



**Australian Government**  
**Refugee Review Tribunal**

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# Country Advice

## Ghana

Ghana – GHA38912 – Ethnic Violence –  
Mamprusis – Kusasis – State Protection –  
Languages: Twi, Mampruli – Bawku –  
Cultural Festivals

24 June 2011

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**1. Does country information indicate what language would be most commonly spoken by Mamprusis living in Bawku? Does the country information support the contention that most people in Ghana speak Twi?**

Mamprusis have a distinct language called Mampruli,<sup>1</sup> which “is one of a number of Mole Dagbani languages spoken in Ghana”.<sup>2</sup> Mampruli is also referred to as Mamprule, Manpelle and Ngmamperli, and its several dialects are spoken by approximately 220,000 people (based on 2004 data). Mampruli is spoken in the north-northeast of Ghana,<sup>3</sup> where Bawku is located.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, it is likely that Mamprusis living in Bawku would speak Mampruli.

Twi is primarily spoken in the southern two-thirds of Ghana by people belonging to the Akan ethnic group, who constitute almost 50 per cent of Ghana’s population.<sup>5 6</sup> *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* states that Twi is spoken by people in south-central and south-east Ghana.<sup>7</sup> However, as a result of migration from rural to urban areas, “many non-Akans can understand and/or speak Twi”.<sup>8</sup> The *Encyclopedia of World Cultures* states that “[g]iven frequent intermarriage of Mamprusi with their non-Mamprusi neighbors, many Mamprusi speak several Mole-Dagbani languages. Those who have traveled south, in Ghana, often speak Twi”.<sup>9</sup>

A 2010 article on the GhanaWeb website reports that “more than 70% of Ghanaians speak a variety of the Twi language and most commercial activities and cultural events are conducted in Twi”. Furthermore, due to the dominance of Twi speakers in Ghana, most popular music

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<sup>1</sup> DIAC Country Information Service 2009, *Country Information Report No. 09/97 – Ghana: CIS Request No. GHA 9814: Mamprusi in Ghana*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 11 December 2009), 17 December – Attachment 1

<sup>2</sup> ‘Mamprusi’ 1996, *Encyclopedia of World Cultures* – Attachment 2

<sup>3</sup> ‘Ghanaian Languages – On Language and Development in Africa: The Case of Ghana’ (undated), GhanaWeb website <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/tribes/languages.php> – Accessed 9 August 2010 – Attachment 3; Lewis, M. P. (ed.) 2009, ‘Mampruli: A Language of Ghana’, *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, Sixteenth Edition [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=maw](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=maw) – Accessed 23 November 2010 – Attachment 4

<sup>4</sup> ‘Map of Ghana’ (undated), United Nations Cartographic Section website <http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/ghana.pdf> – Accessed 21 June 2011 – Attachment 5

<sup>5</sup> DIAC Country Information Service 2010, *Country Information Report No.10/15 – CIS Request No. GHA10083 – Trokosi in Ghana*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 19 March 2010), 23 March – Attachment 6

<sup>6</sup> ‘Pimsleur Twi Courses’ (undated), Speak a Language website <http://www.speakalanguage.com/pimsleur-twi.html> – Accessed 30 September 2010 – Attachment 7

<sup>7</sup> Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 1996, *GHA25608.E – Ghana: Information on the primary language of the Nanumba ethnic group in the Bimbila area, and whether they are Twi speakers*, 11 December – Attachment 8

<sup>8</sup> DIAC Country Information Service 2010, *Country Information Report No.10/15 – CIS Request No. GHA10083 – Trokosi in Ghana*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 19 March 2010), 23 March – Attachment 6

<sup>9</sup> ‘Mamprusi’ 1996, *Encyclopedia of World Cultures* – Attachment 2

and many films are produced in Twi.<sup>10</sup> An overview of the Bawku Municipality, the capital of which is the town of Bawku, states that although the predominant languages spoken in the area are Kusal, Mampruli, Bissa and Moli, other languages, including Twi, are spoken as well.<sup>11</sup>

**2. Does the country information indicate that there are significant cultural festivals common to Mamprusi or to Bawku that a person living there for all of his life might be expected to know about?**

