Religion and Conflict in Developing Countries (RCDC)

- Codebook –

1990-2010

Terminology

Religion: RCDC is based on a broad understanding of religion. Following Monica Toft Religion “include[s] some or all of the following elements: a belief in a supernatural being (or beings); prayers and communication with that being; transcendent realities that might include some form of heaven, paradise, or hell; a distinction between the sacred and the profane and between ritual acts and sacred objects; a view that explains both the world as a whole and a person’s proper role in it; a code of conduct in line with that worldview; and, a community bound by its adherence to these elements.” (Toft 2007: 99)

Religious individuals: Persons holding a religious title (such as Imam, Father, Prophet) even when self-ascribed.

Religious community: A group of believers who are not necessarily (but can be) part of a formal institution (e.g. Catholic Church), such as ‘Buddhists’, ‘Animists’ or ‘Muslims’.

Religion and violence: Violence is defined as the use of physical violence against an individual person, a group, or an object. Religious violence is defined as violence in which religious individuals or communities as well as religious objects (e.g. sacred places, places of worship) are involved, either as initiators, participants, victims or targets. We distinguish between four types of religious violence: Assaults on religious actors, communities or objects (Assaults on Religion); attacks by religious actors or communities on non-religious targets (Attacks by Religion), clashes between religious communities and the government (Clashes Government), as well as clashes between religious communities (Clashes Religion). These types of violence also differ according to intensity, for instance, the number of fatalities produced by respective events. Further details on the construction of these variables can be found below.

Religion and peace: Peace is generally defined as the absence of violence in the sense described above (negative peace) but can also contain elements of positive peace. We distinguish three types of systematic efforts by religious individuals and/or communities to maintain or create peace: General peace initiatives (Peace Initiatives), concrete attempts to reach a settlement of a given conflict (Religious Settlement); and interreligious networks (Networks). For ‘peace initiatives’ and ‘networks’ we also code for their geographical outreach; for religious settlement we also control whether or not the settlement attempt ended the conflict. Further details on the construction of these variables can be found below.

Sources
(1) Economist Intelligence Unit Country Reports (1990–2010)

RCDC Datasets:
RCDC is presented as a ‘raw dataset’ and as ‘adjusted dataset’.

“Raw dataset”: A variable was coded positive if there is explicit positive evidence in the sources.

“Adjusted dataset”: An incident was coded if information in the reports suggests that a variable coded positive in one particular year (such as the existence of interreligious networks) should also be coded in the former years.
## 2. Religion and Violence

**Assaults on religion:** Assaults on religious individuals/communities and/or religious objects (e.g. places of worship)

- 0 = none
- 1 = yes (e.g. destruction of churches/mosques, assaults in Côte d’Ivoire 2000)

**Minimum fatalities assaults on religion:** Assaults on religious individuals/communities

Information on the number of fatalities can vary according across the sources. Please enter the minimum number of fatalities of all events coded in the variable ‘assaults on religion’.

*If there are no exact numbers, but verbal expressions of quantities, enter numbers in the following way: Group/several/some = 3, dozen = 12, many = 20, hundreds = 200.*

**Maximum fatalities assaults on religion:** Assaults on religious individuals/communities

Please enter the maximum number of fatalities of all events coded in the variable ‘assaults on religion’.

*If there are no exact numbers, but verbal expressions of quantities, enter numbers in the following way: Group/several/some = 10, dozens = 24, many = 50, hundreds = 500.*

**Attacks by religion:** Violent attacks by religious individuals/communities against non-religious actors and property

- 0 = none
- 1 = religious actors exert violence against non-religious individuals/communities or property (e.g. attacks on pork butcheries in Dar es Salaam in 1993)

**Minimum fatalities attacks by religion:** Fatalities in violent attacks by religious individuals/communities

Please enter the minimum number of fatalities of all events coded in the variable ‘attacks by religion’.

*If there are no exact numbers, but verbal expressions of quantities, enter numbers in the following way: Group/several/some = 3, dozen = 12, many = 20, hundreds =200.*

**Maximum fatalities attacks by religion:** Fatalities in violent attacks by religious individuals/communities

Please enter the maximum number of fatalities of all events coded in the variable ‘attacks by religion’.

