



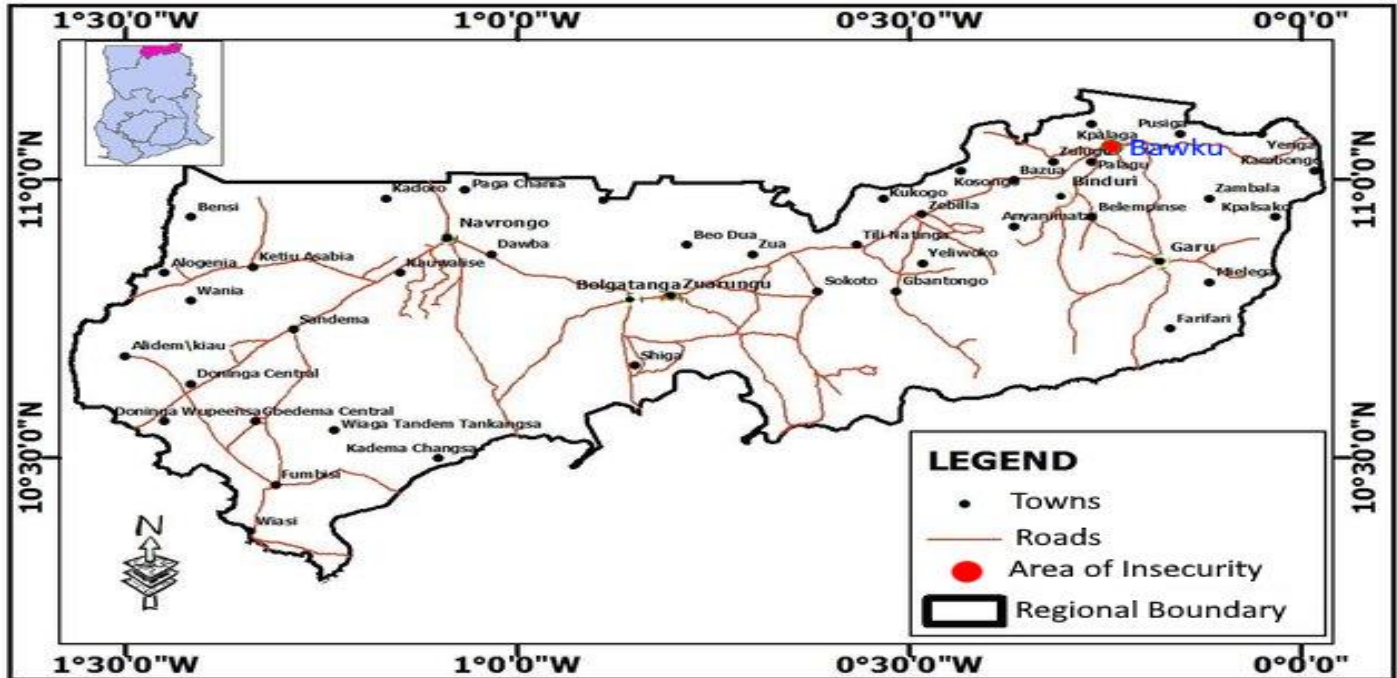
NEWS SITUATION TRACKING

Five Civilians Confirmed Dead and 1 Person Injured in Renewed Bawku Conflict

Location: Bawku, Upper East Region

Issue: Renewed Clashes in Bawku

Date: August 16, 2022



Imaged sourced from https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ebenezer-Owusu-Sekyere/publication/319109881/figure/fig1/AS:527327886491648@1502736173669/Map-of-Upper-East-Region-in-the-national-context_Q640.jpg and edited for the purposes of this bulletin.

COMMUNITY PROFILING

CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

INCIDENT PROFILING

Population:

Basic Demography and Geography of Hotspots:

The Municipality has a population of 119,458 persons, with the males being 58,029 (48.58 percent) and females 61,429 (51.42 percent).¹

The Bawku municipal has a total land area of 247.23720 sq.km and it is located approximately between latitudes 11° 11" and 10° 40" North and longitude 0° 18" W and 0° 6" E in the north eastern corner of the region. It shares boundaries with Pusiga District to the North, Binduri District to

Affected Persons:

- Residents of the District
- **Interested Actors:**
- The Ghana Police Service,
- The Ghana Armed Forces,
- Ghana Health service
- National and regional peace councils
- Interior Ministry

At the heart of the Kusasi-Mamprusi conflict is an accumulation of issues about litigations over allodial rights and chieftaincy. Both the Kusasi and the Mamprusi claim allodial ownership of Bawku. Such claims are cloaked in their narrative histories of origin and derived from claims of autochthony.⁷

Brief Background

The conflict between Kusasi and Mamprusi in Bawku reoccurred during the late hours of May 9, 2022, around 9:30pm resulting in the killing of three persons in a family (2 male and 1 female) at Kariama, a suburb of Bawku in the Bawku Municipality in the Upper East Region.

It was alleged that a Kusasi from Anzanga shot and injured a Moshie man from Patilme on April 14th, 2022. The victim was referred to the Tamale Teaching Hospital for medical care but died on May 9, 2022. The announcement of the death in

¹ https://www.citypopulation.de/en/ghana/admin/upper_east/0909_bawku_municipal/

⁷ See <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/558360> for more detailed information on the history and dynamics of the Kusasi-Mamprusi issue.

the South, Garu-Tempene District to the East and Bawku West to the West.²

The municipality is underlain mainly by Birrimian and granite rock formation. The topography along the basins of the White Volta River and its tributaries is generally low and slightly undulating with heights of 120-150 metres above sea level. The rest of the municipality consists of a series of plateau surfaces.³

Significance of the State:

Economy:

Agriculture is the dominant occupation of the people of the municipality, accounting for about 47.0 percent of the total occupation (39,143) in the municipality. The major crops grown are millet, sorghum, maize, rice, groundnuts, leafy vegetables, pepper, watermelon, and onion. Livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys etc. are also kept in the district. Poultry especially guinea fowl production is quite significant.