The Upper East Region of Ghana website provides some information about annual festivals held by various ethnic groups in the Bawku Municipality, as follows:<sup>12</sup>

| FESTIVAL      | ETHNIC GROUP      | PERIOD      |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Samanpid      | Kussasis          | December    |
| Zekula        | Bissas            | March/April |
| Damba         | Mamprusi          | March       |
| Fire festival | Mamprusi/Kussasis | -           |
| Yong          | Kussasis          | -           |

The Damba festival celebrated by the Mamprusi in Bawku is also described in the Bawku Mamprusi History blog. This website, however, claims that the festival is held between the months of July and August. Although originally linked to Islam and held to mark the birth of Mohammed, the two-day festival has gradually taken on a more traditional tone, and “is full of pageantry and showmanship”.<sup>13</sup>

The Bugum (fire) festival, held by a number of different ethnic groups in Northern Ghana, is also celebrated in Bawku. It is observed by Muslims to mark the landing of Noah’s Ark following the great flood. However, many non-Muslims also reportedly participate in the celebration as the festival marks the beginning of a new year, making offerings to their ancestors and to God. The festival is held at night and involves: the use of bundles of grass as torches; rituals and food offerings to deceased ancestors; prayers for good health and prosperity; a procession with drumming and dancing to the outskirts of the town; and torches being thrown around a large tree.<sup>14</sup>

According to the Ghana Expeditions website, the Kussasis celebrate the annual Samanpiid festival in November and December “to give thanks to the gods for good harvest”. The festival also involves sacrifices.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Sarpong, J. 2010, ‘Twi Will Become The Unofficial Official Language In Ghana’, GhanaWeb website, 20 December <http://mobile.ghanaweb.com/wap/article.php?ID=199779> – Accessed 22 June 2011 – Attachment 9

<sup>11</sup> ‘Bawku Municipality: Introduction and Overview of the Municipality’ (undated), Upper East Region of Ghana website <http://uppereastregionghana.com/Bawku.html> – Accessed 22 June 2011 – Attachment 10

<sup>12</sup> ‘Bawku Municipality: Introduction and Overview of the Municipality’ (undated), Upper East Region of Ghana website <http://uppereastregionghana.com/Bawku.html> – Accessed 22 June 2011 – Attachment 10

<sup>13</sup> ‘Damba Festival – Bawku’ 2008, Bawku Mamprusi History blogspot website, 31 March <http://bawku.blogspot.com/2008/03/damba-festival-bawku.html> – Accessed 22 June 2011 – Attachment 11

<sup>14</sup> ‘Bugum (Fire) Festival’ 2008, Bawku Mamprusi History blogspot website, 31 March <http://bawku.blogspot.com/2008/03/bugum-fire-festival.html> – Accessed 22 June 2011 – Attachment 12

<sup>15</sup> ‘Festivals and Events’ (undated), Ghana Expeditions website [http://www.ghanaexpeditions.com/regions/highlight\\_detail.asp?id=&rdid=163](http://www.ghanaexpeditions.com/regions/highlight_detail.asp?id=&rdid=163) – Accessed 22 June 2011 – Attachment 13

**3. Please provide a background on the tribal violence between Mamprusis and Kusasis in Bawku. Are there any reports of a violent incident in January 2009?**

Land and chieftaincy related conflict between the Mamprusi and Kusasi ethnic groups dates back a number of decades. A 2007 analysis of politics in northern Ghana explains that the area surrounding Bawku “consistently provides the most intense example of tribal rivalries in the last forty years”.<sup>16</sup>

In 2008 and 2009, significant clashes between the two ethnic groups occurred in Bawku. According to Amnesty International, the source of the 2008 violence has been attributed “to the celebration of the [Kusasi] Samanpeed festival on 31st December 2007. Whilst the festival was ongoing the Mamprusis’ launched an unprovoked attack on Kussasis, killing one person, followed by burning of houses which continued till the next day”.<sup>17</sup> *Reuters* similarly reported that the first outbreak of violence in 2008 followed directly from events in December 2007, when a “dispute over land rights triggered fighting between rival groups of youths during a tribal festival”.<sup>18</sup>

