Codebook for "How the United Nations Targets Human Rights Public Diplomacy"

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Dataset Description

File 1:	File1_OHCHR_visits.csv
Unit of Analysis:	Visit-level
Temporal Coverage:	1998–2019
File 2:	File2_maindata.rds
Unit of Analysis:	Country-year
Temporal Coverage:	1998–2019

1 OHCHR Visits Dataset

1.1 Dataset Description

The OHCHR visits dataset contains detailed information about travel by high-level officials within the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1998–2019. The dataset captures travel by three primary officials: the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner, and the Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights.

1.2 Data Collection Methodology

The data collection relied on multiple sources, listed below. We describe the search process in the main article.

1. **OHCHR Document Database**: Systematic search of 5,523 documents including reports, country reports, status updates, statements, news, press releases, press briefing notes, and media advisories produced by the OHCHR and its senior officials.
2. **UN News Database**: Complementary searches using keywords including "high commissioner & visit," "high commissioner & trip," "human rights chief & visit," and combinations of official names with "visit" and "mission."
3. **Annual Reports**: Two types of annual reports provided supplementary information:
   - Reports to the General Assembly (coded as A/Session#/), covering August to July
   - Reports to the Human Rights Council, covering December to November

1.3 Variable Descriptions

Variable	Description
Country Visited	Name of the country visited by the OHCHR official
Start Year	Year the visit began
Start Month	Month the visit began
Start Day	Day the visit began
End Year	Year the visit ended
End Month	Month the visit ended
End Day	Day the visit ended (Note: -9 indicates visits referenced in annual reports without specific dates)
Official	Name of the OHCHR official who conducted the visit
Position	Official position (High Commissioner, Deputy High Commissioner, or Assistant Secretary General)
Conferences/Workshops	Binary indicator for attendance at conferences, workshops, or seminars
CW_name	Name/description of conferences or workshops attended
Civil Society	Binary indicator for meetings with civil society organizations
CS_Name	Names/descriptions of civil society organizations met
National Leaders	Binary indicator for meetings with heads of state or government
NL_Name	Names and positions of national leaders met
Other Government Officials	Binary indicator for meetings with other government officials
OGO_Name	Names and positions of other government officials met
International Organizations	Binary indicator for meetings with international organization representatives
IO_Name	Names of international organizations and representatives met
Signed Agreements	Binary indicator for signing of agreements or memoranda
SA_name	Description of agreements signed
Officials	Binary indicator for official visit (high-level talks on country-specific human rights)
Conference Only	Binary indicator for conference-only visit (no country-specific discussions)
Unknown	Binary indicator for visits with insufficient information to classify
Link 1--5	URLs to source documentation for the visit. Each visit includes up to five source links for verification and additional information

1.4 Visit Type Classification

The dataset distinguishes between two types of travel:

- **Official Visits**: Travel involving high-level talks with government officials about human rights issues specific to the state visited. These visits may include conference attendance but feature substantive bilateral discussions.
- **Conference-Only Visits**: Travel solely to attend conferences, workshops, or seminars about broad human rights issues without publicly disclosed high-level talks with government officials of the host state. These visits are primarily to Western Europe and other OECD countries.

2 Main Data Codebook

Below, we describe the variables and sources for the data used in our analyses. All visit-related variables were generated from the OHCHR visits data above.

2.1 Visit-related Variables

Variable	Description
Officials_di	Binary indicator for official OHCHR visit in year t
Official_di_lead	Binary indicator for official OHCHR visit in following year, t+1 (main dependent variable)
Conference_di_lead	Binary indicator for conference-only OHCHR visit in following year, t+1
Officials_count_lead	Count of official OHCHR visits in following year, t+1
HC_only_di_lead	Binary indicator for High Commissioner personal visit in following year, t+1

2.2 Independent Variables

Variable	Description	Source
Physical_Integrity_Rights	Latent measure of physical integrity rights protection (higher values indicate better rights protection)	Fariss 2014
Democratic_Episode	Binary indicator for ongoing democratic transition episode	Episodes of Regime Transformation (ERT, Varieties of Democracy), Edgell et al. 2020; Maerz et al. 2020
Autocratic_Episode	Binary indicator for ongoing autocratic transition episode	Episodes of Regime Transformation (ERT, Varieties of Democracy), Edgell et al. 2020; Maerz et al. 2020
Peacekeepers	Count of the number of UN peacekeeper troops deployed to a country (in thousands)	UCDP Geo-PKO dataset, version 2.0 Cil et al. 2020

2.3 Control Variables

Variable	Description	Source
Polyarchy	Electoral democracy index (0–1 scale, higher values indicate more democratic)	V-Dem, Maerz et al. 2020
Population	Natural log of population	World Bank Development Indicators (World Bank 2022)
GDP	Natural log of GDP per capita	World Bank Development Indicators (World Bank 2022)

2.4 Alternative Human Rights Measures

Variable	Description	Source
log_Civilian_Killings	Natural log of estimated civilian killings	Eck and Hultman 2007
Physical.Integrity.Rights.Index	Physical integrity rights index	CIRIGHTS (Cingranelli, Richards, and Clay 2014; Mark, Filippov, and Cingranelli 2024)
Civil.and.Political.Rights.Index	Civil and political rights index	CIRIGHTS (Cingranelli, Richards, and Clay 2014; Mark, Filippov, and Cingranelli 2024)
Women.s.Political.Rights	Women's political rights score	CIRIGHTS (Cingranelli, Richards, and Clay 2014; Mark, Filippov, and Cingranelli 2024)

2.5 Alternative Democracy and Regime Measures

Variable	Description	Source
polity2	Polity score measuring regime type (-10 to +10)	Polity V (Marshall and Gurr 2020)
dem.trans.maj	Major democratic transition (Polity change $\geq$ 6 points)	Polity V (Marshall and Gurr 2020)
dem.trans.min	Minor democratic transition (Polity change $\geq$ 3 points)	Polity V (Marshall and Gurr 2020)
neg.trans	Negative regime change (autocratization)	Polity V

2.6 Additional Controls

Variable	Description	Source
intensity_ordered	Conflict indicator; ordinal measure distinguishes no conflict (0), minor conflict (1), and major conflict (2)	UCDP (Pettersson and Öberg 2020)
W_official_dum_con400_lead	Spatial lag: OHCHR visits to contiguous neighbors in the observation year t+1	Authors
fmax.domestic.trial	Presence of domestic human rights trial	Kitagawa and Bell 2022
fmax.truth	Presence of truth commission	Kitagawa and Bell 2022
independent	Presence of independent National Human Rights Institution	Welch, DeMeritt, and Conrad 2021

2.7 Interaction Terms

Variable	Description	Source
PKO.physint	Interaction term: Peacekeepers × Physical Integrity Rights	
demep.physint	Interaction term: Democratic Episode × Physical Integrity Rights	

2.8 Identifiers

Variable	Description	Source
ccode	Correlates of War country code	COW (Correlates of War Project 2017)
country	Country name	
year	Calendar year (1998–2019)	
hc.id	High Commissioner identifier - Mary Robinson (1); Sérgio Vieira de Mello (2); Bertrand Ramcharan (Acting) (3); Louise Arbour (4) ; Navanethem Pillay (5); Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein (6); Michelle Bachelet (7); Deputy/ASG Officials (8)	Authors

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