

Does Violence End – or Transform?

Ceasefires and the Changing Forms of Violence in Civil Wars

Ning Ning Yamada | Advisor: Professor Chang Peng Kee

RESEARCH PUZZLE

Ceasefires are designed to stop fighting between conflict parties. But a reduction in direct state–rebel warfare does not necessarily mean that political violence disappears.

Do ceasefires reduce violence uniformly, or do they transform the forms through which violence occurs?

THE ARGUMENT

Violence Transformation: A change in the relative composition of violence across different forms of violent activity

Ceasefires are supposed to stop fighting but stopping direct fighting does not always mean ending political violence.

After a ceasefire, violence may continue through:

- Non-state armed groups
- Splinter factions
- Civilian Targeting

This means alternative violence does **not** need to increase for transformation to occur. All violence can decline while its composition still changes.

HYPOTHESES

H1 - Ceasefires reduce state-rebel battle events

H2 - Ceasefires reduce total conflict-related violence

H3 - Violence Transformation

Battle violence decreases relative to non-state and/or civilian-targeting violence.

DATA

We use ETH/PRIO Civil Conflict Ceasefire Dataset and the Uppsala Conflict Data Programme Georeferenced Event Dataset (GED)

We are looking at 191 ceasefires across 1989–2020

METHODOLOGY

STEP 1: Does violence decline?

Negative Binomial Regression → Compare Violent Event Counts → Before vs. After Ceasefires → Tests Hypothesis 1 and 2

STEP 2: Does violence transform?

Stacked Poisson GEE → Compare post-ceasefire changes across violence types → Tests Hypothesis 3

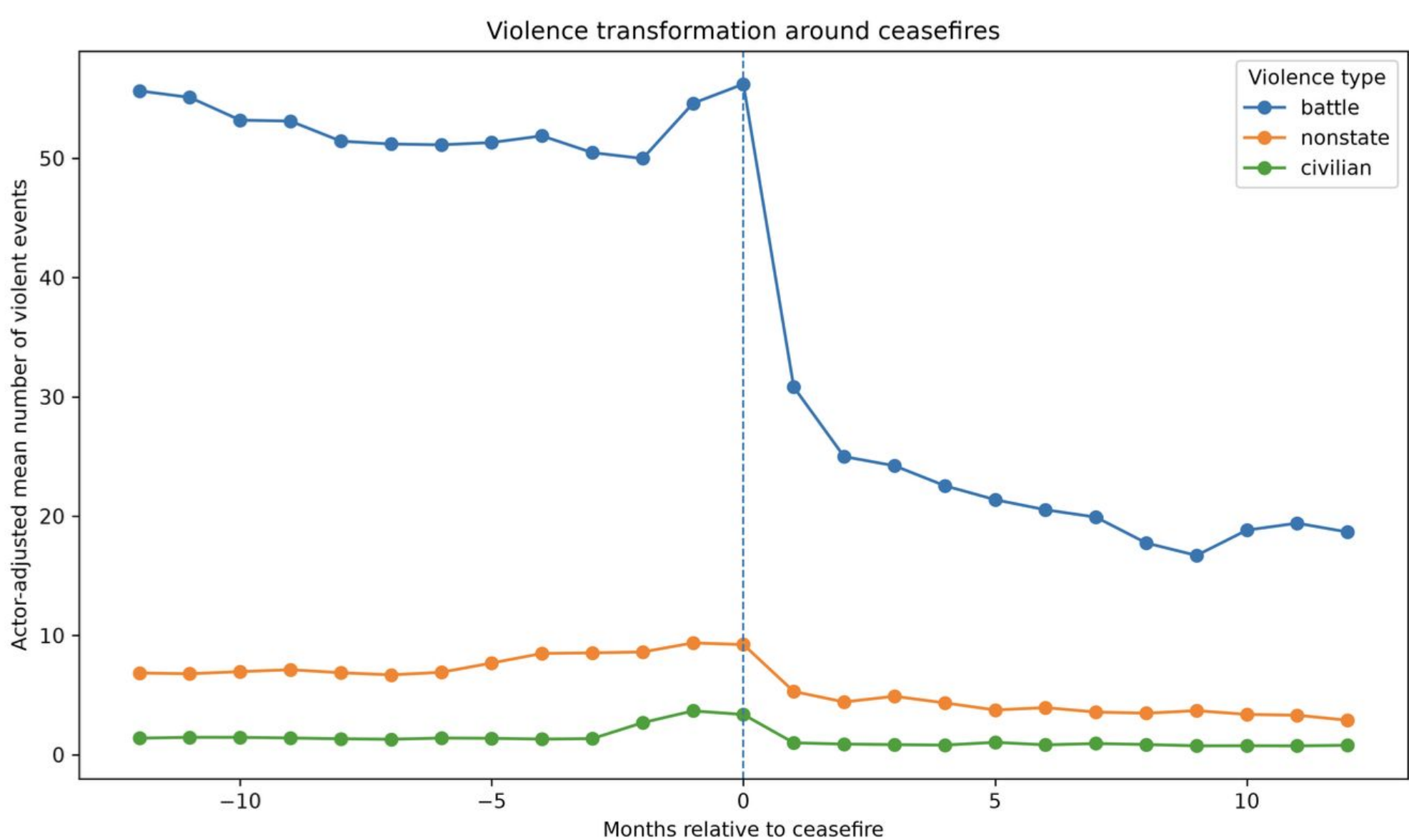
Models include ceasefire and conflict-level controls, within robust inference accounting for repeated observations within UCDP dyads.

RESULTS

Battle violence decreases by 27.8%;

Non-state violence decreases by 8.8%

Civilian-targeting violence decreases by 6.5%



Alternative violence becomes more prevalent relative to battle violence by 28.1 % and there is a 17.1 % increase in the odds that a violent event is an alternative rather than battle event.

