



NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN- (WANEP-GHANA)

(SEPTEMBER 2023)

I- INTRODUCTION

The WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) recorded 140 human security incidents in September 2023¹. An accumulated casualties of 304 from these incidents is further disaggregated into 114 fatalities (78 males, 36 females) and 190 injuries (112 males, 78 females) for the reporting period.² The table below shows the spread according to regions, of the casualties recorded within the period.

Table 1: Reported Casualties for the Period of September 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	2	6	2	2	4	11	2	2	21	0	1	10	0	30	20	1	114
Injuries	1	4	0	4	32	3	6	2	82	0	0	8	1	20	27	0	190
Total Casualties	3	10	2	6	36	14	8	4	103	0	1	18	1	50	47	1	304

Source: WANEP NEWS

The *Monthly Bulletin* provides an 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:

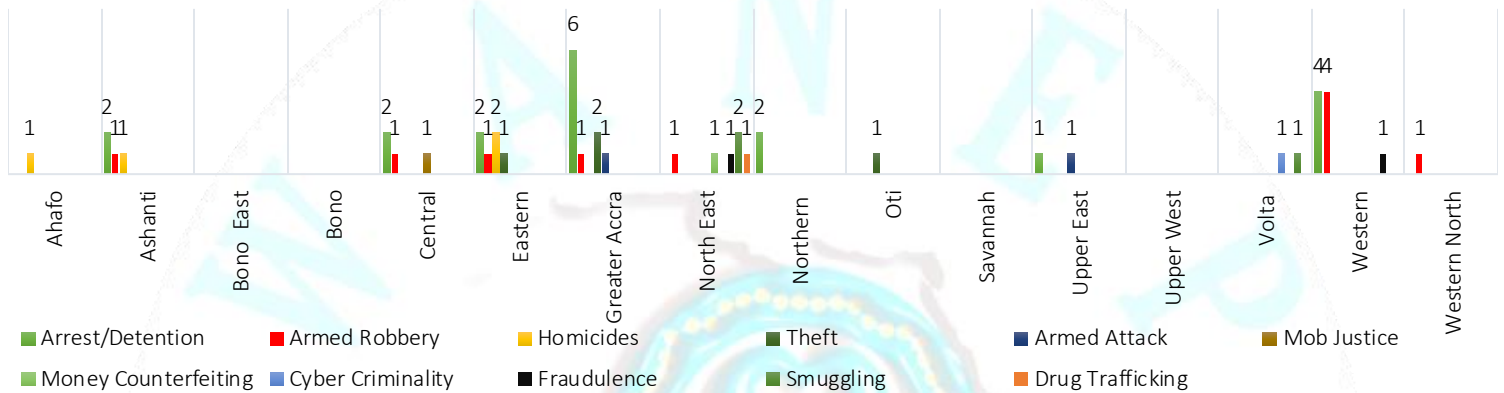
¹ WANEP National Early Warning System Data

² WANEP National Early Warning System Data

II- ORGANIZED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM (OCVE)

Organized crime and violent extremist thematic issues recorded in September 2023 included incidents such as armed robbery, homicides, theft, armed attacks, mob justice, money counterfeiting, cyber criminality, fraudulence, smuggling and drug trafficking. Per data available to WANEP Ghana from monitoring of incidents within the month, armed robberies again topped the frequencies as was observed from last month's monitoring.³

Figure 1: Regional Spread Of Organized Criminal Incidents



Source: WANEP NEWS

As seen in figure 1 above, these robbery incidents were reported in the Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, North East, Western and Western North regions. Attacks on individuals especially vehicle or motorbike owners, mining companies and illegal mining sites have been the modus operandi of the armed criminals in this period. The Police on September 6, 2023, arrested two robbery suspects for attacking a mining company at Bogoso in the Western Region.⁴ The attackers were seven in number when the company was attacked including some police officers who were on sight. In another incident in the Central region, a car snatcher was beaten to death by a mob while his accomplice was arrested and placed in the custody at the Awutu Breku District Command. According to information received from sources in the area, the deceased was in the company of one other suspect who snatched a Hyundai i10 taxi. The taxi driver cried for help while under attack and thus triggered residents as well as farmers in the area to come to help.⁵ Similarly in the North East region at Kurugu, three armed robbers attacked motor riders in Kurugu and forcefully collected their motor bikes in addition to some amount of money.⁶

³ WANEP Ghana NEWS Monitoring Data

⁴ <https://www.myjoyonline.com/police-arrest-2-suspects-for-robbery-at-mining-company-in-bogoso/>

