



SOCIAL MEDIA AND FORECASTING ELECTORAL VIOLENCE

Pilot Project - Guyana, General Elections



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Pilot Project
Guyana
General Elections
May 11, 2015**

Project Rationale

There is emerging interest in employing social media as a data collection tool to forecast violence. In this pilot project, Creative Associates International (Creative) engaged in a forecasting exercise which focused on electoral violence occurring during the 2015 general electoral cycle in Guyana. The 2015 general election in Guyana was chosen because it met four qualifying criteria: 1) an election conducted in the second calendar quarter of 2015; 2) violence experienced in previous elections; 3) an active social media; and 4) English-speaking. For the purpose of this pilot project, electoral violence is defined as “any random or organized act or threat to intimidate, physically harm, blackmail, or abuse an electoral stakeholder in seeking to determine, delay, or to otherwise influence the electoral process.”¹

Background on Case Country

General elections in Guyana were conducted on May 11 with a heated contest between the ruling People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) and A Partnership for National Unity and Alliance for Change (APNU-AFC), a multi-racial coalition established for the 2015 elections. Guyanese politics have long been ethnically divided with Indo-Guyanese and Afro-Guyanese traditionally voting along ethnic lines. Some form of violence has been experienced in nearly every election conducted since 1992. In 1992, Election Day rioting in the capital Georgetown, saw the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) headquarters attacked, the winning PPP/C headquarters attacked, and several days of post-election destruction and looting. Historically, pre-election violence has taken the form of fights among political rivals and their supporters, and the destruction of campaign materials while on Election Day, rivals took their fight to polling stations. Triggered by the perception of fraudulent outcomes, post-election violence in Guyana would manifest in the form of street protests and assaults. It is these general patterns of victimization and perpetration in the past that helped inform the data collection structure of this pilot.

¹ Fischer, Jeff. Electoral Conflict and Violence – A Strategy for Study and Prevention, IFES, 2002.

Another factor that was taken into serious consideration was the number of citizens active on social media. While it can be difficult to accurately measure the exact size and degree of internet penetration in a particular country, especially a country with a small population size such as Guyana, internal research indicated that the level of internet activity appeared sufficient to conduct this study. As reported by the Internet Worlds Stats, there was an internet penetration rate of 40.2 percent in Guyana as measured in June 2014.

Social Media “Wild Card”

Social media can be considered a “wild card” with respect to its roles in electoral violence. Four such “wild card” roles can be defined. First, social media can be the *conveyer* of threats, that is, the media become instruments to convey threats and intimidating messages. For example, intimidating SMS text messages were sent out during the 2007 post-election violence in Kenya targeting individuals associated with certain tribes with hate speech and threats. In the aftermath of the 2010 presidential election in Haiti, a supporter with a Michel Martelly T-shirt was restrained by political opponents and shot in the head. A video of the shooting was posted online as a warning to other Martelly supporters.

Second, social media can be the *documenter* of electoral violence, that is, the media become instruments to record and verify incidents of electoral violence. For example, the video footage of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard killing a young woman, Nedā Āghā-Soltān, during the 2009 post-presidential election was viewed globally as a testimony to the brutality of the regime.

Third, social media can be an *organizer* of electoral violence, that is, the media become instruments to communicate among individuals and groups organizing street actions or flash mobs to convene.

This pilot project introduces a fourth role for social media and its relationship to electoral violence; that of a *forecaster* of electoral violence. In this role, media is mined to reveal trends which might suggest that incidents of electoral violence may occur. This pilot project was organized to test this role.

Problem Statement

Electoral violence remains a persistent problem in many countries. As such, more effective tools to prevent and manage this violence must be developed to reverse trends of violence so that elections can be a secure and credible instrument to determine governance or decide upon societal questions.

Development Hypothesis

If the capacity to forecast electoral violence would provide an advantage for responders to organize their prevention and management interventions, then more effective responses to electoral violence can be achieved through better planning and more precision in the response.

Project Organization

This pilot project was conducted as a collaboration between Creative's Communities in Transition (CIT) Division's Electoral Education and Integrity (EEI) Practice Area and the Cross-Functional Group's (CFG) Technology for Development Practice Area. EEI staff members were trained by CFG staff to use the software to monitor social media and identify threats and incidents of electoral violence. In addition to Twitter and Facebook, media sites and blogs in Guyana were monitored.

The forecast monitoring was performed once a day in the pre-election and post-election phase, and conducted during several check-in points on Election Day. The Guyana pilot project approach aimed to forecast three forms of electoral violence. First, as threats are posted and incidents analyzed, a profile of the likely victims or perpetrators by political party, ethnicity, gender, location, or other variables can be formulated. By tracking and analyzing this information in the pre-election phase, the vulnerable populations can be identified and protected. Second, social media can be monitored for orchestrated attacks on election facilities or stakeholders on Election Day. By alerting relevant stakeholders through observation missions in the country, such attacks can be mitigated and facilities protected. And, third, social media can be monitored for potential violent actions in the post-election phase.

