Comparative Analysis of Violence Spread across West African States using a Data Analytical Approach

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ABSTRACT

The spate of violent spread in the West Africa sub region is on the increase for more than a decade now. Violence has continued to assume different dimension with various degree of casualties' figures ranging from heavy records of fatalities to moderately few events in others. Several factors exist as reasons for violence, but the study focuses on the occurrence of fatalities, which is linked to political events and civilian target events. Descriptive statistics was employed in the study. The results obtained reveals that Nigeria, Mali and Niger republic posted highest casualty records of both political and civilian target events. Other four countries, Benin, Liberia, Ghana and Togo also reveal that on periodic bases, records of violence-triggered cases resulting from political events and civilian target events also constitute a proportion of violent related cases observed within these countries. The results obtained offer a good recipe for projection towards good governance, cultural growth and peaceful coexistence within the constituents, which make up each county considered in the study through insightful suggestions and recommendations.

Keywords: Governance, Events, Fatalities, Violence.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Violence is part of humanity. It can be simple, tough or even complex in some situations. Violence can appear within family, community or larger geographical space as skirmishes, clashes, disagreements or outright war. Violence includes verbal abuse, neglect sexual abuse, intimidation, and other forms of psychological abuse. Violence can flourish at home, institutions, schools, offices, common places, and more. It has been a social malaise for many years. However, there has been different historical events, stories and tales, which have pointed out or show an element of violence. Rakovec-Felser (2014), opines that violence is a consubstantial part of man, he even argued that human relationship is a violent one. There is no denying the fact that as pertaining to violence matters, it is dangerous, wrecks, cause sufferings and pain and can shorten lives. It is expedient here to define violence considering its relative importance to the study.

Violence has increased both on a personal and group levels strongly connected with crime, especially in metropolitan settlements and in few cases as well in rural communities (Catalano *et al,* 2003). As reported by the United Nations global study on homicide, intentional homicide was the cause of death of over 500,000 individuals worldwide in 2012. The intricate nature of violence did not make it possible for a clear definition of the concept. Therefore, it is often seen and understood differently by different individuals, and group of people in the tenets of beliefs and culture transmission. Therefore, it is expedient to possess comprehensive knowledge of violence and the circumstances in which it existed, before affording the concept further consideration. According to National Institute of Health (2024), World Health Organization (WHO) proposes the meaning of violence that it is a deliberate use of bodily force against oneself or others, either actual or imminent, or for groups or communities that cause or are likely to cause injury,

death, psychological harm, dysgenesis, or deprivation. Violence indeed is a strong contending factor which threatens human existence.

Moreover, there are various ethnic, religious, political, cultural and other forms of crises, which are affecting major West African states. The size, structure and the dimension differ from country to country. The effects of these crises have caused the demise of millions of individuals and destruction of infrastructure belonging to individuals and governments. The military and political dominance in governance in West Africa states have also introduced a kind of violence too massive to describe coupled with the orgy of violence resulting from power change during campaigns and other political activities like voting and political meetings. (Aihie, 2009).

There are some factors, which are largely responsible for violence spread. They may include boundary disputes, community disputes or ethnic disputes, positing or status disputes among individuals or communities, chieftaincy titles, political differences to mention but few. These violence events leave behind quite some ugly records, which are usually not palatable in the sight of historical events and records. Example is the Boko Haram insurgence and issues of banditry and farmer/herders' crises in Nigeria, Chad, Niger and some parts of Cameroon.

Furthermore, the devastating effect of the violence from Boko Haram, a trans-border violence group is a negative phenomenon to the four main countries, whose activities directly impacted upon the social and political profiles. Military incursion to politics is also rampant in West African states and failure of some political leaders to quit office for ages has presented itself an age long challenges facing this sub-continent. The study intends to appraise the effects of violence on human lives and resources within the region considered in the study. To generate results, which would be useful for researchers, policy makers and decision makers to further carry out several tasks aimed at improving the quality of human lives and enthrone stability in the region. The rest of the paper considers in section two, the statement of the problem. In addition, brief review of existing literature is appraised in section three while section four discusses the method adopted in the study. The results obtained are discussed with comparisons drawn in section five. Section six finally concludes the work.

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Insecurity cases are common social challenges which are obtained at communities, both rural and urban and sometimes in cities and nations of the world. One of the major responsibilities of government is to protect their citizens. Unfortunately, there are violence in many parts of the world today. It may be as a result of the following factors: political, religion, ethnic, technological, social, economic wellbeing and inequalities. Significantly, in West African States, some of the factors identified above serve as the major cause for the spread of violence within and sometimes beyond boundaries. Most violent cases have resulted to wars in the past and even at present. A country like Nigeria for instance has witnessed violence for about a decade now with human, material and economic losses. The insecurity cases have negatively impacted on the image of the nations in West Africa with criminal records. The governments of the countries have battled with quite some challenges as these often resulted to numerous deaths and economic losses. The study therefore intends to carry out a comparative analysis of violence spread across some West African States.

3. BRIEF REVIEW OF EXISTING LITERATURE

Ujunwa et al. (2019) Analyze how the member nations of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are affected by the rise in armed conflict. Using annualized panel data from 2005 to 2015, the study used the dynamic generalized method of moments (GMM) to examine the impact of conflict intensity on food security in the 14 ECOWAS member states. In their work, it was found out that dispute is a significant predictor of food security in the Western part of Africa. They added that any form of conflict, be it political or civilian targeted increases food insecurity thereby posing a challenge to the nation. It was recommended that efforts should be made to determine the root cause of armed conflicts and create effective de-escalation plans for those situations. They further added that putting an end to the growing armed conflict must entail constructing a framework for conflict resolution that is particularly attentive to the causes of conflict in Africa and enacting localized ex ante institutional diagnostics that would aid in comprehending the nature of the conflicts.