Politics:

The Municipal Assembly which is the highest administrative, political and planning authority in the municipality is charged with the responsibility of formulating and implementing development plans, programmes and projects.⁴

Governance in the municipality is both modern and traditional. The former is represented by the Municipal Assembly created within the framework of the Local Government Act of 1993 (Act 462), while the latter is by traditional authority in the area.⁵

Ethnicity:

The predominant group is the Mole Dagbani with the major ethnic groups

- Civil Society Organizations
- Ministry of Health

Bawku on the evening of May 9, 2022, allegedly triggered the series of shooting incidents in Kariama, Sinatinga and Anzanga and the murder of three persons in Kariama.

On May 22, 2022, six men on three motorbikes wearing military uniforms went shooting in the Kariama Animal Market. According to an eyewitness, these men came riding from the Bawku township, a location occupied by one of the conflict parties (Mamprusis). The civilians thought they were military men as they were wearing military uniforms until the uniformed men started shooting at them.

No life was lost but unconfirmed number of people were injured. One arrest, however, was made by the military detachment on peacekeeping in the area, but the suspect was kept in police custody. The police later observed that the suspect was allegedly severely beaten by the military and needed medical care and thus, was sent to the Bolgatanga Hospital where he is currently receiving treatment but under police custody.

Current Situation

WANEP-Ghana's monitoring report indicated that four persons were allegedly attacked and shot at on the afternoon of August 16, 2022, at about 2:42 p.m. around the Bawku Senior High School. Osman Bello aged 40, the driver of a blue Opel Zafira vehicle returning from Bolga to Bawku, is said to have sustained gunshot wounds while 3 occupants of the vehicle were confirmed dead.⁸ The victims are;

1. Ibrahim Fatawu aged 25 years
2. Ibrahim Abdulai aged 43
3. Bunyaminu Adam 44 years

Although reports are inconclusive, monitors in the location report that the victims are a mix of Mamprusis and Bisas.⁹

Amid this incident, another shooting was subsequently reported which involved a tricycle rider shot dead in Bawku Central, by unknown assailants. The culmination of all these incidents has led to a sporadic shooting spree within the Bawku township, causing fear and panic within the district.¹⁰

On August 17, 2022, 1 person was reportedly shot in front of his house, to which the circumstances are still unclear.

Although the motives of the assailants are not immediately known, the situation is believed to be linked to the ongoing

² Ghana Statistical Service Information

³ <https://mofa.gov.gh/site/directorates/district-directorates/upper-east-region/253-bawku-municipal>

⁴ Ghana Statistical Service, GIS

⁵ Ghana Statistical Service, GIS

⁸ Reports Received from Monitors at the location

⁹ Reports Received from Monitors at the location

¹⁰ Reports Received from Monitors at the location

being Kussasis, Mamprusis, Bissas and Moshies. However, there are quite several migrants from other parts of the country especially the south (most of whom are civil servants) and the 5 neighbouring countries like Togo and Burkina Faso. Ethnic heterogeneity has had implications for harmony in the municipality. It is expected however, that inter-marriages among the diverse ethnic groupings will provide the impetus for peaceful co-existence.⁶

feud between the Mamprusis and Kusasis that have continued to disturb the peace since January this year.¹¹

Responses:

- The police have subsequently taken custody of the bodies while investigations have begun into the incident.
- Again, the Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Interior is expected to visit Bawku on August 17, 2022, to ascertain first-hand information on the ethnic disturbances.

RISK ANALYSIS

The volatile security in Bawku has persisted since November 2021, leading to the loss of lives on both sides of the divide and the attendant grievances which warrant retaliation. This is further exacerbated by influx of small arms and light weapons from neighbouring countries' border communities in with the Bawku township.

Again, Bawku's proximity to the borders in neighbouring Togo and Burkina Faso is another cause for security concern. Given the spread of violent extremist and terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso and Togo, ethnic identity mobilization, and prevalence of cross-border criminal activities are possible veritable grounds that further be leveraged to increase violence in Bawku.

Trade and commercial activities have been slowed due to the fear and panic occasioned by the sporadic shooting, as populations are fleeing the communities or hiding indoors to save their lives. Additionally, schools and hospitals are likely to be affected if the current volatile security continues to increase. This has possible effect on social service delivery and other consequences on human security of populations in the affected areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The National House of Chiefs, District Security Council (DISECC), Regional Security Council (REGSEC), Regional and National Peace Councils, the Interior Ministry as well as the Security Agencies should intensify collaboration and engage with traditional and religious authorities, ethnic leaders, youth and women groups and other critical stakeholders in Bawku in dialogue and mediation to address the grievances underpinning the current conflicts.
- There is the need for DISECC and REGSEC to strengthen partnership with the District and Regional Police Command as well as humanitarian agencies increase security presence, protect lives and properties, and enhance social service delivery to support the affected populations.

⁶ Ghana Statistical Service, GIS

¹¹ Monitor's perspective on the linkage