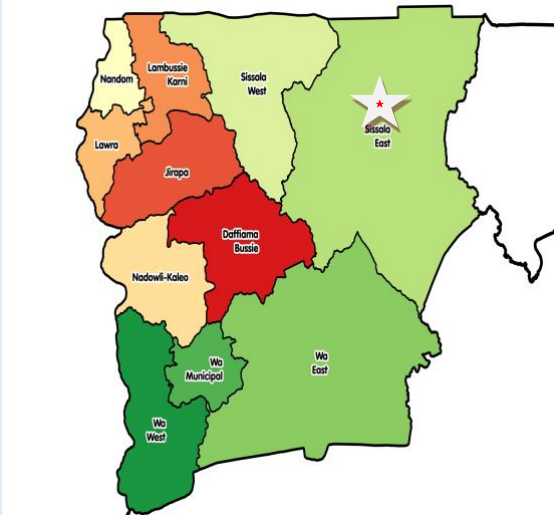


## COMMUNAL CLASH IN TUMU, SISSALA EAST DISTRICT, UPPER WEST REGION .

### BACKGROUND/ DEMOGRAPHY



Source: Google Map of Upper West Region indicating Sissala East District

**Key:**



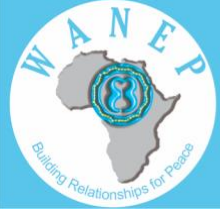
**Tumu**

### INCIDENT PROFILE

On Friday, May 18, 2018, a group of irate youths (at least 300 youths) at Tumu in the Sissala East District of the Upper West Region, attacked the local Police station with stones, cudgels and other weaponries. When they threatened to set ablaze the whole police building, the police were left with no option than to fire gunshots in an attempt to dismiss the angry mob. Incidentally, two persons among the crowd received gunshots leading to the death of one person. According to WANEP-Ghana Community Monitors in the district, the incident started on Thursday, May 17, 2018 when a team of police personnel on patrol duties swooped in on a group of young people who were reportedly smoking Indian hemp on the bank of a dam. In an attempt to escape police arrest, most of them dived into the dam. In the course of that incident, one young man drowned whilst trying to escape. On Friday, May 18, 2018 in the morning, his body was retrieved with wounds. Other youths in the area concluded that, the gunshot from the police patrol team caused the drowning incident which in one way or the other, led to the death of their colleague.

Properties worth thousands of Ghana cedis belonging to the Ghana Police, including vehicles, office equipment and others were destroyed by the mob. The injured persons are receiving treatment at the Tumu Government Hospital. Meanwhile, the youth have prevented the police from taking the bodies of the deceased for autopsy.

- ✓ Tumu is the capital town of the Sissala East District, in the Upper West Region.
- ✓ The District was created in 2004 by Legislative Instrument /'(LI) 1766 as part of the decentralization effort of the government of Ghana under the leadership of J.A. Kuffour led New Patriotic (NPP) government.
- ✓ The District is located in the North-Eastern part of the Upper West Region and shares boundary on the north with Burkina Faso , on the east with Kassena-Nankana West and Builsa Ditricts, to the south-east with West Mamprusi District. It also shares boundaries with the Wa East and Daffiama-Bussie-Issah District
- ✓ The district has a total land size of 5093.8 SqKm representing 26.7 percent of the total landmass of the region.
- ✓ The vegetation is of the Guinea Savannah type and supports trees like Sheanut, Baobab, Dawadawa and Acacia.
- ✓ The dominant ethnic groups are the Sissalas and other minority settler groups like the Dagaaba, Moshie and Fulanis.



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## RISKS ANALYSIS :

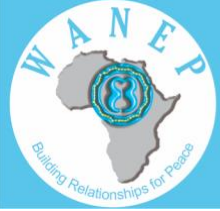
In this period of intensive farm work, the incident has the potency to cause more fears and panics among residents which may disrupt farming and other economic activities of local population. The incident may also serve as a trigger to other latent communal conflicts in the area. The vulnerability of women, children and the elderly persons increases as they become prone to all sorts of abuses. The incident also indicates the level of lawlessness and disregard for the existing peaceful coexistence mechanisms in the area. The reprisal attacks in the district may give rise to other criminal activities such as armed robberies, cattle theft, rape, proliferation of small arms and light weapons among others.

## MECHANISMS FOR INTERVENTION

- Some political leaders led by the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) for Sissala East, have started engaging various groups among the youth to broker peace and assure their return to the town.
- The presence of military/police personnel have been boosted in order to deter further attacks in the affected communities.
- Traditional authorities in the area have pledged their support to security personnel in fighting crime but have asked them to act professionally.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Government through the Ministry of Interior, the Upper West Regional Police Command and the Regional/National Peace Council should strengthen their engagement strategies to improve on community/police relations in resolving the misunderstanding in order to forestall any future violent conflicts between the Police and residents.
- The National Peace Council (NPC), the Municipal Assembly and its relevant structures should collaborate with local civil society organisations to engage the parties in conflict, in order to initiate shuttle mediation to defuse tensions in the district.
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- The Police in their interventions, should exhibit a high sense of professionalism whilst responding to threats and ensure that violence is contained and the scale of escalation is limited. Deployment of Police personnel to the conflict scenes should also be proportionate to the scale of conflict in order to avoid residents becoming more anxious and violent.
- Based on the current trends, there is a need for government to urgently establish or setup the District level Peace Councils (DLPC) as enshrined in the National Peace Council Act (Act 818). This will allow members of the DLPC to swiftly detect and mitigate any conflicts at community level across the country.

## **References:**

WANEP-Ghana National Early Warning System (NEWS)

**For further information, kindly contact Albert Yelyang, National Network Coordinator through [ayelyang@wanepghana.org](mailto:ayelyang@wanepghana.org)**