⁵ <https://citinewsroom.com/2023/09/central-region-alleged-car-snatcher-beaten-to-death/>

⁶ Field monitor reports at

https://news.wanepsystems.net/public/files/dashboard/main_admin/admin/?detailed_incidence_report=2bf5743900c094144086d0f648538aca&user_incidence_report=aba35034a729e54e72d38a0e1169c232&incidence_report_data=462b23fd75d0dbef4fcea173081cb073&incidence_data_view=140c2d9c818ed9d2c97981c949f47311

The armed attacks in Bawku and its adjoining districts/communities have continued unabated from the previous months. Series of repeated gunshots across Bawku have become the norm, indicating the proliferation of arms in the district and its attendant security risk it poses for crime governance and safety of civilians in Bawku and its environs. Notable within the period, about nine people were reportedly killed while 6 others were rendered in critical condition in an ambush attack.⁷ The attack is said to have occurred when heavily armed men ambushed a police convoy escorting traders from Bawku to Cinkase in Togo. The attack occurred near the Gbewaa Training College on the road from Missiga to Pulimakom.⁸ Some arrests were made subsequently although the attacks have remained under investigation since.

The northern border areas have become unpredictable areas where the risk of probable violent extremist activities is significant, and thus presents challenges for the communities as well as security personnel. On September 27, 2023, around 11:45 AM, the security services reportedly received information about suspected extremists potentially entering Ghana through the Fatchu community in the Sissala West District. This information came after Burkina Faso's police received intelligence about these individuals in a hideout near Fatchu but failed to apprehend them.⁹ Farmers on the Ghana side of the border reportedly discovered items belonging to the suspects and reported the discovery to the authorities.¹⁰ These items included a Ghanaian voter identity (ID) card, two mobile phones, ammunition, clothing, and eight bicycles. Upon an examination of the contents of the phones, a discovery of pictures of individuals in "terrorist attire" and in possession of AK-47 weapons, identified one person with resemblance of the picture on the Ghanaian voter ID card.¹¹ The Burkina Faso police apparently identified the individual on the ID as Diallo Noufou, a suspected extremist, contrary to the name Abdulai Ibrahim on the ID. This indicates gaps in the identification registration mechanisms in either Ghana or Burkina Faso since these individuals had slipped through the cracks to possess a double identity. What may not be clear is whether the other accomplices have the same situation of double identity, and which may be a critical security issue. Another issue of concern monitored in the Western region during the period was the arrest of some suspects at Diabene, who were alleged to have received funds from a financier in Australia and allegedly linked to Russia's Wagner Group. They were arrested after they allegedly organized some young people to stage a demonstration

⁷ <https://www.myjoyonline.com/at-least-9-killed-in-highway-ambush-at-pusiga/>

⁸ Field Monitors report

⁹ Field Monitors report

¹⁰ Field Monitors report

¹¹ Field Monitors report

to announce their presence in the community. They apparently amassed about 15 other young people believed to be Senior High School (SHS) students to execute their agenda. The suspects were known to be unemployed youths, but ostensibly became affluent and led luxurious lifestyles in their community.¹² This situation could be a potential radicalization attempt meant to drive the interest of a Russian agenda in Ghana.

III- GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY (GPS):

Witchcraft accusation and associated murders or attempts, were topical issues within the month of September. Witchcraft accusations have a long history, often rooted in a superstitious culture, fear, and ignorance. These accusations have led to horrific consequences, such as mob violence, torture, and even murder. The victims are mostly vulnerable individuals, including women, children, and the elderly, targeted based on suspicions of practicing witchcraft or causing harm through alleged supernatural means. They are driven by cultural beliefs, personal grievances, or even as a means to scapegoat individuals for various social or economic problems. Case in point this month, is the killing of a 60-year-old woman accused of witchcraft at Janga in the West Mamprusi District of the North East region by a young individual related to the victim, despite that the Ghanaian parliament has passed a bill that prohibits the naming, accusing or labelling of another person as being a witch, with offenders facing up to five years in jail if found guilty.¹³ The deceased, Musah Azaratu Poanaa, was shot dead by the relative and one other person after she was accused of witchcraft as well as being responsible for some the illness of their father in the community after they consulted a soothsayer.¹⁴ They stormed her (the victim) house, dragged her out of her room and shot her with a single barrel gun in the process.¹⁵ In the Central region, another woman, an 85-year-old, was assaulted by a 55-year old woman for similar reasons seen in the Janga case.¹⁶ The victim was accused for being the cause of the mysterious deaths of some residents in the Anyan Ankukrom area. The violent attack against the victim although injurious did not lead to her death as would have been the case for other incidents seen in the country.

