Africa’s Contemporary Security Challenges Seminar
Plenary 5: Democratic Transitions and Governance

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Electoral Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1990-2017

- Large scale violence: 30 (9%)
- Violent Repression: 39 (12%)
- Violent Harassment: 125 (37%)
- No violence: 141 (42%)
Electoral Violence Trends

Total Violence in SSA's Elections, 1990-2017

Source: Straus and Taylor, 2012; U.S. Department of State, Human Rights Reports, 2009-2014; various news articles
Toward Mitigating Electoral Violence

Develop an intervention strategy
- Intervene early: 95% of violence occurs before elections
- Invest in an early warning/early response platforms
- Expand the circle of monitors

Understand the context
- Violence tends to recur, but not always
- Identify the conflict drivers
- Identify the stakeholders, their motivations, and means

Strengthen key institutions
- Electoral body
- Security sector
- Judiciary