According to *The Ghanaian Chronicle*, a communal clash in Bawku on New Year’s Eve “ushered the people of the Upper East Region into 2008”,<sup>19</sup> and on 1 January there were “thick smoke and flames” and “sporadic gunshots” all over town.<sup>20</sup> By the end of January, *The Ghanaian Chronicle* was reporting that ten people had died in the fighting, and many more had been injured.<sup>21</sup> In addition, large parts of the town were damaged by fire. Authorities introduced an overnight curfew to bring the area under control, but the peace was short-lived.<sup>22</sup>

Flare-ups in March, May and June 2008 were reported by various news sources, as follows:

- In March, the *Accra Daily Mail* indicated that two additional deaths had prompted local authorities to “stiffen the curfew from the relaxed 2000 hours to 0500, to the present 1500 hours to 0700”.<sup>23</sup> The deaths were corroborated by *IRIN Humanitarian News & Analysis*.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Kelly, B. and Bening, R. B. 2007, ‘Ideology, regionalism, self-interest and tradition: An investigation into contemporary politics in northern Ghana, *Africa*, Vol. 77, No. 2, p.200  
[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/africa\\_the\\_journal\\_of\\_the\\_international\\_african\\_institute/toc/afr77.2.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/africa_the_journal_of_the_international_african_institute/toc/afr77.2.html) – Accessed 1 September 2009 – Attachment 14

<sup>17</sup> Amnesty International Ghana 2008, *Report on the Bawku Conflict by Amnesty International Ghana Section*, 23 August [http://www.amnestyghana.org/newsdetails.asp?id=2039&cat\\_id=23](http://www.amnestyghana.org/newsdetails.asp?id=2039&cat_id=23) – Accessed 23 November 2010 – Attachment 15

<sup>18</sup> Kpodo, K. 2008, ‘Ghana sets curfew after five killed in tribal clash’, *Reuters*, 5 May  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSL05587581> – Accessed 9 August 2010 – Attachment 16

<sup>19</sup> Jalulah, W. 2008, ‘Bawku Naba Accuses Past Gov’ts’, *AllAfrica Global Media*, source: *The Ghanaian Chronicle*, 10 January <http://allafrica.com/stories/200801100889.html> – Accessed 18 August 2010 – Attachment 17

<sup>20</sup> Jalulah W. 2008, ‘Bawku Carnage’, *AllAfrica Global Media*, source: *The Ghanaian Chronicle*, 4 January  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200801040526.html> – Accessed 18 August 2010 – Attachment 18

<sup>21</sup> Kotey, L. 2008, ‘Don’t Politicize Bawku Conflict – Bartels’, *AllAfrica Global Media*, source: *The Ghanaian Chronicle*, 30 January <http://allafrica.com/stories/200801300805.html> – Accessed 18 August 2010 – Attachment 19

<sup>22</sup> ‘Conflict in North Could Threaten Elections’ 2008, *AllAfrica Global Media*, source: *IRIN Humanitarian News & Analysis*, 27 June <http://allafrica.com/stories/200806271180.html> – Accessed 18 August 2010 – Attachment 20

<sup>23</sup> ‘Kufuor Can’t Save Bawku’ 2008, *AllAfrica Global Media*, source: *The Accra Daily Mail*, 13 March  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200803130490.html> – Accessed 18 August 2010 – Attachment 21

<sup>24</sup> ‘Conflict in North Could Threaten Elections’ 2008, *AllAfrica Global Media*, source: *IRIN Humanitarian News & Analysis*, 27 June <http://allafrica.com/stories/200806271180.html> – Accessed 18 August 2010 – Attachment 20

- May saw more reports of conflict-related deaths.<sup>25</sup> The *BBC* said that a “clash between Kusasi and Mamprusi tribesmen” had started on 4 May after a Kusasi man (Alhaji Karim Oga) was shot outside a mosque in Bawku.<sup>26</sup> The *Ghanaian Times* reported on this murder and on that of another Kusasi man, Karim Ayaba, which happened later that month in Yarigungu.<sup>27</sup> (More information on these two murders is at question five.) Government authorities responded to the violence by deploying extra troops and police and imposing a very restrictive curfew.<sup>28</sup>
- In late June, the *Ghanaian Chronicle* reported that a Mamprusi man was stoned to death on 21 June near a Kusasi community after going in search of his missing horse.<sup>29</sup> An *IRIN* news story dated 27 June indicated that this led to more deaths, reporting that in the week that followed, “17 people [were]...murdered in a new spat between the Mamprusi and Kusasi...that locals say started in a dispute over the theft of a horse”.<sup>30</sup>

