

**Refugee Review Tribunal  
AUSTRALIA**

**Research Response Number:** GHA35085  
**Country:** Ghana  
**Date:** 30 July 2009

**RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE**

Keywords: Ghana – Dagbon chieftaincy dispute – Andani and Abudu – December 2008  
Elections: results & violence – NPP supporters – Internal relocation

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**Questions**

1. **Please provide information on the Adani and Abudu in Ghana, in particular the current dispute following the death of the King in 2001/2002.**
2. Deleted.
3. **Please provide information on the 2008 election, including results and violence in the Tamale area.**
4. **Please provide information on the current treatment of NPP supporters.**
5. **Please verify whether violence occurred in Tamale on 17 and 18 February 2009.**
6. **Please provide information on the possibility of relocation in Ghana.**
7. Deleted.

**RESPONSE**

The Northern Region of Ghana and its capital Tamale are indicated on the attached map of Ghana ('Ghana Administrative Divisions' 2007, Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection, University of Texas website [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/africa/ghana\\_admin\\_2007.jpg](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/africa/ghana_admin_2007.jpg) – Accessed 3 July 2009 – Attachment 1).

1. **Please provide information on the Adani and Abudu in Ghana, in particular the current dispute following the death of the King in 2001/2002.**

Question 1 of *Research Response GHA34619* dated 26 March 2009 provides extensive information on the Dagbon chieftaincy dispute between the Andani and Abudu in northern Ghana. The response provides background to the dispute as well as information on the current manifestation of this dispute which dates to the 2002 killing of *Ya-Na* Yakuba Andani II. In 2003 President Kufour constituted the Committee of Eminent Chiefs to mediate the Dagbon chieftaincy dispute. The process is ongoing (RRT Research & Information 2009, *Research Response GHA34619*, 26 March – Attachment 2).

Recent news articles, detailed below, report on tensions between the Andani and Abudu over the rehabilitation of the royal mausoleum, President John Evans Atta Mills announced a presidential commission will be set-up to investigate the death of *Ya-Na* Yakuba Andani II and the Committee of Eminent Chiefs will reconvene in August 2009.

*The Economist* reports on the “latest flare-up in tensions” between the Andani and Abudu in northern Ghana:

The latest flare-up in tensions came after the now NDC-controlled Northern Regional Security Council (Regsec) allowed a senior Andani member to lead in the rehabilitation of the royal mausoleum, a location sacred to both clans. The Abudus perceived this move as the tacit endorsement by the NDC government of the Andanis to select the next king of Dagbon, a position which has remained vacant following the tensions stemming from events in 2002. The Abudu accused the regional minister of security, Stephen Sumani Nayina, of bias and demanded his removal from office. Mr Nayina responded by explaining that the rehabilitation had been initiated by the Andani as urgent action was required to stem the deterioration of the mausoleum, which could be lost entirely if action was not taken now. Mr Nayina stated that Regsec was committed to the peace process currently being carried out by the Committee of Eminent Chiefs, but warned that any tribe resorting to violence would be dealt with decisively ('Ghana politics: Tensions in the Dagbon region are reignited' 2009, *Economist Intelligence Unit – ViewsWire*, 9 June – Attachment 3).

For further information please see Attachment 4 and Attachment 5 (Daabu, Malik Abass 2009, 'Row breaks out between Andani and Abudu gates', *JoyFM Online*, 19 May, Modern Ghana website <http://www.modernghana.com/columnnews/217029/1/row-breaks-out-between-andani-and-abudu-gates.html> – Accessed 3 July 2009 – Attachment 4; and Gyebi, Edmond 2009, 'Ghana: Abudu and Andani Again!', *The Chronicle*, 21 May allAfrica.com website <http://allafrica.com/> – Accessed 3 July 2009 – Attachment 5).

An article dated 25 March 2009 by *The Ghana Broadcasting Corporation* reports that a presidential commission will be set-up to look into the killing of *Ya Na* Yakuba Andani and 40 others:

A presidential Commission will soon be set up to look into the murder of the late *Ya-Na*, Yakubu Andani and forty others. The Northern Regional Minister, Stephen Nayina disclosed this at a meeting with the management of GBC Radio Savanna in Tamale.

Speaking to Radio Ghana a Security Analyst, Emmanuel Bombande, reiterated that the decision by President John Evans Atta Mills to set up a Presidential commission to look into the killing of the *Ya Na*, Yakubu Andani, and 40 others can only be worthwhile if the end result is lasting reconciliation among the two gates.

Mr. Bombande noted that one important ingredient in peaceful co-existence is the confidence in the justice system and the environment where the law is made to work without impunity ('Government to set up Presidential Commission for the late *Ya-Na*' 2009, *Ghana Broadcasting Corporation*, 25 March <http://gbcghana.com/25294/print.html> – Accessed 3 July 2009 – Attachment 6).

An article dated 27 June 2009 in *The Daily Graphic* reports that the Committee of Eminent Chiefs (CEC) will reconvene in August 2009:

The committee suspended its sittings last year because of the electioneering which was likely to interfere with the peace process and it has not reconvened since the change in government.

The Vice-President, Mr John Dramani Mahama, on Friday called on the Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, who is the chairman of the CEC, at the Manhyia Palace in Kumasi to inform him of the government's decision to support the committee to resume sitting and continue with the peace talks.

...Asantehene said there was the need for politicians to stay clear of the chieftaincy issue so that the matter would be devoid of politics.

“Chieftaincy matters have their customs and ways of dealing with them and there is no way we should allow politics to interfere with these,” he said.

Otumfuo Osei Tutu said the unfortunate thing in the Dagbon issue was that the Andani faction thought it was part of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), while the Abudu faction also thought it was for the New Patriotic Party (NPP).

Thus when either party was in power, members of either faction decided to take the law into their own hands.

“We will not tolerate political interference in chieftaincy matters and will rather follow custom,” he emphasised.

He added that it behoved the government to deal with the criminal aspects of the matter, while the committee handled the traditional aspect.

The Asantehene said hopefully both parties in the conflict had understood the need to follow custom and also agreed to the laid down road map and expressed appreciation for the fact that the government had asked the committee to continue with its work (‘Eminent Chiefs To Meet Over Dagbon Crisis’ 2009, *Daily Graphic*, 27 June <http://www.graphicghana.com/dailygraphic/page.php?news=2308> – Accessed 3 July 2009 – Attachment 7).

## **2. Deleted.**

## **3. Please provide information on the 2008 election, including results and violence in the Tamale area.**

The NDC won both the presidency and control of parliament following the December 2008 elections. Violent incidents were reported in Tamale before the elections, however, the elections themselves were generally peaceful.

Questions 1, 2 and 4 of *Research Response GHA34660* dated 3 April 2009 provide general information on the December 2008 elections in Ghana including results and violence across Ghana (RRT Research & Information 2009, *Research Response GHA34660*, 3 April – Attachment 8).

The information provided in response to this question has been organised into the following two sections:

- Results;
- Violence.