Skillicorn et al. (2021) explore the geographic and temporal spread of political unrest in North and West Africa with the aim of providing a dynamic breakdown of conflict dynamics in these regions. Their work likened African political unrest as an application of social network theory to networks of a different kind, reflecting the reality that place is both a psychological and physical construct. A fascinating study finding shows the fact that some of the most dangerous areas in the area are practically in the middle of nowhere. It was pointed out that in the violence, events generate ephemeral sites of action hundreds of miles from any populated areas, such as the extreme north of Mali or the northeastern reaches of Niger. This infers that the violence events in some of these regions occur far away from the residential areas, which makes it difficult to nab the perpetrators and curb their excesses. They further added that porous borders that ease the untracked movement of attackers in this context further makes it difficult to prevent or quickly intervene to conflict situations.

Adeyemi and Musa (2015) investigate conflict events in West Africa. In their study, it was stated that the increase in violence and hostility in West Africa coincides with the sub region having experienced some of the most spectacular growth rates on the continent in recent years of which some of these development gains have provoked tension and instability. They further discussed that a more educated population has raised expectations for quick changes in living standards and increased engagement in power structures, while rapid expansion has increased inequality as accelerated development in the extractives industry and higher agricultural prices have produced social tensions. The hypothesis put forward in the study is that the speed at which African civilizations are developing places great demand on their institutions, forcing them to change quickly while also running the risk of making them useless and illegitimate. It was concluded that there are three components for every conflict: core reason for the dispute, variables that contribute to and sustain the dispute and drivers of the dispute or conflicts.

From the foregoing, quite revealing that researchers are daily considering the deplorable conditions, which violence has unleashed on the nations affected and her people. The broad overview of the concept further illuminated and exposed the relative importance of supporting every move aimed at curbing violence at various level of its existence in an individual life, groups, community, states or nations as the case may be. It is therefore necessary to briefly consider in this work the concept of violence and its denominators of the concept are necessary to accord prominence to exhibit more hardly the occurrence can eat deeply into the fabric of progress of nations being confronted with such social malaise.

4. THE CONCEPT OF VIOLENCE

Violence can be conceived from two perspective views, namely direct and indirect violence. Direct violence is a situation where an actor or perpetrators can be identified with the act while indirect violence presents a scenario where there is no direct actor. Here, violence is gradually built up into a frame or structure. Physical violence is the internal use of physical violence that tends to cause harm, injury, or death to the victim. Sometimes physical violence may require the use of some dangerous devices/arms to perpetrate the act (Gavin, 2019).

4.1 Categories and types of violence

In accordance with the definition provided by WHO (Krug et al. 2002), the act of violence is a social concept which is categorized into three broad groups. Based on who perpetrated of and the victims. They include: Self-directed violence, interpersonal violence, collective violence and lead to domestic or even natural disasters. In addition, violence can be physical, sexual, psychological or neglect.

a. **Self-directed violence:** This explains a certain violent act an individual visit upon himself/herself. This may include self alone, such as self-mutilation and suicidal behaviour in the form of thought, attempt or completed suicide (Lichtenberg, 2012).

b. **Interpersonal violence** is often referred to as domestic violence, often known as battering, is a type of violence used to exert power and control over another person by fear and threat including violence and violence. The following are factors, which lead to high level of interpersonal violence: Economic stagnation, weakened social, political, and financial institutions, societal unrest, and warfare (Dugas *et al*, 2016)

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     i. **Psychological violence** results from intentional behavior that seriously affects the psychological integrity of others through coercion, intimidation, defamation, and verbal attacks. The root of psychological abuse is many; Subjectivity, undue pressure, humiliating behavior, health concerns, and exploitation are among at least five causes.

     ii. **Sexual violence**: This is a situation in which someone, without the agreement of the other person, coerces or manipulates them into engaging in unpleasant sexual intercourse. The reason for the non-consent may be fear, age, sickness, disability and or influence of alcohol or drugs. Sexual assault can affect anyone, including toddlers, teenagers, adults, and the elderly. Those who can sexually assault can be acquaintance, family members, trusted individual or strangers.

  c. **Neglect Violence**: A child's basic requirements are not being consistently met in this situation. Child abuse is the most common kind of basic requirements. A child may be left hungry or unclean, as well as without enough clothing, housing, supervision, or medical treatment. This endangers youngsters and teenagers lives more often than not.

  d. **Collective violence:** It can be described as the intentional use of violence against another group or collection of people by persons who identify as members of a group, to achieve political or economic or common social objectives. Group violence, gang violence, mob violence, riots, terrorism, and various forms of state-sanctioned violence, such as police and army violence, are all examples of collective violence. The effect of this category of violence may result in deaths, physical illness, disabilities and mental anguish.

4.2 Causes of Violence

Severe forms of animosity include murder or assault anger. irritation, being exposed to violent material, domestic or neighborhood ferocity, and a proclaim to interpret other people's actions in a negative way are all causes, even when they are not. Moreover, Idris et al (2018), identify different causes of violence across the various human stratification and they include

     i. Improper attempts to deal with emotions
     ii. Peer pressure
    iii. An absence of interest or regard
    iv. A poor feeling of one's own worth
     v. Misuse or Abandon
    vi. Observing acts of violence in the household, Society, or media.
   vii. Weapons access

Moreover, by giving violence another view, violence can be said to be multi-causal, that is, no single element alone causes violent conduct. However, different factors can cause violence. From historical development of violence, various reasons, circumstances or situations have been found that lead to eruption of violence. The causes of violence were best summed up by the American Psychological Association (Calvert et al., 2017). They argue that the causes of violence can be categorised as follows:

  a. Biological
  b. socialization
  c. psychological
  d. Environmental variables.

Biological Factors: These basically deals with a man's physiology, neurology and chemical reaction to aggression and violence. Research carried out by prominent child development scientists show the link between aggression and the brain. That is, a child at the developmental stage, if expose to aggression and violence, tends to develop an aggressive attitude later in life. The factors below can also cause violence

     i. substances present in the environment that are poisonous (e.g., lead paint)
     ii. a severe brain injury (e.g., as the result of child abuse or accident),
    iii. nutrient inadequacy (especially prenatal),
    iv. the mother's consumption of alcohol and drugs throughout critical phases of foetal development

v.   birth trauma.