A detailed typology of the types of electoral violence is shown in Annex I.



Training on software and manual documenting process for the pilot. Photo courtesy Tihana Bartulac Blanc

An informal information sharing arrangement was developed with the Organization of American State (OAS) and The Carter Center (TCC), two of the organizations that fielded teams of international observers in Guyana. During this pilot arrangement, alerts to potential threats of violence were forwarded to them on a daily basis during the week prior and week after the Election Day as well as several times during the Election Day itself. These alerts provided insights and guidance for their observation headquarters in Guyana.

Software Selection and Application

Software Selection

Social media accounts for the primary usage of the internet². As more people connect to the internet, the number of citizen sensors in the social media networks grows and the information shared on it exponentially increases, providing a mechanism to track the pulse of our societies.

It is no surprise that social media monitoring tools abound; from those used by corporations to track their brand influence to those used for security and military purposes to conduct activities such as sentiment analysis. Simple tools or dashboards such as those to monitor Twitter accounts or search queries can be used for live tracking by human monitors. While these tools are

² ComScore, Nielsen, Pew Research Center, TNS Global (<http://www.adweek.com/socialtimes/online-time/463670>)

effective if you know exactly whom to track and the number of accounts are small, this form of monitoring is limited by the number of people that are available to actively monitor accounts. Crowdsourcing to digital volunteers to split the monitoring tasks can reduce the problem somewhat but it is still limited to human capacity. As a result, to solve the problem of manpower limitations in social media monitoring, innovations in the application of the computational power of big data are used. Machine learning, more popularly understood as artificial intelligence, learns from how humans are monitoring social media and works to automate the process. However, these innovations have only recently made their way into civic use.

Selecting the right software and processes for forecasting and predicting violence in an electoral cycle can be a challenge. Due to relationships Creative has with Georgia Tech's Technologies and International Development Lab³ and the Qatar Computing Research Institute⁴, we were given "beta" access and support to use open source softwares Aggie and Artificial Intelligence for Monitoring Elections (AIME); developed by each entity, respectively.

Aggie: Aggie, is a real-time social media aggregator designed for election monitoring. The system is intended to enable real-time response feedback and recommendations in order to improve the electoral process. The platform brings together relevant reports from Twitter based upon matches to pre-selected keywords, and from pre-identified Facebook pages and groups and website feeds, to allow users to handle roughly 60,000 reports per minute. It was first developed for the Nigerian elections in 2011, and has since been used for elections in Nigeria, Liberia, Ghana, Kenya and Uganda. Recently, Aggie 2.0 was launched which provides better usability and integration of formal reporting with social media aggregation.

AIME: AIME is powered by the Artificial Intelligence for Disaster Response (AIDR) platform which was created to gather information to help respond to natural disasters worldwide. AIME automatically works to identify relevant information for very large volumes of tweets and text messages through machine learning. AIME is an experimental solution that combines crowdsourcing with artificial intelligence to automatically identify tweets of interest during major elections. Users of AIME can tag tweets themselves or ask crowd-sourced volunteers to tag tweets indicative of electoral violence, rigging, or voter issues; after which, the system uses statistical machine learning to understand patterns in the human-tagged tweets. It then auto-classifies new tweets that are related to these categories at the rate of 2 million tweets or text messages per minute. AIME was first tested in the 2015 Nigerian elections, and Creative was the first group to independently use this platform.

³ The Technologies and International Development Lab at Georgia Tech researches the practice and promise of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in social, economic, and political development in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

⁴ Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) supports Qatar Foundation's mission by helping build Qatar's innovation and technology capacity. It is focused on tackling large-scale computing challenges that address national and Arab priorities for growth and development in such areas as Arabic language technologies, social computing, data analytics, distributed systems, cyber security and computational science and engineering.

The use of tools such as these is necessary because when monitoring social media for large-scale events such as elections, the amount of tweets and incoming data is far too large for any team of people to monitor directly. An election for a country the size of Guyana provided the opportunity to use this new sophisticated software to try to automatically monitor social media, but was also small enough that human monitors could comparatively monitor much of the social media relevant to the elections using appropriate software. This pilot project was the first time these two software programs have been used together by one organization to monitor a specific election.

Software Application

The intention of this pilot was to mine social media in an effort to forecast and predict whether certain types of electoral violence were likely to occur during the elections. When we set out to conduct the pilot, we had a number of expectations for the parallel usage of Aggie and AIME. We expected this collaboration to compare reports emanating from both platforms that would help to easily verify information coming in to make it more visible and actionable in real time, and provide a source for more authentic and trusted data coming into Aggie and AIME to be escalated to observers on the ground.