The *Ghanaian Chronicle* reported in August 2008 that peace had returned to Bawku, and a regional official had called for government workers who had fled the area to return to work.<sup>31</sup> According to the US Department of State, the violent outbreaks between Mamprusis and Kusasis during the first half of 2008 resulted in an estimated 18 deaths.<sup>32</sup> Freedom House

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<sup>25</sup> Jalulah, W. 2008, ‘Pregnant Woman Dies During Bawku Curfew Hours’, *AllAfrica Global Media*, source: *The Ghanaian Chronicle*, 8 May <http://allafrica.com/stories/200805080611.html> – Accessed 18 August 2010 – Attachment 22; Mohammed, A. I. 2008, ‘2 ARRESTED...Over Murder Of Bawku Businessman’, Modern Ghana website, source: *The Ghanaian Times*, 20 May <http://www.modernghana.com/news/166248/1/2-arrestedover-murder-of-bawku-businessman.html> – Accessed 12 August 2010 – Attachment 23; ‘Bawku conflict: Fifty in court’ 2008, Myjoyonline.com website, source: *The Ghanaian Times*, 9 May <http://news.myjoyonline.com/news/200805/16127.asp> – Accessed 12 August 2010 – Attachment 24; Mbord, A. 2008, ‘Fighting erupts at Bawku Again’, Modern Ghana website, source: *The Ghanaian Times*, 6 May <http://www.modernghana.com/newsthread2/164397/1/> – Accessed 20 July 2010 – Attachment 25; Kpodo, K. 2008, ‘Ghana sets curfew after five killed in tribal clash’, *Reuters*, 5 May <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSL05587581> – Accessed 9 August 2010 – Attachment 16; ‘Five die in northern Ghana ethnic fight’ 2008, *Afrik News*, 6 May <http://www.afrik-news.com/article13496.html> – Accessed 18 August 2010 – Attachment 26

<sup>26</sup> ‘Four killed in Ghana tribal clash’ 2008, *BBC News*, 6 May <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7385303.stm> – Accessed 9 August 2010 – Attachment 27; see also Mohammed, A. I. 2008, ‘2 ARRESTED...Over Murder Of Bawku Businessman’, Modern Ghana website, source: *The Ghanaian Times*, 20 May <http://www.modernghana.com/news/166248/1/2-arrestedover-murder-of-bawku-businessman.html> – Accessed 12 August 2010 – Attachment 23; Mbord, A. 2008, ‘Fighting erupts at Bawku Again’, Modern Ghana website, source: *The Ghanaian Times*, 6 May <http://www.modernghana.com/newsthread2/164397/1/> – Accessed 20 July 2010 – Attachment 25

<sup>27</sup> Mohammed, A. I. 2008, ‘2 ARRESTED...Over Murder Of Bawku Businessman’, Modern Ghana website, source: *The Ghanaian Times*, 20 May <http://www.modernghana.com/news/166248/1/2-arrestedover-murder-of-bawku-businessman.html> – Accessed 12 August 2010 – Attachment 23

<sup>28</sup> ‘Four killed in Ghana tribal clash’ 2008, *BBC News*, 6 May <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7385303.stm> – Accessed 9 August 2010 – Attachment 27; Mohammed, A. I. 2008, ‘2 ARRESTED...Over Murder Of Bawku Businessman’, Modern Ghana website, source: *The Ghanaian Times*, 20 May <http://www.modernghana.com/news/166248/1/2-arrestedover-murder-of-bawku-businessman.html> – Accessed 12 August 2010 – Attachment 23

<sup>29</sup> Kotey, L. 2008, ‘Bawku is Not an Issue of Chieftaincy But One of Law And Order’, *AllAfrica Global Media*, source: *The Ghanaian Chronicle*, 26 June <http://allafrica.com/stories/200806260923.html> – Accessed 18 August 2010 – Attachment 28

<sup>30</sup> ‘Conflict in North Could Threaten Elections’ 2008, *AllAfrica Global Media*, source: *IRIN Humanitarian News & Analysis*, 27 June <http://allafrica.com/stories/200806271180.html> – Accessed 18 August 2010 – Attachment 20