Socialization factors: This relate to the methods by which a person absorbs his or her early experiences and develops thought, behavior, and emotional patterns (Adams, 2005). Scientists use the term "socialization" more specifically to describe the process through which a youngster learns the "scripts" for particular social conduct, at the side of the principles, attitudes, beliefs, and social customs that govern communication with others (DeGregory, 2009). Kids will learn the maximum amount from perceptive vital or loved others in their setting using their personal experiences, appreciable analysis indicates that aggressive, and area violent tendencies unit typically learnt from important others (including television, movie, or fictional characters) and area unit command in reserve for response to specific social things.

Psychological Factors: These deal with ideas, belief and pattern of thinking. Violent people often think and reason differently especially when compared to a normal logical way of thinking. They accept and process information differently and most of the time, they tend to react angrily to such information. A disagreement or a decision not going in their favor will be met with high aggression (Stanciu et al., 2021).

Environmental Variables: These deal with man and his immediate environment. Researchers have observed that a peaceful environment will generally lead to a peaceful and settled mind. Moreover, it is also believed that a toxic environment will generally lead to a toxic behavior. Children who grow up in violent environment tends to have aggressive attitude and this can lead to adult violence in some individuals, also poverty, frustration and hopelessness can be major cause of violence (Barnes & Jacobs, 2013).

4.3 Effects of Violence

There are grave consequences to the occurrence of violence. Immediately after violence takes place, there are adverse reports which usually follow such trend as a result. The consequence can be health, mental, economic and social impacts (Bufacchi, 2005). Health impacts associated with experience of violence include increased incidences, sadness in addition to an increase in cardiovascular disease and early death, concerns include despair, anxiety, suicide and so on. Depending on the age and gender of the victims as well as the type of abuse, different health effects might result from violence. The effect, possibly, can lead to a short term but in most cases, the effects last much longer and sometimes subsist till death. Therefore, experiencing violence and abuse can have negative effects on one's physical and mental health, including: accident, eating disorders, sleeping disorders, pregnancy issues, sexually transmitted illnesses, drinking/drug use, sadness, panic, and trauma. The negative economic effects may include pay loss and the inability to work. For example health concerns, partner control, protracted and expensive judicial cases, loss of home and possessions, as well as costs of counseling and medical care (Pillay, 2008). Moreover, among the social effects are: lack of engagement in routine activities, difficulty learning English, ignorance of one's rights and the resources available, being held captive in violent relationships, separation from family and friends, separation or estrangement from cultural and/or religious beliefs.

5. DATA AND METHOD

The dataset used in the study were generated from the humanitarian data exchange online database. The humanitarian data exchange is a subsection of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The dataset were categorized under the conflict event datasets for each nation. The dataset for political violent events and fatalities consist of four columns: country name, year, events, and fatalities. On the other hand, the dataset for civilian targeting events and fatalities also consist of four columns: country name, year, events, and fatalities. The year in both cases starts from 1997 and ends at 2024. Using Python programming language, the Pandas library was used to read the dataset and convert to a usable format for data analysis. The datasets were then integrated into two separate datasets according to the two lines of factors utilised in the study. Using matplotlib as the data visualization library, bar charts were generated to visualize the analysed data. Comparisons were drawn on the charts to visualize the violence spread amongst the seven nations considered in the study.

6. RESULTS

The following figures (1 to 7) show a graphical presentation of the occurrences of civilian targeting events as well as political violent events and the number of fatalities recorded by year in seven West African countries.
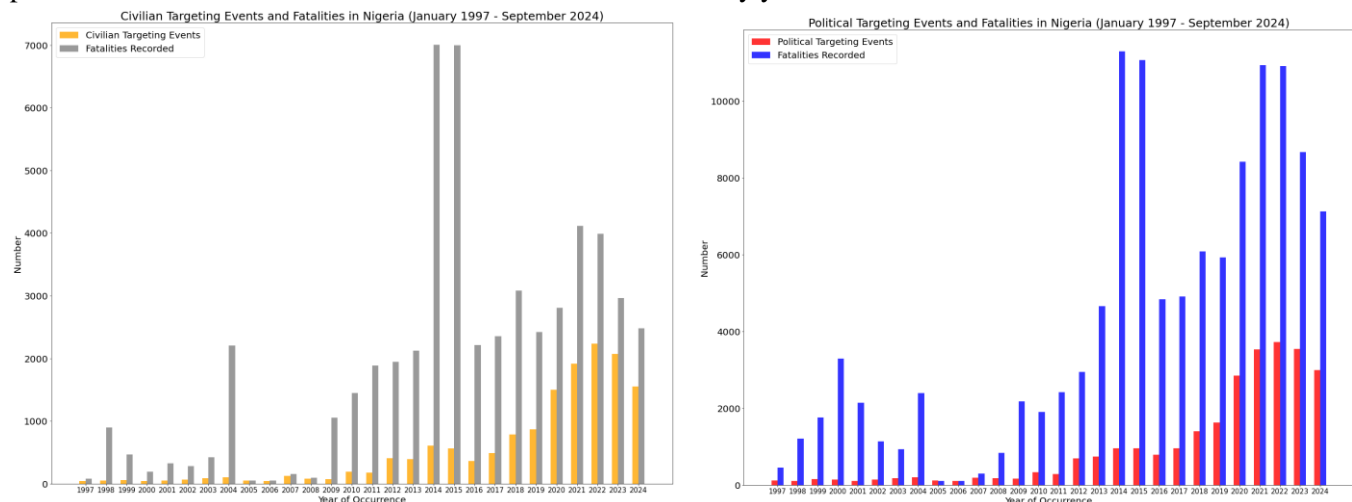

Figure 1: Civilian Targeting Events and Political Violent Events with Fatalities in Nigeria

There were quite a projected civilian target events in Nigeria especially in 1998 shortly before the military government was transitioning to civilian rule when General Abacha military dictatorship died. Nigerians contented with fatality records before the demise of Abacha but enjoyed relative peace during the short stay of Abdulsalam from the month of June that year. These records dropped thereafter until 2010 when political activities were picking up for presidential election the following year and the untimely death of Rtd Gen Yar'dua. The civilian target events got to the peak as shown in figure 1 above when Boko Haram activities hot Nigeria unexpectedly. It began when a female secondary school was almost sached with over four hundred of them forced out of their campus for a long journey of life. It is on record that not all the captives have returned home until date.

