

REPORT OF THE THREE MEMBER MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE  
OF INQUIRY INTO THE UNFORTUNATE OCCURENCES AT  
EJURA IN THE ASHANTI REGION

Presented to the



Minister for the Interior

Osu, Accra

27th July, 2021

## **INTRODUCTION**

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The President, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo issued a directive to the Honourable Minister of Interior to investigate the circumstances leading to the shootings and deaths of some persons in Ejura.

The Honourable Minister of Interior on Friday the 2nd of July 2021, set up a 3-member committee (the “Committee”) to investigate the circumstances that led to the disturbances, shootings, injuries and death of some persons in Ejura in the Ejura-Sekyedumase Municipality of the Ashanti Region of Ghana.

The members of the Committee are:

1. George Kingsley Koomson, Justice of the Court of Appeal – Chairman
2. Vladimir Antwi Danso (PhD.) - Member
3. Juliet Adime Amoah (Ms.) - Member
4. With Mrs. Marie-Louise Simmons as Secretary.

The Terms of Reference for the Committee were to:

1. Conduct a public inquiry into the circumstances that led to the unfortunate occurrences at Ejura in the Ashanti Region, on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021;
2. Inquire into any matter, the committee considers incidental or reasonably related to the cause of the events and the associated deaths and injuries;
3. Submit a detailed report with recommendations for appropriate action within ten (10) days i.e by the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2021.

Upon request from the Committee, the deadline for public hearing of the Committee was extended to Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

The Committee began its work on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2021, by paying a courtesy call on the Ejurahene, Barima Osei Hwedie II, to inform him and his elders of the mandate assigned to it concerning events that occurred in Ejura. The Committee appealed to the Chief to inform his subjects and all residents, who had relevant information to make themselves available to help the Committee in its work.

A visit was also paid to the Chief of the Dagomba community in Ejura and a similar appeal was made to him and his elders. At Ejura, the Committee also visited and sympathized with the victims of the shootings as well as the families of the deceased persons.

According to evidence gathered by the Committee, one Ibrahim Mohammed a.k.a. “Kaaka”, was returning home on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 around 01:30 hours on his motorbike, when he was attacked by some unknown assailant(s) and beaten into unconsciousness.

“Kaaka” was rushed to the Ejura Government Hospital and was subsequently referred to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH), where he was admitted for treatment. He died on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 at 01:40 hours.

This report will comprise the following:

1. Summary of evidence taken from witnesses
2. Findings
3. Recommendations
4. Conclusion

The Committee began its public sittings at the Prempeh Assembly Hall in Kumasi on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, 2021 at 10am and wound up on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The Committee took evidence from the following witnesses:

1. Hon. Simon Osei Mensah - Ashanti Regional Minister
2. Erastus Asare Donkor - Broadcast Journalist, Multimedia Group
3. Brig. Gen Joseph Aphour - General Officer Commanding the Central Command, Ghana Armed Forces
4. Lt. Col. Kwasi Ware Peprah - Commanding Officer of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, Ghana Armed Forces
5. DCOP Agyemang Adjem - Deputy Regional Commander, Ashanti, Ghana Police Service
6. DSP Philip Kojo Hammond - District Police Commander, Ejura District Command, Ashanti Region
7. Edward Oppong Marfo – Bureau Chief, Citi News, Kumasi
8. Hon. Mohammed Salisu Bamba - Municipal Chief Executive, Ejura-Sekyedumase, Municipal Assembly, Ashanti Region
9. Lt. Martin Opoku Adusei – 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, Ghana Armed Forces (in camera evidence)
10. Dr. Manye Mensah - Medical Superintendent, Ejura Government Hospital
11. Col. (Rtd) Francis Dofah Arthur - Regional Security Coordinator, National Security, Ashanti (in camera evidence)

12. Agatha Donyina - Mother of Louis Ayikpa (victim), Resident of Ejura
13. Aminu Mohammed - Resident of Ejura (in camera evidence)
14. Abdul Wahab Alhassan- Linguist of the Dagomba Chief, Ejura
15. Issahaku Abubakar- Brother of Abdul Nassir Yusif (deceased)
16. Sahada Hudu- Wife of “Kaaka”
17. Abeewakas Umar- Resident of Ejura
18. Salamatu Mohammed – Mother of Awal Misbau (victim)
19. Fuseini Ibrahim – Resident of Ejura /co-tenant of “Kaaka’s ” family
20. Sadia Fuseini – Resident of Ejura / co-tenant of “Kaaka’s ” family
21. Muniratu Alhassan – Resident of Ejura /co-tenant of “Kaaka’s” family
22. Nana Osei Kwadwo Ansebie II – Nifahene /spokesperson of Ejura Traditional Council

## **SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF WITNESSES**

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### **1. Hon. Simon Osei Mensah**

Hon. Simon Osei Mensah testified in his capacity as the Ashanti Regional Minister and Chairman of the Regional Security Council (REGSEC). He said that, on the morning of 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, he was informed that, at dawn, between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of June, a man in Ejura called “Kaaka” had been assaulted by some unknown assailant(s). On the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, in the evening, whilst still out on an official assignment in Accra, he had information that “Kaaka” had died and that following his death, the youth of Ejura were planning to cause mayhem and had actually started by causing damage to some public places including the Ejura Police Station.

Based on these pieces of information, he testified that, he called one Lieutenant Colonel Peprah of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (4BN), Kumasi, to dispatch personnel to protect lives and properties at Ejura. According to him, the Army went to Ejura, and restored calm on the night of the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 as he had instructed. The next morning, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2021, the Army personnel left back to base.

Not long after the Army personnel had left, he received new intelligence that the youth were planning to burn down the Police Station, other public buildings, and the homes of some two (2) suspects, who had by then been arrested in connection with the death of “Kaaka”.

The Minister said he called on the 4BN Commander again to send men to Ejura. It was after this deployment that he was informed of the death of two (2) persons and injuries to others and destruction of some properties. The Minister testified further that, he believed, he had legal backing for his actions and referred the Committee to the Securities and Intelligence Act (Act 1030).

The Minister also stated that, upon his return to Kumasi, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2021, he convened a REGSEC meeting, where he was formally briefed about the events that had unfolded.

The next day, the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 2021, he went to Ejura to obtain firsthand information and he visited the families of the two deceased persons and paid for some of the medical expenses of the injured at the hospital. He named one Abeewakas as the person who instigated the disturbances by the youth and tendered to the Committee a video, which he said proved his assertion and which had been sent to him by an individual whose identity he refused to disclose to the Committee. The video was tendered and marked as “Exhibit A”.

Answering questions from the Committee, the Minister said that Ejura had been identified as a ‘hotspot’ in terms of security, especially during general elections. He justified why the Military was his first point of call after his receipt of information from Ejura about the rising tensions and the state of insecurity during the period. He stated that, he had made the right call to bring in military intervention at the time he did, since the Ejura Police and the reinforcement he had called for from Mampong, had already been overwhelmed by the actions of the youth. He said this was not the first time that he had called for, or overseen the use of, a joint police and military force such as the “Operation Calm Life”, in curbing riots and disturbances since taking office in 2017.