Combining the ability of Aggie and AIME using social media aggregation with real-time artificial intelligence made both systems and the entire pilot project approach more effective. For the first time, AIME was used with trained formal election trackers who tracked, verified and escalated information. “Escalation” is a term coined for this context which indicates the transmission of information from the trackers and verifiers. The Carter Center (TCC) and the Organization of American States (OAS) were given the verified information that was used in some cases to verify their own in-country reports and intelligence. The integration of Aggie and AIME resulted in a robust and reliant system of real-time verification of incidents. In part, the team improvised this method to investigate the veracity of reports. The team constantly verified reports, matching social media posts from Aggie and AIME with traditional media sources.

The first step in project preparation was to identify the key words to be mined by the software. A list of the key words employed in this pilot is shown in Annex II. Strings of keywords that represented electoral violence were first used but were found to be too narrow and led to insufficient social media reports. As a result, the keywords were changed to focus on the elections in Guyana more generally. For AIME, the keywords were further broadened to try pick up all Guyana related Twitter traffic by using location keywords.

The next step was to identify classifiers for AIME for machine learning to tag the tweets by relevant categories. Classifiers were first built around the taxonomy of electoral violence shown in Annex I. Several tweets then needed to be manually classified to train the system to identify relevant incidents automatically. To manually tag, the tracking personnel would go to the classifier and tag tweets until the goal of 70 percent confidence or quality (AUC) for each classifier was achieved. If the classifier did not reach 70 percent confidence after several hundred

tweets were manually tagged, Research Leads worked to identify alternate classifications. The initial classifiers were found to be too narrow for the system to automatically classify tweets with high confidence into those categories. As a result, the primary classifier used was “Guyana Electoral Violence Classifier”. Within this classifier there were two tagging options: “Yes, Electoral Violence Related” and “No, Not related to electoral violence”. This allowed AIME to automatically classify which of the general Guyana and election tweets are electoral violence related.

My Collections > Guyana Elections > NEW Guyana Electoral Violence Classifier > Tag more tweets

Indicate the tag for: [Back to list of human-tagged tweets](#)

10 days left in our @HIPGive #knowYourNumbers campaign! There's still time to make a difference in #Guyana! <http://t.co/hatP7Ndmrc>

No, Not related to electoral violence No, not related to electoral violence in Guyana 2015

N/A: does not apply, or cannot judge If these categories do not apply to this message, or you cannot be sure about which is the correct category

Yes, Electoral violence related Yes, related to electoral violence in Guyana 2015

[Save](#) [Skip](#)

Manually tagging tweets on AIME to train the machine to then do so automatically

Status: **RUNNING**. Machine has tagged **8,604** tweets (since last change of the classifier). Trained on **244** human-tagged tweets. [Go to human-tagged tweets »](#)

Tag:	Yes, Electoral violence related
Human-tagged tweets:	40 (16.39%)
Machine-tagged tweets:	238 (2.77%)
Precision:	1.00
Recall:	0.42
AUC:	76.00%

Tag:	No, Not related to electoral violence
Human-tagged tweets:	204 (83.61%)
Machine-tagged tweets:	8,366 (97.23%)
Precision:	0.87
Recall:	1.00
AUC:	76.00%

Summary:	
Human-tagged tweets:	244 total
Machine-tagged tweets:	8,604 total
Precision:	0.93 avg
Recall:	0.71 avg
Quality (AUC)*:	75.50%

AIME classifier status in the process of training the classifier for the Guyana Elections

Tracking personnel were then responsible for reading through the real-time stream of social media reports generated by Aggie and those classified by AIME. Their workflow involved reading each report and creating an incident in the Incident Tracker from actionable reports (report is defined as a tweet or any other filtered social media content).

The next step was media comparison. The media comparison team ensured that traditional media sources were reviewed every day and verified with any incidents of electoral violence added to the Incident Tracker. Traditional media was searched throughout each day between May 9-15. The following newspaper websites were monitored: Kaieteur News Online, Guyana Times, Guyana Chronicle, iNews Guyana, and Stabroek News.

The final step was termed *escalation*, that is, the transmission of the threat profiles to conflict prevention stakeholders. Once incidents were verified to be true and generated into a report, they were reported to TCC and OAS.

Aggie: For this pilot, Aggie 2.0 was used to track social media platforms, primarily Twitter and RSS feeds, in order to extract relevant discussions on the Guyana 2015 Elections. 16,400 reports were aggregated by Aggie, 29 which were identified as unique incidents, and after verifying their veracity 12 of those incidents were escalated or forwarded to TCC and OAS.

