

Pro-Government Militias Database Country-Year Dataset

Notes on version 1.1-2017

We updated the PGMD country-year dataset version 1.0 to version 1.1-2017 by adding new presence variables based on a new coding rule for the termination date of a PGM.

Why we do this

In general, we determine a PGM's termination date from its date of dissolution. For some PGMs, however, there is missing information on this date. In version 1.0 we presumed these PGMs to still be existent and therefore coded them as present until the end year of our dataset, i.e 2007. The new coding rule refines the termination date for these PGMs by taking advantage of additional information on the year of their last activity: If a PGM's last activity is six or more years prior to the end of our dataset, we assume that the PGM dissolved and use the last year of activity as termination date. The new coding rule results in a more conservative report on the presence of PGMs during a country-year. Users of the PGMD can also create a longer time window between last year of activity and imposed termination date.

New coding rule (incorporating information on a PGM's last activity)

- If we have a date of dissolution for a PGM, we take this date as termination date (as in the old coding rule).
- If there is no date of dissolution and
 - there is no information on the last activity of the PGM, we use 2007 as termination date.
 - the last activity of the PGM is ≥ 2002 , we use 2007 as termination date.
 - the last activity of the PGM is < 2002 , we use the last activity as termination date.

Presence variables included in version 1.1

In version 1.1 you will now find two versions of the presence variables, including both the old but corrected (see below) version of presence variables and the newly generated ones.

1. Presence coded as in version 1.0
 - presence_all_v1_0
 - presence_informal_v1_0
 - presence_semiofficial_v1_0
2. Presence coded according the new coding rule (incorporating information on a PGM's last activity)
 - presence_all_v1_1
 - presence_informal_v1_1
 - presence_semiofficial1_1

Note on additional corrections

Due to new information on interruptions in some PGMs' presence and activity we also manually updated and recoded few cases, both in the old version and the new version of the variables. These recodings concern Afghanistan during the years 1997-2000, Bangladesh in 1981, 1982, and 2007, Pakistan in 1998 and 1997, and the Ivory Coast in 2001.