



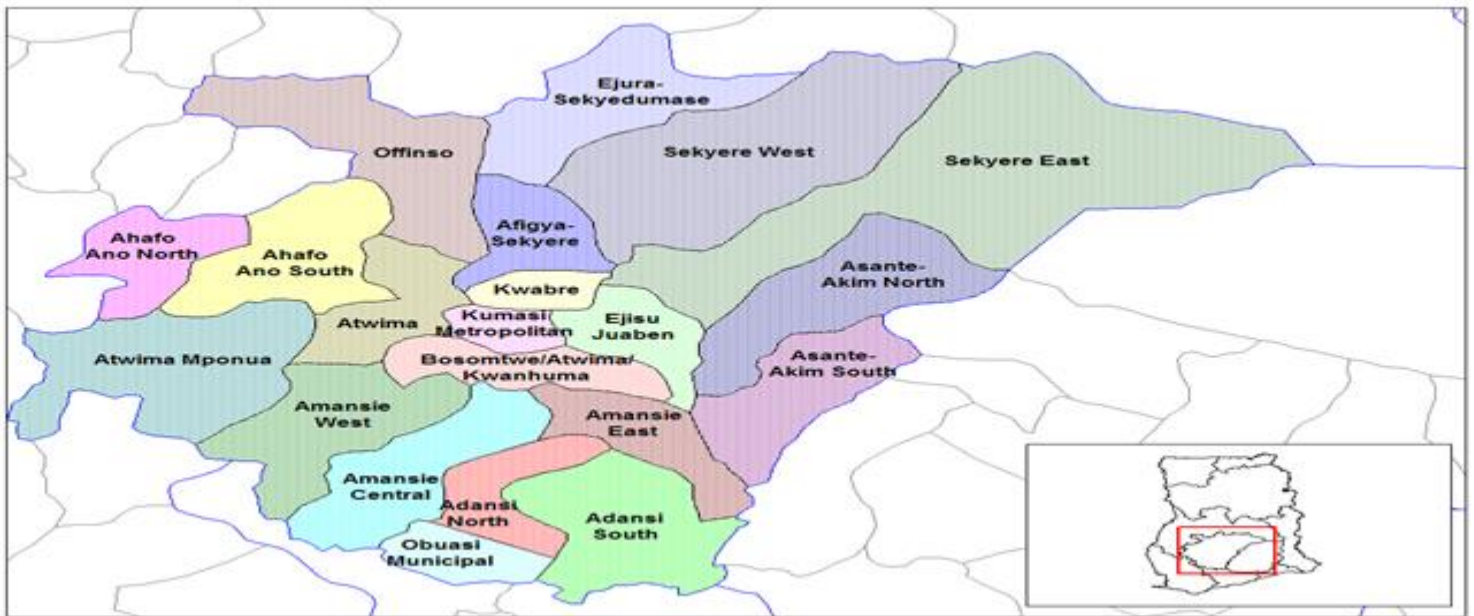
NEWS SITUATION TRACKING - GHANA

MURDER OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVIST, AND MILITARY AND POLICE CLASHES WITH YOUTHS AT EJURA SEKYEREDUMASE - 3 DEAD AND 4 INJURED

Location: Ejura, Ashanti Region, Ghana

Issue: Protest over the murder of a #FixTheCountry activist, and subsequent killing and injury of protestors.

Date: Tuesday, June 29, 2021



Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/33/Ashanti_districts.png (Map of the Ashanti Region)

COMMUNITY PROFILING

Population:

The population of Ejura-Sekyedumase Municipality according to the 2010 Population and Housing Census, is 85,446 representing 1.8% of the region's total population.¹ Males constitute 50.2% and females represent 49.8%. About fifty (49.7%) of the population is rural.²

The Municipality has a sex ratio of 100.8.³ The population of the Municipality is youthful ((41.1%) depicting a broad base population pyramid which

CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

Direct Actors:

- The Ghana Armed Forces
- The Ghana Police Service
- Youth of the Ejura town

Affected Persons:

- Youths of Ejura

Interested Actors:

INCIDENT PROFILING

Two persons were reported dead with four in severe condition following the murder of a social media activist of the #FixTheCountry protest, Ibrahim Mohammed, popularly known as Kaaka, at Ejura Seyerehdumase in the Ashanti Region.

Mohammed was attacked in the early hours of 1:30 am on Tuesday, June 27, 2021, in front of his resident by unknown attackers. He was rushed to the Ejura Government Hospital unconscious but was referred to the

¹ Ghana Statistical Service <https://www2.statsghana.gov.gh/DistrictReport.html>

² Ghana Statistical Service <https://www2.statsghana.gov.gh/DistrictReport.html>

³ Ghana Statistical Service <https://www2.statsghana.gov.gh/DistrictReport.html>

tapers off with a small number of elderly persons (4.4%).⁴

Basic Demography and Geography of Hotspots:

The Ejura-Sekyedumase Municipality is located within Longitudes 1° 5'W and 1°39' W and Latitudes 7°9' N and 7°36' N.⁵

It is located in the Northern part of the Ashanti Region and it shares boundaries with Atebubu-Amantin District to the Northwest, Mampong Municipality to the East, Sekyere South District to the South and the Offinso Municipality to the West.

It has a large land area of about 1340.1 square kilometers and constitutes about 7.3% of the region's total land area.

