

Accelerator 4: Increase in size of, or degree of cohesion in, opposition group.

Examples: Significant numbers of new members join opposition movement, emergence of charismatic leader in opposition movement.

Accelerator 5: Aggressive posturing or actions by opposition group.

Examples: Declarations against the government, verbal or written; riots; armed attacks.

Accelerator 6: Negative government responses to actions by opposition group.

Rationale: Accelerators (5) and (6) should reflect the tit-for-tat interactions between perpetrators and targeted groups. Accelerator 6 is coded only for events that occur in response to actions coded in 5.

Examples: Verbal attacks by representatives of the regime against the targeted group; government mobilization of armed units, militias, or gangs.

Accelerator 7: New discriminatory or restrictive actions by the government against targeted groups.

Examples: Vitriolic rhetoric that using derogatory terms to describe groups; increased restrictions on political participation (for example restrictions on free speech, assembly, political organizations, voting, etc.)

Accelerator 8: Life integrity violations by government or government-supported groups against targeted groups.

Rationale: Analysis of these events should identify any rapid increase in frequency and severity of violations against targeted groups.

Examples: Destruction of houses or property; forcible resettlement or expulsion; killings of opposition leaders.

Decelerators: Some decelerators are government initiatives, others require cooperation by oppositions.

Examples: Cease-fire (unilateral or mutually declared); competitive general elections; release of political prisoners; official promises of cooperation.

Data on these accelerators and decelerators have been coded for the two years prior to the onset of a number of recent cases of genocide and politicide. The analysis of these data is reported elsewhere.⁶