

**Prevention of Sexual Violence in Asia Pacific (PSVAP) Dataset  
1998-2016**

**Codebook**

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[https://figshare.com/articles/Preventing\\_Mass\\_Sexual\\_Violence\\_in\\_Asia-Pacific/6119078](https://figshare.com/articles/Preventing_Mass_Sexual_Violence_in_Asia-Pacific/6119078)

**Purpose:** To understand the reporting pattern of crimes of sexual violence and gender-based violence (SGBV)

We created a database to code all reports of ‘sexual crimes’ and ‘gender based crimes’ by calendar year since 1998 until 2016, coinciding with the adoption of the 1998 Rome Statute. We used three sources to document reports of SGBV occurring in the territory of Myanmar: *Factiva*, *Universal Human Rights Index*, and *UNHCR RefWorld*.<sup>1</sup> Each of these searches produced, on average, 1000-2000 reports (media, government, NGO and IGO reports). Each report was then individually coded against a range of variables set out in the codebook.

The collection of reports from one news aggregator site (Factiva), one UN document reference site (Universal Human Rights Index) and one combined news aggregator/UN reference site (UNHCR RefWorld) enables triangulation and corroboration of the reporting data and patterns of who routinely reports SGBV, who is routinely reported on, and who is routinely reported as the target of the violence.

The dataset uses the international definition of sexual and gender-based violence which enables a range of actors to document and report SGBV as crimes of international concern.<sup>2</sup>

Coders were provided with the detailed International Criminal Court definitions, including the elements of crimes. A report is recorded when at least one listed SGBV crime was mentioned and/or the term ‘SGBV’ was used in the relevant report. Reports on domestic violence and/or violence against women were coded separately. We followed the guidance of the Office of the ICC Prosecutor (2014: 22) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR 2014) on the sources of information that may be taken into account and designated as official (government and international organization reports) versus unofficial (media and civil society/non-government organization reports) when building a profile of reports of SGBV.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://global.factiva.com/factiva/login/login.asp?productname=global>; <http://uhri.ohchr.org/en>; and <http://www.refworld.org/>

<sup>2</sup> The 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) defines *sexual and gender-based crimes* to include rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilisation, and other forms of sexual violence. Gender-based crimes may also fall under the Court’s jurisdiction if they constitute acts of genocide or other acts of crimes against humanity or war crimes (Office of the ICC Prosecutor 2014: 5).

## Source Search:

All searches are done at Factiva, Universal Human Rights Index, and UNHCR RefWorld. The entry for each search engine is:

### ***Factiva Search***

Factiva Free Text Search (via Library subscription)

*Free Text Search:* leave blank

*Enter Date Range* (select from drop down menu): 01/01/1998 to 01/04/2015

*Subject:* Select 'sex discrimination', 'sexuality', women's rights', 'sexual crimes'

*Region:* select Myanmar (under Southeast Asia region); or Philippines (under Southeast Asia region); or Sri Lanka (under South Asia)

Select 'All' for remaining options.

### ***Universal Human Rights Index Search***

<http://uhri.ohchr.org/search/annotations>

*Search By Keyword, Symbol And Date*

Year of Publication: 1998 to 2015

*Filter By State/Entity Or Geographic Regions*

Select: Myanmar; or Philippines; or Sri Lanka

*Filter By Affected Persons*

Select: 'girls', 'women', 'lgbt' 'minorities', 'children'

*All other fields are blank*

Results: Sort by Year

### ***UNHCR Refworld***

<http://www.refworld.org/>

Upper right hand *Search Refworld:* select 'advanced search'

*With any of the words:* gender sexual violence (do not insert quotation marks, Boolean)

*From start date:* January 1998

*To end date:* April 2015

*Country of Origin:* Myanmar [or] Philippines [or] Sri Lanka

*All other fields kept as is (i.e. All categories, All publishers, All type documents, All languages)*

