Codebook and Bibliography:
Use of Forced Marriage by Armed Groups

PROJECT SUMMARY

Coding goals:

- Identify all non-state armed groups that used forced marriage during an internal armed conflict between 1945 and 2021.
- Collect data on which type of forced marriage non-state armed groups employed.

Project goal: Generate data to document patterns of forced marriage by non-state armed groups.

Project Leads:
Phoebe Donnelly, International Peace Institute
Emily Myers, Duke University

Research Assistance:
Christine Munson, International Peace Institute

SCOPE CONDITIONS

This project covers non-state armed groups active in armed conflict between 1945 and 2021. We adopt the Uppsala Conflict Data Program's (UCDP) definition of armed conflict: "a contested incompatibility that concerns government and/or territory where the use of armed force between two parties, of which at least one is the government of a state, results in at least 25 battle-related deaths in a year."[1] We define a non-state armed group as "any non-governmental group of people having announced a name for their group and using armed force to influence the outcome of the stated incompatibility."[2]

We follow Meredith Loken and Hilary Matfess in excluding military factions, organizations formed to execute a coup d'état, and groups that are not defined as a distinct group by the UCDP from our sample.[3] We exclude military factions (e.g., "Military Faction (forces of Jerry John Rawlings)") and coup d'état organizations (e.g., "National Guard and Mkhedrioni," which executed a coup in Georgia in 1991) because they fall outside of our theoretical scope conditions. To use forced marriage, armed groups must aim to recruit from, govern, or draw support from communities. Military factions and coup d'état organizations are usually small groups drawn exclusively from

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[1] UCDP, "UCDP Actor Dataset Codebook Version 2.2-2015," 2014.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Meredith Loken and Hilary Matfess, "Introducing the Women's Activities in Armed Rebellion (WAAR) project, 1946–2015," *Journal of Peace Research* (2022).

the state military or another narrowly defined organization and do not often interact with the general population. They require secrecy. We exclude undefined groups (e.g., "Opposition Forces," "Non-PLO groups") because it is impossible to determine with any certainty how these groups were organized and which strategies and practices, including forced marriage, they may have used.

DATASET STRUCTURE AND VARIABLES

The unit of analysis is the armed group. We use the *actorid* from the UCDP actor dataset (Version 21.1) to identify each armed group. We also record the armed group's name using the *NameData* variable from the UCDP actor dataset (Version 21.1). The other reference variables are the *dyadid*, which indicates the dyad(s) that each armed group fought in, the *conflictid*, which indicates the conflict(s) the armed group fought in, and the country (*location*) where the armed group was active. These are also drawn from the UCDP actor dataset (Version 21.1). We subset the full UCDP actor dataset to include only formal non-state armed groups (organization level 1 in the actor dataset) that fought an internal conflict against a state actor (civil war or internationalized civil war in the UCDP dyadic dataset v 22.1).

The dataset includes the following variables:

Variable name	Content	Type/Values	Source
Actor ID	Unique identifier for each non-state armed group	Integer	UCDP actor dataset v 21.1
Name	Name of non-state armed group	Character	UCDP actor dataset v 21.1
NSA Dyad ID	Unique identifier from the Non-State Actor (NSA) dataset of dyad active in state-based armed conflict in which the actor has been recorded	Integer	NSA dataset v 3.4
Dyad ID	Unique identifier(s) from UCDP of all dyads active in state-based armed conflict in which the actor has been recorded	Integer	UCDP actor dataset v 21.1
Primary Dyad ID	The main dyad the armed group was involved in (where an armed group has been involved in multiple dyads)	Integer	UCDP actor dataset v 21.1
Conflict ID	Unique identifier(s) from UCDP of all state-based armed conflicts in which the actor has been recorded	Integer	UCDP actor dataset v 21.1
Location	The country where the armed group has been active	Character	UCDP actor dataset v 21.1

Yearstart	The first year in which the armed group was active in dyadic conflict	Integer	UCDP dyadic conflict dataset v 22.1
Yearend	The last year in which the armed group was active in dyadic conflict	Integer	UCDP dyadic conflict dataset v 22.1
Yearstart 2	The first year in which the armed group was active in the second dyadic conflict listed by UCDP (if the armed group was involved in two dyads)	Integer	UCDP dyadic conflict dataset v 22.1
Yearend 2	The last year in which the armed group was active in the second dyadic conflict listed by UCDP (if the armed group was involved in two dyads)	Integer	UCDP dyadic conflict dataset v 22.1
Fm	Binary variable indicating whether the armed group used forced marriage (FM) at any point while engaged in dyadic conflict	Binary: 0 = no evidence of FM 1= evidence of FM	RSVAC dataset, human rights reports, news articles, academic articles & books
Sources Fm	Sources used to code Fm	Character	Coder
Fm type	Variable indicating what type(s) of forced marriage the armed group practiced	Integer: NA = no FM (Fm == 0) 1 = FM between armed group members 2 = FM between civilians and armed group members 3 = FM between civilians	RSVAC dataset, human rights reports, news articles, academic articles & books
Sources fm type	Sources used to code Fm type	Character	Coder