## **2. Erastus Asare Donkor**

Erastus Asare Donkor informed the Committee that he is a Broadcast Journalist and documentary maker with the Multimedia Broadcasting Network. He said at about 8:00 am on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2021, he and some three (3) other crew members were assigned to Ejura to cover a planned protest in the wake of the death of a social media activist called “Kaaka”. He testified that they were greeted by an angry mob, numbering about Six Hundred (600) in the streets, who initially prevented them from filming.

Erastus further stated that, a crew member who could speak the Hausa language, calmed the angry mob by assuring them that, the crew was there to

cover their protest so as to obtain results for them. He stated that, he saw the protestors in possession of offensive objects like stones, sticks, knives and machetes. He named one Nasir Yusif as one of the protestors who protected him and his crew against the mob from the very beginning. He continued that, the protestors kept angrily expressing their feelings about the death of “Kaaka” and that he and his crew were able to film along, as the protest went on.

He said, he saw the protestors destroying a make-shift wooden structure painted in “NPP colours”, with sticks and machetes and finally bringing down the structure. He also saw a Police Water Cannon Vehicle approaching alongside a Military pick-up with the inscription, “Operation COVID”. He stated that, before this, he had not seen any Police or Military Officer around. He noted that, four (4) armed military men in uniform stepped out of the Military Pick-up, formed a line, and started firing into the air. A minute later, he noticed that the angle of firing was lowered. He demonstrated the lowered firing to be at shoulder-level. At that moment, he said, he and his crew ran to the top of a building whilst still filming.

He also observed that the crowd was also retreating amidst the firing, which later became intense as three (3) more military men joined in the firing. He said he saw one person in a white “T” shirt and black trousers fall on the ground, apparently hit by a bullet. The person was first dragged on the floor by the protestors and was later picked up onto the shoulders of one of the protestors while they continued running. He stated that he saw and heard the protestors shouting that another person had been hit by a bullet. He also saw, at that moment, a pool of blood on the street.

Around this time, the crowd split into two on both sides of the street while the Military was caught in the middle. He said in the course of the shooting, he saw some of the soldiers kneel down and shoot into the crowd. After the shooting, he saw the military men retreat, board their vehicles and leave. He said in his estimation, the shooting continued for about 20 to 30 minutes.

He named the two persons who were hit by the bullets as Murtala Mohammed, a 26-year-old farmer and Nasir Yusif, a 25-year-old farmer. He explained that during the incident, the Police Water Cannon Vehicle was



leading the military men on the left side of the road, while the military men were on the right-side firing. He also said he saw an electric transformer, which he suspects had been hit by a bullet, hanging in mid-air leaking what appeared to be fuel.

Not long after the military had left, he saw some Chiefs from the Ejura Palace coming to the scene. He interviewed them, and they said that they had been asked by the Ejurahene to find out what was happening on the streets. One of the chiefs informed him that, they “did not invite the military to shoot at the citizens, but to maintain peace”.

From the streets, he said the crowd moved to the Ejura Government Hospital, where two bodies had been deposited. He and his crew followed to the hospital, and had information from the Medical Superintendent that he had had to treat some women who fainted after seeing the dead bodies of their relatives. He also saw others who were injured. He added that he saw the Medical Officer release the bodies of the two deceased persons to the youth and families of the deceased persons after they had besieged the hospital and forcefully demanded for the release of the bodies.

In an interview with his crew, the Medical Officer confirmed that he released the bodies due to the pressure mounted on him by the youth. The Medical Superintendent confirmed that he could not follow the medical protocols, i.e. perform autopsy before releasing the bodies for fear of his life. Erastus, presented to the Committee, video footages, which were admitted as “Exhibit B- series” portraying the entire incident.

During questioning, Erastus emphasized that, the Police Water Cannon flushed water only for a few seconds and that the water could not even reach the demonstrators. He also opined that, the carrying of offensive weapons such as swords, jackknives and sticks by the demonstrators was unwarranted. He, however sympathized with the crowd who he felt were only venting their anger over the killing of “Kaaka”, who they perceived as a social activist who was helping his society.

### **3. Brigadier General Joseph Aphaour**

Brig Gen Joseph Aphaour testified as the General Officer Commanding, Central Command, Kumasi. He explained that the 4th Infantry Battalion (4BN) has been divided into seven (7) sectors including a Military/Police patrol team, commonly called “Operation Calm Life”. He said this joint team patrols the whole of Kumasi, especially in the night, to curb crime. Two of the sectors are Mampong and Tafo.

On the 29th of June, 2021, he had a call from the team in Ejura and Mampong that a violent situation had erupted. He also had a call from the Chairman of the Regional Security Council (REGSEC), that is, the Ashanti Regional Minister, that the situation in Ejura was getting out of control. Since the “Operation Calm Life” team was already operating within the Mampong area, which is on the Mampong road and close to Ejura, the team was called in to help to get the situation under control. The disturbances, he said, were as a result of a man who had been killed in Ejura. He said he was informed that, the Police Command in Ejura had called the Regional Command, who had also relayed the information to the Regional Minister, who subsequently informed him to get his men to intervene.

Before then, on the 28th of June, 2021, he said the Army had been called in and the “Operation Calm Life” team had stayed in Ejura overnight till around 1:00 am on the 29th July, 2021 before leaving. Later that morning, 29th June, 2021, they were informed that, during the burial of the man who had been killed, the civilians had massed up going to the cemetery and had threatened to cause damage to the Police Station and the situation was getting out of hand so they dispatched the team back to Ejura.

He said the military men who were dispatched were ten (10) in number and they joined up with the Ejura Police to control the situation. He was informed that, from the cemetery the crowd charged on the Military/Police team. Consequently, they had to apply their rules of engagement as they had been taught on crowd dispersal. According to him, the Military began by giving verbal warnings to the crowd without success. They then gave warning shots into the air to disperse them, still without success. He said during the warning shots, the Military also realized that there was some firing within the crowd and it was “bad to see civilians firing from the

crowd”. At that stage, he said, the Commander had to use “minimum force and fire to maim those people who were involved”.

He said about two persons died and were evacuated to the hospital. The situation was, however, brought under control after this and the military men withdrew. He added that, though he was not present at the scene, he was monitoring events and was being briefed at every stage by his battalion commander with incidence reports (INCREP).

When asked if he had those reports, he answered yes but said he could only provide copies of these reports if he is cleared by his superiors to do so. He added that “there would have been more deaths, if the Army actually wanted to use proper force or fired indiscriminately”. He emphasized that, with minimum force, they were able to disperse the crowd and able to bring the situation under control. He believed that, the Chairman of REGSEC did the right thing by inviting the military to intervene at the time he did.

Upon questioning by the Committee, he stated that all Army officers are trained on the rules of engagement, as to what to do on the ground depending on the situation. He said the field officer on the ground does not need to take step by step instructions from his superiors before he acts. However, if he has any problem, he has to call his Battalion Commander and this is done in a very fast manner. He said that when the military is invited to join the police, the military takes control. He stated that, one of the rules of engagement is to use live bullets in a situation where verbal warnings, warning shots, and other crowd dispersal procedures have failed.

