

Fistfights In parliamentary Sessions Time Series (FISTS) v2.0 - Codebook

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Summary: FISTS aims to make an inventory of all instances of physical violence in national legislatures around the world. Events are identified through searching online material, mainly various kinds of press/media sources. They are then coded by the researchers and their research assistants.

1. Scope and definitions:

Timeframe: 1980-2022

Country coverage: All UN member states plus Kosovo and the Republic of China (Taiwan)¹

Types of legislatures: National only (both chambers count in bicameral systems)

Location of violence: Violence that occurred on the premises of the parliament building during official parliamentary proceedings or an extension thereof (e.g. a fight in a committee room would count, but generally not one in the cafeteria unless it's directly linked to a current plenary or committee session). Violence that took place outside of the parliament building does not count (e.g. in TV studios or on the campaign trail).

Act of physical violence: We consider an act of physical violence to have occurred when a MP touched or applied force to another MP without their consent, or when an MP did so by putting an object or substance in motion (in direction of another MP, or in any direction if it is a firearm).

Actors: We only consider acts of violence between MPs, not between any kind of security forces or parliamentary staff and MPs.

2. Variables (raw data, .xlsx file)

1. Country: The name of the country.
2. Date: date of the episode in the format DD/MM/YYYY
3. Maj. vs. Opp.: Did the episode involve violence between majority and opposition lawmakers? (1 = yes; 0 = no)
4. Among Maj.: Did the episode involve violence among majority lawmakers? (1 = yes; 0 = no)

¹ The dataset contains other countries not covered by the data collection (most of them are countries that have ceased to exist) for the purpose of facilitating merger with existing datasets.

5. Among Opp.: Did the episode involve violence among opposition lawmakers? (1 = yes; 0 = no)
6. No clear Maj./Opp.: Did the episode involve violence among lawmakers in a context where there are no clear majority and opposition groups in parliament? (1 = yes; 0 = no)
7. Adhominem: Did the episode occur in the context of accusations of personal improper behaviour/wrongdoing/corruption independently of an important political debate in the chamber? (1 = yes; 0 = no)
8. Power-affecting: Did the episode occur in the context of a discussion of power-affecting constitutional change, power-affecting appointments or nominations (e.g. supreme court judges), or changes to parliamentary procedure, electoral law, judicial independence, or individual freedoms? (1 = yes; 0 = no)
9. Symbolic: Did the episode occur in the context of highly symbolic legal or constitutional changes (e.g. pacifism in Japan, language in Ukraine, etc.)? (1 = yes; 0 = no)
10. Simple policy: Did the episode occur in the context of ordinary legislative debates on neither symbolic nor power-affecting laws (e.g., budget, tax laws, education, etc.) or simple appointments (e.g. Central Bank Head, etc.)? (1 = yes; 0 = no)²
11. URL: Link to the (ideally written) source
12. Additional video source: link to a video source if available
13. Note: Note

3. Variables (dataset, .dta & .csv files)

1. cname_year: Country name and year.
2. ccode: Country code (numeric country code based on the ISO-3166-1 standard).
3. cname: Country name.
4. year: Year.
5. ccodealp: 3-letter country code based on the ISO-3166-1 alpha3 standard.
6. ccodealp_year: 3-letter country code and year.
7. ccodecow: Country code from the Correlates of War.
8. ccodewb: Country code from the World Bank.
9. adhominem: Number of Ad-hominem case(s) of parliamentary violence that took place in that country-year
10. poweraffecting: Number of power affecting case(s) of parliamentary violence that took place in that country-year
11. symbolic: Number of symbolic case(s) of parliamentary violence that took place in that country-year
12. policydispute: Number of policy dispute case(s) of parliamentary violence that took place in that country-year
13. count: Total number of case(s) of parliamentary violence that took place in that country-year³
14. countb: Dummy variable for count. (0 = no case of parliamentary violence in that country-year, 1 = at least one case of parliamentary violence in that country-year)

4. Sources and search words

² The four categories for the context of the episode of parliamentary violence is mutually exclusive for each case, meaning each case can only belong to one of these four categories

³ Due to the lack of detail information about the context of some episode of violence, this value might not equal to the sum of all the aforementioned subtypes of cases

Sources:

Google web search, Google News, LexisNexis, Youtube, AP archive

Keywords:

English: MPs fight, brawl, fistfight, scuffle, fisticuffs, punch(es), blows

French: Bagarre, coups de poing, violence, rixe

Spanish: peleas, peleas a puños, violencia, golpes, patadas

Russian: Драка депутатов, Потасовка

Arabic: مشاجرة بالأيدي, اشتباك بالأيدي, شجار, لكمات, عراك بالأيدي

Chinese: 議員, 打架, 衝突, 肢體衝突

Portuguese: briga, rixa

Add in all languages:

+ in parliament OR + in [parliament/chamber name] OR + amongst
MPs/representatives/parliamentarians
+ name/adjective of country