicides	19	23	6
Arrest/Detention	22	0	1
Cyber Criminality	1	-	-
Armed Attack	6	6	40
Kidnapping	2	-	-
Extortion	2	-	-
Smuggling	1	0	5
Drug Trafficking	1	0	2
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:	61	29	296
Assault	4	0	10
Chieftaincy Disputes	2	-	-
Demonstrations	7	1	6
Road Accidents	24	24	268
Armed Attack	2	1	0
Arrest/Detention	10	-	-
Riots	3	1	10
Farmer-Herder Conflicts	4	0	2
Forced Migration	1	-	-
Inter party clashes	1	-	-
Press Conferences	1	-	-
Extortion	1	-	-

Boat Accident	1	2	0
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY	25	17	22
Building Collapse	4	5	18
Flooding	10	6	4
Arrest/Detention	3	2	0
Drowning	2	2	0
Illegal Mining	4	-	-
Illegal Mining Accidents	1	2	0
Rainstorms	1	-	-
GENDER PEACE AND SECURITY:	25	4	9
Arrest/Detention	6	-	-
Suicides	2	1	0
Assault	6	1	2
Mob Justice	1	0	2
Rape/Defilement	7	0	3
Homicides	3	2	2
Total	183	83	386

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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