When asked why the Military had not used plastic bullets or other less harmful equipment, he made it clear that the military does not carry tear gas or plastic bullets as part of its equipment. He agreed that after careful thought, it would have been appropriate for the joint Police/ Military team to have had an ambulance around in order to take care of casualties. He said further that, the situation was such an emergency that the usual official operational procedures could not have been followed to the letter.

He however stated that, he believes that the joint taskforce of the Police and Military briefed each other before the operation began. He stated that, based

on the information he received from the Chairman of REGSEC he believed that the Police at Ejura were overwhelmed, hence his deployment of the Military. When pressed further he agreed that the Military should only be called in to intervene when it is critically essential to do so.

#### **4. Lt. Col. Kwasi Ware Peprah**

Lt. Col. Kwasi Ware Peprah testified as the Commanding Officer (CO) of the 4th Infantry Battalion (4BN) responsible for military operations in the Ashanti Region. He said on the 28th June, 2021, a Monday, he was informed that, there was an uneasy calm and tension mounting at Ejura. He confirmed that information with the Deputy Regional Police Commander, while he monitored the situation. He was later informed that, the situation was getting worse.

He said the General Officer Commanding (GOC) then suggested that they dispatch the “Operation Calm Life” patrol team that was close to Ejura to assist the Police to maintain calm and order. He, therefore, communicated with the Platoon Commander in charge of the “Calm Life” team, to proceed to Ejura. He explained that, the “Operation Calm Life” is a 24-hour patrol team that responds to intelligence, distress calls, and information based on what is happening on the scene. He continued that, the said team went to Ejura and helped to maintain some peace and calm until 0100 hours on the 29th of June, 2021 when they left Ejura.

At about 0825 hours on the same day, 29th June, 2021, he heard from the Deputy Regional Police Commander that, the situation had gone bad and that the youth had driven the Police away from the cemetery and were threatening to rampage. The Deputy Commander told him that, he had called the Mampong Police to send reinforcement, adding that, there were no Policemen in the Ejura town and therefore they needed military assistance in Ejura.

Lt. Col Peprah testified that, based on this information, he called in the patrol team responsible for Mampong to go to Ejura to assist. The information he received indicated that, when they arrived in Ejura and decided to move to where the protestors were, the protestors were very hostile so the military fired a couple of warning shots. In the process, they

were also fired at, with some weapons they believed to have been Pump Action and locally manufactured guns. They, therefore, returned fire to maim them, but unfortunately, two protestors died in the process. He said he heard that, the patrol team he had sent to the town continued with patrols for a while to make sure the situation was calm, before withdrawing to the police station.

Upon questioning from the Committee, he clarified that, the “Operation Calm Life” team is a joint Military and Police team which is commanded by both the Military and the Police. He further stated that, the Military Commander in this joint team is usually the Field Commander, whilst the Police Commander commands from the Operations Room and directs the team as to where to operate depending on the information received from the public into the Operations Room.

In the Ejura situation, he confirmed that, the “Calm Life” Commander on the field who was a military man was in control. When asked by the Committee whether the two teams had had joint training to know how to determine roles in the field, he explained that during his tenure as the CO, he had organized three joint trainings for the Police/Military team and it included a month’s operation and training together.

When asked about the firing of weapons by his team, he stated that, he suspected that the weapons fired from the protestors might have maimed and eventually killed the rioters themselves. He explained this by saying that, as professionals in weapon handling, the military could tell the sound and the direction of any weapon that is fired and, therefore, they could tell on the day of the incident that somebody fired a gun from the crowd.

He emphasized that, the video of a military man kneeling to shoot did not tell the whole story, stating that in crowd control management, there are various signals used to scare protestors, and kneeling to aim is one of such signals which the men used. He added that, the direction of the soldier who knelt was such that no casualty came from that side and that the man did not even fire his weapon.

## **5. DCOP David Agyemang Adjem**

DCOP David Agyemang Adjem testified as the Deputy Regional Police Commander, Ashanti Region. His testimony on events of the 26th of June, 2021, involving the assault of Ibrahim Mohammed a.k.a “Kaaka”, was based on a report and briefing, given to him by the District Commander, Ejura. He stated that, from his information the Police in Ejura received a complaint about an assault and when the Police accompanied the complainant to the scene at H/No. 267 Block 4, Dagomba Line, Ejura, they found two pieces of firewood, one of them stained with blood. The DCOP stated that, a crime scene team was sent from the Regional Police Command, Ashanti to start conducting investigations. He presented to the Committee the crime scene report of the incident which was marked as “Exhibit C”.

As part of the investigations, he told the Committee that, some witnesses, in the persons of Haruna Mohammed and Sadia Fusieni and one Suraj Amidu all co-tenants of the deceased “Kaaka” gave witness statements to the Police as to what they saw on the night of the 26th June, 2021. He said that “Kaaka”, at this point had been transferred from the Ejura Hospital to Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH) on the 27th June, 2021 and had died on the 28th June, 2021.

On the same day, 28 June 2021, he said the police received intelligence of a potential attack on the Police Station, the Municipal Assembly building and some properties within the Ejura township. In that regard, he said the Divisional Command in Mampong was instructed to provide one patrol team to beef up security at Ejura while arrangements were made to send further reinforcement from Kumasi. He stated that prior to these events, there had been three occasions in the past year when some violence had occurred in Ejura causing concern. These were during the compilation of the voters’ register, the election campaign period in 2020 and in the period just after the election.

He said the team dispatched from the region were from the FPU and SWAT units. He received information that the youth in Ejura had by this time actually destroyed government and private properties and stolen revenue from the Municipal Revenue Checkpoint located in the Forestry Department in Ejura. He tendered some pictures and a video to the Committee to show

the damage in the said crime scene report. He added that, following the said attacks, the Police brought in reinforcement from the Regional Headquarters in Kumasi and a team of “Operation Calm Life” personnel.

In response questions from the Committee, he stated that, there were some suspects in police custody in relation to the death of “Kaaka”, who were Ibrahim Issaka, alias Anyass and Fuseini Alhassan. He confirmed that a post-mortem was conducted on the body of “Kaaka”, on the 28th of June, 2021 at KATH.

He stated that, on the 29th of June, 2021, based on a request from the family of “Kaaka”, the police accompanied them to the cemetery to provide protection during his burial. The police escorted the family with the Riot Control Vehicle and this vehicle was pelted with stones by the youth of the town. Because of that, the police retreated to the Police Station in anticipation of further attacks.

He also said that, he had a conversation with the Commanding Officer (CO) of 4th Infantry Battalion (4BN) in Kumasi for military support. He confirmed that, the CO had sent a team of “Operation Calm Life” personnel on the 28th of June, 2021 in the night and they had stayed until the morning of 29th June, 2021. A second team of “Operation Calm Life” was then sent to Ejura after the cemetery incident on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 2021.

In response to another question from the Committee, he explained that, about fifty (50) police officers were deployed to Ejura, excluding the “Operation Calm Life” team. The focus of the police, he said, was to prevent destruction of properties, especially, public buildings. Therefore, most of the police deployed were manning these facilities as well as checkpoints.

