Motivation

- Purges are a conceptually distinct form of political repression.
- Repression of opposition elites
- Used in literature as indicator of repression
- Cross-National Time Series (CNTS) Data Archive.
- Most widely used measure of political purges
- No way to validate without anything to compare against
- Uses New York Times, other sources unclear

Goals

- Replicate
  - Replicate CNTS using original coding rules
  - Collect theoretically relevant additional info
- Validate
  - How accurate is CNTS purge measure?
  - Where does it fall short?
  - How can it be improved?
- Extend
  - Military / non-military purges
  - Method of purge: killed, fired, exiled, jailed
  - Estimated number of victims
  - Expanded sources
    - The New York Times
    - The Associated Press
    - Agence France-Presse

How Different is Our Measure?


Convergent Validity

Figure: The new purge variable is substantially more correlated with a measure of the underlying theoretical concept — human rights — than the CNTS purge variable (n=2,424 cases coded so far).


Discussion

- Our new measure captures more variation between states.
- Our measure shows a stronger theoretically expected correlation with human rights.
- We incorporate additional news sources, reducing bias in coverage.