<sup>31</sup> Jalulah, W. 2008, ‘Resume Work Now! Samari Directs Civil Servants in Bawku’, *AllAfrica Global Media*, source: *The Ghanaian Chronicle*, 19 August <http://allafrica.com/stories/200808200164.html> – Accessed 18 August 2010 – Attachment 29

<sup>32</sup> US State Department 2009, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2008 – Ghana*, 25 February, Section 1a – Attachment 30

reported that the clashes “led to some 15 deaths and a curfew and weapons ban in the Bawku region for much of the year”.<sup>33</sup> However, the Red Cross estimated that between 20 and 30 people had been killed in the conflict,<sup>34</sup> while Ghanaian newspaper *The Statesman* reported the deaths of 45 people by July 2008.<sup>35</sup>

Ongoing chieftaincy and ethnic disputes led to further violence in Bawku in January, March, April, May, June, September, and November 2009. The clashes resulted in widespread destruction of property and at least 15 deaths. The curfew remained in place throughout the year, although with minor alterations.<sup>36</sup>

One news report dated 6 January 2009 stated that several houses and shops had been burnt in renewed clashes in Bawku over the preceding weekend.<sup>37</sup> In addition, a March 2009 article describes the use of children in the Bawku conflict, namely that they were mobilised to burn down houses.<sup>38</sup>

Ethnic violence in Bawku reportedly continued in 2010, resulting in an estimated five deaths. The Upper East Region remained under the curfew initially imposed in 2008.<sup>39</sup> Travel advice for Ghana issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in August 2010 identified “the possibility of outbreaks of violence over disputes within or between local ethnic groups” in Bawku. The DFAT website states that the advice remains current.<sup>40</sup>

However, in April 2011, it was reported that the Bawku Municipality had “recorded no crime for the past eight months, signifying the prevalence of peace in the area”.<sup>41</sup> Nevertheless, the curfew on Bawku Municipality remains in place, and was most recently renewed on 20 June 2011.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Freedom House 2009, *Freedom in the World – Ghana* (2009), June

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2009&country=7614> – Accessed 21 June 2011 – Attachment 31

<sup>34</sup> ‘Ghana: Red Cross comes to the aid of a town divided by inter-tribal fighting’ 2008, International Red Cross website, 26 August <http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/ghana-feature-260808> – Accessed 9 August 2010 – Attachment 32

<sup>35</sup> Tetteh Alarti-Amoako, F. 2008, ‘45 lives lost in latest Bakwu conflict’, *The Statesman*, 15 July [http://www.thestatesmanonline.com/pages/news\\_detail.php?newsid=6762&section=1](http://www.thestatesmanonline.com/pages/news_detail.php?newsid=6762&section=1) – Accessed 24 June 2011 – Attachment 50

<sup>36</sup> US State Department 2010, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2009 – Ghana*, 11 March, Section 1a – Attachment 33; DIAC Country Information Service 2009, *Country Information Report No. 09/97 – Ghana: CIS Request No. GHA 9814: Mamprusi in Ghana*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 11 December 2009), 17 December – Attachment 1; ‘Ghana: Government renews curfew in conflict-torn north’ 2009, *BBC News*, 7 September – Attachment 34

<sup>37</sup> Daabu, M. A. 2009, ‘Security on high alert in Bawku’, Myjoyonline.com website, 6 January <http://news.myjoyonline.com/tools/print/printnews.asp?contentid=30839> – Accessed 21 June 2011 – Attachment 35

<sup>38</sup> ‘NGO condemns use of children in Bawku conflict’ 2009, Myjoyonline.com website, source: *Daily Graphic*, 16 March – Attachment 36

<sup>39</sup> US Department of State 2011, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2010 – Ghana*, 8 April, Section 1a – Attachment 37

<sup>40</sup> Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2010, ‘Travel Advice for Ghana’, Smartraveller website, 23 August <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/ghana> – Accessed 23 June 2011 – Attachment 38

<sup>41</sup> ‘Bawku records no crime in eight months’ 2011, GhanaWeb website, source: *Ghana News Agency*, 5 April <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=206372> – Accessed 23 June 2011 – Attachment 39