## Results

The US Department of State reports that Professor John Atta Mills, candidate of the opposition NDC won the December 2008 presidential run-off election. The US Department of State also reports that the NPP won 107 of 230 parliament seats while the NDC won 114:

On December 7, Ghana held its election for president and for the 230 members of parliament. Domestic and international observers reported that the elections were generally free, fair and peaceful. None of the eight presidential candidates received a majority of votes, forcing, per the constitution, a run-off election. The run-off was held on December 28, and resulted in a narrow victory for Professor John Atta Mills, the candidate of the opposition NDC.

The December 7 parliamentary elections also gave the NDC 114 seats, the New Patriotic Party 107, minor parties three, and independents four seats (US Department of State 2009, *2008 Human Rights Report: Ghana*, 25 February, Section 3 – Attachment 9).

Of the 26 seats in the Northern Region of Ghana, the NDC won 21, the NPP won four and an independent candidate won the remaining seat. The NDC won all three seats in Tamale ('2008 Results Summary' (undated), Electoral Commission of Ghana website <http://www.ec.gov.gh/node/134> – Accessed 15 April 2009 – Attachment 10; and 'Parliamentary Election Results' (undated), Government of Ghana Official Website [http://www.ghana.gov.gh/ghana/parliamentary\\_elections\\_results.jsp](http://www.ghana.gov.gh/ghana/parliamentary_elections_results.jsp) – Accessed 3 July 2009 – Attachment 11).

The NPP Vice-Presidential candidate was Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, "a Northerner and Muslim". For background information on and a photo of Bawumia please see Attachment 13 (Abban, Peter 2008, 'Bawumia meets J B Danquah's wife', *The Statesman*, 6 October [http://www.thestatesmanonline.com/pages/news\\_detail.php?section=1&newsid=7383](http://www.thestatesmanonline.com/pages/news_detail.php?section=1&newsid=7383) – Accessed 29 July 2009 – Attachment 12; and 'Who is Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia?' 2008, *The Statesman*, 15 August [http://www.thestatesmanonline.com/pages/news\\_detail.php?section=1&newsid=7022](http://www.thestatesmanonline.com/pages/news_detail.php?section=1&newsid=7022) – Accessed 29 July 2009 – Attachment 13).

## Violence

According to the US Department of State, the December 2008 elections in Ghana "were generally peaceful and transparent." The US Department of State notes that in the "run-up to the election there were some incidents that involved violence", including in the Northern Region:

Activities at polling stations were observed by party agents and thousands of domestic and international observers. There were reports in some areas of voter intimidation and election irregularities, particularly in the regions of the country where the two main parties have their base of support. However, the consensus of observers and the independent Electoral Commission was that these irregularities were insufficient to have altered the outcome of the election.

...During the run-up to the election there were some incidents that involved violence. On September 1, there were violent clashes in Gushiegu District in the Northern Region between NPP and NDC supporters when they attempted to erect campaign flags in the same location. The clashes resulted in six deaths and the burning of houses and vehicles. An NPP rally in Tamale was disrupted by gunfire, forcing the party's vice presidential candidate to flee, also

in early September. The incident led to attacks on NDC supporters returning from their own rally, and in the destruction of houses and vehicles.

In August the Electoral Commission conducted an exercise to update the voter registry, generally for persons who had turned 18 since the last update in 2006. The exercise was marked by long lines and shortages of registration materials. Media reports and accusations by political party representatives described efforts to register underage persons and to transport persons into areas to facilitate multiple registrations. In October, the Electoral Commission (EC) published revised voter lists with duplicate names removed, and allowed public review in each constituency of the revised list (US Department of State 2009, *2008 Human Rights Report: Ghana*, 25 February, Section 3 – Attachment 9).

According to the Commonwealth Observers Group, in the lead-up to the December 2008 elections “there were increasing reports of isolated incidents of violence, particularly in the strongholds of the two major political parties (the NDC and the NPP)” including Tamale. The Commonwealth Observers Group notes, however, that “the overall conduct of the campaign between the two rounds of the election was generally orderly.” The Commonwealth Observers Group continues:

In the lead-up to the elections, there were increasing reports of isolated incidents of violence, particularly in the strongholds of the two major political parties (the NDC and the NPP). Violent incidents were reported in Tamale in the Northern Region, Cape Coast in the Central Region, Old Fadama and Agbogbloshie both in the Greater Accra Region and Sefwi Akontombra in the Western Region. The NPP and NDC accused each other of being responsible for this violence, while other political parties pointed fingers at both main parties. This led to a wide range of stakeholders including civil society, international observers, religious and traditional leaders and the EC to preach the peace message on a significantly large scale.

...The Group observed that the polling stations did have a discreet security presence with the permanent attachment of one officer. The exception to this was in the rural area of Ashanti region where there were instances of mobile security as opposed to the static. In the Northern region where there has been long standing chieftaincy disputes there were roving military patrols.

...The elections were hard fought and the results at both the presidential and Parliamentary levels were close. The Group welcomed the spirit of calm and acceptance in which the results were greeted initially by political leaders and Ghanaians generally, which was encouraging and bode well for the campaign ahead of the run-off election.

The Group noted that the campaign intensified as the date for the run-off election drew closer. While the first round campaign had largely been issues based, the Group was disappointed that the tenor of the campaign began to shift in the period between the two rounds to focus more on personality politics and party loyalty. Both parties increasingly began to accuse the other of trying to undermine the electoral process leading to increasing levels of tensions in some areas.

The Group was also disappointed that issues of ethnicity began to feature in the campaign. The level of ethnic rhetoric featured in media reporting even prompted one of the candidates to issue an appeal to radio stations not to promote tribalism in national politics. In addition, this rhetoric was criticized by prominent civil society leaders after the 28 December poll.

The ethnic rhetoric was prevalent in areas perceived to be strongholds of the NPP and NDC such as the Ashanti, Northern and Volta regions. This shift away from issues based politics

presented a backward step for the maturing Ghanaian political system. Coupled with what appears to be an ethnic bias as reflected in historical voting patterns in these areas, this shift proved divisive on polling day.

Despite this, the overall conduct of the campaign between the two rounds of the election was generally orderly (Commonwealth Observer Group 2009, *Ghana Parliamentary And Presidential Elections 7 December 2008 and Presidential Run-Off Election 28 December 2008*, 17 February, pp.9, 34 & 43

<http://www.thecommonwealth.org/files/187673/FileName/GHANA2008ELECTIONS-COGREPORTFINAL.pdf> – Accessed 1 April 2009 – Attachment 14).

*IRIN News* reports that during voter registration on 2 August 2008, gun-shots were heard while the NPP and the NDC vandalised registration centres in Tamale:

Spokespeople for the NPP and NDC contacted by IRIN denied their supporters were involved in violence or illegal registration activities. Each accused the other of being responsible.

However, the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers, an elections watchdog, said in a statement issued on 4 August that the violence and irregularities have been “widespread”.

