

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF GHANA

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STATEMENT ON THE DISTURBANCES AT EJURA AND WA

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The Christian Council of Ghana (CCG) has followed with much interest and has held close door meetings on the disturbances at Ejura and Wa over the past weeks. The Leadership of the Council wish to strongly condemn the killings at Ejura and express our deepest condolences to the families of the deceased.

We appreciate the effort by government to establish a committee to look into the disturbances so that those found guilty would receive the appropriate punishment in accordance with the laws of our country. We call on government to publish the full findings of the investigations and the punishments meted out to the offenders.

We also want to entreat the government to adequately resource the Police Service to handle crowd control professionally. Government must also leave crowd control to the Police Service and not quickly bring in the military, unless as a last resort where it is inevitable.

The Council wish to remind the nation that it is the constitutional right of citizens to embark on peaceful demonstrations to express their grievances. It is therefore unacceptable for government to bring in the Military to intimidate protesters if they are embarking on peaceful demonstration.

The leadership of the CCG is of the view that what transpired at Ejura and Wa have the tendency to embolden people to take matters into their own hands in situations that require the intervention of the Police or Military.

We are therefore reiterating that the investigations into the disturbances should be done swiftly and published for all to see and those found culpable made to face the full rigors of the law to serve as deterrent to others.

The Council also wishes to admonish the public, especially the youth to avoid violent confrontations with security personnel. We urge the youth to use dialogue and where necessary, peaceful demonstrations to address their grievances and avoid blocking roads and burning car tyres etc. This is improper in a country where we have accepted the rule of law as our guiding principle.

We are calling on our pastors and church leaders to pray for our nation and the leadership of our security personnel for wisdom and knowledge in handling the situations at hand.

The Christian Council of Ghana will continue to pray for the peace and prosperity of our dear nation Ghana in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and we will continue to be guided by the principles of the Holy Bible.

God bless you.

Rev. Dr. Cyril Fayose

General Secretary