<sup>42</sup> Kunbuor, B. 2011, ‘Renewal Of Curfew On The Gushegu Township And Bawku Municipality And Their Immediate Environs’, Government of Ghana website, 20 June [http://www.ghana.gov.gh/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=6325:renewal-of-curfew-on-the-gushegu-township-and-bawku-municipality-and-their-immediate-environs&catid=80:meet-the-press&Itemid=227](http://www.ghana.gov.gh/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6325:renewal-of-curfew-on-the-gushegu-township-and-bawku-municipality-and-their-immediate-environs&catid=80:meet-the-press&Itemid=227) – Accessed 24 June 2011 – Attachment 51

**4. Please provide information on the availability of state protection in Bawku in relation to this violence. Is more effective state protection available in other parts of Ghana and if so, are there limitations on this protection?**

**State Protection in Bawku**

Authorities have taken action in an attempt to stop the ethnic violence between Mamprusis and Kusasis in Bawku. In response to the violence in early 2008, the Upper East Regional Minister toured the region and 15 people were arrested. In January 2008, 165 police personnel and 70 military personnel were deployed, with more expected to be added.<sup>43</sup> A March 2009 article stated that a combined military and police search had led to the arrest of 27 people connected with the violence.<sup>44</sup> Additionally, in November 2009, it was reported that 29 people had been arrested in relation to the ongoing violence.<sup>45</sup> An article from Peace FM in the same month stated that the Minister for the Interior renewed the curfew in Gushegu township (in the Bawku area) and “noted with satisfaction the relative peace and calm prevailing in the area”.<sup>46</sup>

According to the UK Home Office *Operational Guidance Note: Ghana*,<sup>47</sup> as at January 2009 there was “no evidence that ethnic group/tribal members would not be able to seek and receive adequate protection from the state authorities were they to face ill-treatment at the hands of rival ethnic groups or tribes”. It was argued that claims of not being able to obtain state protection from tribal violence were unfounded. This includes those fleeing conflict between the Mamprusis and Kusasis. It adds that inter-ethnic clashes are usually “short-lived or quickly subdued by the state authorities”.<sup>48</sup> However, this latter assertion is arguable, given that violence in Bawku continued sporadically for several years.<sup>49</sup>

In response to the ongoing violence, a military barracks was established in the Upper East Region in February 2010, although this failed to prevent further ethnic violence occurring. As a result, additional military and police officers were deployed to the area.<sup>50</sup> The security administration in Bawku was recently praised for its efforts in establishing peace in the area following the report that the Bawku Municipality had recorded no crime for the eight months prior to April 2011. Assistant Commissioner of Police for Bawku Divisional Command,

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<sup>43</sup> ‘Bawku violence: Fighting erupts, despite Military presence’ 2008, Myjoyonline.com website, 2 January <http://news.myjoyonline.com/news/200801/11978.asp> – Accessed 14 September 2010 – Attachment 40

<sup>44</sup> ‘Bawku violence: John Mahama to broker peace, police nab 27’ 2009, Joy FM, 3 March – Attachment 41

<sup>45</sup> ‘3 shot dead, 7 injured at Bawku’ 2009, *The Ghanaian Chronicle*, 6 November – Attachment 42

<sup>46</sup> ‘Ghanaian government renews curfew in strife-torn northern region’ 2010, *Ghana Broadcasting Corporation*, 12 April – Attachment 43

<sup>47</sup> N.B. UK Home Office Operational Guidance Notes are policy documents intended to provide guidance to people assessing claims in the UK immigration system. The country of origin information is specifically selected to support that policy function and, as such, is interwoven with wider policy considerations and case law.

