



Kusaas Diaspora Union

Operations Office

44 Court Street, Suite 909

Brooklyn, New York 11201, USA

Tel: +1 718 694 8306

16 July 2025

Honourable Dr. Edward Omane Boamah,
The Minister for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Burma Camp, Accra

KUDU Condemns the Military Brutality in Bawku and Calls for Accountability

The Kusaas Diaspora Union (KUDU) expresses its gravest concern and unreserved condemnation of the escalating acts of violence, extrajudicial killings, and blatant partiality by the Ghana Armed Forces deployed in the Bawku traditional area. The use of indiscriminate deadly force against unarmed civilians, women, children, and the elderly in Bawku Central and Bazua this week has once again highlighted a total breakdown of military neutrality, professionalism, and discipline, grossly violating international humanitarian law and the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana.

On Sunday, July 13, 2025, an alleged attack on a military escort by unknown gunmen quickly descended into a massacre of civilians, as members of the Ghana Armed Forces indiscriminately opened fire on unarmed citizens, cultural property, and schools, which are protected by international law. Students at the Bawku Technical Institute were not spared from the military's recent brutality in Bawku. A disturbing video circulating on social media clearly shows a military vehicle stationed strategically at the Institute, opening fire on students exiting their dormitories, killing at least one student and injuring others. These acts are not only morally reprehensible but are stark violations of both domestic and international law.

As if that were not enough, the military went after the cultural properties of the Kusaas. Social media is flooded with video evidence of the military forces destroying the statue of the overlord of the Kusaug traditional area, Zugran Azoka Abugrago II. This act not only contravenes international law of conflict but also marks a grave and unacceptable act of cultural desecration that attacks the core of Kusaas' identity and dignity. Statues are more than just stone and metal; they represent continuity, heritage, reverence, and the collective memory of a people. Demolishing the likeness of a living paramount chief during a violent confrontation adds physical violence to historical erasure, worsening wounds that time and dialogue aim to heal. Such actions violate the fundamental principles of respect, restraint, and neutrality that are crucial during conflicts. The destruction of the statue is a deliberate and direct attack on Zugran, the Overlord of the Bawku traditional area, and the Kusaug people. There is no connection between the unknown gunmen and the statue of the Overlord of Kusaug because statues can neither wield a gun nor harm the military in any way.

Information reliably reaching us suggests a far more sinister pattern of military compromise towards the Mamprusi community. This has bred both conflict of interest and direct military bias, resulting in a lopsided application of force that disproportionately targets innocent Kusaas while shielding

Mamprusi. This constitutes a dereliction of duty, abuse of authority, and an affront to the principle of impartiality enshrined in the Ghana Armed Forces Act, 1962 (Act 105), Article 17 of the 1992 Constitution, and key international frameworks.

The United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (1990) explicitly prohibit the use of lethal force except as a last resort to protect life. Article 13 of the Geneva Conventions relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (1949) imposes a binding obligation on state actors to protect civilian populations. Furthermore, the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) affirms the responsibility of state security forces to remain neutral, proportionate, and human rights-compliant in active conflict areas. The actions of the Ghana Armed Forces on July 13th and in several other instances are gross violations of these standards.

Under Section 49 of Ghana's Criminal and Other Offences Act (1960), any public officer who causes harm or death through excessive force or negligence may be held liable. Moreover, the Ghana Armed Forces Disciplinary Code requires adherence to the principles of necessity, proportionality, and accountability, but these are regularly flagrantly breached in the case of Bawku. KUDU therefore demands the following immediate actions:

1. The urgent removal and replacement of the current military leadership in Bawku, whose actions and alliances have fatally undermined their credibility and fitness to carry out their duties objectively.
2. An independent and transparent commission of inquiry, comprising representatives from CHRAJ and the Ghana Bar Association, to investigate the actions of the Ghana Armed Forces in Bawku.
3. Full public disclosure of the chain of command and operational instructions that led to the July 13th civilian massacre in Bawku and the destruction of the statue.
4. Prosecution of all military personnel found culpable under both domestic law and international conventions to which Ghana is a signatory.
5. Immediate ceasefire orders and redeployment of a professionally disciplined peacekeeping force under the supervision of neutral observers.
6. We unequivocally call for the immediate restoration of the statue of the King of Bawku traditional area as a first step toward justice, reconciliation, and respect for the traditions and leadership of the Kusaug people.
7. An immediate removal of Seidu Abagre from Bawku. His continued stay in Bawku is fueling the conflict.

KUDU remains committed to peace and dialogue, especially in the ongoing mediation efforts under the leadership of His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II. However, peace cannot flourish in a terrain where the protectors have become perpetrators, and the custodians of law and order have themselves descended into partisan militancy.

We call on the President of the Republic of Ghana and the Honourable Minister for Defence to act without delay in response to the aforementioned demands to restore calm and continue the ongoing

mediation efforts. The sanctity of civilian life, the legitimacy of our armed forces, and the survival of our democracy are all at stake.

Dr. Mumuni Sharon



Secretary of Kusaas Diaspora Union (KUDU)

Distribution:

1. His Excellency, President John Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana
3. Honourable Alhaji Mohammed Mubarak Muntaka, the Minister for the Interior
3. All media houses