Time	Media	Source	Author	Content	Incident	Flagged
2 mo ago 5:03:00PM 2015-05-15 Created +3 m		Twitter Search	The_Dialogue	Party in power in #Guyana will change for the first time in 23 years, via @BBCWorld t.co/gQHKvDJe7 t.co/jvrWV6xVVz	Add	
2 mo ago 5:02:38PM 2015-05-15 Created +3 m		Twitter Search	guysnooze	Fact: There are fake SOP's at Gecom Fact: Whoever placed them into the system, HAS to be prosecuted. I suggest... t.co/QzZPcFzIVv	Add	
2 mo ago 5:01:36PM 2015-05-15 Created +5 m		iNews Guyana	Editor	[Trinidadian murder accused charged with illegal entry] Ralph Ramdhan also known as Vernon Rampersaud. [iNews’ Photo][inewsguyana.com] – A Trinidadian murder accused who was caught in a hotel in Guyana on May 14, appeared before Chief Magistrate Priya Sewnarine-Beharry to answer a charge of illegal entry. Ralph Ramdhan also known as Vernon Rampersaud pleaded guilty to the charge which stated that between November 23, 2014 and May 14 2015, at Charity Essequibo, he entered Guyana illegally by sea and did not present himself to an immigration officer. He was fined \$30,000, or the alternative of two weeks in prison. Fifty-year- old Ramdhan is currently wanted in Trinidad for a double homicide. He was nabbed yesterday in a city hotel after the police learnt about his whereabouts. Ramdhan will remain in the custody of the police until he is deported.	Add	
2 mo ago 4:57:43PM 2015-05-15 Created +3 m		Twitter Search	ryanhoppie	Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry - not APNU+AFC Private Sector Commission - not APNU+AFC Indian... t.co/roAHgtiUji	Add	
2 mo ago 4:53:55PM 2015-05-15 Created +3 m		Twitter Search	guyanamosquito	The Gecom numbers on the right hand side have, according to our sources, been verified by APNUAFC as being the... t.co/hKH2T1IUv5	Add	
2 mo ago 4:53:11PM 2015-05-15 Created +5 m		Stabroek News	Staff Editor	[Private sector tells PPP/C to accept results] In a second and direct statement, the Private Sector Commission this afternoon called on the PPP/C to accept the results of Monday’s general elections and to pave the way for the transition to... View full article at stabroeknews.com	Add	
2 mo ago 4:51:53PM 2015-05-15 Created +3 m		Twitter Search	GOAntiguaBarbud	Calls made for GECOM to issue final results in Guyana election t.co/thME2GhZmJ t.co/DqB4BPrHXL #antigua #barbuda	Add	

Aggie Reports from the pilot

AIME: During the Guyana Elections pilot, AIME pulled in 22,900 tweets and 45 of these tweets were listed on the Incident Tracker spreadsheet. 15 of these tweets were verified and escalated to TCC and the OAS.

Project Findings

The monitoring yielded 39,300 social media reports which resulted in 19 alerts detailing potential threats. Specifically, there was one pre-election threat, six Election Day threats, seven post-election threats, and five threats which concerned more than one electoral phase. A report on these alerts and potential threats is found in Annex III.

Generally, the project managed to successfully identify and escalate relevant alerts that corresponded to incidents of electoral violence which actually occurred. However, while this correlation between identifying potential threats and incidents is a positive takeaway of the project, none of this forecasting was specific enough to organize an actionable response.

The most significant alert that was identified was in regard to the many claims that were made about voting irregularities which were being published by political parties and their supporters. Creative identified the potential threat of this rhetoric as being a catalyst for confrontation between political parties. This alert corresponds with the worst episode of electoral violence that occurred on Election Day in the 'C' Field neighborhood of Sophia. This incident involved the confrontation between security forces and an angry mob which burned several vehicles and a house after rumors that the owner of the house had been conducting an illegal polling station at the residence. The nature of the event does not seem to be an ideal event for forecasting through social media monitoring as it appears to have been started locally through traditional word of mouth.

Another relevant success of the project was the ability of AIME and Aggie to predict, albeit somewhat generally, the potential for protests and unrest. Calls for protest by PPP/C officials and supporters were identified in advance as details were communicated through social media. While these protests were identified as potential threats of electoral violence, positively, these events remained mostly peaceful.



Election Day live monitoring at Creative. Photo courtesy Ayan Kishore

Operational experience and learning in social media monitoring were another benefit of the pilot project. Setting up the right keywords for searching social media, and the right classifiers for machine learning is an integral component of real-time big data analysis. As has been the case in prior social media monitoring, it was found that certain Twitter accounts were particularly active and provided a subset of data that could be manually monitored. Certain Twitter hashtags arose during the elections like #votelikeaboss and #may11, and following these provided a more direct mechanism to monitor the elections than searching for keywords in social media data streams. In the spirit of open source collaboration, the electoral violence classifier trained for the Guyana elections is now available in the AIME library so that it can be reused or adapted for similar activities reducing the need to train a new classifier.



