

Quick Update

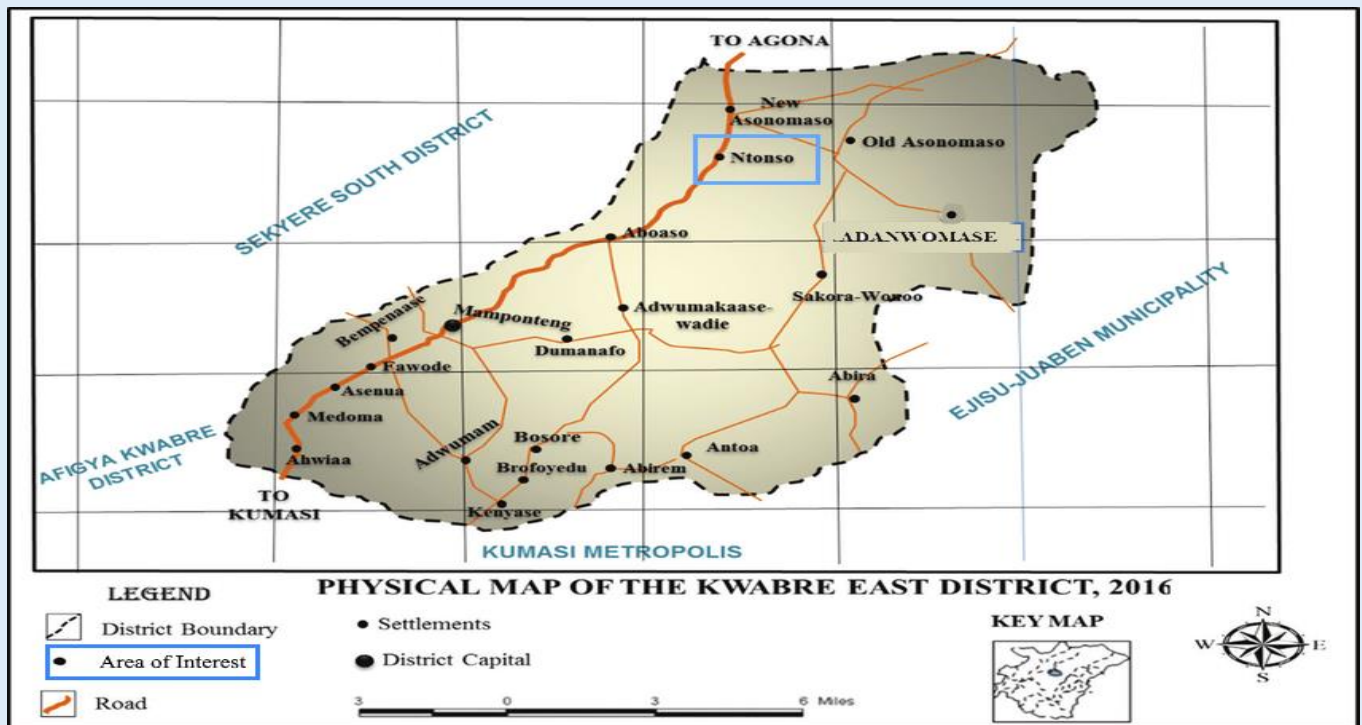
Youth Clashes at Ntonso in the Kwabre East District

(6 injured, Several Properties Destroyed)

July 5, 2021.

BACKGROUND/ DEMOGRAPHY

Map of the Kwabre East District:



Source: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Map-of-the-Kwabre-East-District-Source-Kwabre-East-District-Medium-Term-Plan-KFDMTP_fig1_318754493

- ✓ **Region:** Ashanti
- ✓ **District:** Kwabre East District
- ✓ **Location:** Ntonso
- ✓ **Population:** Ntonso has settlement population of 5762 (2806 males, 2956 females) people.
- ✓ **Geo-Location:** Ntonso is located between Afigya-Sekyere, Atwima, Kumasi Metropolitan, Ejisu Juaben and the far southwest of Sekyere East districts.
- ✓ **Coordinates:** 6.8314° N, 1.5197° W
- ✓ Ntonso is noted for arts and culture, especially the Adinkra industry. It is also noted for the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary.
- ✓ The art and culture industry attracts both domestic and international tourists, with significant revenue generation to the state and population, particularly the youth and women in the community.

