

## **NATIONAL CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT**

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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## GHANA CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE (GCBC) CALLS FOR AN END TO THE MILITARY BRUTALITIES ON INNOCENT CITIZENS AND ADVOCATES APPROPRIATE SANCTIONS FOR THE PERPETRATORS

Barely 72 hours after we issued a statement to condemn the killing of two young men at Ejura by some military men, we are horrified to see videos of brutalities and inhumane treatments meted out to innocent citizens in the Upper West Regional Capital, Wa, by a group of military men.

Many of these victims suffered various degrees of injuries and psychological trauma with some still receiving treatment at the Wa Municipal Hospital. We sympathise with the victims and pray for healing for those undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Similar to previous incidents of military brutalities and unprofessional behaviour on the part of some officers of the Ghana Armed Forces, the Military High Command has issued a statement decrying the behaviour of their men and has promised an internal investigation and disciplinary action against the perpetrators.

We commend the High Command for the assurance that appropriate sanctions will be handed out to any person(s) found culpable after a full-scale investigation. We, however, call for an independent investigation based on previous events that are still fresh in the minds of all Ghanaians where investigations into similar incidents at Nsuaprem, Manso Totokrom. Ashaiman and Kintampo yielded nothing.

We reiterate our earlier position that citizens are gradually losing trust in the ability of our security agencies to handle cases involving one of their own effectively and competently to the satisfaction of all. We, therefore, call on government, especially the President, to show true leadership by sanctioning all whose actions and inactions have resulted in the unfortunate happenings in recent times. It is our hope and prayer that this investigation and all other investigations will be done speedily and devoid of politics for the good of our country.

We cannot continue to live in fear as a people due to the unprofessional behaviour of some miscreants belonging to our security forces and so demand that our laws be made to work. It is not enough to say that we will do better.

May God bless our homeland Ghana and make our nation great and strong, bold to defend the cause of freedom and of right!

MOST REV. PHILIP NAAMEH

METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP OF TAMALE &

PRESIDENT, GHANA CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

**FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2021**