## ***Data Entry - Methodology***

1. **Reporting Source:** *Who* is reporting these crimes
2. **Location:** *Where* are these crimes being committed
3. **Political Violence:** *What* is the situation (of violence) where these crimes are committed
4. **SGBV crimes:** *Which* crimes were committed

5. **Perpetrators:** *Who* is reported as mostly committing these crimes
6. **Group Targeted:** *Which groups* were targeted for these crimes
7. **SGBV Count:** *How many* crimes are reported
8. SGBV Victim(s) Gender: *Who* was targeted
9. SGBV Victim(s) Age: *What* was age of those targeted
10. **Timing:** *When* are these crimes reported
11. **Abduction:** Reports of abduction in same report
12. **Trafficking:** Reports of trafficking in same report
13. **Forced marriage:** Reports of forced marriage in same report
14. **Domestic violence:** Reports of high level/widespread domestic violence in same report
15. **Publication Source:** Provide URL

### *Duplicate reports*

After Year of Report (Column B); **Column C** requests you to provide a '0' (zero) for primary report; and '1' for secondary report. Examples are:

- Two reports on same event in 2000 in Myanmar e.g. one by NGO e.g. Amnesty and one by UNICEF (it may draw on Amnesty report but it is a different report). Both are '0'.
- A media report on the Amnesty report is a '1'
- A media report on same event is a '0'
- A government report on same event is a '0'
- If a report has to be entered twice (because coding for SV event(s) differs to coding for GBV event(s) in same report), the report is still entered as '0' as it remains the primary report on GBV and SV.

A summary table of the variables to be coded may be viewed in **Annex 1**.

All entries will be entered dichotomous (Y or N) for each variable; with exception of Column C (above). *No fields should be left blank.*

Subfields, i.e. 5b. Armed perpetrator, *only* needs to be answered if a Y for 'Armed perpetrator' under 5a. Perpetrator.

A report may require multiple entries of 'Y' under, i.e., Location, Political Violence, SGBV crimes, etc. No need to create new row for same report.

## **1. Reporting sources code**

Methodology and principle of triangulation across sources and cross checking.

A UN source (e.g. OHCHR investigation) may be credible in its own right, but one report from a civil society organization will require corroboration. The hierarchy of

sources helps us to identify whether there is triangulation of the same evidence/reports across the different sources. Thus, two NGO sources are more than one source but not a form of triangulation.

### Description of Reporting Sources

A Y for source of each report according to following:

#### *Official sources*

##### International Organisations

- UN Security Council, OHCHR including Treaty Committees, HRC, Special Representative annual reports, UN Secretary-General reports

##### Governments

- US State Department country reports on human rights violations by security forces (Butler)
- National Human Rights Institutions
- Regional organizations, i.e. European Union, European Parliament, ASEAN, OSCE, NATO

#### *Unofficial sources*

##### International and national NGOs/civil society organizations

- International NGOs (field reports) e.g. Amnesty, Human Rights Watch, Oxfam, Save the Children, International Alert, International Crisis Group
- Local NGOs/political actors/civil society (field reports), Burma Women's League, National Democracy Union in Burma etc.

#### *Media sources*

- Report from newspaper source(s).

#### *Note:*

- Each report will be listed separately, even if the same event is reported by different sources to allow for triangulation of details within reported event. Providing the URL/report source at the end of each row in Excel is essential.
- Multiple media reports on one official or non-official report on SGBV must refer to **Column C**. E.g. multiple media reports of a report of SGBV committed in Sri Lanka by Human Rights Watch will be coded in Column C as '1'.

## **2. Location of violence code**

Reports on SGBV crimes committed in the geographic location of Myanmar, Philippines (code for all country-wide SGBV reports; for reports of individual level SGBV crimes only code for locations *Mindanao* and *Visayas*), and Sri Lanka.

*Notes*

- No coding for reports of crimes committed against Myanmar/Filipino/Sri Lanka nationals outside the borders of the respective states.