INCIDENT PROFILE

On Monday July 5, 2021, suspected rival youth groups in Ntonso in the Kwabre East of the Ashanti region clashed, resulting in at least six injuries. On the day of the incident, some youth wielding machetes and clubs believed to belong to one rival group went on a rampage, destroying property and threatening lives of innocent persons. This subsequently forced community members to flee to safety.

It is unclear what triggered the violence. Opinion leaders in the community said the fight is believed to have started on Sunday July 4, 2021 from a popular pub and escalated on Monday 5th July 2021. Institutions such as schools and businesses were subsequently closed down following the clashes.



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RISKS ANALYSIS:

The Ashanti region is witnessing trends in clashes among youth and community leaders and state agencies in communities in recent times. Immediate reference of this is the Ejura incident over the murder of a youth blogger that resulted in violent clashes between the Police and youths in the community. Against this backdrop, clashes between youth groups in Ntonso is another cause for concern. It raises concerns around the capacity of community peacebuilding mechanisms – dialogue, mediation and negotiations among others - to respond to the trends in community agitations and violent clashes among youth and state agencies and community leaders in the region and beyond.

The clashes between the youth groups have possible impact on the socio-economic activities in Ntonso. Given the strategic economic importance of the arts and culture industry that has been a source of tourist attraction and income generation for youth and women in the community and the region, insecurity in the town is a cause for concern. More importantly closure of schools and other economic activities have potential to further aggravate the already debilitating impact induced by the COVID-19 pandemic on education and livelihoods of households and populations.

MECHANISMS FOR INTERVENTIONS:

- Swift police intervention dispersed the youths as warning shots were fired. Security personnel from the Regional Police Headquarters were brought in to support the Tafo-Pankrono Division to intervene and avert further clashes.¹
- The Kwabre East Municipal Security Council in the Ashanti Region has commenced investigations into the clash between the two youth groups. One person has been arrested to assist the police in their investigations.
- The Municipal Chief Executive of the Kwabre East, Nana Osei Bonsu, has visited the community with his team to assess the situation.²
- Some of the affected victims in the clashes who sustained injuries were taken to the Ntonso Hospital for treatment.
- Authorities in Ntonso have closed down three drinking spots which are at the center of the violent clashes in the community. The drinking spots include Sandy's Pub, No Size Pub, Koyobeda drinking spot. Other drinking spots in the community have also been ordered to close operation at 8:00 pm.
- Two schools, Ntonso RC Primary School and SDA Primary School proximate to the conflict zone was immediately closed to protect and ensure the safety of children, teaching and non-teaching staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Regional and District Police Command should strengthen collaboration with the District Authority and traditional authorities to increase security presence in Ntonso to

¹ <https://www.myjoyonline.com/uneasy-calm-in-ntonso-after-youth-groups-clashed/>

² <https://www.myjoyonline.com/uneasy-calm-in-ntonso-after-youth-groups-clashed/>



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curtail potential reprisal attacks and restore law and order, while fast tracking investigations into the cause of the clashes.

2. Traditional authorities should collaborate with Local Government Authority, faith-based organisations, women groups to engage youth in Ntonso in peacebuilding, dialogue and address the issues underlying the clashes and other concerns of youths in the community.

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/6-injured-properties-destroyed-after-rival-groups-clash-at-Ntonso-1302271>

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Zongo-Asante-youth-clash-3-drinking-spots-closed-down-1302214>

<https://www.myjoyonline.com/uneasy-calm-in-ntonso-after-youth-groups-clashed/>

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/33/Ashanti_districts.png

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