Popular youth-led social media campaign for the Guyana elections #votelikeaboss

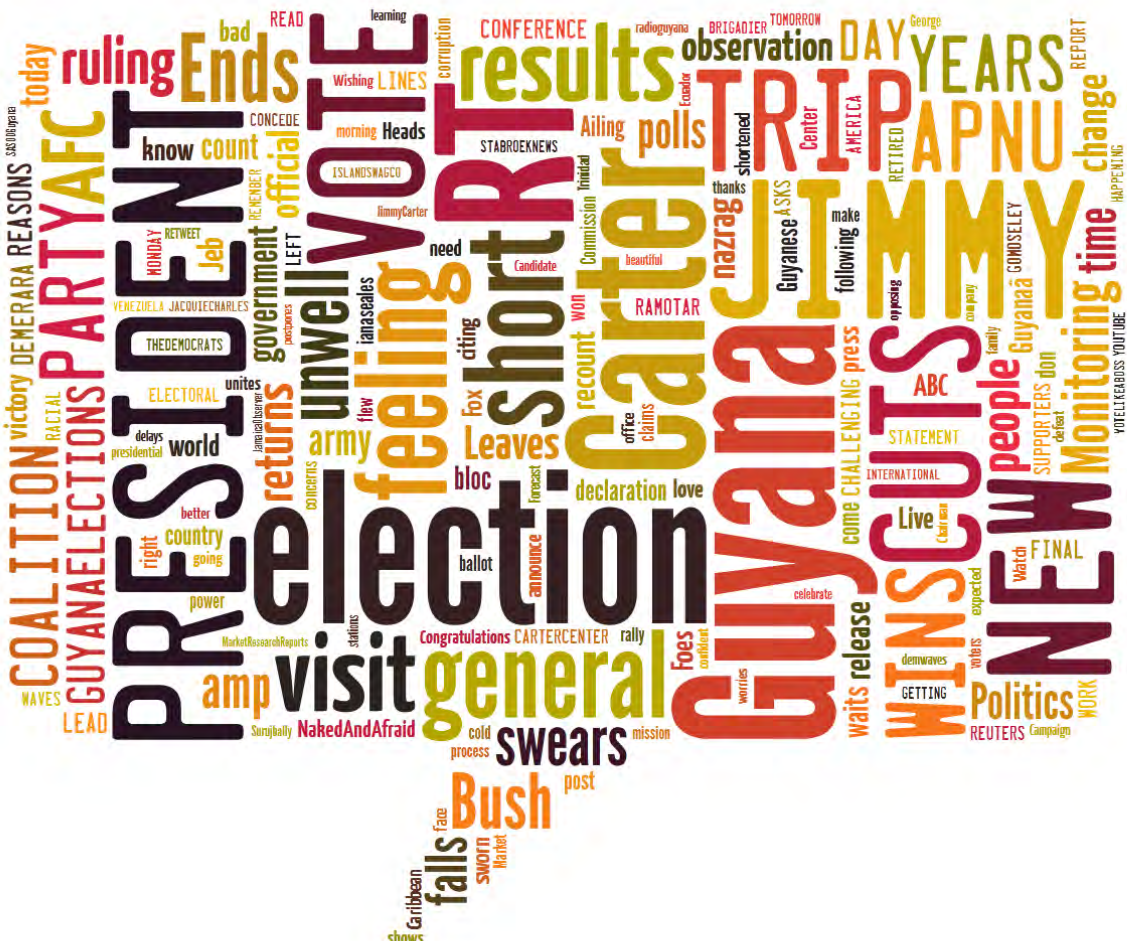
In running two elections-specific social media monitoring software in parallel, the advantages of one over the other became clearer. Aggie, which has been iteratively improved from prior usage in elections monitoring, provided better functionality to serve as a live social media reports task management system. This platform enabled multiple people to be tasked to use it simultaneously by grabbing batches of social media reports, flagging, creating incidents and associating multiple social media reports with the incidents. Furthermore, the ability to combine various types of sources apart from Twitter such as blogs, news websites, Facebook⁵ and even formal observer reports through Elmo⁶ (elections mobile data collection open source software supported by TCC) increased the scope of information that could be monitored. It was also found that in this pilot, Facebook often had richer information that was predictive of electoral violence and sometimes arose even before Twitter alerts. For instance, the Guyana election rallies had richer coverage on Facebook than Twitter or news sites. Twitter posts often hyperlinked to Facebook posts indicating that Facebook was often a stronger source than Twitter for social media discourse. While it is more difficult to track Facebook over Twitter, since one can only monitor Facebook groups or pages and not the information shared publicly between users, the quality and volume of discourse on Facebook poses an opportunity for further innovation in social media monitoring.