*If there are no exact numbers, but verbal expressions of quantities, enter numbers in the following way: Group/several/some = 10, dozens = 24, many = 50, hundreds = 500.*
**Clashes government:** Violent clashes between religious communities and government security forces

0 = none
1 = violent clash(es) between religious communities and government security forces (e.g. Chad in July 2008)

**Minimum fatalities clashes government:** Fatalities in violent clashes between religious communities and government security forces

Please enter the minimum number of fatalities of all events coded in the variable ‘clashes government’.

*If there are no exact numbers, but verbal expressions of quantities, enter numbers in the following way: Group/several/some = 3, dozen = 12, many = 20, hundreds (200).*

**Maximum fatalities clashes government:** Fatalities in violent clashes between religious communities and government security forces

Please enter the maximum number of fatalities of all events coded in the variable ‘clashes government’.

*If there are no exact numbers, but verbal expressions of quantities, enter numbers in the following way: Group/several/some = 10, dozens = 24, many = 50, hundreds = 500.*

**Clashes religion:** Violent clashes between religious communities

0 = none
1 = violent clash(es) between religious communities (e.g. Jos in Nigeria in 2008 and 2010)

**Minimum fatalities clashes religion:** Fatalities in clashes between religious communities

Please enter the minimum number of fatalities of all events coded in the variable ‘clashes religion’.

*If there are no exact numbers, but verbal expressions of quantities, enter numbers in the following way: Group/several/some = 3, dozen = 12, many = 20, hundreds = 200.*

**Maximum fatalities clashes religion:** Fatalities in violent clashes between religious communities

Please enter the maximum number of fatalities of all events coded in the variable ‘clashes government’.

*If there are no exact numbers, but verbal expressions of quantities, enter numbers in the following way: Group/several/some = 10, dozens = 24, many = 50, hundreds = 500.*
3. Religion and Peace

**Networks:** Existence of interreligious networks

0 = no interreligious networks
1 = interreligious networks exist

An interreligious network is defined as a more or less institutionalized cooperation of different religious communities (e.g., Christians and Muslims). The members participate as representatives of their religious communities in this forum.

*In societies with a population share of one particular denomination (e.g. Christians, Muslims) over 90% networks that consists of different communities within these denominations (e.g. different Muslim brotherhoods, various Christian denominations) have to be coded as interreligious networks as well.*

**Networks outreach:** Geographical outreach of interreligious networks

1 = local/regional/provincial level
2 = national level

1 = if the interreligious networks (i.e. its activities and members) are confined to one region/province
2 = if the interreligious networks (i.e. its activities and members) cover the territory of the whole country (at least approximately)

**Peace initiative:** Peace initiatives by religious communities

0 = none
1 = “mono-religious” peace initiative
2 = interreligious peace initiative

1 = only one religious community is involved in the initiative
2 = several religious communities are involved

A peace initiative should be explicitly and primarily established in order to maintain or promote peace and therefore exceed a singular call for peace. Examples include mediations or dialogue initiatives.

*The peace initiative is not necessarily connected to an ongoing actual armed conflict (it can also aim at prevention)*
**Peace initiative outreach:** Geographical outreach of religious peace initiative

(0 = no peace initiative)  
1 = regional  
2 = national  
3 = international

1 = the peace initiative is active in a sub-national region only.  
2 = the peace initiative is active nationwide (and/or composed by members from all parts of the country).  
3 = external religious peace initiatives regularly cooperate with regional/national peace initiatives.

**Religious settlement:** Participation of religious individuals/communities in an attempted settlement of a violent conflict

0 = none  
1 = passive  
2 = active

1 = provision of venues for meetings, „good services“ etc.  
2 = active engagement in conflict settlement (mediation, brokering...)

A religious settlement is defined as the participation of religious individuals or communities in an attempted settlement of a violent conflict. Violent conflict is defined as all kinds of more or less organized forms of conflict in which violence is exerted. We used an active armed conflict (UCDP, v.4, 2010), assaults on religion, attacks by religion, clashes government and clashes religion (see this codebook) for the identification of such violent conflicts.

**Religious settlement success:** Successful peace settlement of religious individuals/communities

0 = attempted conflict resolution fails  
1 = attempt to settle a conflict is successful, i.e. there is a peace agreement and the conflict ends

*Success* is defined as whether the conflict parties agreed upon a peace agreement and the conflict ended. Violent conflict is defined as all kinds of more or less organized forms of conflict in which physical violence is exerted. We used an active armed conflict (UCDP, v.4, 2010), assaults on religion, attacks by religion, clashes government and clashes religion (see this codebook) for the identification of such violent conflicts.