In the reporting period, also, there were serious sexual violation of victims particularly women and very young girls, leading to their subsequent murder. A situation monitored in the Ashanti region at Anwiankwanta saw the

¹² <https://3news.com/w-r-leaders-of-group-linked-to-russias-wagner-arrested/>

¹³ The Criminal Offences (Amendment) Bill 2002 was passed on Thursday and now awaits presidential assent to become law.

¹⁴ <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/police-on-manhunt-for-siblings-for-allegedly-killing-60-year-old-woman-over-witchcraft-accusations.html>

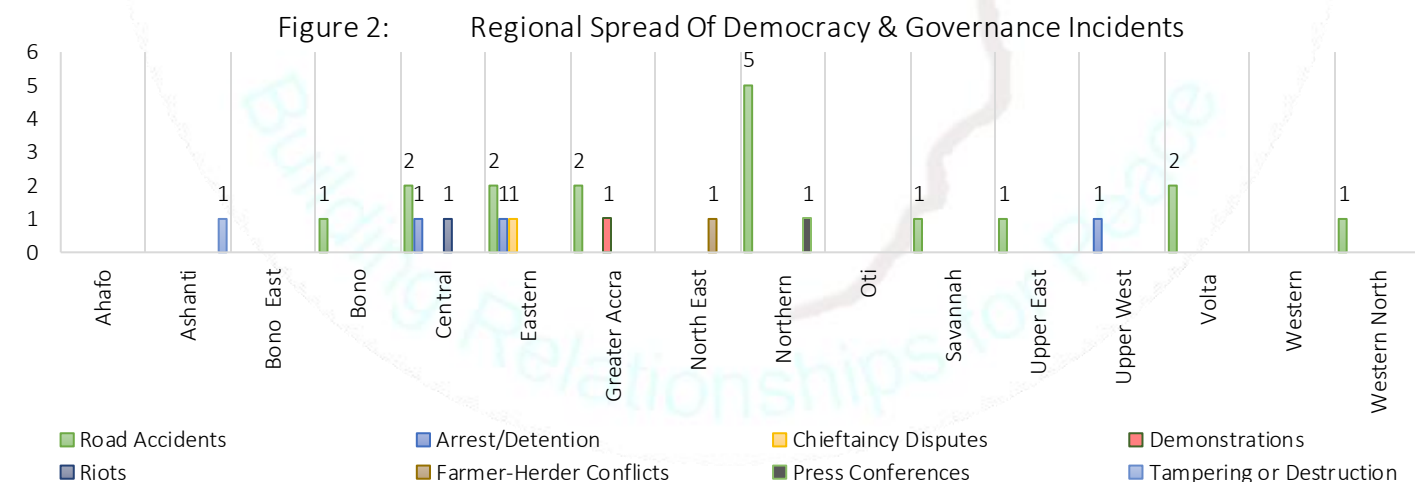
¹⁵ <https://citinewsroom.com/2023/09/north-east-region-60-year-old-woman-shot-dead-over-witchcraft-accusation/>

¹⁶ <https://www.adomonline.com/woman-85-accused-of-witchcraft-battling-for-life/>

murder of an 18-year-old female was gang-raped to death by some unknown individuals.¹⁷ At Nkawkaw in the Eastern Region, a man reportedly defiled a 10-year-old girl to death at Ohene Akura, a village in the Kwawu West Municipality of the Eastern Region. According to reports, the suspect raped the Primary 3 pupil near the Asuboni Rails suburb of Nkawkaw. The mother of the victim, Ama Rita, said her child left for school at about 8:00 a.m. and that was the last time she saw her daughter alive. She later heard the news of her daughter’s demise as the pupil was reportedly found dead in the suspect’s room.¹⁸ In nine rape/defilement incidents monitored within the period, mostly minors between the ages of 4 years to 10 years were victims to their assaulters. Such acts are not only crimes but also grave human rights violations against established laws for the protection of children and must therefore be met with stiff punishments perpetrators. Failure to deal with perpetrators not only causes further emotional harm to victims but also have far-reaching consequences for societies and communities. They lead to the erosion of trust, the breakdown of social cohesion, and the perpetuation of cycles of violence and injustice. Furthermore, a culture of fear and intimidation is created, wherein individuals live in constant apprehension of further rights abuses.