AIME, new to being used in elections monitoring, provides great promise in theory. It provided social media reports annotated with a confidence measure of the automatic classification by the

⁵ Due to a software bug, Facebook tracking was not available through Aggie when the pilot was performed; however RSS feeds available for entities with Facebook pages were monitored through Aggie.

⁶ Formal observer reports were not used in this pilot.

system as to whether an incident was Electoral Violence related. However, the reports had to be exported as Excel or Comma Separated Value files for tracking and creating incidents separately outside the software which made the process more difficult to manage. Given that the volume of social media reports generated during the Guyana elections was low, all reports were able to be manually reviewed by the trackers in the pilot. As a result, the value of artificial intelligence that AIME brings was reduced. However, the case for machine learning in social media monitoring was still evident. For instance, in the days leading up to the elections, social media was overtaken by discussion about Jimmy Carter's visit to and unexpected return from Guyana in conjunction with the 100th TCC election observation mission (see word cloud). Thus, it became evident the utility of eliminating such noise from the monitoring process by training the machine learning classifiers to decrease the sensitivity of such topics.



Tag cloud of all 2015 Guyana general elections tweets monitored in pilot

Conclusions

In the May 11 General elections the APNU-AFC coalition, a recent fusion between the traditional Afro-Guyanese party and a smaller third party, broke the ruling Indo-Guyanese PPP party's 23 year hold on power and opened a new chapter in ethnically-divided Guyana. For the most part, these elections were generally considered to be free and fair with relatively few verified voting irregularities occurring. Especially positive was the fact that these elections were generally very peaceful, with very few incidents related to electoral violence.

As a “forecaster” of violence, although AIME and Aggie positioned the project organizers to identify alerts and threats, there simply were not many incidents related to electoral violence which occurred. Both of these platforms were successful in identifying potential threats which could have transformed into incidents of electoral violence, such as calls for strikes by various groups, interparty attacks, and rumors designed to incite unrest, among others. However, for the most part, these threats never materialized into violent acts of unrest. It also appears that the decision by TCC and the OAS to release early statements that the elections were largely free and fair, quelled the motives for street protests against election results or attacks on electoral facilities. Therefore, although these platforms provided the capacity to forecast, further piloting is required in order to confirm correlations between alerts and realized incidents of violence.

Additionally, this pilot project revealed that mitigating factors can be tracked as well. Mitigating factors are those which support a peaceful electoral process. In this pilot, mitigating factors included youth campaigns which were observed promoting peaceful elections and an absence of hate speech was noted. As a result, peaceful elections may also be predicted using these tools.

One of the major challenges experienced during this pilot study was the relatively low volume of social media posts that were received, although the internet penetration rate was reported at 40.2 percent. Such is an embedded challenge with employing these tools as forecasters of electoral violence because countries with small populations and limited internet penetration are often countries at risk for electoral violence. As a result, further refinement of mining methodologies, including the deciphering of code words being employed by perpetrators, will be required as further piloting is conducted. While this pilot project may not have seen many incidents of violence realized, the potential for both of these platforms remains intact for electoral violence forecasting and additional piloting testing.

ANNEX I - Typology of Electoral Violence

- Protest/ Unrest
 - Mobilization Towards Violence
 - Gunshots
 - Other Protest/Unrest
- Threats (Intimidation or Harassment)
 - Political party threats
 - Ethnicity threats
 - Other Threats
- Vandalism
 - Destroy posters
 - Burn polling station
 - Burn GECOM
 - Other Threats
- Attacks
 - Assault candidate
 - Assault poll worker
 - Attack polling station
 - Attack party office
 - Attack GECOM
 - Attack campaign rally
 - Beat up candidate
 - Beat up poll worker
 - Injury
 - Deaths
 - Civilian Violence
 - Other Attacks
- Police/Security Activity
 - Heavy Security Presence
 - Police Arrests
 - Police Violence
 - Other Security Activity
- Targeting Sensitive Materials
 - Steal ballots
 - Steal ballot boxes
 - Steal voter card
 - Burn ballots
 - Burn voter card
 - Other targeting sensitive materials
- Electoral Misconduct
 - Vote fraud
 - Other Electoral Misconduct