David Adanee-Kangah, deputy chairman of Ghana’s Electoral Commission, the government body mandated to organise and facilitate elections, said the disturbances are “unprecedented” in Ghana’s recent political history.

Observers are concerned not just about the clashes but also the registration process itself.

“Our main concern is that political parties are sponsoring minors to go and register so they can vote illegally come election day,” said John Lavea, the Programme Coordinator at the Centre for Democratic Development, a member of the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers.

Lavea says the coalition has also had reports of non-Ghanaians from neighbouring countries being paid to cross the border to register so they can vote in the elections in December (‘Ghana: Pre-Election Violence And Irregularities Worries Watchdogs’ 2008, *IRIN News*, allAfrica.com website <http://allafrica.com/> – Accessed 10 July 2009 – Attachment 15).

An article dated 4 August 2008 in *The Ghanaian Chronicle* reports that the violence associated with the voter registration exercise in Tamale led to the closure by the Electoral Commission of three centres in Moshie Zongo, Unity Primary and Legion Electoral Areas:

This year’s Voters’ registration exercise in the Tamale Metropolis has turned into a “blood shedding battle” between supporters of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP).

Leaders of NDC and NPP have openly employed the services of “thugs” to man the registration centres to ensure that nobody challenges people suspected to be minors. A wholesale registration of minors is on and the two main parties appear to be guilty.

At the moment, members of the NDC have decided not to allow any NPP official or agent to observe or monitor the registration exercise at any of the centres located in NDC dominated areas and the same applies to NPP dominated areas.

Any group or party officials from either side who defies the system and tries to visit a centre belonging to the opponent is beaten up, stoned or chased away.

This has therefore paved way for massive minor registration without any challenge from any political party or electoral officers. The police, who have lost control over the situation, apparently for fear of coming under mob attack, have virtually become observers at the various centres. Several people from both NDC and NPP have been severely beaten with their vehicles and motorbikes destroyed.

...In the full glare of the security personnel and other election observers, some youth leaders of both NDC and NPP were spotted by *The Chronicle* conveying and leading some little boys and girls to the registration centres.

There are some allegations that the Mayor of Tamale, Mohammed Adam Amin-Anta, in the company of the National Youth Organiser John Boadu, Regional NPP Chairman, Yakubu Aduo and other supporters who could not tolerate the violent tactics being employed by the NDC at the United Primary also known as Kulikuli school centre, stormed the place and confiscated the registration materials.

An incident occurred at the Legion centre, where the Tamale Central MP, Inusah Fuseini was named by several sources to have led a group of attackers to scatter the place to also prevent the opposing parties from registering minors ('Three Electoral Centres Closed Down' 2008, *The Ghanaian Chronicle*, 4 August, allAfrica.com website <http://allafrica.com/> – Accessed 10 July 2009 – Attachment 16).

An article dated 7 August 2008 in *The Ghanaian Chronicle* reports that the military are patrolling Tamale to ensure a successful voter registration exercise:

The Northern Regional Director of the Electoral Commission (EC), Sylvester Kanyi has expressed extreme disappointment at the behaviour of the supporters of the two leading parties- NDC and NPP- who have violated their promise of supporting the EC to carry out a successful registration during their IPAC and other meetings.

...About 97,200 registration forms have been provided by the commission to all the 273 registration centres across the region, but Mr. Kanyi has expressed worry about the 1091 registration materials that were taken away by an armed group, believed to be supporters of NPP, during the disturbances at the United Primary (Kulikuli) work station.

He disclosed that the EC had reported the matter to the police, with an additional 8,000 forms provided by the EC headquarters and the serial numbers of the missing forms blocked.

On Security, Mr. Kanyi said with the military enforcement team from Sunyani, the security situation around the centres had been normalised, which he said was gradually motivating eligible voters to partake in the exercise.

...Since the commencement of the registration exercise, the number of violent incidents that were recorded by *The Chronicle* at most of the registration centres in Tamale, occurred between the supporters of the NPP and NDC. This has resulted in bloody clashes, vandalising of properties, rampant firing of gunshots and coupled with other acts of hooliganism.

All these skirmishes were as a result of the entrenched position taken by the two parties to register minors. Even though there is a continuous education of the masses to desist from registering minors in this year's registration exercise, some political parties are still bent on going against the EC's directives. Meanwhile, both the NDC and NPP are now engaged in a blame game, accusing each other for the continued violence at the registration centres (Gyebi,

Emond 2008, 'Ghana: EC Boss Lashes At NPP, NDC', *The Ghanaian Chronicle*, 7 August, allAfrica.com website <http://allafrica.com/> – Accessed 10 July 2009 – Attachment 17).

*IRIN News* reports that violence erupted in Tamale following a shooting incident on 31 August 2008 “that abruptly ended a political rally organised by the ruling” NPP. Three people died and many others were injured:

Following an upsurge of pre-election violence that has killed three people and injured many others in northern Ghana, experts fear hostilities will continue in the months leading to December presidential and legislative elections.

Charred remains of houses, walls riddled with bullets, and burnt cars and are talismans of last week's violence in the Northern Region's capital of Tamale. Violence erupted following a shooting incident on 31 August that abruptly ended a political rally organised by the ruling New Patriotic Party.

A 12-hour curfew is currently in force and additional joint military-police patrols have been deployed on the streets.

...Affected by the violence was Alhaji Mahama Jeboni, an opposition party chairman for the National Democratic Congress (NDC), who is based in Tamale.

His 30-year-old daughter, Sayakulu Mahama Jeboni told IRIN, “The attackers asked my father to choose between his life and his properties. There were about a hundred people all armed. They were arguing whether to burn the houses first or my father's commercial vehicles. They set fire to all of his eight cars.” She said the flames razed their three homes to the ground. “Everything was burnt, all our possessions, possessions dating back to one hundred years. We have nothing left,” Jeboni told IRIN ('Ghana: Pre-Election Violence Escalates' 2008, *IRIN News*, 9 September, allAfrica.com website <http://allafrica.com/> – Accessed 10 July 2009 – Attachment 18).

#### **4. Please provide information on the current treatment of NPP supporters.**

For background information on the NPP, please see Question 3 of *Research Response GHA34660* dated 3 April 2009 (RRT Research & Information 2009, *Research Response GHA34660*, 3 April – Attachment 8).

The NPP were in power prior to the December 2008 elections, therefore the information provided in response to this question is limited to after the NDC came into power in early 2009. No government or NGO reports on the treatment of the NPP in Ghana were found amongst the sources consulted. What follows is a number of news articles detailing incidents of adverse treatment of NPP members/supporters in Ghana. For information on clashes between the NPP and NDC in Tamale during February 2009 please see Question 5.

