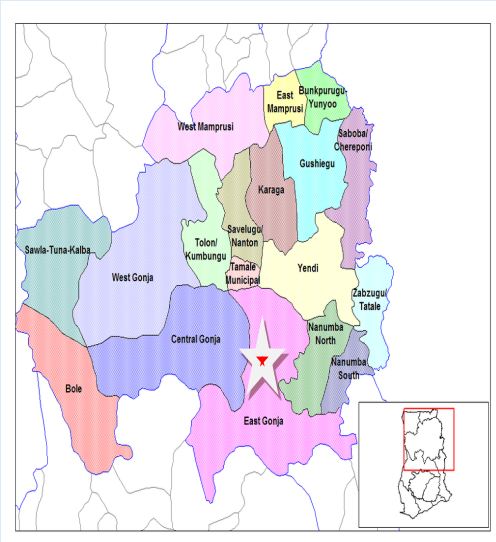


The Gonjas and Tampilmas Conflict in the North Gonja District, on January 13, 2018.

BACKGROUND/ DEMOGRAPHY

Map of Northern Region indicating North Gonja



LEGEND :



North Gonja District

- ✓ Daboya is the district capital of the North Gonja District in the Northern Region of Ghana. The District is made up of the Gonja and Tampilma ethnic groups.
- ✓ The District was carved out of the West Gonja District in 2012 under legislative instrument 2065 (2012)
- ✓ According to the 2010 Ghana Population Census, the population of the district was 43, 547 representing 1.8% of the total population of the Northern Region. The Gonjas are the majority in Daboya whilst the Tampilmas dominate in Mankarigu and Dissah.
- ✓ The main economic activity of the population is agriculture with crop farming making up 87.3% of the population. Other activities undertaken include forestry and fishing.

INCIDENT PROFILE :

On Saturday, January 13, 2018, around midday, a group of armed men, suspected to be Gonjas and from the Wasipe Palace in Daboya stormed the Tampilma territories in the North Gonja district of the Northern Region to collect royalties from Fulani herdsmen based in those communities. At Langbisi and Mankarigu, some local community members overpowered the attackers, detained and later released them. Subsequently, on Sunday January 14, 2018, about 3 a.m., a group of armed men attacked one of the villages, Dissah, burnt down almost all the houses, forcing the residents to flee towards Lingbinsi. Information from WANEP- Ghana monitors (and a starrfmonline.com) indicate that 2 people lost their lives from gunshots. Six other people were injured, while some motorbikes at Dissah, and some houses within the various communities have been burnt down. It is suspected that a refusal by the Yagbonwora and the Wasipewura, Mimuni Kabasagya II to the persistent request by the Tampilmas for a chieftaincy paramountcy status is the reason for the renewed violence between the two ethnic groups in the area.

RISKS ANALYSIS :

- The agitation of the Tampulmas for chieftaincy paramountcy status and the rejection of same by the Yagbonwura and Wasipewura create a tense situation which can be exacerbated by the parallel collection of taxes or royalties from the Fulani herdsmen within the communities.
- The intended creation of a new region out of the Northern Region and the tendency of the Tampulmas to join the Mamprusis might deepen the conflict between the two ethnic groups (Gonjas and Tampulmas) in the area. While identify based conflicts are complex to manage, a conflict between the two could transcend beyond those communities.
- It is alleged the security arrangement in the area has not been adequate to respond to the situation even in the past. Thus, in the current situation where lives have been lost and people injured, the situation can be fluid and risky with the insufficient security presence as is been alleged.

MECANISMS FOR INTERVENTIONS :

- ❖ According to the Northern Regional Minister, Mr Salifu Saeed, 40 persons have been arrested in connection with the violence and they are aiding the police in their investigations.
- ❖ The two persons confirmed dead have been taken to the Damongo Hospital mortuary.
- ❖ Extra security personnel have been sent to the affected communities in order to maintain law and order.
- ❖ The Northern Regional Minister visited the area and has appealed to all stakeholders especially the factions to resolve their disputes peacefully. He has warned that any chief found culpable of the current situation will be duly prosecuted.

RECOMMENDATIONS :

- ❖ Government should as a matter of urgency beef up security with the necessary logistics to maintain law and order and prevent any escalation of the situation.
- ❖ The 40 suspects arrested should duly interrogated and prosecuted I found culpable, in a stringent but conflict sensitive manner to serve as deterrent while preventing



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any escalation of the situation., Regional House of Chiefs, the Chieftaincy Ministry and the Regional Peace Council, should intervene as soon as possible with interventions to address the situation among the two factions.

References :

WANEP-Ghana National Early Warning System (NEWS)

<http://starrfmonline.com/2018/01/15/two-killed-renewed-gonja-tampulma-clashes/>

http://www.statsghana.gov.gh/docfiles/2010_District_Report/Northern/NORTH%20GONJA.pdf

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