The military dictatorship has directly impacted negatively on Nigeria from 1998 when transition to democracy was announced as Nigerians began to group and re-group themselves into political parties. Remarkably, the various political movements upgraded to political parties and politicians began to cross carpeting. There were political intrigues as politicians died, or killed in some scenarios. Moreso, arsons, thuggery, maiming and political fend characterised the political landscape in Nigeria. In 2014 and 2015, the Boko Haram exploits took a greater dimension, as fatalities are recorded. It can be seen from figure 1 that aside from Boko Haram, other skirmishes that affected the nation are farmer/herder clashes, kidnapping, banditry and other social vices, which are politically motivated. It is vital to state here that despite huge resources committed to eradicating these violent acts, the causalities are daily been recorded as new banditry groups are emerging.
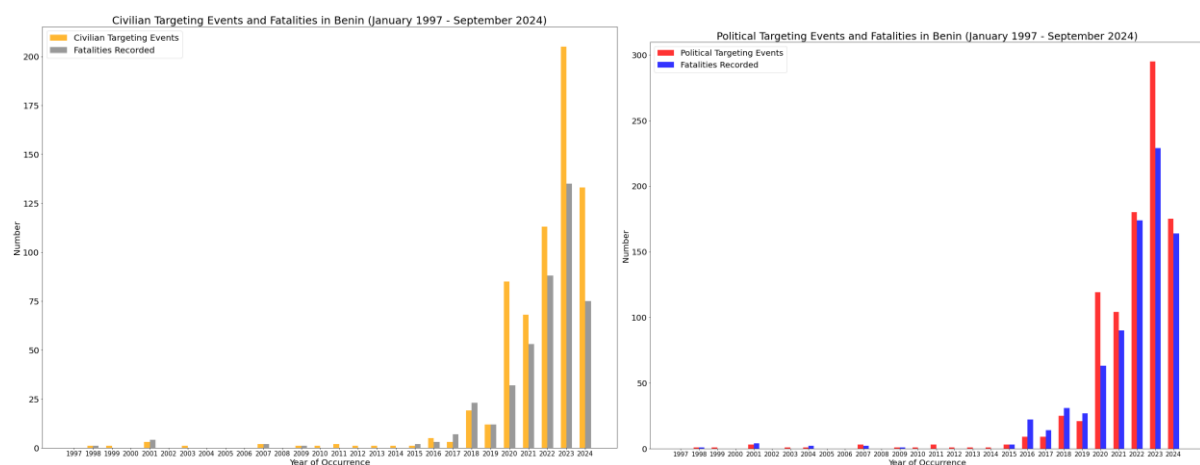

Figure 2: Civilian Targeting Events and Political Violent Events with Fatalities in Benin

The civilian target events in Benin republic is quite low in previous years compared to Nigeria and Mali. However, in recent years, it is evident that the proximity of Benin nation to Nigeria has triggered pockets of crises occasioned by the influx of bandits and other violent groups like Boko Haram to inflict fatalities on the citizens of Benin. The political target events are issues of concern as elections are also carried out in Benin republic. The various political parties are also contesting elections. The fact remains that being an Anglophone countries, their political structures are well organized with few disagreements but as humans, fatalities are recorded but not at unimaginable height like what is experienced in Mali.
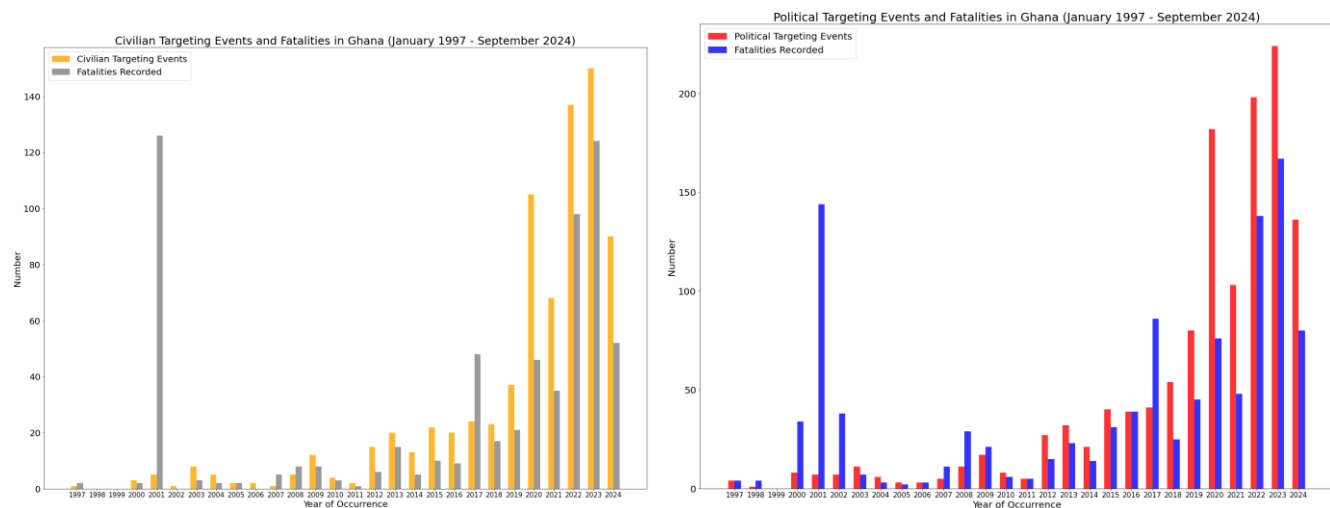

Figure 3: Civilian Targeting Events and Political Violent Events with Fatalities in Ghana