*2.a. Location of crimes*

Location of event where SGBV crimes took place will be organised by site of violence; it may be rural and urban location in some instances (i.e. Y for urban and a Y for rural location).

*Urban* (event reported to have occurred near/in capital city or urban location) Y/N

*Rural* (event reported to have occurred in rural or remote location, or in displaced persons camp) Y/N

*2.b. Site of crime*

If reported the *site* of crime should also be coded. A Yes may be recorded for one or more site; N must be recorded for the remaining sites. *If no site of crime is listed leave all 2b cells blank.*

Home Y/N

Village Y/N

Roads Y/N

Prison/Jail Y/N

Military compound (state) Y/N

Military compound (non-state armed group, NSAG) Y/N

Border Checkpoint Y/N

Refugee/IDP camps Y/N

*Notes*

- No inclusion of reports of SGBV crimes committed against asylum seekers, refugees and migrants who originate from Myanmar, Philippine and Sri Lankan but outside of country, i.e., do not enter reports on sexual and gender-based violence against Myanmar refugees in Thailand as per the comment above under 1.
- If multiple sites are listed for multiple SGBV crimes then Y for each site and N for sites not listed in same report.

**3. Political violence code**

The purpose of reporting on the situation is to observe possible relationship between the presence of crimes and the presence of conflict.

We adopt a definition of conflict intensity informed by the Uppsala Conflict Data Program's measure for minor conflict (25 to 999 fatalities within a calendar year) and war (over 1000 casualties) over a calendar year. We have provided the Excel data file to our coders with this information for each year of the three countries (determine whether minor or war for reporting year by viewing yellow highlighted column in Excel table).

Minor conflict (Over 25 to 999 deaths) Y/N  
War (Over 1000 deaths) Y/N

If the death count is below minor conflict for that year in the country, the entry is 'N' for both cells.

Each report must also be searched for reports of following acts (*precise terms* used, see below) of political violence and if listed place a 'Y' in cell or 'N' if not reported:

Genocide Y/N  
Ethnic Cleansing Y/N  
HR Violations/Torture/Assassinations/Arbitrary arrest Y/N

#### *Notes*

- Excel document with the UCDP entry for each country has been provided to coders.

#### **4. SGBV Crime Code**

Essentially, the GBV definition for Y entry is broad; and the SV definition for Y entry is narrow.

*Gender-based violence:* "Gender-based violence" is a crime committed against persons, whether male or female, because of their sex and/or socially constructed gender roles that "results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm or suffering, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life".<sup>3</sup>

For the purposes of this dataset, coding for gender-based violence excludes sexual violence. Reports will refer to attacks on women and girls, and men and boys, **because** of their gender: i.e. attacks or arrest for homosexuality; forced nudity or strip searches at checkpoints; forcible removal of children from parents. Acts of domestic violence against women are entered separately (see N.12.).

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<sup>3</sup> UN General Assembly, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 20 December 1993, A/RES/48/104. Available at <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm> [accessed 13 April 2015].

*Sexual violence:* “Sexual violence” is listed in 1998 Rome Statute<sup>4</sup> as acts of violence that constitute acts of genocide (Article 6), crimes against humanity (Article 7) and war crimes (Article 8). The Rome Statute and the ICC Elements of Crimes list crimes of sexual violence which may occur during conflict and in the absence of conflict.

Acts include: rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilisation, or any other form of sexual violence.

Gender-based violence      Y/N  
Sexual violence              Y/N

*Notes:*

- GBV and SV are both gender-based but because we wanted to understand the specific reporting prevalence of gender-based violence that is distinct from reporting on sexual violence we have disaggregated these categories..
- For similar reasons, trafficking and domestic violence are **coded** separately and are not included in either gender-based violence or sexual violence.
- Y entries may be entered for both GBV and SV if recorded in same report.
- If perpetrators for each crime are different, i.e. civilians committing gender-based violence, armed perpetrators committing sexual violence, then each crime must be entered in their own row for that year.