An article dated 21 February 2009 in *The Daily Guide* and posted on the New Patriotic Party – UK website reports on the arrest and detention for 15 minutes of the NPP Vice-Presidential candidate, Mahamudu Bawumia on suspicion of armed smuggling at the Tamale Airforce Station ('Bawumia Arrested' 2009, *Daily Guide*, 21 February, New Patriotic Party – UK website [http://www.newpatrioticparty.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=297:bawumia-arrested-&catid=69:inquisition&Itemid=152](http://www.newpatrioticparty.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=297:bawumia-arrested-&catid=69:inquisition&Itemid=152) – Accessed 29 July 2009 – Attachment 19).

*The Ghanaian Chronicle* reports that on 31 March 2009 NPP activist Stephen Nana Atta was assaulted by NDC members. On 1 April 2009, the police “arrested three of the thugs, whilst the rest are on the run.” Atta has accused his nephew, Deputy Regional Minister for Brong-Ahafo Eric Opoku of mobilising the “thugs to assault him.” Opoku “admitted the alleged thugs were NDC members but denied ever sending them on that diabolic mission” (Boateng, Micael 2009, ‘NDC thugs beat NPP activist...On alleged orders of a Minister’, *The Ghanaian Chronicle*, 7 April <http://www.ghanaian-chronicle.com/thestory.asp?id=11354&title=%3Cb> – Accessed 29 July 2009 – Attachment 20).

An article dated 22 May 2009 in *The Statesman* reports that the NPP “say they have had enough of intimidation and harassment being meted out to them” by the NDC:

Since the Prof John Atta Mills-led NDC were declared victors in last December’s epic electoral battle, NDC supporters across the country have taken the law into their hands, visiting an orgy of harassment on their counterparts in the NPP.

From forcibly taking control over lorry parks, markets and public toilets, through threats of mayhem, the NDC supporters have ran riot while the security agencies have most often looked the other way.

Analysts attribute the behaviour of the NDC activists to frustration caused by the inability of the NDC to fulfil its electoral promise of providing jobs for them if it won power. Forcibly seizing control of businesses run by NPP supporters is their way of securing employment, they believe.

...The leadership of the NDC have so far looked the other way as well, despite wide condemnation of these acts of misbehaviour. Some die-hard NDC supporters have rather ratcheted up their attacks, indiscriminately attacking perceived opponents (‘NPP plans big demo: to protest NDC intimidation’ 2009, *The Statesman*, 22 May [http://www.thestatesmanonline.com/pages/news\\_detail.php?newsid=8604&section=1](http://www.thestatesmanonline.com/pages/news_detail.php?newsid=8604&section=1) – Accessed 29 July 2009 – Attachment 21).

An article dated 9 June 2009 in *The Daily Guide* and posted on the Modern Ghana website reports that NDC supporters beat up NPP supporters in Takoradi Market Circle:

An alleged plan hatched by certain supporters of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) to harass supporters of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) in Takoradi was manifested last Friday when supporters of the ruling party numbering about 50 and wielding cutlasses and knives allegedly rushed on some NPP supporters at the Takoradi Market Circle to beat them up.

In the process, the perceived NDC supporters managed to get hold of three supporters of the NPP who were secondhand shoe dealers and serial callers on radio stations, and beat them mercilessly for no apparent reason (Opoku, Emmanuel 2009, ‘NDC, NPP clash in Takoradi’, *Daily Guide*, 9 June, Modern Ghana website <http://www.modernghana.com/news/220896/1/ndc-npp-clash-in-takoradi.html> – Accessed 29 July 2009 – Attachment 22).

An article dated 15 June 2009 in *Public Agenda* reports that the Nasara Youth Coalition of the NPP “has condemned what it describes are the violent acts of the youth of the” NDC in Zabzugu Tatale in recent times:

According to the NPP, the NDC youth recently attacked the offices of the National Health Insurance Scheme and forced the Scheme Manager to hand over the office to them and leave the district.

In a statement signed by the Youth Propaganda Secretary, Mahama Alhassan Ibrahim Oteiro, the NPP alleged that the attack on the offices and the residence of the Scheme Manager seemed to have been masterminded by the constituency leadership of the NDC, which led to the suspension of the Scheme Manager from using the car without written permission to the District Chief Executive.

...The DCE, the NPP alleged, has also fired revenue collectors of the Zabzugu Tatale District Assembly who are suspected to be members of the New Patriotic Party. They further claimed that there are plans to transfer teachers who are sympathizers of the NPP to the “interior villages” and get “NDC teachers” transferred to the district capital and other urban centers (‘Ghana: NPP Youth Condemns NDC’s Youth Violence’ 2009, *Public Agenda*, 15 June, allAfrica.com website <http://allafrica.com/> – Accessed 29 July 2009 – Attachment 23).

An article dated 12 June 2009 in *The Ghanaian Chronicle* reports that the “Western regional Command of the Ghana Police Service (GPS) has taken over investigations into circumstances that led to a brutal assault on three Serial Callers who have allegiance to the New Patriotic Party (NPP) in Takoradi, by suspected National Democratic Congress (NDC) thugs” (Adams, Alfred 2009, ‘Ghana: NDC Thugs Attack NPP Serial Callers’, *The Ghanaian Chronicle*, 12 June, allAfrica.com website <http://allafrica.com/> – Accessed 29 July 2009 – Attachment 24).

An article dated 23 July 2009 by *The Voice of America* reports that the “NPP claims political persecution since several ministers in the former administration are currently under investigation for graft.” Former Foreign Minister Akwesi Osei-Agyei has been arrested on corruption charges, which he maintains are politically motivated. The NDC-led government “insists the former ministers must account for their stewardship” (Clotey, Peter 2009, ‘Ghana Opposition Party Accuses Government of Persecution’, *Voice Of America News*, 23 July <http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2009-07-23-voa2.cfm> – Accessed 29 July 2009 – Attachment 25).

## **5. Please verify whether violence occurred in Tamale on 17 and 18 February 2009.**

Reports of violence in Tamale on 17 and 18 February 2009 were found amongst the sources consulted.

An article dated 19 February 2009 in *The Daily Guide*, posted on the Modern Ghana website reports on two days of fighting in Tamale which started on 17 February 2009 and resulted in the death of Rashid Nasir. The article reports that seven others were injured and 20 houses were “razed to the ground”. According to *The Daily Guide*, “At the time of going to press, a combined team of military and police personnel were working to bring the situation under control as some firemen were fighting the fires.” The article provides the following details:

The fighting, according to sources, started on Tuesday when a certain Inusah Alhassan, popularly called Tiger, was engaged in an argument with a colleague butcher in the central business district over what was not immediately known.

In the ensuing argument, reports said tempers flared and, but for the timely intervention of onlookers, the two would have engaged in fisticuffs.

At the end of the encounter, the two went their separate ways only for Tiger to resurface in the evening with his colleagues from a group called Kandahar from Aboabo, a suburb of Tamale, to settle scores with the other faction, who are also butchers.

The well armed factions immediately engaged in a fight using firearms and machetes which resulted in injury to 7 persons.

Rashid Nasir, who was injured in the lower jaw, bled profusely and was rushed to hospital where he died later.