In year 2001, the fatalities recorded against civilian target events was largely due to economic maneuvering and social crises which enveloped Ghana. Poverty is a serious challenge facing the Ghanains. Asides, the income per capital of the nation is not high enough to address the socio-economic needs of the people. Again, trans-border activities including social uprising, kidnapping, smuggling, and hard drug peddling often results to the deaths of people and sometimes victims are jailed or condemned. It can be seen even from figure 3 that there are still causalities resulting from civilian target events. The wave of crisis in neighboring countries did not spare Ghana through trans-national movement of the people within the sub-region. In the area of political targeting events and fatalities, year 2000 upwards reveals records which continues to be on the increase. The political heavy weight had a space to shug it out with one another using their political strengths and popularity to wrestle for political offices/seats. Thus, the resulting violence gave rise to records of deaths among the Ghanians. This later led to alignment and re-alignment of the political structures with the promotion of leaders with great and enviable antecedents. Ghana as a nation boasts of food successive democratic governance and good political structure. But as Africans, political crisis is a common denominator in its democratic governance.
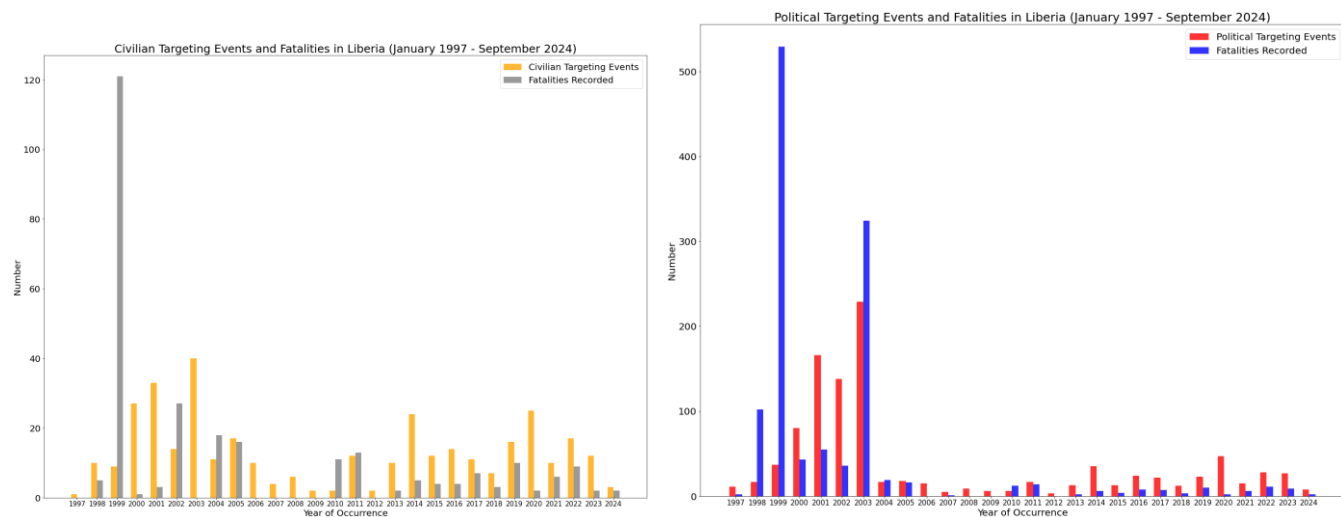
Figure 4: Civilian Targeting Events and Political Violent Events with Fatalities in Liberia

Liberia recorded fatalities on civilian targeting events especially towards the end of last millennium. About 120 casualties were recorded. The era of Prof/Dr. Sirleaf restored order and pride to the governance in Liberia. George Weah further strengthened the wheel of democratic governance. These records have profound effect on the civilians as crisis within the people dropped abysmally low. This may largely be due to long years of violence posted on the nation through 1980s and 1990s. The fatalities level for civilian target events are daily fading out till date. The political upheavals took a very large dimension from 1998 to 2003 because of the political maneuvering. These periods were characterized by show of strength and popularity by political juggernauts. It could be seen that lead to deaths of Liberians but with time the political actors braced up and resolved to end the hostilities and violence in the country. The rate of deaths has greatly reduced and non-violence programmes are promoted by the successive leaders of Liberia nation.
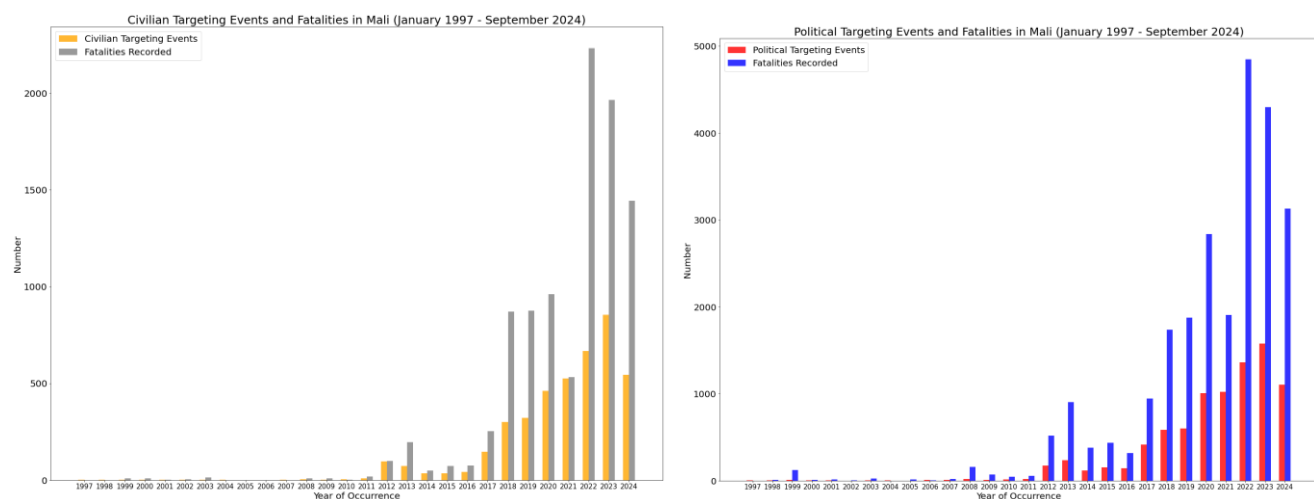

Figure 5: Civilian Targeting Events and Political Violent Events with Fatalities in Mali

Mali for sometimes within the years considered in this study were relatively peaceful. But since the collapse of the regime of Ghaddafi of Libya, some of the armed foot soldiers engaged by Ghaddafi from other nations especially those from West African nations were scattered along the sub-continent. Some of these foot soldiers migrated to West Africa with arms not recovered from them to constitute threats to the peace of the sub-region. This class of civilian populace carrying arms from Libya aligned with interest groups promoted civilian target events which culminated in heavy casualties as from 2017 and 2018. The crisis between Mali and French governments have impacted greatly on the civilian population. Also, Burkina Faso is not left out of this frosty relationships with France, their colonial

masters. Significantly, the principle of assimilation to some extent is clearly manifesting the remote effects of the practice. The military in these nations have taken over governance. The fatalities resulted from this incursions as many political leaders were arrested and even with their family members in some cases. Reports of deaths got to the peak in year 2022 and slightly dropped in the current year.