<sup>48</sup> UK Home Office 2009, *Operational Guidance Note: Ghana*, 28 January – Attachment 44

<sup>49</sup> ‘Ministry renews curfew on Bawku, Gushegu’ 2010, GhanaWeb website, source: *Ghana News Agency*, 6 September <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/artikel.php?ID=189834> – Accessed 24 June 2011 – Attachment 45; ‘Graphic Front Page Stories’ 2008, *Daily Graphic*, June [http://tettehamoako.blogspot.com/2008\\_06\\_01\\_archive.html](http://tettehamoako.blogspot.com/2008_06_01_archive.html) – Accessed 14 September 2010 – Attachment 46; US Department of State 2011, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2010 – Ghana*, 8 April, Section 1a – Attachment 37

<sup>50</sup> US Department of State 2011, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2010 – Ghana*, 8 April, Section 1a – Attachment 37

Kweku Boadu-Pepprah, noted that “the security had worked hard for the past four years to find lasting solution to the conflict”.<sup>51</sup>

### **State Protection in other parts of Ghana**

State protection is more readily available in other parts of Ghana, particularly in major cities such as Accra, although it is often tempered by the authorities’ willingness and ability to enforce the law. In January 2011, the US Department of State reported that specialised police units to investigate crimes such as homicide operated in Accra, although such services were unavailable nationally “due to a lack of office space, vehicles, and other equipment outside of the capital”. Additionally, “a widespread perception of police ineptitude” contributes to vigilante violence.<sup>52</sup>

An *Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)* article similarly reported in June 2008 on the rise of vigilante groups in Accra, due to the poor level of policing. However, it also reported that the European Commission had provided funding for police and judicial reforms including “court automation, building more law courts, appointing more judges and compulsory weekend courts to speed up the pace of justice”.<sup>53</sup>

The aforementioned UK Home Office report stated that though the police service came under criticism following incidents of brutality, corruption, and negligence, the public had recourse to lodge complaints with the Police Intelligence and Professional Standards Unit (PIPS). Those with allegations of human rights abuse could seek redress through the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ).<sup>54</sup>

**5. Please provide a map of Ghana showing Bawku. Is it possible to identify a geographical area over which the violence between Mamprusis and Kusasis is concentrated? Is it possible to provide a map of Bawku showing significant landmarks?**

The United Nations Cartographic Section provides a map of Ghana, with Bawku identified as follows:<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> ‘Bawku records no crime in eight months’ 2011, GhanaWeb website, source: *Ghana News Agency*, 5 April <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=206372> – Accessed 23 June 2011 – Attachment 39

<sup>52</sup> US Department of State 2011, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2010 – Ghana*, 8 April, Section 1d – Attachment 37

<sup>53</sup> ‘Ghana: Vigilante groups fill security vacuum’ 2008, *Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)*, Refworld website, 23 June <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/486261232.html> – Accessed 8 April 2010 – Attachment 47

<sup>54</sup> UK Home Office 2009, *Operational Guidance Note: Ghana*, 28 January – Attachment 44

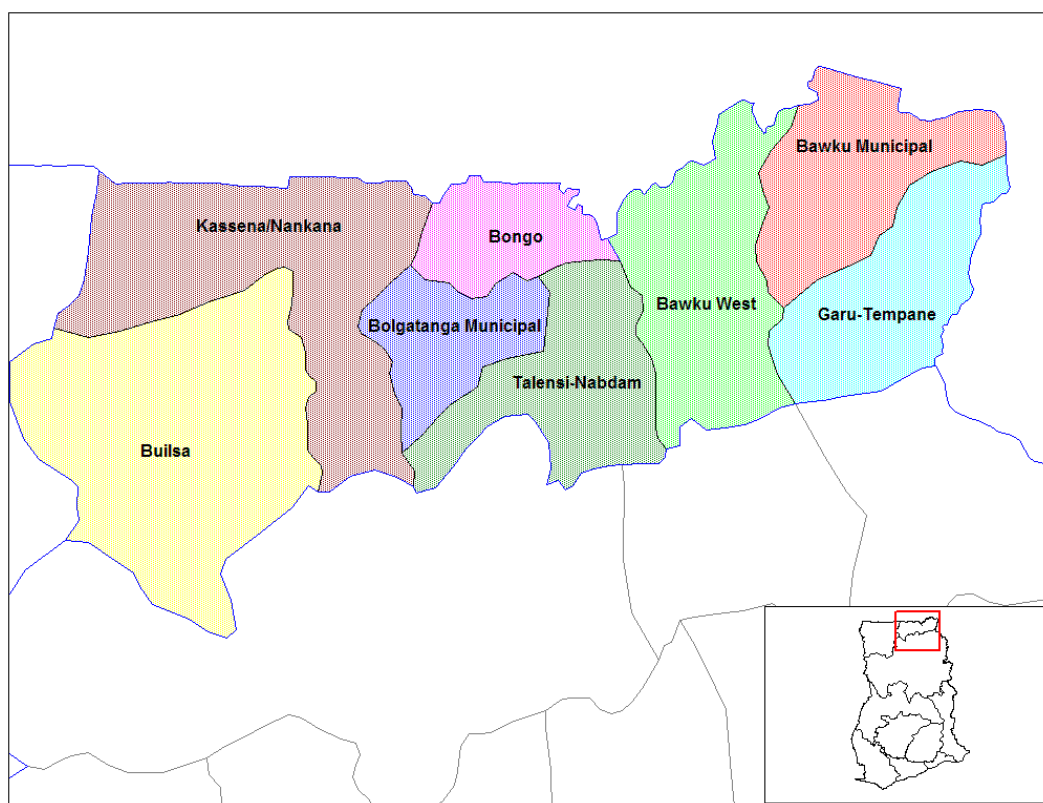
<sup>55</sup> ‘Map of Ghana’ (undated), United Nations Cartographic Section website <http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/ghana.pdf> – Accessed 21 June 2011 – Attachment 5