He said on that late morning of the 29th of June, 2021, the youth had blocked a road close to the Central Mosque at Ejura, which is close to the police station, and had set tyres on fire. This is what necessitated the police and military teams going to the scene. At the scene, the youth, holding weapons such as machetes and other dangerous weapons, surrounded the security personnel. At that point, he said the Police retreated and allowed the Military to take over.

On the 30th of June, 2021, he said some co-tenants, Sadia Fuseini (who had already given a statement to the Police) and her husband Fuseini Mohammed, as well as Muniratu Alhassan (another co-tenant), gave further statements to the police, now confirming that they saw a brother of “Kaaka”, one Iddi Mohammed, dragging him towards a bathroom in the house where they all lived. This led to the arrest of the said Iddi who has now, together with the other two suspects, been remanded into prison custody by the court as further investigations continue.

DCOP Adjem presented to the Committee two criminal investigation dockets, one uncompleted, which were marked as “Exhibit D and E”. One of the dockets, “Exhibit E”, was in relation to a charge of offensive breach of peace against the murder victim “Kaaka” himself, whilst “Exhibit D” was an uncompleted docket in relation to his murder. “Exhibit D” also contained statements of the injured persons and their medical reports as well as pictures of the injured at the hospital. He confirmed the death of two persons and some other injured persons as a result of some shootings on the 29th June, 2021. The said injured persons were Louis Ayikpa aged 20 years, Awal Misbau Mohammed aged 16 years and Nazif Nuhu aged 30 years. “Exhibit D” also contained the police medical forms of Abdul Nasir Yusif aged 25 years and Murtala Suraj Mohammed aged 26 years who are said to be dead.

Upon further questioning, the DCOP admitted that, the Police did not envisage that the situation would degenerate into such violence as it did. He said that anytime such incidents occur and the Military were called in, there was usually calm restored. But this time, he said the Police “miscalculated” and he took responsibility for that. He added that, the Police assumed wrongly that the presence of the Military would deter the youth.

He also admitted that the police did not have crowd control equipment like tear gas, riot shields and others on them at the time of the incident at Ejura. He stated that, bringing in the Military was in tune with their Police ethics and standards where they had to use “gradual differentiated force” to calm a situation or quell a riot. He, however, admitted that, the co-ordination



between the Police and the Military on the ground that day was not perfect because of wrong assumptions made.

#### **6. DSP Philip Kojo Hammond**

DSP Philip Kojo Hammond testified as the District Police Commander, Ejura who had spent just ten (10) months at post before the incident. He stated to the Committee that, he had assessed the security situation at Ejura when he took over as tense, with a lot of highway robberies. However, he said upon assumption of office, he had put in place measures like the provision of temporary structures along the highway for police personnel to be able to keep watch on the highway at all times, thus reducing crime in and around Ejura.

He said, on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, at about 4:00 am, a case of causing harm involving one Mohammed Idrissu, a.k.a “Kaaka”, was reported to Ejura Police Station. The story was that “Kaaka”, was returning from town on his motorbike and was hit on the forehead with some object by some unknown person (s) and had become unconscious. He said the Police went to the scene of crime and had begun investigations into the case. Unfortunately “Kaaka” died on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

According to the Commander, on that Monday, the youth attacked and begun vandalizing the Police Station. He stated that, at the time, there was an opinion leader in the person of Hon. Gifty Ndoma who happened to be at the Police Station and she together with the Police and some Military personnel present, persuaded the mob to stop the vandalization of the Police station and they heeded to their advice.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 2021, upon request from the family of “Kaaka”, to escort the body for burial, some policemen with the Riot Control Van were sent to accompany the family to the cemetery. After the burial, when the deceased’s family and the van were returning, an irate mob who had gone to the cemetery started pelting stones at the Police Riot Control Van. He made reference to a video of the said incident which had been presented to the Committee already by the Regional Minister as “Exhibit A”. He said in the

process, the driver of the vehicle had to retreat to avoid causing any harm to the crowd.

Later in the day, they got information that, the crowd was organizing to attack the Police Station and other vital installations. He said they also received information that the youth had armed themselves with guns, stones, and other offensive weapons, had blocked the road, and had started burning tyres. The youth, he said, actually caused damage to the Municipal Fire Commander's vehicle and some sheds popularly called "base" for the NPP youth in Ejura around this time.

The District Commander said it was at this point that he requested for reinforcement and also Military backup. He said after the reinforcement were sent, the Police strength in Ejura rose to about fifty (50) policemen. He said as the violence grew worse, they left ten (10) Policemen and some Military men to man the Police Station and some others to man the Municipal Assembly, while 15 other policemen boarded the Riot Control Vehicle. The other policemen were on board the two other pick-ups.

He admitted that he asked for Military assistance because the day before, the youth had vandalized the Police Station, and caused damage to a 4x4 SUV vehicle belonging to a policeman, and disconnected electricity to the Police Station. He also stated that there was rampage at the Assembly's Forestry Check Point and the youth had destroyed a barrier mounted there, roofing sheets of the building that houses the Forestry Commission, and taken away the revenue collected for the day. Based on these incidences, he asked initially for a police back-up, and later for military back-up.

When asked to clarify how his request was made, he stated that, the request for back-up was made through the Divisional Police Commander at Mampong to the Regional Commander. Upon that request, two Riot Control Vehicles were released to him with a military team of seven (7). He confirmed that, he was part of the security personnel, who met the protestors at a place called Public Park Junction in Ejura.

He indicated that, the crowd began to throw stones and other offensive weapons at the security personnel and a sound of a Pump Action gun was

also heard. At that point, he said he signaled the Riot Control Van to start sprinkling water on the crowd. However, the crowd was not perturbed. The situation became more intense and he realized that, the irate mob had become more violent, and tried to encircle the security personnel. He also heard some of them saying that, they were going back to the Police Station to cause more damage, so he instructed the Riot Control Van to retreat for the Military to take over. He estimated the number of demonstrators or rioters to be between 600 and 800.

He further stated that, he returned to the Police Station, and it was while at the Police Station that he heard that some of the rioters had sustained injuries and had been rushed to the Ejura Government Hospital. He also stated that, at the time he was leaving the scene, he withdrew all his men because they could not contain the situation. He said the police later visited the Ejura Government Hospital and confirmed the death of two persons from gunshot injuries. He also confirmed that no post-mortem was performed on the bodies. He also confirmed that others, who sustained injuries were later referred to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi.

He said that before he left the scene of the incident, he witnessed a stone thrown at the military commander on the field. In addition, he said he himself sustained an injury on his foot while leaving the scene of the incident to the Charge Office for which reason he could not wear boots at the time he was testifying. He further explained that, the Police back-up team were from the Mampong Division and two teams comprising the Formed Police Unit (FPU) which brought the water cannon and the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team. Together with these three groups, as well as the Ejura police, the police team was fifty (50) in number.

In answer to a question, the Commander stated that he did not know of any “Operation Calm Life” team on the scene that day. He only knew that there was a military team occupying two military pick-ups and one COVID-19 pick up. He admitted that the police team was not adequately resourced. Only a few had arms. He emphasized that nobody told him about the deployment of an “Operation Calm Life” team.

