**Short Variable Descriptions for Indicators in THE CIRIGHTS HUMAN RIGHTS DATASET**

Document Version 07.21.19

Below is a listing of indicators in the order they appear in the dataset.

Variable [**countryname**] Country Name

Variable [**year**] Year Identifier

Variable [**ciri**] CIRI Country Identifier

Numeric country identifier developed specifically for the Cingranelli-Richards (CIRI) Human Rights Database. These codes have no substantive regional connotation.(<http://www.humanrightsdata.com/>)

Variable [ccode] Country Code

Numeric country code based on the ISO-3166-1 standard. This is the best variable to use when merging the CIRIGHTS file (in combination with year) with the Quality of Government Data set.

See Teorell, Jan, Stefan Dahlberg, Sören Holmberg, Bo Rothstein, Natalia Alvarado Pachon & Richard Svensson. 2019. The Quality of Government Standard Dataset, version Jan19. University of Gothenburg: The Quality of Government Institute, http://www.qog.pol.gu.se doi:10.18157/qogstdjan19

Variable [**cow**] COW Country Identifier

Numeric country identifier from the Correlates of War data project(http://www.correlatesofwar.org/)

Variable [**unctry**] UN Country Identifier

Numeric country identifier from the United Nations Statistics Division (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49alpha.htm)

Variable [**unreg**] UN Region Identifier

Numeric region identifier from the United Nations Statistics Division (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm)

Variable [**unsubreg**] UN Subregion Identifier

Numeric subregion identifier from the United Nations Statistics Division (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm)

Variable [**physint**] Physical Integrity Rights Index

This is an additive index constructed from the Torture, Extrajudicial Killing, Political Imprisonment, and Disappearance indicators. It ranges from 0 (no government respect for these four rights) to 8 (full government respect for these four rights). Details on its construction and use can be found in: David L. Cingranelli and David L. Richards. 1999. "Measuring the Level, Pattern, and Sequence of Government Respect for Physical Integrity Rights." International Studies Quarterly, Vol 43.2: 407-18.

Variable [**disap**] Disappearance

Disappearances are cases in which people have disappeared, political motivation appears likely, and the victims have not been found. Knowledge of the whereabouts of the disappeared is, by definition, not public knowledge. However, while there is typically no way of knowing where victims are, it is typically known by whom they were taken and under what circumstances. A score of 0 indicates that disappearances have occurred frequently in a given year; a score of 1 indicates that disappearances occasionally occurred; and a score of 2 indicates that disappearances did not occur in a given year.

Variable [**kill**] Extrajudicial Killing

Extrajudicial killings are killings by government officials without due process of law. They include murders by private groups if instigated by government. These killings may result from the deliberate, illegal, and excessive use of lethal force by the police, security forces, or other agents of the state whether against criminal suspects, detainees, prisoners, or others. A score of 0 indicates that extrajudicial killings were practiced frequently in a given year; a score of 1 indicates that extrajudicial killings were practiced occasionally; and a score of 2 indicates that such killings did not occur in a given year.

Variable [**polpris**] Political Imprisonment

Political imprisonment refers to the incarceration of people by government officials because of: their speech; their non-violent opposition to government policies or leaders; their religious beliefs; their non-violent religious practices including proselytizing; or their membership in a group, including an ethnic or racial group. A score of 0 indicates that there were many people imprisoned because of their religious, political, or other beliefs in a given year; a score of 1indicates that a few people were imprisoned; and a score of 2 indicates that no persons were imprisoned for any of the above reasons in a given year.

Variable [**tort**] Torture

Torture refers to the purposeful inflicting of extreme pain, whether mental or physical, by government officials or by private individuals at the instigation of government officials. Torture includes the use of physical and other force by police and prison guards that is cruel, inhuman, or degrading. This also includes deaths in custody due to negligence by government officials. A score of 0 indicates that torture was practiced frequently in a given year; a score of 1 indicates that torture was practiced occasionally; and a score of 2 indicates that torture did not occur in a given year.

Variable [**emp\_index**] Empowerment Rights Index

This is an additive index constructed from the Foreign Movement, Domestic Movement, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Assembly & Association, Workers’ Rights, Electoral Self-Determination, and Freedom of Religion indicators. It ranges from 0 (no government respect for these seven rights) to 14 (full government respect for these seven rights).