## 5. Perpetrator (group) code

Identification of the perpetrators, if provided, should be coded by the following rules:

### 5.a. Perpetrator

Were the attackers listed as civilian, armed group or both in the report for either of the above crimes (4). If one\*\* group was listed as perpetrating

*Armed group\** – state or non-state armed group (NSAG) Y/N

*Civilian* – individual or group of civilians Y/N

*Unknown* – not stated or unknown

*Notes:*

- \*If armed, then enter coding for 5b and 5c.
- \*\* If perpetrators both armed group and civilian i.e., more than one type of perpetrator, then each must have its own row as discussed under point 4. above.

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<sup>4</sup> UN General Assembly, Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (last amended 2010), 17 July 1998, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3a84.html> [accessed 13 April 2015].

### 5.b. Armed Perpetrators

If the perpetrators were armed, state or non-state actors.

*State* (military, police, paramilitary) Y/N

*NSAG* (*non-state armed group*) – title of group will be listed, i.e. LTTE (Sri Lanka), CPP (Mindanao) or referred to as ‘armed rebels’ or ‘rebels’ Y/N

### 5.c. Perpetrator ID

The certainty of the perpetrator group identified in each report will be coded to indicate precision. The ‘ID’ Code will demonstrate the specificity and certainty of the report in identification of the perpetrators. Individual perpetrators do not need to be named. A ‘Y’ entry is when perpetrator(s) have been clearly identified under definition below.

*Definite ID State* (military, police, paramilitary): Perpetrator(s) clearly identified by interview or referred to by title e.g. Tatmadaw, Sri Lankan Army, Philippine army and/or seen in specific uniform Y/N

*Suggested ID State* (military, police, paramilitary): Perpetrator(s) identified with generic reference to uniform or location e.g. military, police, barracks, and the words ‘suspected’ or ‘accused’ are used in report Y/N

*Definite ID NSAG* : Perpetrator(s) clearly identified by interview or referred to by title e.g. LTTE, MILF, Kachin army and/or seen in specific uniform Y/N

*Suggested ID NSAG*: Perpetrator(s) identified with generic reference to uniform or location e.g. militia, militants, compound, and the words suspected or accused are used Y/N

## 6. Groups targeted code

Reports of SGBV crimes being motivated by underlying inequalities, as well as a, inter alia, **religious, political (opposition), ethnic, and economic** (resource motivated) and **other** (which we define as 'gender unless otherwise stated').

Ethnicity Y/N

Religion Y/N

Political opposition Y/N

Economic/resources Y/N

Other Y/N

*Notes:*

Coding for GBV or SV include trafficking so technically the crimes of trafficking (and prostitution) cannot be coded as economic/resources. Refer to N.10 below.

- If group targeted for each crime is different i.e. ethnic groups targeted for GBV differs to political opposition groups targeted for SV, then each crime must be entered in their own row for that year.
- Gender unless otherwise stated may include reports where it is explicitly mentioned as a rationale in a report, i.e. targeting of LGBTI victims; or, there may be a repeated pattern of targeting girls/women and/or boys/men that implies this motivation when others (i.e. ethnicity, religion) are not explicitly mentioned as a rationale.

## 7. Total count of SGBV report

Provide 'Y' or 'N' under appropriate column:

Report(s) 10 or less	Y/N
Reports 100 or less	Y/N
Reports 1000 or more	Y/N

*Notes:*

- If the reported count for GBV differs to reported count for SV, then each crime must be entered in their own row for that year.
- If a report refers to 'women' without specific numbers, i.e. "soldiers' have been accused of sexual harassment of women in local village", enter 'Y' for "Report(s) 10 or less".