His death triggered more violence in the city as a section of the youth alleged to be friends of the deceased, went on rampage setting ablaze houses believed to belong to members of the opposing side.

Though they attempted setting ablaze the butcher's shop opposite the Ghana Telecom regional offices, security personnel at the location intervened; but they succeeded in torching a number of houses at Manayili, a suburb of Tamale.

More than 20 houses were razed to the ground while a number of personal belongings were destroyed.

...Three pickups parked in front of Mr. Baako's house, believed to belong to NADMO, were totally burnt.

The vehicles were a Tata with registration number GW 1858, a Fudi pickup with registration number GS 475Y and another Tata with registration number GC 451 Z.

When DAILY GUIDE spoke to him on a mobile phone, he said, "More than 200 youth descended on my house and before we realized what was happening, some of them entered the place. We ran out and they set the house ablaze. I have lost everything. The only things I have left are the dresses I am wearing now" (Zoure, Stephen 2009, 'War in Tamale – 1 Dead, Houses Burnt', *Daily Guide*, 19 February, Modern Ghana website <http://www.modernghana.com/news/203137/1/war-in-tamale-1-dead-houses-burnt.html> – Accessed 7 July 2009 – Attachment 26).

An article dated 7 May 2009 in *The Daily Searchlight* provides details of the events which led to the death of Rashid:

During the campaign for the presidential elections in 2008, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) minced no words of its intention to cause mayhem, should the elections not go their way and now supporters of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) in Tamale are living in a state of fear.

This follows a clash between some supporters of the NPP and that of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) which left one NDC supporter dead recently.

Consequently, about 20 houses belonging to known NPP supporters were burnt down while some activists whose lives were being threatened by some NDC supporters have escaped for safety.

Also, NDC sympathizers kept in police custody following the last eruption of violence in the

area have all been released while the NPP supporters remain in the police custody despite desperate moves by their lawyer, Nana Obiri Boahen to get them released on bail.

The selective justice which is being pursued following the axing of the Police Regional Commander has given the NDC sympathizers the nerve to go about and carry on with their treacherous activities.

Disclosing this to the Daily Searchlight early this week, a victim of the bloodshed, (Name withheld) said the clash was ignited at the meat market in Tamale where one popular NPP supporter known as Tiger operates his meat shop.

He said some meat sellers sought the approval of Tiger to ban one Gafaru Bawa an NPP serial caller from coming to the meat market as a result of his unpalatable comments about the NDC on radio.

Tiger on one hand took the threat lightly and ignored their plea explaining that Gafaru Bawa was a personal friend and for expressing his views on radio does not make him an enemy to the meat market.

This did not go down well with the colleague meat sellers who immediately engaged in harsh arguments with Tiger. In the event Tiger became a punching bag and hecklings which attracted other traders and on-lookers.

One Kpalebara a very close friend to Tiger happened to appear on the scene with his motorbike and in his attempt to rescue Tiger from being further manhandled by the aggrieved colleague meat sellers had to run for his dear life leaving his motor bike behind.

As the saying goes “he who fights and runs away lives to fight another day” Kpalebara quickly rushed to Ababoo a suburb of Tamale and organized some friends and sympathizers to help him retrieve his motor bike.

Kpalebara’s second coming according to Abdala Red was fiercely resisted by the meat sellers not only with clubs, knives and cutlasses but also gunshots were fired.

Sadly, the gunshot rather killed one of the meat sellers who was later identified as Rashid following which the meat sellers then went to the Central Police Station to allege in their police report that NPP supporters led by Tiger, Gafaru, Yawusa and Habib were the cause of the clash which left Rashid dead at the market.

The meat sellers and other NDC supporters intensified their search for popular NPP supporters in order to vent their spleen on them as a result of the death of Rashid.

Our source said not only did they receive threatening phone calls and text messages, but he was personally attacked in his house and brutally assaulted.

He said whilst on admission at the central hospital in Tamale, his house together with some 20 other NPP supporters in Tamale were burnt down.

Interestingly, Gafaru’s father in his attempt to renovate his burnt house had been strongly opposed by the NDC activists who claimed the area was earmarked for a public toilet.

It would be re-called that Mohammed Alhassan Ganner who is the Chairman of the Khandaha group belonging to the New Patriotic Party in the Northern Region said Tiger called him and some other members of the party for help so they rushed over to take the guy to the hospital and report the case to the police.

He said that it was after they were returning from the Police Station that they run into the NDC supporters also known as the 'Azorka' boys who started throwing stones at them, an act which resulted into a fight.

"He called us to come so we quickly came, took him to the police station and reported the case and we went to the hospital for medical care. Later on, on our way back from the police station, you know the road leading to Ababu is where the 'Azorka boys' are also sitting, so we passed there and then they stopped us again and started stoning us and then the fight occurred there again," he said.

According to the Chairman of the NPP group, they were stopped by the 'Asorka boys' because they went to report the case to the police to have them arrested.

Reports from the police indicates that at their arrival at the scene of the incident, it was evident that there had been an exchange of gun fire with some local weapons and perhaps some AK 47's but the Chairman of the NPP group vehemently denied this saying that neither his group members nor that of the 'Asorka boys' were armed at the time.

"It was only police who came there with guns. Our side and their side didn't have any guns. I haven't seen anybody holding gun. I think it is the police who fired the guns because I didn't see them also holding gun and we not armed at that time", he said.

He alleged that the house of the NPP supporter who was injured was also set on fire by the 'Asorka' boys (Prah, Prince 2009, 'Tamale NPP Activists In Danger!', *The Daily Searchlight*, 7 May

[http://thedailysearchlight.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=9048&Itemid=1](http://thedailysearchlight.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=9048&Itemid=1) – Accessed 7 July 2009 – Attachment 27).

An article in *The Daily Guide* and posted on the Modern Ghana website reports that fighting has resumed in Tamale after the burial of Abdul Nasir Rashid. The attacks at Gumbihini resulted in "the razing down of about 7 houses, 1 Nissan pick up (NR663N), a Benz bus and motorbike". *The Daily Guide* reports that so far 20 people have been arrested in relation to the violence. The article provides the following details:

According to some residents, the uproar begun after the burial of one of the victims in last Tuesday's skirmishes, Abdul Nasir Rashid, at the Tamale central cemetery. Confusion reportedly broke out soon after the burial, between the feuding factions and a section of the youth who were returning to town, resulting in the fight.

The Northern Regional Police Commander, DCOP Ofori Mensah-Gyeabour, who confirmed the incident to DAILY GUIDE, said the situation had been brought under control but hinted that tension was gradually building in Lamashegu, another suburb of Tamale.

He said some security personnel would be deployed to the area to restore some calm, promising that the situation would be brought under control. Security patrols have been stepped up in the regional capital to manage the violence that has been persistent for close to a week.

...Twenty persons have so far been arrested for various roles in the ensuing violence in the city. Eighteen of them were remanded by a Tamale Circuit court into prison custody to reappear on 4th August.