When asked why “Kaaka’s” family had requested for police protection at the cemetery as he and the DCOP had alleged in their testimonies, he said he could not explain why they had made such a request. He stated that no empty shell cases had been received or recovered from the scene of the incident by the Police. He named the Military Commander on the field at the time of the incident to be one Lieutenant Adusei. He admitted that “Kaaka”’s death was partly a trigger for the rioting and chaos that occurred on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 2021.

### **7. Edward Oppong Marfo**

Edward Oppong Marfo testified as the Bureau Chief of the Ashanti Region for the Ashanti, Bono and Bono East Regions for Citi TV and Citi Fm. He testified that on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, at about 6:30am, he, a camera technician and a driver set off from Kumasi to Ejura, having received information that on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, there had been some agitations in the town after the death of “Kaaka”.

He stated that, his group had spoken to the District Commander at Ejura as well as the wife of “Kaaka” on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 and had received enough information to confirm that there was some tension in the town. He said before getting to Ejura that morning, they were in constant touch with some opinion leaders including an assemblyman who told them that at around 9:00 am, they had had some conversations with the Ejurahene who had received some information that there was going to be a protest. He said he and his crew were invited to quickly come and cover the events at the chief’s palace but when they got to the palace, they were informed that the meeting was over and the chief had calmed the youth down.

He indicated that, though the meeting was over, there were still some residents around and some sub-chiefs also. He and his team, therefore, requested to have an interview with the Ejurahene. He stated that, before getting the chance to interview him, they interviewed the Assemblyman about the security situation and some of the youth, including Nasir Yusif who was later shot, also joined in that interview.

He added that they were able to speak to the Nifahene, who was delegated to speak to them. He stated that, the Nifahene explained what the traditional leaders were doing to bring peace. He added that, just before they could leave the palace, some youth reported to the Nifahene that some other persons were trying to attack them and that the chief should intervene, else there could be reprisal attacks. He said they were informed that the youth were heading towards the cemetery so he and his crew joined them with their cameras at the cemetery.

He explained that, one of the youth who came to speak to the Nifahene indicated that he was a brother to the deceased “Kaaka”. On their way to the cemetery, they saw the Police Water Cannon Vehicle. They followed the said vehicle and when it stopped, he also asked his driver to stop. He said he and his cameraman left their vehicle and decided to move closer to where the burial was going on in order to do a live report and this was around 10:30am. He said, even though the police vehicle had moved closer to the burial grounds, he did not see any policeman come out of the vehicle. He however heard some of the youth at the cemetery shouting at the police to go away because they did not need the police at the cemetery. He explained that he saw the youth with stones, clubs and other offensive weapons trying to drive the police away. He stated that they were speaking in both Hausa and Twi.

At that moment, he said some of the youth were so agitated and began rushing towards the Citi TV vehicle. He said he and his crew did not feel safe. He then saw the police vehicle turn and begin moving away from the area with some of the agitated youth still chasing it and throwing stones all over the place, even as the vehicle was fast retreating.

He indicated that a few minutes later, he realized that all the crowd had left the cemetery chasing the police vehicle. He said when he and his crew eventually found their driver and the Citi Station car in the melee, the vehicle window had been smashed with stones.

Back at the Ejurahene’s Palace he and his crew heard the sound of gunshots and saw a transmitter with what appeared to be oil leaking out of it. He then

got the information that, some people had been rushed to the hospital and so, he and his crew followed up to the hospital.

He stated that he never saw any military personnel either at the cemetery or at the chief's palace. At the hospital, he said he was able to interview the Medical Superintendent who confirmed the number of deaths and the injured. He stated that between the time he saw the crowd chase the police vehicle and the time he heard the gunshot was between 20 to 30 minutes. He tendered into evidence some video footages of the events that he covered, which was accepted and labeled as "Exhibit F series".

Upon questioning, he confirmed that he never saw the shooting incident. He also stated that, he and his crew rushed to Ejura that morning because he believed that what was going to happen was news worthy. He recommended to the Committee that, institutions in the justice delivery system in collaboration with the NCCE, should adopt policies that would enable the general public to be sensitized and educated about the justice delivery system. This, he said, will prevent unnecessary agitations and demands for justice without any knowledge about the processes and procedures about the justice delivery system. He also expressed concern about the lack of information flow to the media by public institutions and the difficulty the media go through to obtain information. He stated clearly that in the Ejura issue, his media house consulted both the Military and Police on information about what had happened and they were driven away and confronted as if it was a battlefield.

#### **8. Hon. Mohammed Salisu Bamba**

Hon. Mohammed Salisu Bamba testified as the Municipal Chief Executive of the Ejura-Sekyedumase Municipal Assembly. He testified that the municipality has a lot of security challenges, including armed robbery, Fulani herdsman issues, periodic political violence and petty stealing. He said from 1992 till date, in every political activity, be it registration of voters or political elections, there is violence.

He stated that, on the 26th of June, 2021, he was in Ejura and had information about the assault on "Kaaka" by some unknown person(s). He

later got information about his transfer to Komfo Anokye and his subsequent death on Monday, the 28th June, 2021.

In the morning of the 28th of June, 2021, he travelled out of Ejura but in the evening of that day, he was informed that some youth had besieged the Police Station and were causing havoc. He, therefore, called some security heads on phone to discuss the issues and also informed the Ejurahene. He said it was agreed that they would call for support through the Divisional Police Command.

He stated that the Divisional Commander informed him around 11:00pm on 28th June, 2021 that some policemen had arrived from the Mampong Division to assist the Ejura Police Command. Not long after, he was informed that some military personnel had also arrived in Ejura. He, however, could not tell who called in the military. He heard that the military left on the morning of the 29th June, 2021 while he was making arrangements for lodgings for them.

Later that morning of the 29th of June, 2021, he said he was informed that some other Police Officers had arrived in Ejura to provide further support. He said at around 10:00am, he was informed that the youth had attacked a water canon vehicle that the Police had sent to the cemetery as well as other installations in the town, including some NPP meeting sheds. He was informed that, some two suspects had been arrested in connection with the death of “Kaaka”, and their rooms had also been vandalized by the youth. Further, he was told that the youth were heading towards the Police Station and the Municipal Assembly to cause more damage.

In the afternoon of the 29th June, 2021, the MCE said he received some updates about the situation in Ejura, pointing to the fact that, two persons had lost their lives and others who were injured in a shooting incident involving the Police and the Military.

When questioned by the Committee, why he had not returned to Ejura following the updates he was receiving especially on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, he stated that he could not return to Ejura on the 29th June as he had planned

because he had been called and advised not to come back to Ejura for his own safety.

On the issue of what caused the death of “Kaaka”, he said he saw on an Ejura youth wing social media platform a post by one Abeewakas stating that the death of “Kaaka”, could only occur under a wicked leadership of the Ejura MCE. He stated that throughout the day on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June he received a lot of calls from media houses to ask him about his knowledge of the death of “Kaaka”. Each of these media houses seemed to be alluding to the fact that, two persons, believed to be his bodyguards, had been arrested in relation to the death, and that, the deceased was a #FixTheCountry activist, whose activities were not pleasing to him the MCE. He said none of the media houses was able to provide to him the source of their information.

