

65 Houses Destroyed in Farmer-Herder Conflict in the Northern Region of Ghana August 23rd to 26th, 2019

BACKGROUND/ DEMOGRAPHY

Map of the Karaga District



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karaga_District

- ✓ The Karaga District is located in the North-Eastern part of the Northern Region of Ghana. The capital is Karaga.
- ✓ Karaga is 24km from Gushegu and 94km from Tamale, the Regional Capital.
- ✓ Karaga District's Western neighbour is Savelugu-Nanton District. In the north are West Mamprusi District and the East Mamprusi District. To the south and east is the Gushiegu District from which Karaga District was carved.
- ✓ The population of the district, according to a 2019 population projection stands at 94,921 with 46,683 males and 48,238 females (Ghana Statistical Service)
- ✓ The main economic activity in the district is subsistence farming and livestock rearing.

INCIDENT PROFILE

Sixty-five (65) houses, three (3) motorbikes and ten (10) bicycles in Bagurugu in the Karaga District were burnt down on Monday 26th August, following a confrontation between a farmer and a pastoralist at Gagurugu on Friday August 23rd 2019.

Cattle belonging to one Tahiru Ali, who lives in Bagurugu, is alleged to have destroyed a rice farm belonging to Alhassan Kanako, a resident of Gagurugu. Angered by the development, Alhassan and three others went to Bagurugu to attack Tahiru the next day. Alhassan and his attackers later returned on Monday August 26, 2019 to set some houses and properties in the Bagurugu community on fire.

Four people including two women are reportedly injured and sent to the Tamalegu CHIPS hospital in the district for treatment¹. Also, some of the pastoralists in the community whose houses and properties were destroyed are reported to have been away when the earlier confrontation occurred between their kinsmen and the farmers¹.

RISKS ANALYSIS :

The confrontation has left four persons injured, two of which are women¹. Among the internally displaced were women and children fleeing the attacks into nearby bushes. A

¹ <https://www.myjoyonline.com/news/2019/August-27th/fulani-group-in-mali-dispatches-team-to-bagurugu-after-attacks-on-members.php>



NEWS Quick Updates

Website: www.wanep.org / www.wanepghana.org ||

Email: info@wanepghana.org / news@wanepghana.org || Phone: +233 (0)0372098747

number of livestock belonging to the residents were also attacked and killed. In addition, houses and valuable items of community members were burnt in the attacks. This has economic implications on the affected areas. As a farming community that relies on subsistence crop and animal production to support their livelihoods, destruction of farms and livestock has the potential to affect food security in the community. This would further affect household income of the farmers affected by the attacks. Additionally, destruction of about 65 houses also require further financial support for the affected families to rebuild their shelters.

Furthermore, the internally displaced persons affected by the attacks in the community, particularly women and children also increases the risk of other forms of sexual and gender based violence including rape. In addition to this, the education of children displaced by the attacks is most likely to be affected.

The involvement of pastoralists from Mali and Burkina Faso identified as affiliates to the pastoralists also reveals international dimensions of the incident. This could be an avenue for mobilization of kingsmen from neighbouring countries for reprisal attacks. Importantly, given the prevailing dynamics of terrorists and extremist exploitation of farmers-herder conflicts in communities in Burkina Faso and Mali, the incident is a cause for security concern.

MECHANISMS FOR INTERVENTIONS :

- The persons injured are receiving treatment at the Tamalegu CHIPS hospital in the district.
- The Northern Regional Security Council (REGSEC) has launched a manhunt for the suspects in connection with the burning of houses, motorbikes and bicycles in Bagurugu.
- It has also initiated reward incentives for informants who would provide accurate and reliable information that will lead to the arrest of the suspects.
- An international welfare body for the Pastoralist ethnic group, Tabital Pulaaku, has deployed its top officials to the ground to help in de-escalation process and also put pressure on local authorities to take actions against the perpetrators.
- The Tabital Puluuka group, headquartered in Mali, has issued a statement to condemn the attacks .
- The Chief of Tamalgu, Naa Yakubu Abdallah, who received the Tabital Puluuka delegation at his palace has also rendered an apology on behalf of the Bagurugu community and assured them of working with stakeholders to resolve the conflict.



NEWS Quick Updates

Website: www.wanep.org / www.wanepghana.org ||

Email: info@wanepghana.org / news@wanepghana.org || Phone: +233 (0)0372098747

- The Consular General of Burkina Faso in Ghana has advised native farmers and settlers Fulanis at Bagurugu in Karaga in the Northern region to forgive each other and continue to live together in peace and harmony.²

RECOMMENDATIONS :

- There is the need for the Regional Security Coordinating Council (REGSEC) to increase the presence of police and military in the affected communities to restore law and order;
- The National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) should collaborate with health institutions and community leaders in provision of relief items and health assistance to support the affected victims of the incident – internally displaced persons and the injured- especially women and children;
- The Traditional authorities, religious groups should collaborate with local farmers and youth as well as women groups to engage in dialogue with the Tabital Puluugu delegation and local herders in the affected communities to address the grievances and resolve the current impasse.

REFERENCES:

1. <http://www.ghanadistricts.com/Home/District/127>
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karaga_District
3. <https://www.myjoyonline.com/news/2019/August-26th/65-homes-burnt-in-karaga-because-cattle-destroyed-rice-farm.php>
4. <https://www.myjoyonline.com/news/2019/August-27th/fulani-group-in-mali-dispatches-team-to-bagurugu-after-attacks-on-members.php>
5. <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/REGSEC-hunts-for-suspects-in-Karaga-arson-attack-775857>
6. http://www.statsghana.gov.gh/nationalaccount_macros.php?Stats=MTA1NTY1NjgxLjUwNg==/webstats/s679n2sn87
7. http://mofa.gov.gh/site/?page_id=1607

For further information, kindly contact Albert Yelyang, National Network Coordinator through ayelyang@wanepghana.org

² <https://www.myjoyonline.com/news/2019/September-1st/burkina-faso-consulate-general-in-bagurugu-to-broker-peace.php>