

# Ceasefires in a Time of Covid-19: Codebook

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## 1 Introduction

This is the codebook for the data file created based on the Ceasefires in a Time of Covid-19 Tracker, available at <https://pax.peaceagreements.org/covid19ceasefires/>. The data only encompasses the March-July period of 2020.

The tracker collects and makes publicly available the data on ceasefires and related events, and was prompted by the UN Secretary General's call for a global ceasefire in March 2020, in order to support and facilitate efforts to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. The tracker was developed by the UoE team [Bhattacharya et al., 2020, Allison et al., 2021, Wise et al., 2021], with the support of colleagues from MediatEUr, Center for Security Studies at ETH Zurich, Peace Research Institute Oslo, Conciliation Resources and United States Institute of Peace.

The main unit of data in the Tracker is a ceasefire event or an event related to a ceasefire. Thus, the tracker may encompass multiple events in the same country and referring to the same conflict, which together constitute a ceasefire arrangement. When considering whether an event should be included, the following was considered:

- Is the event putting in place a ceasefire arrangement?
- Does the event constitute a ceasefire proposal or a one-sided declaration of a ceasefire?
- Is the event a no-first-strike declaration?
- Does the event modify an existing ceasefire arrangement by extending its duration, geographic scope, committed parties?
- Does the event constitute a withdrawal from a ceasefire?
- Is the event a direct reaction or response to the UNSG's call for a global ceasefire?

If any of these could be answered in the affirmative, the event was added to the Tracker. Events are sourced from media outlets, primarily those with an online presence.

## 2 Variable description

- UID

This is a unique identification code for each event. It is entered in the format of 'CXX-Y', where the letter C is followed by a two-digit number indicating the country or entity (XX), and the ordinal number of the event (Y) is added after a dash. The country/entity numbers are also ordinal, and when an event is added from a country not yet in the data, the X is one larger than the largest X present in the data. For instance, an event from Ethiopia was the first one to be registered from that country. Prior to that, 31 countries or entities were present in the data. So the new event from Ethiopia gets a UID of C32-1. The next event from Ethiopia gets the UID of C32-2.

- Declaration date

Enter the date when the ceasefire agreement is announced or declared. This date is often the same as the date when the ceasefire starts, though this is not always the case.

- Ceasefire start  
Date when the ceasefire is meant to start. If no date is explicitly stated, leave empty.
- Ceasefire termination  
In some cases, the ceasefire also comes with a date until which it is planned. If the ceasefire text or news report does not mention a date of expiration, leave empty.
- Country or entity  
Select as many countries and/or entities as applies to the ceasefire or ceasefire related event, and use the right-facing arrow on the interface to assign to event. In cases of regionalized or secessionist conflict, the entity may already be in this list and should be selected alongside the country. For example, Philippines and Mindanao can both be selected, or India and Nagaland, or Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno-Karabakh.
- Region or subnational entity  
This is a free-text box indicating whether the ceasefire or related event is particular to a subnational-region, a town, or a similar locale. Note that, in cases of regional conflict, the main entity may already be listed under country/entity so make sure you select it there. If the entity is not in the list for the category above, type the name in this box.
- UCDP conflict code  
Enter the conflict code as defined by the Uppsala Conflict Data Programme (UCDP), if available. This can be found at <http://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/ucdpprio/ucdp-prio-acd-191.csv>. Events such as the original UNSG call and not related to a particular conflict, N/A was entered. The same was done in cases of smaller conflicts which are not part of the UCDP database, and therefore have no associated conflict code.
- Centroid longitude and Centroid latitude  
Identifying a specific geographic location that best reflects the locale, i.e. the area of responsibility that the ceasefire covers or relates to. This geographic location reflects the centre of gravity of the conflict addressed by the ceasefire or related event. If unable to determine the centre of gravity of the conflict, the coders were instructed to choose the geographic centre of the locale. If the ceasefire deals with relationships between two geographic communities, including a boundary dispute or a delimitation issue, a central point on the boundary was chosen to avoid picking an arbitrary geographic centre between the areas that the parties (claim to) represent. As a last resort, coders were asked to choose the largest town/settlement in the locale.
- Declaration type  
'Unilateral ceasefire' refers to any event in which only one of the warring sides announces a ceasefire or an event in which a side responds positively to another side's unilateral announcement.  
'Bilateral ceasefire' is any arrangement which is reached in deliberation by two of the warring sides. Note that each of the sides can be a coalition of multiple organisations.  
'Related event' covers a wide class of events, including but not limited to: any event that in some way qualifies a ceasefire, a negative response to a side's offer of ceasefire, a statement mentioning the possibility of a ceasefire but containing no commitment to a ceasefire, an announcement by the UN relating to the UNSG's call for a global ceasefire, a UN Security Council resolution concerning ceasefires.  
'Update to a ceasefire' refers to any event that modifies an existing entry, such as announcement of the end of a ceasefire or withdrawal from agreement, an announcement of extension of a ceasefire, or inclusion of a side that was previously not part of a ceasefire arrangement.  
'Multilateral ceasefire' typically includes more than two warring sides, and often includes third-party guarantors or mediators. The category of 'Multiparty ceasefire' is very similar, and since it has not been used so far, it is better not to use in the future and rely on 'multilateral ceasefire' instead.

- Reciprocated  
Binary variable, used only in cases of unilateral ceasefire, and is marked with 1 when the unilateral announcement has been reciprocated by the opposing side.
- Actors  
Names of organisations that are involved in the event, including armed groups, governments, international organisations, NGOs and any other.
- Actor type  
Types of actors involved in the ceasefire or related event, can be 'State', 'Non-state', or both.
- PDF  
If there is a ceasefire text, the column provides a link to the pdf file.
- Headline  
The most informative online news article about the event.
- Information  
Event summarised in several sentences, providing key information on who was involved, with what temporal and geographic scope, and any outcomes of note.
- Past agreements and Past ceasefires  
Links to PA-X advanced search at <https://pax.peaceagreements.org/agreements/searchadv/>
- Sources  
List of all online news sources for the ceasefire or related event.
- Media, Media credit, Media caption  
If any media are available for the ceasefire or related event, link is provided in the column.

## References

- [Allison et al., 2021] Allison, J., Badanjak, S., Bach, B., Bell, C., Bhattacharya, D., Knaussel, F., and Wise, L. (2021). An interactive tracker for ceasefires in the time of COVID-19. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, 21(6):764–765.
- [Bhattacharya et al., 2020] Bhattacharya, D., Badanjak, S., Bell, C., Knäussel, F., Wise, L., Allison, J., and Bach, B. (2020). Designing an interactive real-time web-mapped dashboard to visualise conflict ceasefires data over COVID-19 infection rates: facilities and the way ahead. *2021 IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC)*, 00(801215):200–207.
- [Wise et al., 2021] Wise, L., Badanjak, S., Bell, C., and Knäussel, F. (2021). Pandemic Pauses : Understanding Ceasefires in a Time of Covid-19.