

CONCERNED BRIFOR YOUTH

(Community Advocacy for Peace, Justice and Security)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRIFORS DECLARE VIGILANCE AMID RISING THREATS: TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND THE RULE OF LAW MUST PREVAIL

Date: 19th February 2026

Location: WAWEST DISTRICT

The Concerned Brifor Youth issue this press statement in response to recent developments and public declarations emanating from hostile quarters within the Wa West District, particularly statements that distort facts, mischaracterize events, and seek to justify repeated acts of aggression against Brifor communities.

We wish to place it firmly on record that the Brifor people were not, until recently, aware of any declared conflict between the Wechaiu and the Brifor ethnic groups. What the Brifors have long been aware of is a localized conflict between the communities of Lassia-Tuolu and Kandeu, which occurred in June 2024 and tragically resulted in the loss of three lives. That matter was formally referred to the Wechiau Traditional Council, is currently at and is also under mediation processes at the Regional Coordinating Council led by the honorable Regional Minister.

Additionally, we recall an attack on the people of Lassia-Tuolu in October 2024 by unknown assailants. At the time, the perpetrators were not identified. It has since emerged, through subsequent confirmations, that the attackers were Wechaiu and Kendeu youth, during which one of our brothers was murdered. Furthermore, the kidnapping and murder of two Brifor brothers at Kandeu were initially described as criminal acts based on a Regional Police report, and the Upper West Regional State Attorney explicitly cautioned the Brifor community not to treat the incident as a tribal conflict or resort to retaliation.

However, recent public admissions by the Wechaiu Youth Association have now confirmed that the attacks were, in fact, ethnically motivated, thereby contradicting earlier representations and fundamentally altering the context of these crimes.

More recently, the Concerned Brifor Youth wish to bring to the attention of the public and state authorities the arrest and detention of some Brifor brothers from Pori in the Savannah Region by some youth in Wechiau, who subsequently handed them over to the police. The only offence, according to available information, was that they had travelled to Burkina Faso to undertake spiritual purification rites in accordance with Brifor cultural traditions. This development further heightens fears about the safety and freedom of movement of Brifors within the district.

Additionally, credible reports indicate that a Brifor resident, Mr. Garigu, who lawfully acquired land, built his home, and lived with his family in Wechiau, has been banished from the community to Burkina Faso under circumstances that raise serious human rights and constitutional concerns.

In light of the kidnapping and murder of our two brothers on 23rd November 2025, whose remains are yet to be recovered, as well as the recent arrest and threats against returning Brifors from Burkina Faso—some of whom narrowly escaped harm through police intervention—the Brifor community has become increasingly alarmed about its safety within Wechiau, which currently serves as the Wa West District capital and hosts critical public institutions including the District Hospital, NHIS Office, Ghana Education Service Office, and other decentralized government departments.

The continued location of these facilities within a community perceived to have become unsafe for Brifors exposes innocent lives to heightened danger. Accordingly, we respectfully call on the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralisation, the Ministry of the Interior, National Security, the National Peace Council, the Ghana Police Service, faith-based institutions, traditional authorities in Ghana and Burkina Faso, and all relevant stakeholders to urgently assess the security situation and consider relocating the Wa West District capital and key public facilities to alternative communities such as Poyentanga, Vieri, or Dorimon in the interest of safeguarding lives and preserving peace.

In light of these developments, the Brifor community considers it necessary to inform Brifors in Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire that relations have deteriorated into an open conflict situation declared by Wechiau youth groups, and that heightened caution is required.

Accordingly, and strictly as preventive and lawful safety measures, we advise the following:

1. Brifors are urged to exercise extreme caution when traveling in or accepting transport services linked to hostile areas, particularly within the Wa West District, and to prioritize safe, verified routes and movements.
2. All Brifors are advised to suspend commercial transactions, buying, or selling with persons or groups linked to hostile declarations, as such interactions have increasingly become flashpoints for confrontation.
3. Brifors, especially those within Wa West District and border communities in Burkina Faso, are advised to temporarily avoid the Wechiau market.
4. All Brifor communities are urged to remain vigilant against infiltration, misinformation, and intelligence-gathering activities that may expose communities to further attacks, and to report suspicious conduct promptly to security agencies.

5. Brifors undertaking development investments within Wechiau and its environs are advised to suspend such investments temporarily, pending restoration of peace and legal assurances for the protection of property.
6. Brifor communities in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire are encouraged to strengthen community vigilance and boundary awareness to prevent cross-border infiltration and escalation of violence.
7. Brifors traveling along the Wechiau–Kandeu road corridor are advised to exercise maximum caution until security assurances are restored.

We reiterate that no individual, youth group, or traditional faction has the lawful authority to declare war, threaten settlers, ban communities, or incite violence outside the framework of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana. Security and conflict resolution remain the exclusive mandate of the State.

The Brifor community places unwavering confidence in the Ghana Police Service, the Armed Forces, the Judicial Authority, and all relevant security institutions to conduct impartial investigations and ensure accountability for all crimes committed, irrespective of ethnic or political considerations.

We further respectfully call on the security agencies and investigative bodies to intensify efforts toward the recovery of the remains of our murdered brothers, Mr. Kwame Ga John and Mr. Donna Moses, in order to bring closure to their families and restore public confidence in the justice system.

To the Government of Ghana, civil society organizations, traditional authorities, the media, and the international community: the Brifors are not reckless, nor are we intimidated. We are vigilant, law-abiding, and united—calling for justice, protection of life, and restoration of peace.

Let this communiqué stand as a statement of resolve and reason: Lawfulness is our shield, truth our defense, unity our strength and peace our ultimate objective.

Signed:

For and on behalf of the Concerned Brifor Youth

Abdul Rahaman Mohammed--Ghana

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