IV- DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (DG):

Per the monitoring of events in September 2023, incidents related to democracy and governance included at least 17 road accidents reported across the country with the highest frequency recorded, especially in the Northern region shown in figure 2 below. The frequency of accidents recorded this month is the least compared



Source: WANEP NEWS

¹⁷ <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/ashanti-region-18-year-old-woman-allegedly-raped-and-murdered-at-anwiankwanta.html>

¹⁸ <https://www.myjoyonline.com/man-40-defiles-10-year-old-girl-to-death-at-nkawkaw/>

frequencies declined to 17 incidents this month.¹⁹ Although the frequency of incidents was comparatively low, the fatality rates for this month emerged the highest within the quarter.

As seen from Table 2 besides, the highest fatalities (59) was recorded this month, while the lowest injuries (114), was recorded this month.²⁰

A key incident which occurred in the volta region at Peki saw at least twenty people perish instantly in an accident caused by a head on collision between a minibus and a larger one.²¹

A pothole was designated as the trigger of the accident as one driver sought to avoid the pothole thus leading on into a collision with the second bus. Bads road infrastructure in the country have contributed to a several accidents in the country and thus necessitated some demonstrations witnessed in the country pre-period and during the period. In Awoshie and Jomoro in the Greater Accra and Western regions respective, some protests were held over the bad roads in the area. This month, other protests have been held, having bad roads as part of the reasons.

Notable within the period is the organization of a 3-day demonstration hash tagged, #OccupyJulorbiHouse, which

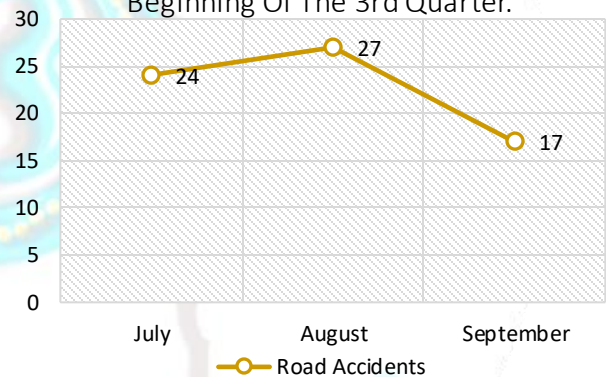
was organized by a group identified as the Democracy Hub. The protests began on September 21, where Ghanaians were anticipated to converged outside Jubilee House, Ghana’s presidential palace in Accra for a peaceful protest against the economic crisis in the country, including other issues such as the abuse of law, power and process, poor healthcare system, mismanagement of the economy, anti-LGBTQ Bill, and the varied human rights abuses that have occurred under the administration. The first day of the protest was marred with confrontations with the Ghana Police Service personnel who were seen in viral videos physically assaulting protestors and arresting them. Subsequent to day one of the protests, there was cooperation between the

TABLE 2: CASUALTIES RECORDED IN THE QUARTER DUE TO ROAD ACCIDENTS

MONTH	Fatalities	Injuries	Total
JULY	24	268	292
August	40	136	176
September	59	114	173
TOTAL	123	518	641

Source: WANEP NEWS

Road Accident Frequencies From The Beginning Of The 3rd Quarter.



Source: WANEP NEWS

¹⁹ WANEP Ghana NEWS Monitoring

²⁰ WANEP Ghana NEWS Data

²¹ <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/20-perish-in-gory-accident-at-peki.html>

protesters and the personnel sent to police the protest, ending the 3-day protests successfully. Although this is the case, the organizers have indicated their intentions to continue to protest in the final month of the year, December 2023. This time, the protestors are anticipating 31 days protest from December 1 to 31, to demand further accountability from governing class.²²

V- ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY (ES)

The major threats recorded under environmental issues included flooding which led to massive erosion and destruction in some areas, fire outbreaks, illegal mining, and an explosion at a quarry site that led to the destruction of the surrounding environment.

Four people were confirmed dead while some got injured after an explosion at quarry site in the Shama District at Anto Aboso, in the Western Region. In the early hours of Sunday, September 10, 2023, information gathered suggested that both Ghanaians and Chinese workers were burnt beyond recognition at the G-Omini Quarry site. These workers were supposed to be part of a night shift session at the site when the accident occurred.²³ Subsequent days after the accident, the Minerals Commission released an information that suggested that the quarry site had no permit to operate. The lives and property of residents were thus placed at risk because of the illegal acquisition, storage and use of the ammonia nitrate explosives.