To further buttress the political target events, the military in Mali have seized power from the civilian government and suspended the nation's constitution. They have replaced their constitution with Decrees to govern their people. The resultant effect of this incursion is the arrest and killing of political leaders. In some cases, subordinates of the leaders and other members of vocal parties are suppressed. Records of fatalities have been on the pages of newspapers, magazines, radio and television. The involvement of Russia is another political dimension which introduces international awareness. The diplomacy to manage this scenario rest on the shoulders of the leaders. The spread of kidnapping and Boko Haram activities have led to the killing of inhabitants of Mali.
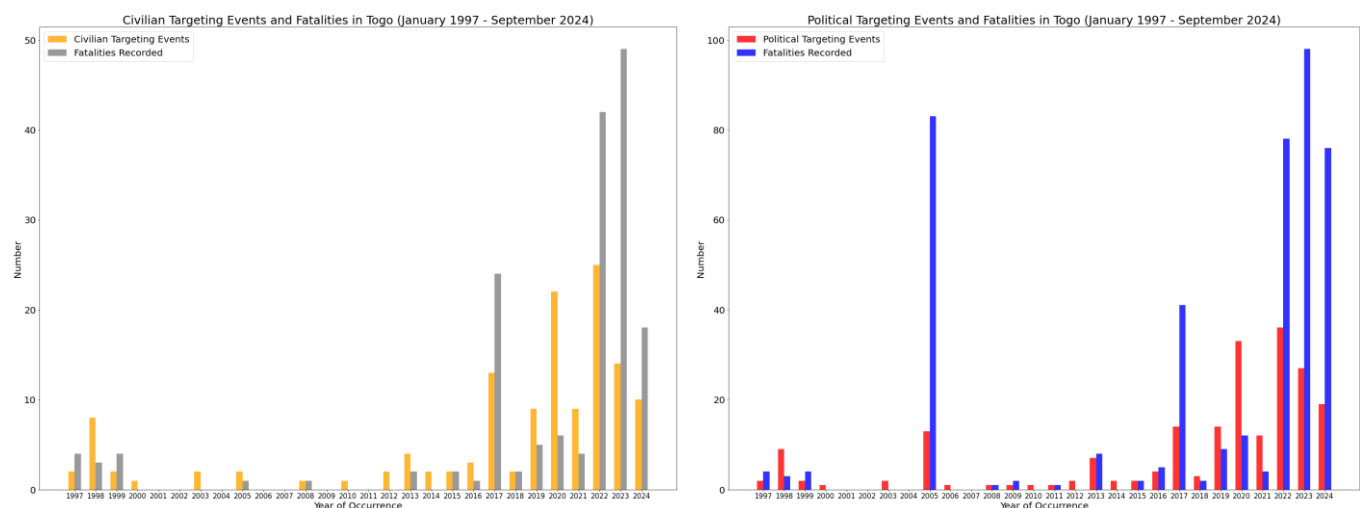

Figure 6: Civilian Targeting Events and Political Violent Events with Fatalities in Togo

Togo as a francophone country is relatively peaceful when compared to nations like Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria. Aside the economy that has not been performing very well, the civilian populace is peaceful considering the data shown in figure 6, only pockets of fatalities are recorded from civilian skirmishes. The scarcity of fuel or high prices of petroleum products especially the mounting opposition to bunkering and other illicit trading activities across the borders of Togo have ignited civilian skirmishes or clashes. The criminal elements in Togo are causing clashes which often result to fatalities. The political space of Togo is not totally free of troubles as major political leaders in Africa are generally self-centered and reason along parochial plane. The new government of Tinubu in Nigeria has imposed tough economic measures towards economic restoration of Nigeria. This singular reason had impacted negatively on the economy of Togo in the areas of petroleum products supplies and pricing. This has affected the political terrains as well as individuals, businesses and even governments in the socio-political and economic leanings of Togo. In year 2005, a fairly high number of fatalities were recorded. From year 2022, there has been increase in fatalities in political targeting events. The political stability of Togo indirectly relies on the well being of Nigeria. Thus, the noticeable fatalities recorded because of the myriads of political challenges facing Togo just like Nigeria.
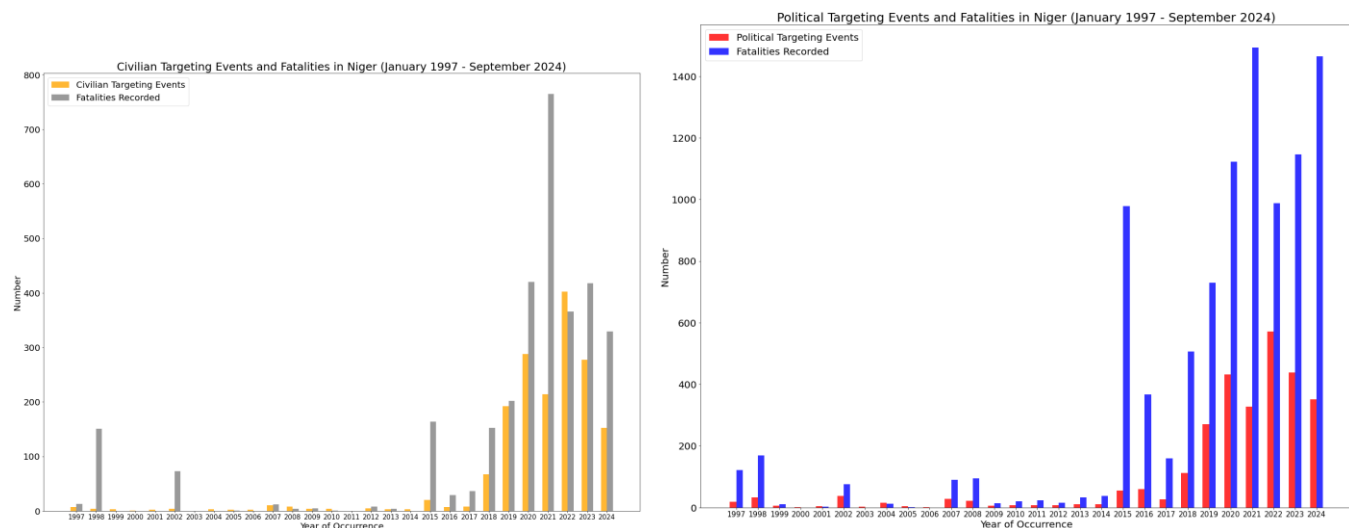
Figure 7: Civilian Targeting Events and Political Violent Events with Fatalities in Niger