Ethnicity:

The Ejura-Sekyedumase Municipality is predominantly inhabited by the Akan ethnic group but there are other ethnic groups such as, Komkomba, Ewe, Dagomba, Dagarti, Bimoba, Fulani among others in the Municipality. There are three traditional areas in the Municipality i.e. Ejura, Sekyedumase, and Anyinasu.

Economy:

About 74.6% of the population aged 15 years and older are economically active while 25.4 per cent are economically not active. Of the economically active population, 97.4% are employed while with less than 2.6% are unemployed.⁶

Occupation:

Of the employed population, about 60.2% are engaged as skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers, 17.8% in service and sales, 8.8% in craft and related trade, and 5.4% are engaged as managers, professionals, and technicians.⁷

Politics:

The Ejura-Sekyedumase Municipal Assembly comprises 63 Assembly members: 44 elected and 19 appointed in addition to the Member of Parliament (MP) who is a non-voting member.⁸ The Assembly has a Presiding Member who presides over meetings of the Assembly and he/she is in charge of complaints and public relations. The Assembly has a 20-member

- The Ghana Police Service Command
- The Interior Ministry
- The Ghana Armed Forces Command
- Parliament
- Media Houses
- The Traditional Authorities in Ejura
- The Regional Minister
- The Municipal Chief Executive
- The Municipal Security Council (MUSEC)
- Youth Leaders
- Economic League Fighters
- The Judiciary
- The Criminal Investigative Department of the Police Service
- The National Bureau of Investigations
- National Security

Okomfo Anokye Hospital in Kumasi, where he was pronounced dead.⁹

The murder triggered angry youths of Ejura to hit the streets in protest to demand justice for the Mohammed.

The protest resulted in a clash with the military and police.¹⁰ The clash led to the death of two protestors with four severely injured and on admission at the Ejura Government Hospital. The dead included Abdul Nasir Yussif, a 25 years old, who was shot on the left shoulder into the chest and Muntala Mohammed 26 years, who was also shot at the back through to the chest.¹¹

As of June 30, 2021, reports from the Ejura Hospital medical superintendent indicated that two of the injured on admission have been discharged.

Response

- Traditional leaders, Regional Security Council (REGSEC) have engaged with the angry youth and called for calm.
- The police have also commenced investigation into the murder of Ibrahim Mohammed, and have arrested three suspects.
- The president has further directed the Interior Minister to initiate an investigative inquiry into the incident.

Earlier Developments

Prior to the alleged murder and clashes with the security services on 29th June 2021, more than 10 protestors of the #FixTheCountry movement protestors were arrested for demonstrating in front of the Law Courts complex in Accra.¹²

The court was hearing a case by the police seeking to place an injunction on the #FixTheCountry demonstration. Meanwhile, the police on 6th May 2021 secured an injunction to stop the planned demonstration of the convenors which was scheduled for May 9, 2021.

⁴ <https://www2.statsghana.gov.gh/DistrictReport.html> Data for Ejura-Sekyedumase was extracted on June 30, 2021 from the webpage of the link.

⁵ ibid

⁶ ibid

⁷ ibid

⁸ Ghana Statistical Service

⁹ <https://www.bbc.com/pidgin/tori-57592398>

¹⁰ <https://www.myjoyonline.com/2-dead-4-injured-as-military-and-police-clash-with-protesting-ejura-youth/>

¹¹ Joy New Reportage

¹² <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/fixthecountry-police-arrest-efia-odo-others-for-protesting-outside-court.html>

Executive Committee, which performs executive and co-ordinating functions. The day-to-day administration of the Assembly is headed by the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) who is nominated by the President and approved by two-thirds majority of members of the Assembly through voting.

RISK ANALYSIS

The use of armed men in military uniforms for civil matters is increasingly becoming worrying, as at least six unarmed persons have been shot and killed by them. Already, there is a general discontent among civil society against the use of the military in maintaining law and order, which often result in physical abuses and killing of unarmed civilians in the country.

Also, the clash between the youth and the security services has increased anger among the youth and family members who have threatened to continue to demonstrate at the peril of their lives. This has potential to trigger youth mobilisation for reprisal attacks, especially against security installations, which could further aggravate the rising insecurity in the district.

Moreover, the rising insecurity has ripple effect on economic activities, especially trading in the district. Ejura is a known market town in the Ashanti region. In addition, Ejura is also a major farming community that contribute to food security in the Ashanti region. Thus, food security and other economic activities that impact on the local and regional economy could be affected if the insecurity continues to persists.

Furthermore, the youth unrest in Ejura is not an isolated case, it is rather a pictorial representation of rising youth frustrations and discontent against lack of socio-economic opportunities and increased marginalization as well as government ineptitude in addressing the challenges facing young people in the country. Increasingly, young people in the country are demanding opportunity to amplify their voices against seeming indifference of authorities to address challenges facing them in the country. This is a looming tipping point that requires immediate attention.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The arrested suspected murderers of the social media activist must be thoroughly investigated for prosecution before the law court. The public investigation launched should also provide adequate opportunity for the voices of the youth to be heard and security officers found culpable should be dealt with in line with the rule of law.
- There is also the need for the Regional Security Council (REGSEC) and District Security Council (DISEC) to strengthen collaboration with traditional authorities to engage youth groups, community leaders and religious authorities in dialogue and mediation to address the concerns of the youth and mitigate the rising tensions and violence in Ejura.