
26 April 2025

Where Is Free Speech in Ghana? Why Are Threats Against Truth-Tellers Being Ignored?

— A Concerned Statement by the Kusaas Diaspora Union (KUDA)

Ghana, once heralded as a beacon of democracy and human rights protection in Africa, is now facing an alarming erosion of its foundational values. Over the past eight years, we have witnessed an insidious campaign—fueled by impunity, intimidation, and silencing rhetoric—that seeks to erase the truth about the conflict in Bawku and the identity of the Kusasis as the indigenous people of Bawku. Under the watch of national leadership, including the tenure of the former Vice President of Mamprusi descent, Alhaji Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, the aggression of the Mamprusi faction against Kusasis has been emboldened, not just politically, but also through deliberate historical revisionism and silencing of advocate voices.

It is disturbing that in Ghana today, citizens who speak the truth about Bawku's history and call for peaceful coexistence are subjected to threats, harassment, and public vilification without any consequences to the aggressors. Even more appalling is the fact that these threats are now targeting not only Kusasis but any Ghanaian of conscience who dares to speak honestly about the facts. Two weeks ago, a respected former Member of Parliament and government minister, Honorable Alhaji Inusah Fuseini, expressed a widely known truth on national television—that the Kusasis far outnumber the Mamprusis in Bawku and that we must move beyond colonial-era domination and face contemporary realities. He urged a new path, where Mamprusis would embrace peaceful coexistence and support a mediation process led by the Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II.

For this simple, truthful statement—delivered in good faith and the spirit of peace, the former minister became a target of terrifying threats. In one particular vile video, circulating on social media, a Mamprusi man named Abiola openly threatens the former minister and MP to sleep with one eye open and any move he makes, he should watch his surroundings because he will "send him where his wife went," a sickening reference to the tragic death of the minister's late wife during childbirth. This is a serious threat, yet no arrest has been made. Sadly, these threats have forced Hon. Fuseini to render an unqualified apology for telling the truth.

Another recent tragic development is the premeditated and brutal murder of Mr. Tonkuya Bombande, the younger brother of Mr. Emmanuel Bombande, following Mr. Bombande's involvement in the delegation of Bawku minority ethnic groups to the Otumfuo's Palace and for his criticism of the heinous violent crimes going on in Bawku. Mr. Bombande, himself, a respected former Deputy Minister and international conflict resolution expert, has become the target of vile threats and vilification by the Mamprusis simply for exercising his right to speak the truth. The

failure of the state to protect Mr. Bombande and his family culminated in the tragic loss of his brother, casting a dark shadow over Ghana's democratic values.

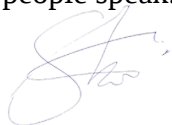
Ghana has long been admired for its commitment to free speech and observation of human rights and the rule of law; However, recent events have left much to be desired. So, we ask, where is the rule of law? Where are Ghana's security agencies? Why is civil society not outraged about this growing trend? And more importantly, where is the protection of free speech in Ghana? Are we now a country where the truth is punished, and criminal intimidation goes unchecked? Is Ghana becoming a place where history must be rewritten at gunpoint and public discourse silenced through fear? What is being done to ensure that freedom of expression does not become a death sentence? What immediate steps is Ghana's government taking to restore public trust in the rule of law and protect all citizens, regardless of ethnicity or political position?

We KUDU demand answers and action. We require that the Ghanaian government, security agencies, and civil society rise to defend the pillars of democracy in Ghana, including freedoms of speech and association. This is not just about Kusasis or Mamprusis. It concerns whether Ghana will continue to be governed by laws or ruled by fear and intimidation. These actions will set a bad precedent in the country if they go unpunished.

We stand in solidarity with all who speak the truth and stand for justice. In the strongest terms, we condemn the threats against all who stand for peace, truth, and justice, including the former minister, Hon. Alhaji Inusah Fuseini, and Mr. Emmanuel Bombande. We call on the Inspector General of Police, the Minister of Interior, and the President of the Republic of Ghana to immediately investigate and prosecute all individuals who incite violence or make death threats against law-abiding citizens who stand for truth and justice, regardless of their ethnic background or political affiliation. There can be no peace without justice, as there can be no justice without truth. Ghana must choose a path of accountability before the seeds of silence grow into a harvest of chaos.

Let the people speak. Let the truth be heard. Let democracy live.

Signed:



Kusaas Diaspora Union (KUDU)