ANNEX II - Social Media Sources

1. Twitter Keywords (Aggie and AIME)

- a. **General:** (These all yield a good number of tweets since they are less specific)
 - i. Guyana politics
 - ii. Guyana Elections2015
 - iii. Guyana opposition
 - iv. Guyana vote2015
 - v. Guyana Youth
 - vi. #Votelikeyaboss (campaign started by the Guyana National Youth Council)
 - vii. Guyana Election, Guyana Elections
 - viii. Guyana Vote
 - ix. Guyana Voter
 - x. Guyana democracy, Guyana democratic
 - xi. Guyana justice
 - xii. Guyana May 11
 - xiii. Guyana decides
- b. **Pre-Election Phase**
 - i. Guyana rally
 - ii. Guyana voter registration
 - iii. Guyana buying votes
 - iv. Guyana Campaign vandalism, Guyana vandalism
 - v. Guyana campaign
 - vi. Guyana election violence
 - vii. Guyana poll
- c. **Election Day Phase**
 - i. Guyana Voters' list
 - ii. Polling station closed: Guyana polling station
 - iii. Guyana ballot box
 - iv. Guyana ballot
 - v. Guyana Party
 - vi. Guyana observers
 - vii. Guyana intimidation
 - viii. Guyana protests
 - ix. Guyana unrest
 - x. Guyana gunshots
 - xi. Guyana assault
 - xii. Guyana attack
 - xiii. Guyana racial, Guyana race, Guyana ethnicity, afro guyanese, indo guyanese
 - xiv. Guyana burn, Guyana burning, Guyana arson, Guyana fire
 - xv. Guyana security
 - xvi. Guyana Defense Force

- xvii. Guyana beat up
- xviii. Guyana threats
- xix. Guyana posters
- xx. Guyana injured
- xxi. Guyana death
- d. **Post-Election Phase**
 - i. Guyana Fraud
 - ii. Guyana Police
 - iii. Guyana misconduct
 - iv. Guyana corruption, Guyana corrupt
- e. **Location based**
 - i. Paramakatoi
 - ii. Demerara
 - iii. Mahaica
 - iv. Berbice
 - v. Corentyne
 - vi. Anna Regina
 - vii. Pomeroon
 - viii. Supenaam
 - ix. Bartica
 - x. Cuyuni
 - xi. Mazaruni
 - xii. Skeldon
 - xiii. Rosignol
 - xiv. Potaro
 - xv. Siparuni
 - xvi. Parika
 - xvii. Essequib
 - xviii. Aishalton
 - xix. Apoteri
 - xx. Arakaka
 - xxi. Arimu Mine
 - xxii. Baramita
 - xxiii. Bush Lot
 - xxiv. Biloku
 - xxv. Berbice
 - xxvi. Stewartvliie
 - xxvii. Clonbrook
 - xxviii. Cove & John
 - xxix. Hosororo
 - xxx. Imbaimadai
- f. **Electoral Cycle**
 - i. *Electoral Administration*

1. GECOM, Guyana Election Commission
2. Guyana Media Monitoring Unit, Guyana MMU
- ii. *Political Parties*
 1. Guyana PPPC, PPPC, PPP/Civic, PPP/C, Guyana PPP (People's Progressive Party/Civic)
 2. Guyana APNU (A Partnership for National Unity), Guyana AFC (Alliance for Change), APNU+AFC, UnitedGuyana, APNUGuyana
 3. Guyana PNC (People's National Congress)
 4. Guyana TUF (The United Force)
 5. GAP/ROAR (Guyana Action Party/Rise Organise and Rebuild Guyana)
 6. Guyana Working Peoples Alliance
- iii. *Other Non-State*
 1. GTUC (Guyana Trades Union Congress)
 2. Kaieteur News
 3. Stabroek News
 4. Guyana National Youth Council
 5. NCN Guyana
- iv. *Key Individuals*
 1. Roopnaraine (Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine)
 2. Leslie Ramsammy
 3. Clive Jagan, Guyana Jagan
 4. Guyana Harper (Elizabeth Harper)

2. Blogs / RSS (Aggie only)

- a. Guyana Palace: www.guyanapalace.com
- b. Guyana Chronicle: <http://guyanachronicle.com/feed/>
- c. Guyana Times: <http://www.guyanatimesgy.com/feed/>
- d. INews Guyana: <http://www.inewsguyana.com/feed/>
- e. Kaieteur News Online: <http://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/feed/>
- f. Stabroek News: <http://feeds.feedburner.com/stabroeknewsguyana.xml>

ANNEX III - Alert and Potential Threat Reports

In monitoring social media sites for potential threats of electoral violence, the following alerts have been identified.

May 6, 2015

Pre-Election Alert 1

Alert: Inter-party attacks and violence continue to be reported. The attacks have been principally between the PPP and PNC supporters.

Potential Threat: As a result, political party supporters, campaign materials, events, and offices are at risk of becoming targets of violence.

Election Day Alert 1

Alert: GECOM has issued a prohibition on exit polling.

Potential Threat: This restriction could result in random or intended flashpoints around polling stations on Election Day if exist polls are attempted between pollsters and voters or between pollsters and police.