Charges of illegally possessing weapons, destruction of property and rioting were preferred against them.

The other two, who attempted smuggling weapons into Tamale are in police custody assisting in investigations and would be put before court after investigations.

The Northern Regional Security Council (REGSEC) has warned that any person who tries to undermine the peace in the area would not be spared (Zoure, Stephen 2009, 'Fighting In Tamale', *Daily Guide*, 23 February, Modern Ghana website <http://www.modernghana.com/news2/203606/1/fighting-in-tamale.html> – Accessed 7 July 2009 – Attachment 28).

An article dated 23 February 2009 by *The Ghanaian News Agency* and posted on the Ghana HomePage website reports that the renewed violence in Tamale Metropolis was between supporters of the NDC and the NPP:

Mr Oforu Mensah Gyeabour, Northern Regional Police Commander, who disclosed this in an interview with the GNA on Monday, said so far, two persons had been arrested in connection with the violence. He said the violence broke out after the police had provided security for the burial of the late Abdul Rashid at the Old Gulkpegu Cemetery. He said it was after the burial that the police had information that the road leading to Gumbihini, a suburb of Tamale where the deceased resided, had been blocked with stones, wood and other objects while some houses had been set ablaze.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCOP) Gyeabour said the police with the assistance of the Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS) rushed to the area and brought the situation under control. He said the police and the military had intensified their patrols in the Metropolis and mounted several check points to search for weapons. He said police reinforcements from the Brong-Ahafo, Ashanti and Upper East Regions were being brought in to strengthen security in the Metropolis and restore law and order.

The Regional Police Commander appealed for cooperation from the public, the media, chiefs and opinion leaders to volunteer information to the police, which would lead to the arrest of the perpetrators of the violence. He urged the people not to politicise the situation, saying: "The police are arresting people purely on criminal grounds and not on the basis of whether one belonged to party A or party B" ('Houses burnt in renewed violence in Tamale' 2009, *Ghanaian News Agency*, 23 February, Ghana HomePage website <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/education/artikel.php?ID=158141> – Accessed 7 July 2009 – Attachment 29).

An article dated 23 February 2009 by *The Ghanaian News Agency* and posted on the Ghana HomePage website reports that the Northern Regional Minister gave the leadership of the NPP and the NDC in the region one month to surrender their weapons:

The Regional Minister gave the order at an emergency security meeting in Tamale, where the leadership of the two parties had confessed and testified before the Northern Regional Security Council (REGSEC), that both NPP and the NDC members in the area had in their possession sophisticated weapons.

He said "We should not make the Northern Region a warfare area. We have already been tagged with a bad name because of conflicts and this is the time to tell ourselves that enough is enough and cooperate with the security apparatus to bring peace." He said people who would willingly surrender their weapons would not be questioned as to where and how they got them adding "From one month from today, surrender all guns in your possession and

thereafter, we would hunt for the guns ourselves and there would be no limited period for the hunt.”

Mr. Nayina urged politicians from the Northern part of the country to help create conducive environment for progress and said all trouble makers would be dealt with no matter their political affiliations. He said “The security personnel would be arresting all trouble makers and they would not be asking them of their political affiliation. The law would determine your offence and appropriate charge” (‘Minister gives ultimatum for surrendering of weapons’ 2009, *The Ghanaian News Agency*, 23 February, Ghana HomePage website <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/education/artikel.php?ID=158146> – Accessed 7 July 2009 – Attachment 30).

An article dated 19 March 2009 in *The Ghanaian Chronicle* provides information on the arrest of suspects following the recent clash between the NDC and NPP in Tamale:

The Northern Region Chairman of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC), Alhaji Sumani Zakari has stated emphatically that the party would not in any way condone with or throw its weight behind any recalcitrant supporter who would be arrested by the security for possessing or carrying weapons to cause mayhem in the Tamale Metropolis. According to the NDC Chairman, the ruling party unlike the immediate past New Patriotic Party (NPP) government, would depoliticise crimes and would, therefore, willingly hand over any supporter who would flout or contravene the laws of the country with impunity. Alhaji Sumani made these declarations in Tamale on Monday March 16, 2009, through his Spokesperson, Alhaji Yussif Alhassan Umar, also the Deputy Regional Secretary of the NDC at a press conference to react to the alleged false statements purportedly made by Mr. Jake Obetsebi Lamptey, National Campaign Manager of the NPP, about the recent clashes between the supporters of the two leading parties. Mr. Obetsebi was quoted by the NDC to have said “the recent violent clash in Tamale was a ploy by the ruling party supporters to intimidate the NPP members”. The NDC Chairman noted that there were several instances during the NPP regime where people arrested in connection with crimes in diverse ways and manners were allowed to walk freely in the society, which he indicated promoted the culture of impunity and open firing of guns, especially in Tamale. He disclosed that the NDC would not emulate such bad practices, but would rather support and empower the security agencies to undertake their constitutional mandates without any executive interference. Alhaji Sumani Zakari asserted that the purported statement by Mr Obetsebi Lamptey was completely “false and unsubstantiated”. According to him, out of the total of 22 suspects arrested by the security in connection with the violence, seven (7) of them were NPP supporters while the remaining 19 were from the NDC. He explained that three of the seven NPP suspects who were apprehended for publicly brandishing “sophisticated weapons” at Lamashegu were surprisingly granted bail by the Tamale Court to the displeasure of some NDC supporters. “For us the Regional Executives, we have not complained about that incident and have not gone to the police to release our supporters. Even though we know almost all the NDC supporters they arrested are innocent, we still want the law to take its own course without any interference,” he said (Gyebi, Edmond 2009, ‘Ghana: Tamale NDC Warns Supporters’, *The Ghanaian Chronicle*, 19 March <http://allafrica.com/stories/> – Accessed 29 July 2009 – Attachment 31).

## **6. Please provide information on the possibility of relocation in Ghana.**

Limited information on internal relocation within Ghana was found amongst the sources consulted. A number of factors may influence an individual’s ability to relocate within Ghana. A number of these factors are addressed below:

- Freedom of Movement;

- Dagbon Chieftaincy Dispute;
- NPP & NDC;
- Ethnicity;
- Languages; and
- Religion.

## Freedom of Movement

According to the US Department of State's 2008 *Human Rights Report: Ghana*, "The constitution and law provide for freedom of movement within the country, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation, and the government generally respected these rights in practice" (US Department of State 2009, 2008 *Human Rights Report: Ghana*, 25 February, Section 2d – Attachment 9).

## Dagbon Chieftaincy Dispute

According to the UK Home Office's *Operational Guidance Note – Ghana* dated 28 January 2009, "the Andani and Abudu clans in the Dagbon kingdom are able to receive adequate state protection and are able to internally relocate to another part of" Ghana:

**3.6.1** Applicants may make an asylum and/or human rights claim based on ill-treatment amounting to persecution at the hands of rival ethnic groups or tribes on account of their ethnicity.