Niger Republic is another francophone country with long history of French assimilation. The presence of Uranium is another strong potential reason why there are crisis orchestrated by interested countries on the globe. The perennial dominance of French and the decision of young military officers to topple the government has ignited civilian crises within the past four to five years. Civilian fatalities have been a regular event because the nation of Niger Republic are rules by the military who govern by decrees. There are fatalities recorded with over 700 persons involved in civilian target crisis sometimes in 2021. The military government in Niger and neighboring states are trying to stabilize the polity by coming up with policies with human face aimed at deposing or relegating the general conception of French nation, the colonial masters as good allies to francophone nations. The fatalities of political triggered activities is dropping. This could be because the young military regime are waging serious wars on poverty.

The political structure in Niger Republic crumbled when a group of military young men seized power few years back. Some fatalities were recorded in the political class. Some interests, especially business and personal, were seriously hampered. The apologists of the politician which were ousted and other beneficiary of current politician had difficult moments which many could not withstand. Some died in the process while some faced confrontations from the military brass men and caved in to death. Some civilians lost their lives from their inability to thrive under the new policies of decree orchestrated programmes. The fatalities recorded in political targeting events have not stopped unabated, rather, the country, Niger is witnessing deaths of people especially the Boko Haram sets, kidnappers, bandits and herders whose major daily activities are to cause violence and unrest. The engage in all manners of criminality by forcefully snatching or robbing individuals, groups and communities their belongings by applying brute of force. As mush as the government of Niger is trying to cut their activities, fatality records are still very rampant as they spread their tentacles to Nigeria and other neighboring states.
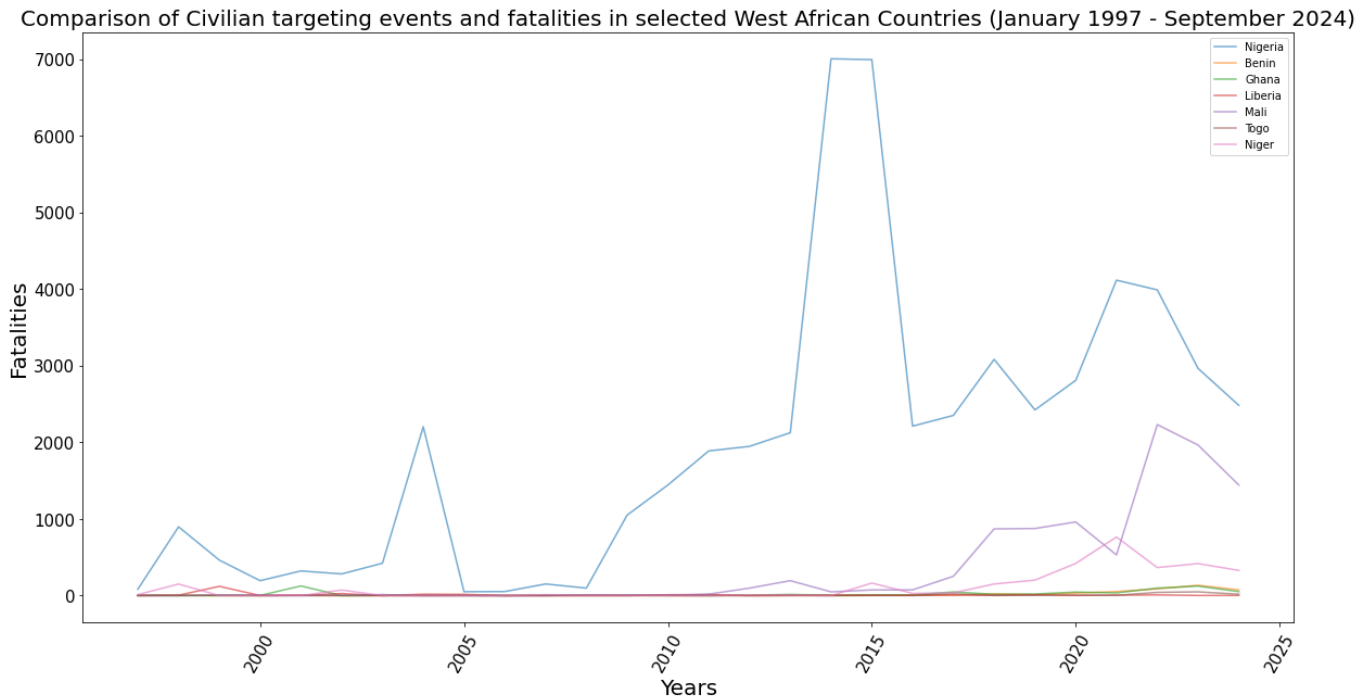
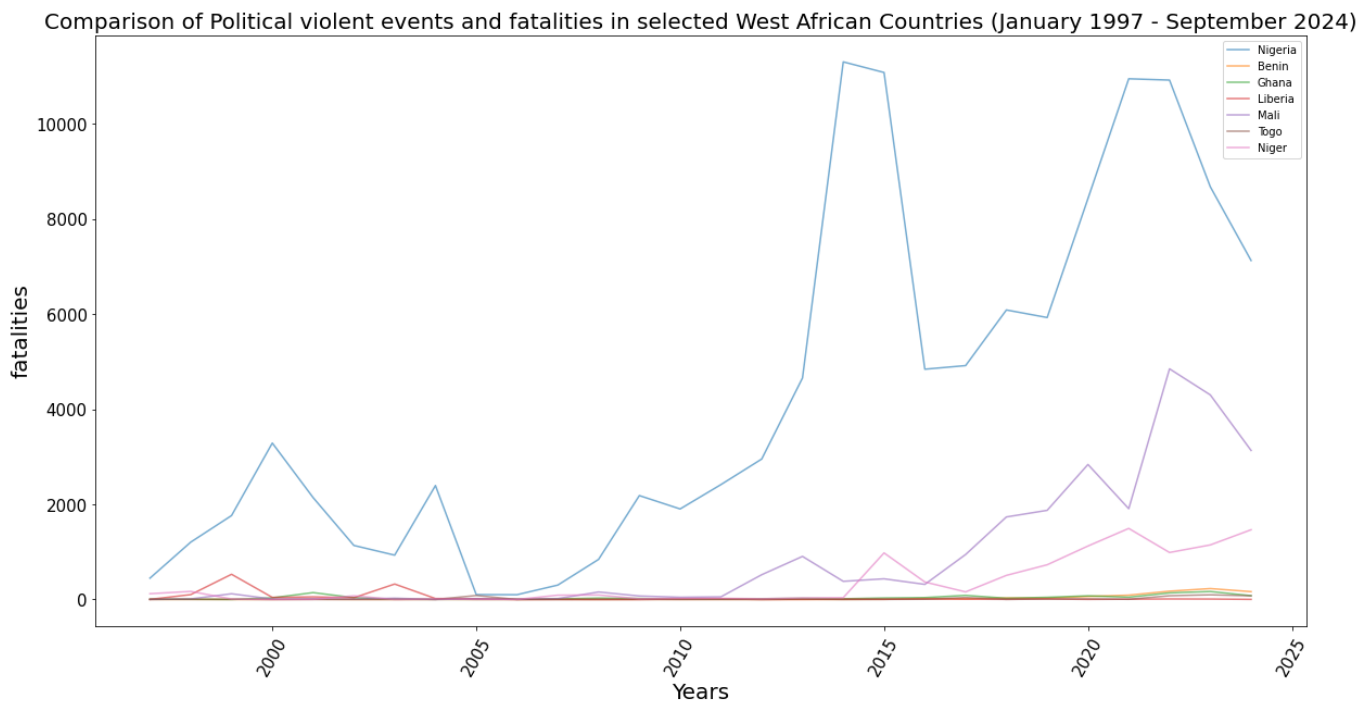**Figure 8: Comparison of Civilian targeting events and fatalities across the 7 chosen West African nations**