CODING PROCEDURES

The variables *Actor ID, Name, Dyad ID, Primary Dyad ID, Conflict ID, Country*, and *Primary Country* are drawn from the UCDP actor dataset version 21.1. The variable *NSA Dyad ID* is drawn from the Non-State Actor dataset version 3.4. To identify *yearstart, yearend, yearstart2*, and *yearend2*,

coders checked the dyadic data set version 22.1 and entered the first and last years in which the actor was engaged in each dyadic conflict listed, respectively.

This section lays out the procedures for coding variables related to forced marriage.

FORCED MARRIAGE (FM)

This project defines forced marriage as "a marriage in which one and/or both parties have not personally expressed their full and free consent to the union."[4] We include child marriage in our definition of forced marriage, as children cannot provide free and full consent. Therefore, any reference to "child marriage" will also be coded as forced marriage. Given that this project investigates patterns of forced marriage by non-state armed groups, our definition of marriage is broader than legal or official marriage. We consider any union or ceremony that is called a marriage or results in people being deemed husband or wife to be a marriage. Importantly, we do not include sexual slavery in our definition of forced marriage. While victims of forced marriage are likely to be forced to perform sexual acts and victims of sexual slavery might be forced to perform "wifely duties," this project asserts that a non-state armed group's decision to use the institution of *marriage* is important and is likely to have drivers and effects distinct from sexual slavery.

To determine whether an armed group used any form of forced marriage, coders first checked the Repertoires of Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict (RSVAC) dataset.[5] This dataset codes forced marriage and sexual slavery in one category but identifies whether armed groups used forced marriage, sexual slavery, or both in the "victim notes-sexual slavery column." If the RSVAC dataset indicates that an armed group used forced marriage, we coded 1 for Fm. We then searched for additional sources to confirm RSAVC coding. The RSVAC dataset is based on three sources: United States State Department country reports on human rights practices, Amnesty International annual and special reports, and Human Rights Watch annual and special reports. While the RSVAC provides rich information on sexual violence during armed conflict, we believe examining additional sources is necessary to determine whether armed groups used forced marriage. Therefore, if the RSVAC dataset does not indicate that an armed group used forced marriage, coders consulted academic articles and books, news sources, and reports from additional human rights organizations for evidence of forced marriage.

We used the following key search terms to identify these sources:

- [Armed group name] + marriage
- [Armed group name] + forced marriage
- Romantic relationships in [armed group name] • Gender in [armed group name]

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[4] Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human RIghts, "Child and Forced Marriage, Including in Humanitarian Settings," available at https://www.ohchr.org/en/women/child-and-forced-marriage-including-humanitarian-settings .

[5] Dumaine, Logan, Ragnhild Nordås, Maria Gargiulo, and Elisabeth Jean Wood. "Repertoires of conflict-related sexual violence: Introducing the RSVAC data package." *Journal of Peace Research* 59, no. 4 (2022): 611-621.

- Women in [armed group name]
- Sexual relationships in [armed group name]
- Marriage during [name of civil war]
- Forced marriage during [name of civil war]

We coded that an armed group used forced marriage (Fm==1) if these sources mentioned that members of an armed group coerced individuals into relationships that were referred to as marriages, forced individuals to wed, or forced women to be wives or men to be husbands. If no such evidence is found, we coded Fm==0. We documented the sources used in the *Sources fm* column. For supporting documentation on coding decisions, please contact the authors.

FM TYPE

This project considers three types of forced marriage: forced marriage between non-state armed group members, forced marriage between non-state armed group members and civilians, and forced marriage between civilians.

We consulted the RSVAC dataset, academic articles and books, news sources, and human rights reports to distinguish between these categories. Where no forced marriage occurred (Fm==0), we coded *Fmtype* == NA. Where sources indicated that non-state armed group leadership coerced people with formal roles in the group to marry one another, we coded Fm type==1. Where sources indicated that someone without a formal role in the non-state armed group was coerced into marrying a group member, we coded Fm type==2. Where sources indicated that two people without formal roles in the non-state armed group were forced to marry one another, we coded Fm type==3. We recorded our sources in the *Sources fm type* column. For supporting documentation on coding decisions, please contact the authors.

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