**3.6.2 Treatment.** There are numerous small-scale conflicts within ethnic groups, most of which are related to chieftaincy and land use issues. Efforts by NGOs to encourage reconciliation continue. There were several violent clashes between Kusasi and Mamprusi tribesmen in northern Ghana in 2008.

**3.6.3 Sufficiency of protection.** Though the police service came under criticism following incidents of brutality, corruption, and negligence in 2007, complaints of police abuse and misconduct lodged by the public are investigated through the 33-person Police Intelligence and Professional Standards Unit (PIPS). Individuals with allegations of human rights violations, or grievances against government agencies or public officials can also seek redress through the CHRAJ [Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice]. There is therefore 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.

**3.6.4 Internal relocation.** The Constitution provides for freedom of movement within the country and the Government generally respects this right in practice. As rival ethnic group or tribe disputes are sporadic and regionalised, safe relocation to a different area of the country to escape this threat is generally feasible.

**3.6.5 Conclusion.** Sporadic inter-ethnic clashes are reported, but they are usually short-lived or quickly subdued by the state authorities. Applicants citing conflict between or within any rival groups; the Ewes in the north, Fantes in central regions, the Mamprusis and Kusasis or the Andani and Abudu clans in the Dagbon kingdom are able to receive adequate state protection and are able to internally relocate to another part of the country (UK Home Office 2009, *Operational Guidance Note – Ghana*, 28 January, p.4

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/countryspecificasylumpolicyogns/ghana.pdf?view=Binary> – Accessed 16 July 2009 – Attachment 32).

## NPP & NDC

Following the December 2008 elections, the NPP has more seats in parliament than the NDC in the Eastern, Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions:

ELECTION 2008 – PARLIAMENTARY SEAT ANALYSIS BY REGION

REGION	NPP	NDC	PNC	CPP	IND	TOTALS
WESTERN	10	11		1		22
CENTRAL	8	11				19
GT ACCRA	9	18				27
VOLTA	1	21				22
EASTERN	19	7			1	27
ASHANTI	34	3			2	39
BRONG AHAFO	15	8				23
NORTHERN	4	21			1	26
UPPER WEST	3	6	1			10
UPPER EAST	4	8	1			13
NATIONAL TOTALS	107	114	2	1	4	228

(‘2008 Results Summary’ (undated), Electoral Commission of Ghana website <http://www.ec.gov.gh/node/134> – Accessed 15 April 2009 – Attachment 10).

## Ethnicity

According to a 2004 report by the UN Research Institute for Social Development, “no part of Ghana is ethnically homogenous”. The UN Research Institute for Social Development notes that despite Ghana’s “rich ethnic diversity, easy geographical and social mobility have scattered people from various ethnic groups throughout the country without destroying or weakening their ethnic bonds.” The UN Research Institute for Social Development provides the following information on the number of ethnic groups in Ghana and their location within Ghana:

Ghana, like most countries in Africa is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society. Its current population, which is estimated at about twenty million, is a vast mosaic of large and small ethnic groups. The major groups are the Akan, the Mole Dagbani, the Ewe, the Ga Adangbe, the Guan, the Gurma, the Grusi and the Mande-Busanga (Ghana Statistical Service, 2000).

...It is estimated that there are about ninety-two separate ethnic groups in Ghana. These groups are often classified into a few large groups, namely, Akan, Mole Dagbani, Ewe, Ga Adangbe, Guan and Gume (Gurma). According to the 2000 census, the predominant group is the Akan with a population of 8, 562, 748 (49.1%), followed by the Mole Dagbani with 2, 883, 931 (16.5%), then the Ewe with 2, 212, 113 (12.7%), the Ga Adangbe with 1, 387, 217 (8.0%), the Guan with 758, 779 (4.4%), the Gurma with 678, 681 (3.9%), the Grusi with 490, 379 (2.8%), the Mande–Busanga with 193, 443 (1.1%) and then others with accumulatively 269.302 (1.5%) members of the population (Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) 2000).

... And the second largest ethnic group, the Mole-Dagbani (16.5) consists of: Builsa (Kagyaga or Kanja), 0.7%; Dagarte (Dagaba), 3.7%; Dagomba, 4.3%; Kusasi, 2.2%; Mamprusi, 1.1%; Namnam (Nandom), 2.4%; Nankansi and Gurense 0.5%; Walba (Wala), 1.0%; Nanumba, 0.5%; Mole – Dagbon, not specified, 0.1%;

...Table 1: Major Ethnic Groups in Ghana (percentages)

%	NUMBER	WESTERN %	CENTRAL %	GREATER ACCRA %	VOLTA %	EASTERN %	
Akan	49.1	8562748	16.2	14.1	12.44	1.5	12
Ga-Adangbe	8.0	1387217	4.5	2.4	57.3	2.1	26.9
Ewe	12.7	2212113	4.7	3.17	21.7	47.2	14.2
Guan	4.4	758779	3.4	11.8	10.2	18.5	18.9
Gurma	3.9	678681	1.7	0.8	3.09	14.5	1.8
Mole-Dagbani	16.5	2883931	4.69	0.8	4.7	0.71	2.1
Grusi	2.8	490379	4.85	2.9	11.0	2.06	4.2
Mande-Busanga	1.1	193443	7.2	2.97	10.57	1.37	3.10
Other Tribe	1.5	269302	2.5	8.2	10.3	17.6	5.61

ASHANTI %	BRONG %	NORTHERN %	UPPER EAST %	UPPER WEST %	
Akan	28.7	12.4	2.03	0.22	0.2
Ga-Adangbe	3.1	2.39	0.63	0.2	0.21
Ewe	4.5	2.6	1.5	0.09	0.058
Guan	7.1	8.69	19.8	0.81	0.63
Gurma	7	10.9	55.8	3.95	0.17
Mole-Dagbani	9.79	9.1	31.5	22	14.4
Grusi	15.2	14.4	9.89	14.7	20.5
Mande-Busanga	29.1	13.1	4.3	27.2	0.7
Other Tribe	14.3	16.8	10.3	12.8	1.3

Source: Calculated from the 2000 Population and Housing Census. Ghana Statistical Service, March 2000.

...Ghana's main ethnic groups are clumped regionally across the country. The Ga-Adangbe is a small group in the South Eastern parts of Ghana, in particular the Eastern and the Greater Accra Regions. The Ewes predominate in the east, near Ghana's border with the Republic of Togo, a country where Ewes also constitute one of the major-ethnic groups. Despite the fact that Ewes are found largely in the Volta region, there are many minority ethnic groups – such as the Likpe, the Avetime, Krachie and Nchumaru – that also live there. Much further to the north, located in Ghana's Savannah zone, are two other major ethnic constellations, the Gurma in the North East and the Mole-Dagbani to the West.