He emphasized that he believes there is an inextricable link between the death of “Kaaka” and the subsequent events which culminated in the shooting and death of the two persons, and the two cannot be looked at in isolation. He stated that, the youth of the town were “polarized” against him and the police because of all the reports flying around. He presented some Newspaper publications on the death of “Kaaka”, as “Exhibit G”. He also submitted a video recording of an interview on Guidance TV, where one of the youth, identified as Abeewakas, was accusing him of the death “Kaaka”. The video was tendered as “Exhibit H”.

He told the Committee that the two suspects who had been arrested in connection with the murder of “Kaaka”, Alhassan and Anyass, were NPP party members who he knew. He also admitted that he socializes with the two named suspects including “Kaaka” himself, because they are all NPP boys. He however insisted that the two suspects, were not his bodyguards and had never been his bodyguards at any time.

In response to a question from the Committee, he stated that he thinks it was for the best that he stayed outside Ejura during the whole period as he had been advised to, because his presence could have made matters worse. He said he could not tell whether the “Operation Calm Life” operated in Ejura during the incident, however, he was informed by the Regional Minister that he had ordered the Military to proceed to Ejura.



When asked how well he knew “Kaaka”. He described “Kaaka”, as a very interesting, outspoken and jovial person. He said he never knew of his social media activities until his demise. He stated that upon his death it was the NPP party’s vehicle that took his body from KATH in Kumasi to Ejura. He also clarified that, because he was out of town on the 28th June, 2021, he could not convene a physical Municipal Security Council (MUSEC) meeting. However, he talked on phone with many of the members to receive briefings, take decisions and also to pass on requests.

**9. Lt. Martin Opoku Adusei**

Lt. Martin Opoku Adusei testified as a Platoon Commander. Speaking in camera to the Committee, he indicated that he was at Ejura on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 as a Platoon Commander under the direction of his Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Kwasi Ware Peparah. He said he had gone to Ejura with a Section consisting of ten (10) soldiers or men around 0800hrs.

He said he and his men went straight to the Ejura Police Station where they always go to on their routine patrols. He testified that, when he and his group met the Police at the Ejura Police Station, they were briefed by the Police Commander about a hostile crowd that had chased the Police out of the cemetery during the burial of the late “Kaaka” Mohammed.

He added that, the crowd that he saw on the streets numbered about 900 holding cutlasses, sticks, stones and machetes and other weapons with the intent of attacking the police station. He said that upon their assessment, they realized that the situation was bad and so they discussed with the Police Commander and requested to take over. They then left the Police Station to the scene of the incident.

He said at this point the Police Riot Van was at the head of the convoy, but he asked the driver of the Army vehicle to take over and lead the convoy thinking that, when the crowd sees the military, they would disperse. He stated that to his surprise however, they rather began throwing stones and sticks directly at him and his men. He stated that at this point, he ordered his men to get out of the vehicles and to give warning shots into the air to

disperse the crowd. He himself joined in the discharge of these warning shots. He indicated that while this action dispersed some section of the crowd, the majority were still charged and did not go.

He indicated that all of a sudden, he heard a shot fired from the crowd towards their direction. He stated that, because of their training, they identified the direction of the fire and they fired back to maim whoever had fired the shot. Unfortunately, after enquiring about the casualties, they were told that two had died and four had been injured.

He said that because of the intelligence they received on arrival, they left three of the soldiers to help the police to provide security at the Police Station so only seven of the men he had arrived with had moved to the scene of the incident. He could confirm that four of the seven, including himself, fired their weapons because they were surrounded by the crowd, some coming from behind and most of them from the front.

He also stated that because they were surrounded, he had to ask the police to cover their back, while they faced the crowd in the front. He also said that some policemen, who were with them, also fired their guns to give warning shots.

When asked by the Committee if this was done simultaneously with the military fire, he stated that, the firings were at different times. He also stated that after the final firing, the situation was normalized, the crowd finally dispersed and the team then patrolled the Ejura township to be sure that things were calm.

In answer to another question from the Committee, he confirmed that, the crowd were about 150 meters from where he and his men were at the time they were discharging their weapons. He also told the Committee that, they could not have used plastic bullets because the army does not use plastic bullets.

He emphasized in his assessment, the way the youth were charged and were hostile, the best option to disperse them was to shoot to maim. Asked whether he and his men confirmed that they had achieved their target of

shooting to maim, he stated that they could not confirm the casualties at the scene because it was not safe to do that with the crowd still there.

He testified that, the actions they took were justified under the circumstances. He said his life and that of his men were at risk and so they had to use the method that they used because “the military is the last option and so if the military are there and the youth are still not perturbed, then there is nothing more to be done than to take that drastic step to disperse them”.

When asked to explain crowd control techniques used on the day, he stated that in crowd control, there were stages to follow; “the first is to give a verbal warning, then you charge and cock your weapon to prove that there are live bullets in it, then you fire your warning shots.” However, he explained, “the situation we were in did not allow us to go through the normal procedure”.

He said they skipped the first two steps and “this happens when the crowd is so charged with offensive weapons and our lives are threatened”.

He indicated that with the Ejura situation, the irate youth had weapons that could cause harm. They had already attacked the police station and caused some damage to some properties in town and would not even budge after warning shots. They therefore had to skip giving verbal warnings because the situation could not allow them to.

In response to a question about the gunshots he and his men heard on the day, he stated that the Police uses AK 47, while the Military uses M16 rifles and as a Military officer and knowing the sound of all these weapons, he could tell that the firing he heard from the crowd was not from any of these weapons. He stated that they could not make out exactly who fired the weapon from the crowd but as professionals, they could identify the direction of the fire and their reaction was to shoot back at the same direction. He admitted that they had no other equipment such as binoculars that could help them to identify the leaders of the youth within the crowd.

## **10. Dr. Manye Mensah**

Dr. Manye Mensah testified as the Medical Superintendent of the Ejura Government Hospital. He had worked at the Hospital for six (6) years and was a General Medical Practitioner. He described the general security situation of Ejura as quite threatening.

He told the Committee that on the 29th of June, 2021, at about 12:00 noon, some persons were rushed into the emergency unit of the Hospital as having sustained gunshot wounds during a demonstration. He stated that, he had to abandon a scheduled surgery to attend to the shooting victims.

He further testified that, two young men were brought in; one Abdul Yusif, 25 years, was dead on arrival and another, Murtala Mohammed, who was rushed in gasping for breath and sweating profusely. He said he noticed a gunshot injury at the back of the left upper chest and left shoulder joints and fractured bones on examining Abdul Yusif. With Murtala Mohammed, he said he saw gunshot injuries in the middle and left part of his chest with the entry point being the back of the chest. Both young men, had bled profusely, with Murtala going into shock (collapsing) with a very fast pulse rate. He said Murtala died within ten (10) minutes upon arrival at the Hospital.

Two other persons brought in seriously wounded were one Louis Ayikpa, 19 years old, and Awal Misbau, 16 years old. Awal was bleeding profusely from the right thigh (the femur bone) to the knee joint. He said Awal was referred to KATH eventually. With respect to Louis Ayikpa, he testified that he (Louis) sustained gunshot wounds just above the waist into the abdomen, precisely, the pelvic region. He also stated that Louis was also bleeding profusely and had internal damages and was later referred to KATH.