Floods and rainstorms have been a challenge this month especially in areas such as Doli in the Bole District of the Savannah region, Agbozume in the Ketu South Municipality of the Volta Region, Yeji in the Bono East region and several other areas in the Ashanti region.

In the Bole District, a section of the Wa-Kumasi Highway was cut off following a 12-hour downpour on September 19, 2023. This caused the Doli Dam to overflow its banks leading to the collapse of the Doli Bridge which links the Bole-Bamboi District to the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District. The floods also washed away a section of the N12 Highway which links the southern sector to the north-western part of the country as well as Burkina Faso and Mali. Vehicles were stranded for hours until alternative routes were announced by the Highway Authority.²⁴ In the Ketu South Municipality, properties including houses remained submerged in water five months after flooding in Agbozume. According to the residents, the flood started in May 2023, destroying many properties, and rendering families

²² <https://www.myjoyonline.com/occupyjulorbihouse-democracy-hub-to-stage-another-protest-from-dec-1-to-31/>

²³ <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/explosion-at-quarry-site-in-shama-4-confirmed-dead-many-missing.html>

²⁴ <https://www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh/doli-bridge-linking-wa-kumasi-washed-awaypassengers-stranded/>

homeless, distressed and frustrated. Some of the communities affected included Nogokpo, Sonuto, Babanawokope, Kpedzakope, and Ativuta.²⁵ Residents have been cut off from the main town, limiting their access to core livelihood services like healthcare, shelter and education. The situation remains precarious as the needed attention and help seem not to be given. A similar situation also occurred in the Pru East District at Yeji, where over 100 residents were rendered homeless and facing similar precarity as seen in Agborzume.²⁶ Private residential buildings and public buildings including the Yeji Senior High Technical School were destroyed in the rainstorm, putting the live of students at stake.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) should continue and strengthen its efforts in collaborating with the National Commission for Civic Education and the Ghana Police Service to increase public education and sensitization on sexual and gender-based violence and enforcement of existing national laws to protect victims and prosecute perpetrators.
- The National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) needs to strengthen disaster early warning and information systems to enhance prevention and impact on populations.

CONCLUSIONS

The report has highlighted the varied human security incidents recorded in Ghana in September 2023. These include flooding, intensely occurring in parts of the Savannah, Bono East, Ashanti and Volta regions, continued armed attacks in the Bawku Municipality and its environs. Other key incidents highlighted include sexual violence including rape or defilement, armed robberies, suspected violent extremist activities in border areas etc. These and other human security challenges recorded in the period call for critical stakeholders to continue to strengthen collaboration to mitigate the threats and impacts in the country's peace and security.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FROM THE WANEP NEWS

THEMATIC AREA	NO OF INCIDENTS	CASUALTIES	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
ORGANIZED CRIME & VIOLENT EXTREMISM:	48	18	11
Arrest/Detention	19		
Armed Robbery	10	4	2

²⁵ <https://www.myjoyonline.com/houses-properties-still-submerged-in-water-5-months-after-flood-in-agbozume/>

²⁶ <https://myjoyonline.com/over-100-people-rendered-homeless-after-heavy-rainstorm-in-yeji>

Homicides	4	4	0
Theft	4	-	-
Armed Attack	2	10	9
Mob Justice	1	-	-
Money Counterfeiting	1	-	-
Cyber Criminality	1	-	-
Fraudulence	2	-	-
Smuggling	3	-	-
Drug Trafficking	1	-	-
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:	26	59	126
Road Accidents	17	59	114
Arrest/Detention	3	0	12
Chieftaincy Disputes	1	-	-
Demonstrations	1	-	-
Riots	1	-	-
Farmer-Herder Conflicts	1	-	-
Press Conferences	1	-	-
Tampering or Destruction of party paraphernalia	1	-	-
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY	26	19	23
Fire Outbreaks	3	-	-
Rainstorms	10	-	-
Explosion	1	4	10
Flooding	3	1	0
Drowning	2	2	0
Building Collapse	1	-	-
Illegal Mining Accidents	1	12	13
Drought	1	-	-
Electrocution	1	-	-
Erosion	1	-	-
WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY:	40	18	30
Arrest/Detention	5		
Rape/Defilement	9	1	5
Homicides	18	16	7
Witchcraft Accusations	2	-	-
Suicides	1	1	0
Assault	4	0	18
Forced Marriages	1	-	-
Total	140	114	190

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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