Election Day Alert 2

Alert: Sugar workers to organize protests on Election Day.

Potential Threat: Election Day protest by sugar workers could create crowd-based violence at the locations where the protesters are picketing between the protesters and those against the protesters. In such scenario an escalation of the violence beyond the original location is possible.

Election Day Alert 3

Alert: Teachers threaten to strike on Election Day.

Potential Threat: Election Day protests by teachers would create further crowd-based tensions in the locations where the protests are held.

May 7, 2015

Election Day Alert 4

Alert: A reported 5 percent of names on the voter registry are deceased persons.

Potential Threat: The voter impersonation and multiple voting which could occur as a result of the voter registry issues could provoke violence at polling stations between perpetrators and others.

Pre-Election/Election Day/Post-Election Alert 1

Alert: APNU+AFC allege they have received information that there is a plan to “detain and arrest an unusually large number of persons over the weekend and on Election Day...”

Relatedly, in response to the nationwide police exercises taking place on May 8, the APNU+AFC is urging its members to stay in their homes if possible in order to avoid unnecessary arrests.

Potential Threat: This heightened rhetoric of insecurity related to police activity could lead to an escalation in tensions between citizens and police forces especially if any arrests are made which appear unlawful.

Election Day Alert 5

Alert: US Envoy warns against existing polling.

Potential Threat: A diplomatic statement on this issue represents a reiteration of the threat identified in Election Day Alert 1.

Election Day Alert 6

Alert: Release of perpetrator’s name on obscene desecration of Guyana flag.

Potential Threat: While this desecration occurred on April 29, such deliberately provocative actions on Election Day may create random or intended flashpoints for violence between the provocateurs and others.

Post-Election Alert 1

Alert: GECOM accused of failing to uphold electoral law.

Potential Threat: Continue criticism of the GECOM may diminish public confidence in the integrity of announced election outcomes resulting in protests by losing parties, candidates and their supporters.

Election Day/Post Election Alert 1

Alert: High profile election observation teams staying at the Marriott hotel.

Potential Threat: The Marriott could become a focal point for protests over election outcomes and claims of irregularities.

Election Day/ Post-Election Alert 2

Alert: Claims and counter-claims of potential voting irregularities by the two major political parties

Potential Threat: Suspected fraudulent actions may trigger confrontation at polling stations between political rivals or between political parties and poll workers on Election Day. Creating an atmosphere of mistrust of electoral integrity may also trigger post-election protests by losing parties and candidates.

Election Day/Post Election Alert 3

Alert: The rumor of mass arrests by police continues to circulate.

Potential Threat: This heightened rhetoric of insecurity related to police activity could lead to an escalation in tensions between citizens and police forces especially if any arrests are made which appear unlawful.

Election Day/Post Election Alert 4

Alert: Electrical blackouts are occurring in Georgetown.

Potential Threats: Blackouts occurring at polling station on the evening of Election Day during the ballot counting process may disputes that process and further diminish public confidence in the announced outcomes creating a further trigger for post-election protest in the post-election phase.

Post-Election Alert 2

Alert: GDF prepared for both preventative and pre-emptive actions.

Potential Threat: Police use of force to quell post-election protests may exacerbate the situation and escalate the violence.

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Post-Election Alert 3

Alert: Volatile political rhetoric on the acceptance or not of election results from the leader of the APNU-AFC.

Potential Threat: This provocative speech contributes to the atmosphere of mistrust over electoral integrity that can translate into post-election protest by losing parties and candidates.

May 11, 2015

Post-Election Alert 4

Alerts: Incidents of Election Day violence, rumors of further violence, and hate speech.

Potential Threat: While peaceful in many locations, the Election Day experience creates a vulnerability for post-election violence through street actions against GECOM over election outcomes and targeted assaults.

Post-Election Alert 5

Alert: Reports of underage voting, multiple voting, problems with voting instruments, ballot box stuffing, long lines at polls, and illegal campaigning.

Potential Threat: These irregularities and perceptions of irregularities further contribute to an atmosphere of mistrust in the outcomes that could result in street actions against GECOM facilities and targeted assaults.

Post-Election Alert 6

Alert: Statements of Polls begin to be released on election night.

Potential Threat: Social media users continue to be very active online throughout the evening as they eagerly await the election results. Issues could arise if there is discontent with the results as well as possible issues with many users posting unofficial results.

Post-Election Alert 7

Alert: Residents of 'C' Field Sophia have reportedly torched two buses in front of the home of Pastor Narine Khublall, following a rumor that he conducted an illegal polling station at his residence. Two buildings were also reportedly on fire.

Potential Threat: Major unrest continues in the community and could escalate as security forces work to defuse the situation.



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