Dr. Manye stated that, there were four other injured persons who were treated and discharged. He added that, about six women, who were relatives of the deceased and injured persons also collapsed upon hearing the news of the death and injury of their relatives, but they were all later revived.

He confirmed that the crowd at the hospital that day was huge and because of the nature of the deaths, he tried to keep the bodies of the deceased persons for autopsies. However, the youth and some relatives of the deceased persons forcefully took away the bodies after they threatened to burn down the hospital and its staff if he fails to release the bodies. He states

that, he called the Police but the Police could not come. He believes his mentioning of the Police in the presence of the youth further infuriated them. He confirmed to the Committee that the bodies had long been buried.

In response to a question he stated that, he had given all the relevant medical reports to the police. He said, the gunshot injuries he saw did not indicate a close-range shooting, stating that, there could have been quite a distance between the gunmen and the victims. He further stated that he believed the persons who shot were at a distance behind the victims. He could not confirm whether bullets could still be in the bodies since no X-Rays or post-mortem were conducted. He, however, confirmed that some bullets were found in one of the surviving victims but he could not remove them before referring the victim for specialist care at KATH.

He further told the Committee that at his hospital, he was used to treating patients with injuries sustained through crime especially bullet injuries. He finally suggested that the Ejura police should be well resourced and trained to take care of such emergency situations. He emphasized that, no Policeman was seen present at, or near the hospital, at the time the crowd trooped to the place.

### **11.Col. (Rtd) Francis Dofah Arthur**

Col. (Rtd) Francis Dofah Arthur testified in camera as the Regional Security Liaison Officer of the Ashanti Region under National Security. He explained that, his job includes gathering information and intelligence from the whole of Ashanti and passing on same to the National Security Headquarters and to the Regional Police Command. The job also entails coordination of the activities of the various security institutions in the Ashanti Region. He made it clear that there were no security liaison officers in the districts therefore, making the gathering of intelligence or information very difficult. His intelligence officers were some friends he had made in some of the districts.

Between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, two such persons in Ejura provided information on the security situation there to him. He repeated the story of the death of “Kaaka” and the attendant events that occurred. Based on the information he received, he said he prepared an incident report to the

National Security Operations Room and gave a copy to the Regional Minister. He provided to the Committee a copy of this report and it was marked as “Exhibit J”.

His evidence introduced the story of the rumours making the rounds in Ejura, that the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) had organized an attack on a supposed #FixTheCountry member, which attack had led to his death. He said upon hearing the rumours from informants, he called the Regional Minister on phone on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 around 11:00 am as well as the Regional Police Commander, but both phones were engaged for a long time. He also called the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB) Director who said he had also heard the rumours and he was monitoring events in Ejura.

Col (Rtd) Arthur said he also called the GOC, Central Command who informed him that the Regional Minister had sanctioned the deployment of some troops to Ejura. He said he later heard of the shootings and the deaths from his informants. He gave his opinion on the incidents that occurred:

1. He believed that the GOC gave instructions for the deployment of troops at the right time. However, he thought the deployment of the “Operation Calm Life” team who were then in Mampong, and who he knows are not well equipped or oriented for such an exercise was not the best thing to do. He stated that crowd control is very different from “Calm Life” duties and it requires special equipment or logistics. He explained that for crowd dispersal, what was required in the first instance, is a large banner with clear writing in a language that the crowd can read and understand warning them to disperse and go home. Another piece of equipment needed was a loud speaker into which instructions in a familiar language to warn the crowd to disperse would be shouted. Then the security personnel would have built blocks or a “knife-rest”, to block roads and to show the crowd the limit they could get to and prevent them from advancing. He said he does not know if the military have all these, but he believes if they did, they should have been used by trained crowd control personnel in such a situation.

2. Col(Rtd) Arthur commented on the conduct of the Police which he stated was not professional enough in handling the riots. To start with, he said, they were few in number, even with the reinforcement, and they lacked the necessary equipment for riot control, for example, teargas, shields and batons.
3. He also noted that inter-agency training for the MMDCEs, Police, the Military, Fire, Ambulance etc was needed. He explained that such training exercises on riot management and control would help all parties to know what to do in the event of riots and violent protests.
4. He recommended the establishment of a properly equipped operations or situation intelligence room where all messages from the field must go. He said this gives a better picture as to who is to take charge and what action to take. Such situation rooms must be activated at all the Municipal Assemblies and the Regional Coordinating Councils. He admitted that the District Assemblies have situational rooms already, but he was not sure whether they have been in use over the years.
5. He also recommended crises management and internal security operations training for MMDCEs, perhaps at the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College.
6. He stated that the situation in Ejura was gradually building again and so, he had taken steps to inform the relevant authorities.

## **12. Agartha Donyina**

Agartha Donyina testified that she is a resident of Ejura and a trader. She testified as the mother of one of the victims, Louis Ayikapa, 20 years. She was in Ejura between 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 but did not witness any of the incidents that occurred on those days.

She testified that on Tuesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, between 8:00am and 9:00am, she saw on TV the rioting and the shooting incident that occurred in Ejura. Since her son had told her he was stepping out into the township to

buy some medicines around that same time, she called him to find out where he was. She said her son did not pick his phone. Rather a friend of his picked up the call and told her that her son had visited them at the Zongo and that he was going to buy something. Not long after that she received a call informing her that, her son had been killed and his body was lying at the Zongo area.

She rushed to the Ejura Hospital and forced her way into the hospital because there were a lot of people there. Initially she could not see her son and the doctor in charge told her that he was in the Scan Room. After crying and waiting for a while she was asked to go home and to come back to see her son, who they assured her was not dead. When she finally saw her son, he could speak and he told her that, he had left his charger with his friends the previous day and he went for it and later he was entering a drug store by the roadside when he felt that something had hit him in the abdomen. He thought it was a stone and he touched his abdomen and realized he was bleeding. He lost consciousness at that point and only woke up in the hospital.

She said her son insisted he did not see what hit him but the doctor told her that it was a bullet. She said the bullet was removed and her son was at the time she was testifying at the KATH responding to treatment. According to her, the bullet had affected his intestines and he had had a surgery. When asked if she had seen any of the rioters on the day, she said she had seen some angry young people on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, while returning from the market because someone had been killed. She, however, insisted that her son was not part of the demonstrators. He is a final year student in school who had come home ill on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021. She pleaded with the Committee to seek justice for her son and the other victims. She explained that, she was a single parent, taking care of three (3) children, including the injured son and could not carry on her trading activities because she is taking care of him.

### **13. Aminu Mohammed**

Aminu Mohammed testified in camera as a good friend of “Kaaka” and a resident of Ejura. He testified that he had known Kaaka since 1996 and that



he used to live in “Kaaka’s” room for years. He gave his own year of birth as 1975.

Aminu testified that, before his death, “Kaaka”, was always complaining about his elder brother who he allegedly hated him so much such that, he always quarreled with him. He stated that “Kaaka” was a fashion designer and a mobile phone repairer who also operated a game center which made him stay out late most nights. He also said that “Kaaka”, who always returns home very late after work, sometimes as late as 1:00 a.m, always had to look carefully around and hide so that his brother would not see him coming home for fear. He said “Kaaka’s” big brother is called Iddi (a.k.a Akwalan). He explained that, the said Iddi was always accusing their mother of loving “Kaaka” more than him and so Iddi was always looking to harm “Kaaka”. He also said “Kaaka’s” mother had confessed on several occasions that, it was because the elder brother was not leading a good life and that was why she loved “Kaaka” more.

