



Kusaas Diaspora Union

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A Message to the Interior Minister, Hon. Muntaka Mohammed-Mubarak: Clarifying the Path to True Justice and Peace in Bawku

— A Statement by the Kusaas Diaspora Union (KUDU)

The Kusaas Diaspora Union (KUDU) appreciates the Interior Minister's expression of empathy and condemnation of the recent horrific killings in Bawku Traditional Area, especially the gruesome murder of a woman and her four children in Binduri, during his visit to Bronx, New York, USA, where he addressed a gathering of Northerners in the diaspora. We call on all stakeholders to follow suit and condemn these ongoing inhumane acts in Bawku.

We are particularly heartened by the Interior Minister and the government's urging Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, to fast-track the mediation process with a vision to "deal with the issue so that everyone would feel like a winner." We respect the Asantehene's role and trust his wisdom and neutrality in the mediation. So, we want to reiterate the Kusasis' commitment to peace, harmony, and unity in Kusaug, the one built on a foundation of justice and historical accuracy.

The Kusasis are Bawku's indigenous and rightful owners of the land, a historical fact backed by reputable historians, official colonial records, court rulings, and authoritative legal documents. The evidence is overwhelming and conclusive, not a conjecture. Thus, KUDU wishes to state unequivocally that the Kusasis are entering this mediation process to discuss peaceful coexistence with the other ethnic groups in Bawku and not the ownership of the land and the skin. There shall be no negotiations over the legitimate identity or traditional authority of the Kusasi people in Bawku. The records speak for themselves, and our history is not up for revision.

We urge the Interior Minister and the government of Ghana to uphold the principles of justice and truth in the mediation process. The idea of "everyone feeling like a winner" must not come at the expense of the truth, nor should it be used to create false parity between the rightful custodians and any challenger to that legitimacy. In other words, the mediation must be honest, principled, and fair. It must not ignore or distort the clear historical and legal records for convenience or political correctness.

We call on all Ghanaians, the international community, and peace and justice advocates to understand the Kusasis' stance. The Kusasis come to the mediation table with open hands and hearts for peace and unity in Bawku, but not to compromise with the truth. Our dignity, history, and rightful landowners of Bawku are not up for sacrifice on the altar of convenience. We are committed to a peaceful resolution that upholds justice and respects our historical truth, and we urge all stakeholders to join us in telling the truth to power.

Let the truth lead the way to peace.

Signed:

Kusaas Diaspora Union (KUDU)