Variable [**assn**] Freedom of Assembly and Association

It is an internationally recognized right of citizens to assemble freely and to associate with other persons in political parties, trade unions, cultural organizations, or other special-interest groups. This variable indicates the extent to which the freedoms of assembly and association are subject to actual governmental limitations or restrictions (as opposed to strictly legal protections). A score of 0 indicates that citizens’ rights to freedom of assembly or association were severely restricted or denied completely to all citizens; a score of 1 indicates that these rights were limited for all citizens or severely restricted or denied for select groups; and a score of 2 indicates that these rights were virtually unrestricted and freely enjoyed by practically all citizens in a given year.

Variable [**formov**] Freedom of Foreign Movement

This variable indicates citizens’ freedom to leave and return to their country. A score of 0 indicates that this freedom was severely restricted, a score of 1 indicates the freedom was somewhat restricted, and a score of 2 indicates unrestricted freedom of foreign movement

Variable [**dommov**] Freedom of Domestic Movement

This variable indicates citizens’ freedom to travel within their own country. A score of 0 indicates that this freedom was severely restricted; a score of 1 indicates the freedom was somewhat restricted, and a score of 2 indicates unrestricted freedom of foreign movement

Variable [**speech**] Freedom of Speech

This variable indicates the extent to which freedoms of speech and press are affected by government censorship, including ownership of media outlets. Censorship is any form of restriction that is placed on freedom of the press, speech or expression. Expression may be in the form of art or music. A score of 0 indicates that government censorship of the media was complete; a score of 1 indicates that there was some government censorship of the media; and a score of 2 indicates that there was no government censorship of the media in a given year.

Variable [**elecsd**] Electoral Self-Determination

This variable indicates to what extent citizens enjoy freedom of political choice and the legal right and ability in practice to change the laws and officials that govern them through free and fair elections. This right is sometimes known as the right to self-determination. A score of 0 indicates that the right to self-determination through free and fair elections did not exist in law or practice during the year in question. A score of 1 indicates that while citizens had the legal right to self-determination, there were some limitations to the fulfillment of this right in practice. Therefore, in states receiving a 1, political participation was only moderately free and open. A score of 2 indicates that political participation was very free and open during the year in question and citizens had the right to self-determination through free and fair elections in both law and practice.

Variable [**rel\_free**] Freedom of Religion

This variable indicates the extent to which the freedom of citizens to exercise and practice the irreligious beliefs is subject to actual government restrictions. Citizens should be able to freely practice their religion and proselytize (attempt to convert) other citizens to their religion as long as such attempts are done in a non-coercive, peaceful manner. A score of 0 indicates that government restrictions on religious practices are severe and widespread. A score of 1 indicates such practices are moderate, and a 0 indicates such practices are practically absent.

Variable [**worker**] Worker’s Rights

Workers should have freedom of association at their workplaces and the right to bargain collectively with their employers. This variable indicates the extent to which workers enjoy these and other internationally recognized rights at work, including a prohibition on the use of any form of forced or compulsory labor; a minimum age for the employment of children; and acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational safety and health. A score of 0 indicates that workers’ rights were severely restricted; a score of1 indicates that workers’ rights were somewhat restricted; and a score of 2 indicates that workers’ rights were fully protected during the year in question.

Variable [**wecon**] Women’s Economic Rights

Women's economic rights include a number of internationally recognized rights. These rights include: Equal pay for equal work

* Free choice of profession or employment without the need to obtain a husband or male relative's consent
* The right to gainful employment without the need to obtain a husband or male relative's consent
* Equality in hiring and promotion practices
* Job security (maternity leave, unemployment benefits, no arbitrary firing or layoffs, etc...)
* Non-discrimination by employers
* The right to be free from sexual harassment in the workplace
* The right to work at night
* The right to work in occupations classified as dangerous
* The right to work in the military and the police force

A score of 0 indicates that there were no economic rights for women in law and that systematic discrimination based on sex may have been built into law. A score of 1 indicates that women had some economic rights under law, but these rights were not effectively enforced. A score of 2 indicates that women had some economic rights under law, and the government effectively enforced these rights in practice while still allowing a low level of discrimination against women in economic matters. Finally, a score of 3 indicates that all or nearly all of women’s economic rights were guaranteed by law and the government fully and vigorously enforces these laws in practice.