Figure 9: comparison of Political violent events and fatalities across the 7 chosen West African nations

6. DISCUSSIONS

Nigeria, being one of the most populous black nation in the world posted tremendous fatalities for civilian targeting events but not as much as political violent events. In other words, countries like Mali and Burkina Faso exhibit higher records of political violent events compared to countries like Ghana nut to a lesser extent in Benin, Togo and Liberia lately. It can be observed from figures 8 and 9 that the graphical representation of both political violent events and civilian target in Nigeria is very much alarming. The spread of insurrection and influx of armed bandits across the various borders, which Nigeria share with neighbouring countries can be blamed for these high records. Chad even

have had to content with some challenges because of its proximity with Nigeria. Benin, Togo and Ghana posted moderately low causality figures. However, Liberia has posted significantly large records in few decades ago but the present available records show that the situation of things have improved because of the new democratic path of progress, the country is subjected by the political class.

6.1 Implication of the findings for policy makers and practitioners in the field

The policy makers indeed have roles to play in the area of combating civilian and politically motivated crises. In the area of design and formulation of policies, efforts must be made towards promotion of quality, robust and effective representation and legislation. The legislation should be issued based rather than political religion and ethnic considerations. The policy makers in Nigeria and Mali should prioritize policies aimed at restoring peace and promotion of good economy in order to provide fertile ground for the well being of their citizens.

6.2 Future Implications of the insights gained on curbing/mitigating violence

It is expected that if greater attention is given to studying the major causes of the violence observed in these countries, then efforts can be geared towards seeking truce at all levels. The insights gained in the study will be useful by leaders of thoughts to fashion out policies which will best address most age long challenges. Policies which address security, poverty, industrialization, and education must be accorded high priority in annual budgets of these countries and others. The insights will also direct the energy of the government towards removing the bar of neglect placed on some members making up the countries by providing free and quality education for them and hitherto explore the importance of ICT to better the lives of the citizenry through proper ICT policy formulation and implementation across the strata of the society.

7. CONCLUSION

Significant figures of casualties resulting from political and civilian target events are recorded in places like Nigeria, Mali and Niger due to some reason like governance, ethnicity, economic challenges, land mass demography and a lot more. Even though other nations also observed a measure of casualties, the casualty figures vary from one nation to another. The military incursion to governance is also of great concern in the sub region coupled with youth restiveness, farmers/herders clashes, kidnappings and banditry including all forms of violence orchestrated by Boko Haram insurgence in Nigeria while other neighbouring countries witness political brigandage, upheavals and military incursions.

8. RECOMMENDATION

From the study, it has been observed that violence is more or less part of the society. It therefore behoves on the leaders of thoughts, policy makers, policy implementers, and opinion moulders to consider the various avenues to manage violence. It could be to avoid violence of any form within the communities, societies and perhaps states (nations). However, conscious efforts towards grinding strategic plans aimed at reducing considerably or outright removal or prevention in the day-to-day activities of the communities, ethnic groups, stratified societies governed together as a people or a nation should be in place. Policy makers should allow for the creation of crucial agencies, committees and other formal cognate groups saddled with the responsibilities of violence management to promote peace related initiatives around the globe. Media advertisements through the various channels should be meticulously produced and exhibit at different times to internalize violent free campaign in all the spheres of life.

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