...Overall, the trajectory of census data in Ghana reveals that Ghana's ethnic groups are not confined to specific geographical areas. Internal migration and foreign immigration have rendered the various areas less and less homogeneous over time from the point of view of

tribal distinction (Asante, Richard & Gyimah-Boadi, E. 2004, *Ethnic Structure, Inequality and Governance of the Public Sector in Ghana*, UN Research Institute for Social Development website, pp.1, 8-10 & 15-16  
[http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpPublications\)/8509496C0F316AB1C1256ED900466964?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpPublications)/8509496C0F316AB1C1256ED900466964?OpenDocument) – Accessed 15 July 2009 – Attachment 33).

The Ghana HomePage is a comprehensive resource about Ghana where you can find news, information and entertaining stuff and get in touch with fellow Ghanaians. An entry on ethnic groups in Ghana posted on the Ghana HomePage reports that no part of Ghana is ethnically homogenous:

Urban centers are the most ethnically mixed because of migration to towns and cities by those in search of employment. Rural areas, with the exception of cocoa-producing areas that have attracted migrant labor, tend to reflect more traditional population distributions. One overriding feature of the country's ethnic population is that groups to the south who are closer to the Atlantic coast have long been influenced by the money economy, Western education, and Christianity, whereas Gur-speakers to the north, who have been less exposed to those influences, have come under Islamic influence. These influences were not pervasive in the respective regions, however, nor were they wholly restricted to them ('Ethnic Groups' (undated), Ghana HomePage website <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/tribes/> – Accessed 15 July 2009 – Attachment 34).

## Languages

Attachment 35 contains a language map of Ghana by Ethnologue. Ethnologue is “where you can conveniently find many resources to help you with your research of the world's languages. Ethnologue.com is owned by [SIL International](http://www.ethnologue.com), a service organization that works with people who speak the world's lesser-known languages.” According to Ethnologue, the official language of Ghana is English while Akan, Ewe, Ghanaian Sign Language, Hausa and Maasina Ful ful de are widespread. For information on where a particular language is spoken in Ghana please refer directly to the map (Lewis, M. Paul 2009, 'Languages of Ghana', *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, 16<sup>th</sup> ed., SIL International, Dallas [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_map.asp?name=GH&seq=10](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_map.asp?name=GH&seq=10) – Accessed 16 July 2009 – Attachment 35).

According to the UN Research Institute for Social Development, “The main language groups (often referred to as tribes) in the total Ghanaian population of 6, 727, 000 enumerated in March 1960 were Akan – 2, 965, 000 (44.1% of total population) mainly in the south of Ghana; Mole Dagbani – 1,072,000 (15.9%) in the North; Ewe – 876, 000 (13.0%) in the East; and Ga Adangbe – 560,000 (8.3%) around Accra and in the Eastern Region. Other groups larger than 100,000 (but less than 300,000) were Guan – 252,000 (3.7%), spread throughout the country; Gurma 238,000 (3.5%) mainly in the North, and Grusi 148, 000 (2.2%), mainly in the North (GSS 1960)” (Asante, Richard & Gyimah-Boadi, E. 2004, *Ethnic Structure, Inequality and Governance of the Public Sector in Ghana*, UN Research Institute for Social Development website, p.11  
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## Religion

According to the US Department of State's *International Religious Freedom Report 2008*, "geography is often associated with religious identity" in Ghana with the majority of Muslims residing in the northern areas and the urban centres of Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi, Tamale and Wa:

The Constitution provides for freedom of religion, and other laws and policies contributed to the generally free practice of religion.

The Government generally respected religious freedom in practice. There was no change in the status of respect for religious freedom by the Government during the period covered by this report.

There were no reports of societal abuses or discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice.

...The country has an area of 238,538 square miles and a population of 22 million. According to the 2000 government census, approximately 69 percent of the population is Christian, 16 percent is Muslim, and 15 percent adheres to traditional indigenous religious beliefs or other religious groups. The Muslim community has disputed these figures, asserting that the Muslim population is closer to 30 percent. Pentecostal and charismatic churches are reported to be the fastest growing Christian denominations. Approximately 6 percent of the population does not affiliate itself with a particular religion. A significant number of Christians and Muslims also hold traditional indigenous religious beliefs.

...There is not a significant link between ethnicity and religion; however, geography is often associated with religious identity. The majority of the Muslim population resides in northern areas as well as in the urban centers of Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi, Tamale, and Wa, while the majority of the followers of traditional indigenous religious beliefs reside in rural areas. Christians live throughout the country (US Department of State 2008, *International Religious Freedom Report 2008*, 19 September, Introduction and Section I – Attachment 36).

The UN Research Institute for Social Development provides the following information on the location of the main religious groups in Ghana:

Surprisingly, despite this hodgepodge of ethnicities, Ghana's ethnic map is almost coterminous with its religious map. Christians who constitute about 69% of the population and are predominantly Akan are found largely in the southern sections while Muslims who constitute about 16% live mainly in the Northern section. Animists are evenly distributed among the various ethnic groups throughout the country (GSS, 2000). The spatial distribution of the two major foreign religions, Islam and Christianity, almost coincides with the division of the country into the northern half which is poor and disadvantaged, and the southern half which is wealthy and more developed (Asante, Richard & Gyimah-Boadi, E. 2004, *Ethnic Structure, Inequality and Governance of the Public Sector in Ghana*, UN Research Institute for Social Development website, p.16

[http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpPublications\)/8509496C0F316AB1C1256ED900466964?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpPublications)/8509496C0F316AB1C1256ED900466964?OpenDocument) – Accessed 15 July 2009 – Attachment 33).

## 7. Deleted.

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Electoral Commission of Ghana <http://www.ec.gov.gh/>  
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Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/>  
New Patriotic Party – UK <http://www.newpatrioticparty.org.uk/>  
UK Home Office <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/>  
US Department of State <http://www.state.gov/>

#### **United Nations (UN)**

UN Refugee Agency – Refworld <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rsd>  
UN Research Institute for Social Development <http://www.unrisd.org/>

#### **Non-Government Organisations**

Amnesty International <http://www.amnesty.org/>  
Ethnologue <http://www.ethnologue.com/>  
Freedom House <http://www.freedomhouse.org/>  
Human Rights Watch <http://www.hrw.org/>  
International Crisis Group <http://www.crisisgroup.org/>

#### **International News & Politics**

allAfrica.com <http://allafrica.com/>  
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Modern Ghana <http://www.modernghana.com/>  
*The Statesman* <http://www.thestatesmanonline.com/>  
*Voice of America* <http://www.voanews.com/>

#### **Library Networks**

Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection, University of Texas  
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/>

#### **Search Engines**

Google <http://www.google.com.au/>

### Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)  
BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)  
REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)  
ISYS (RRT Research & Information database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)  
RRT Library Catalogue

## List of Attachments

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2. RRT Research & Information 2009, *Research Response GHA34619*, 26 March.
3. 'Ghana politics: Tensions in the Dagbon region are reignited' 2009, *Economist Intelligence Unit – ViewsWire*, 9 June. (FACTIVA)
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