Variable [**wopol**] Women’s Political Rights

Women’s political rights include a number of internationally recognized rights. These rights include:

* The right to vote
* The right to run for political office
* The right to hold elected and appointed government positions
* The right to join political parties
* The right to petition government officials

A score of 0 indicates that women’s political rights were not guaranteed by law during a given year. A score of 1 indicates that women’s political rights were guaranteed in law, but severely prohibited in practice. A score of 2 indicates that women’s political rights were guaranteed in law, but were still moderately prohibited in practice. Finally, a score of 3 indicates that women’s political rights were guaranteed in both law and practice.

Variable [**wosoc**] Women’s Social Rights

Women's social rights include a number of internationally recognized rights. These rights

include:

* The right to equal inheritance
* The right to enter into marriage on a basis of equality with men
* The right to travel abroad
* The right to obtain a passport
* The right to confer citizenship to children or a husband
* The right to initiate a divorce
* The right to own, acquire, manage, and retain property brought into marriage
* The right to participate in social, cultural, and community activities
* The right to an education
* The freedom to choose a residence/domicile
* Freedom from female genital mutilation of children and of adults without their
* consent
* Freedom from forced sterilization

A score of 0 indicates that there were no social rights for women in law and that systematic discrimination based on sex may have been built into law. A score of 1 indicates that women had some social rights under law, but these rights were not effectively enforced. A score of 2indicates that women had some social rights under law and the government effectively enforced these rights in practice while still allowing a low level of discrimination against women in social matters. Finally, a score of 3 indicates that all or nearly all of women’s social rights were guaranteed by law and the government fully and vigorously enforced these laws in practice.[This variable was retired as of 2005.]

Variable [**injud**] Independence of the Judiciary

This variable indicates the extent to which the judiciary is independent of control from other sources, such as another branch of the government or the military. A score of 0 indicates “not independent”, a score of 1 indicates “partially independent” and a score of 2 indicates “generally independent”.

Variable [**version**] Version of the Dataset

The CIRIGHTS Data project measures the strength of actual national government practices protecting human rights. Our long-term goal is to annually measure all internationally recognized civil and political rights and to use both human and machine-assisted coding procedures to produce scores. The project is hosted by the Binghamton University Human Rights Institute. David Cingranelli, Mikhail Filippov and Skip Mark have led the effort to produce this data release.

Our team used the coding guidelines developed by Cingranelli and Richards (CIRI) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CIRI\_Human\_Rights\_Data\_Project to quantify government human rights practices for 2012-2017.

How to Cite:

 If the combined data set is used, both the CIRI project and the CIRIGHTS projects should be cited.

 When using only CIRIGHTS data (2012 and later years), please use this citation:

Cingranelli, David, Mikhail Filippov, and Skip Mark. 2018. The CIRIGHTS Dataset. Version 2018.02.18. The Binghamton University Human Right Institute, www.binghamton.edu/institutes/hri/

 When using the combined CIRI + CIRIGHTS Dataset, users should also cite the CIRI project as follows:

Cingranelli, David, David L. Richards, and K. Chad Clay. 2014. The CIRI Human Rights Dataset. Version 2014.04.14.

The coding guide for the CIRIGHTS project includes some minor changes from the last coding guide issued by CIRI. The changes are designed to keep to the spirit of the original coding rules as much as possible, but to clarify how coders should treat new issues included in recent reports.

 We have named our project the CIRIGHTS data project, so scholars and policymakers can distinguish the new project from the old one. The CIRI project ended after Cingranelli, Clay and Richards produced the 2011 data. Neither David Richards nor Chad Clay are participating in the new project.

Many users of the new data will want to use both the CIRI coding for the years 1981 through 2008 and the CIRIGHTS coding for 2009-2015. We have changed a few of the old CIRI codes as far back as 2009 based on information contained in recent reports and on our reevaluation of previous codes—especially missing values. For the convenience of users, we have combined both data sets in this way and labeled the combined data set “CIRI + CIRIGHTS.”

The data collection for the CIRIGHTS project was sponsored by the Political Instability Task Force (PITF) for the years 2013-2015. The PITF is funded by the Central Intelligence Agency. The views expressed herein are the Principal Investigators' alone and do not represent the views of the US Government.