The following map shows the districts of Ghana's Upper East Region, including Bawku Municipality,<sup>56</sup> of which the town of Bawku is the capital.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>56</sup> 'Upper East Ghana Districts' (undated), Maps of Net website [http://mapsof.net/uploads/static-maps/upper\\_east\\_ghana\\_districts.png](http://mapsof.net/uploads/static-maps/upper_east_ghana_districts.png) – Accessed 22 June 2011 – Attachment 48

<sup>57</sup> 'Upper East Region – Bawku Municipal' 2006, Ghanadistricts.com website <http://www.ghanadistricts.net/districts/?r=8&=102&sa=4349> – Accessed 17 March 2010 – Attachment 49



No detailed map of Bawku town or Bawku Municipality was located. According to DFAT, the conflict between Mamprusis and Kusasis was “isolated to the Bawku area (i.e. the townships of Gushiegu, Pusiga etc) and in particular the north east corner bordering Togo to the east and Burkina Faso to the north”.<sup>58</sup>

The following information relates to the Bawku Municipality:

- In 2006 the estimated total population of Bawku Municipality was 205,849 (approximately 1% of the nation’s population). Distribution of the population is 20 per cent urban and 80 per cent rural.
- The Kusasis form the largest ethnic group, followed by the Mamprusi, Bissas, and Moshies.<sup>59</sup>
- Islam and Christianity are the two major predominant religions, although a number of residents also practice the traditional religion.
- The main markets are Bawku, Bazua, Pusiga, Atuba and Asikiri.
- Agriculture is the dominant occupation in the Bawku Municipality, accounting for approximately 62 per cent of the total employment. The major crops grown are millet, sorghum, maize, rice, groundnuts, leafy vegetables, pepper, water melon and onion; livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats and donkeys; and poultry such as guinea fowl. Onion is referred to by the residents as the “cocoa of the Bawku Municipality”.

<sup>58</sup> DIAC Country Information Service 2009, *Country Information Report No. 09/97 – Ghana: CIS Request No. GHA 9814: Mamprusi in Ghana*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 11 December 2009), 17 December – Attachment 1

<sup>59</sup> ‘Upper East Region – Bawku Municipal’ 2006, Ghanadistricts.com website <http://www.ghanadistricts.net/districts/?r=8&=102&sa=4349> – Accessed 17 March 2010 – Attachment 49

- Natural attractions include: the White Volta River; the Yurigungu Crocodile Pond, in a tributary of the White Volta River; the Kulungungu Bombsite, where the first President of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, survived a grenade attack on 1 August 1962; the NaaGbewaa Shrine at Pusiga, where NaaGbewaa, the famous chief and ancestor of the Mole-Dogbane group of people, is said to have disappeared; and Zawse Hills, about ten kilometres north-west of Bawku, where activities include mountain climbing and paragliding.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> 'Bawku Municipality: Introduction and Overview of the Municipality' (undated), Upper East Region of Ghana website <http://uppereastregionghana.com/Bawku.html> – Accessed 22 June 2011 – Attachment 10

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