## 8. The Gender of SGBV Victim(s)

Provide 'Y' or 'N' if reported under appropriate column

Male	Y/N
Female	Y/N
Unknown	Y/N

## 9. The Age of SGBV Victims

Provide 'Y' or 'N' if reported under appropriate column

Adult	Y/N
Child <sup>5</sup>	Y/N
Unknown	Y/N

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<sup>5</sup> The Convention on the Rights of the Child Guiding Principles states that it prefers all states to increase level of protection for a child up to 18 years of age. Any report that refers to victim age as 18 or above is entered as an adult victim. See: [https://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Guiding\\_Principles.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Guiding_Principles.pdf)

**10. Timing.** *When* are these crimes reported.

Reported in the same calendar year as the crime committed	Y/N
Reported year after the crime committed	Y/N
Reported two years or more after the crime	Y/N

**11. Reports of Forced abductions (of civilians)** (i.e. forced recruitment)

State Armed Forces	Y/N
NSAG Forces	Y/N
Civilian	Y/N

**12. Reports of Trafficking (for sex trade)**

State Armed Forces	Y/N
NSAG Forces	Y/N
Civilian	Y/N

**13. Reports of Forced marriage (of civilians or combatants)**

State Armed Forces	Y/N
NSAG Forces	Y/N
Civilian	Y/N

**14. Reports of 'high level' or 'widespread' domestic violence** Y/N

**15. Report Link**

The URL to the report should be entered.  
Add notes for reports that you have queries

*Keep a copy of the Excel file you are working on update in the PSVAP Knowledge Bank Database Dropbox folder.*

## Annex 1

**Table 1: Definition of Main Variables**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Label</b>	<b>Entry (see definitions above)</b>
Country	Country of observation	
Year	Year of observation	
Duplicate report	Primary report or secondary report	'0' for primary '1' for secondary
Reporting Sources	Reports from official, unofficial or media sources	Official Y/N Unofficial Y/N Media Y/N
Location	Where these crimes occur	Rural Y/N Urban Y/N
Site	Where are these crimes committed	Home Y/N Village Y/N Roads Y/N Prison Y/N State Military compound Y/N NSAG compound Y/N Border checkpoint Y/N Refugee/IDP camps Y/N
Political Violence	Level and situation of political violence at time of crimes	Minor Conflict Y/N War Y/N Genocide Y/N Ethnic Cleansing Y/N HR Violations Y/N
SGBV Crime	Types of GBV and SV crimes reported in one event	Gender based violence Y/N Sexual violence Y/N
Perpetrators	Civilian or armed attackers identified in report	Armed Group Y/N Civilian Y/N Unknown Y/N
Armed Perpetrator	If armed, state or non-state perpetrators	State Y/N NSAG Y/N
Perpetrator ID	Certainty in the report on who was suspected of attack	Definite ID Y/N Suggested ID Y/N
Groups Targeted	Attributing features of group targeted for attack	Ethnicity Y/N Religion Y/N Political opposition Y/N Economic/resources Y/N Other Y/N

SGBV Total Count	Numbers of GBV and/or SV reported	Less than 10 Y/N Less than 100 Y/N More than 1000 Y/N
SGBV Victim(s) Gender	Gender of victims	Male Y/N Female Y/N Unknown Y/N
SGBV Victim(s) Age	Age of victims	Adult Y/N Child Y/N Unknown Y/N
Timing	Reporting same calendar year as crime	Same year Y/N 1 year later Y/N 2 + years later Y/N
Forced abduction	Reference within reports to acts of	State Y/N NSAG Y/N Civilian Y/N
Trafficking	Reference within reports to acts of	State Y/N NSAG Y/N Civilian Y/N
Forced marriage	Reference within reports to acts of	State Y/N NSAG Y/N Civilian Y/N
Domestic violence	Reference within reports to high levels of, or widespread domestic violence	Y/N
Report URL	Link to the report	Enter website

**References:**

Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR). 2014. Commission of Inquiry Sri Lanka. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/OISL.aspx>

Office of the ICC Prosecutor. 2014. *Policy paper on sexual and gender-based crimes*. June.