Aminu testified that he is aware that sometime in 2020, Kaaka caused the arrest of Iddi but since he was not present at the time of the arrest, he cannot tell exactly what offence Iddi was arrested for. However, he knows that Iddi was kept for about three days in the Ejura Police cells in 2020. He stated that during this time, Iddi pleaded with “Kaaka” to drop the charges so he could be released claiming he had learnt his lesson. He, Aminu, however advised “Kaaka” to leave Iddi in the cells for about a week to teach him a proper lesson. However, due to pressure from their mother, and her paying “something” to the police, Iddi was released on the third day much to his regret. He said Iddi travelled to Nigeria soon after his release.

He told the Committee that he, Aminu, was not in Ghana at the time of the death of “Kaaka”. He said he left Ejura on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of Ramadan, which is sometime in May, 2021 to Burkina Faso but he called his family and friends as he usually does and was informed that Iddi had returned to Ejura. He said at another time he called only to be greeted by the shocking news of “Kaaka’s” death. He said the person who told him the news also added that a co-tenant of “Kaaka” had stated that she saw Iddi kill “Kaaka” and he believes that story, stating that Iddi is a drug addict.

He told the Committee that, as soon as he heard of its sittings, he decided to travel to Ghana to testify and that, he was in fact coming straight from a town called Gwollu in the Upper West Region that morning, just to give the Committee his story and to confirm that it could be possible that Iddi “Akwalan” killed “Kaaka”.

Asked what he knew of Ejura and its politics, he said the youth, both NPP and NDC mingle together in the town but it is after this incident that some persons and the media have taken advantage of the issues in a political way. He said he knew that, there were a lot of bad boys in Ejura and that he knows they don’t use guns but they rather engage in narcotics and that there is a special narcotic substance which is made in Ejura and is stronger than the ordinary cocaine.

He confirmed that there is chaos and violence usually during the political season. He also said he knew one Anyass, an NPP activist, who he said is very close to the MCE. He confirmed that he, Aminu, and “Kaaka” were card bearing members of the NPP. He finally told the Committee that though he is an NPP boy, he criticizes the party and before he left for Burkina Faso, he had insulted everybody in the party at Ejura and even the President of Ghana because of failed promises and this was nothing new. He said he was a polling station agent of the NPP in Ejura.

#### **14. Abdul Wahab Alhassan**

Abdul Wahab Alhassan testified as a resident of Ejura and a linguist for the Dagomba Chief of Ejura. He said “Kaaka” was not a Dagomba but he was part of the Dagomba community in Ejura and lived in the Dagomba line. He stated that Murtala Mohammed, one of the deceased persons, is a true grandson of the Dagomba Chief and that Murtala had on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 driven the Dagomba Chief to “Kaaka’s” funeral.

He stated that, the Dagomba chief was one of the elders who offered prayers for the body of “Kaaka”. He confirmed that the Chief as well as himself did not go to the cemetery but waited at the funeral grounds. It was Murtala who drove the Dagomba Chief back to his house after the prayers. He said it was on their way back home after the burial that the Chief realized that there was

chaos in town and warned Murtala not to go anywhere. However, Murtala told the Chief that he was hungry and he wanted to buy food outside. He stated that just about ten (10) minutes after, the Chief was informed that Murtala had been shot and taken to the hospital.

He testified further that he, the linguist, was sent to the hospital to ascertain the truth of the story and he confirmed with the doctor in charge of the Ejura hospital that Murtala had indeed died. He saw the body of Murtala on the floor covered with a cloth. He said he was informed that the injuries were at the back of the right ribs. He also confirmed that, though, the doctor wanted to keep the body for some further examination, the young men were behaving so violently that, the doctor had to release the bodies. He also stated that he saw one other dead body and several injured persons at the hospital.

Upon questioning, the linguist stated that the Dagomba Chief had not received any information about the impending riot until he saw the crowds gathering after the burial. He said the Dagomba Chief quickly called his elders to a meeting to decide on the next actions to take, but before they could gather, the violence had erupted and the shootings had occurred. He stated that, there was calm in town as at the time he left Ejura to testify. He further stated that he had one key message from the Dagomba Chief and the message was that, the Chief has absolute faith and trust in the competence of the Committee. He only wants to admonish the Committee to bring out the truth in the matters and not to disgrace themselves, the nation and the President.

#### **15. Issahaku Abubakar**

Issahaku Abubakar testified as a brother of victim Abdul Nasir Yusif. He stated that he is a resident of Ejura and a driver at the G.E.S office in Ejura. He said on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, he had gone to the bank in the morning and later went to a place called Brigade, a suburb of Ejura, on an office errand when he saw soldiers alight from a military vehicle in town at a junction near Alhaji Kadiri's house.

He said the number of soldiers were about seven (7) or eight (8). He said he saw the soldiers jump from the vehicle and give warning shots into the skies. He also noticed one of the military men kneeling down pointing his gun and

shooting. He said he decided to drive off on his motorbike, but before he could, one of the bullets run over his head and hit an ECG transformer, feet away from him. At that stage, he said he got off his motorbike, and used the Public Park road and went to his office. Shortly after leaving the scene, he received a call that, his brother had been killed. He said he went to the hospital to confirm the news and when he got there, he saw a large crowd of people but he was able to push through the crowd because they all knew he was the brother of the deceased. He confirmed that he saw his brother lying dead.

He said as he was leaving the hospital he saw the Krontihene of Ejura who told him that, the chiefs had heard all that had happened and expressed condolences to him. Ishahaku averred that ironically, earlier in the day of the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, he was one of the young people who had been called to the Ejurahene's Palace and had been advised not to attack the Police or the Military Officers and not to take the law into their own hands.

Upon questioning Ishahaku, stated that when he was leaving the house earlier in the morning, his brother Nasir was at home. He stated that the protests had not surprised him because in the process of burying "Kaaka", they saw a Police Water Cannon Vehicle at the cemetery and the youth were angry and asking questions as to why the vehicle was there. In addition, he said the Police sprayed water on them at the cemetery and that was why he was not surprised that, the youth were later rioting.

Answering another question from the Committee, he said the youth started running away, when the soldiers began to get closer. He told the Committee that, he did not see any of the rioters throwing stones, guns or any missiles at the soldiers. However, after a video of the rioting was shown to him, he admitted seeing some people throwing sticks from the crowd towards the soldiers and state that this event may have occurred after he left.

He could not confirm whether any family member of Kaaka invited the police to accompany them to the cemetery. He told the Committee that, his deceased brother is a farmer and a travel agent who left behind one daughter.

## **16. Sahada Hudu**

Sahada Hudu testified as a resident of Ejura and wife of “Kaaka”. She also testified as a representative of “Kaaka’s” family. She informed the Committee that, she and “Kaaka” had five (5) daughters, ages; eighteen (18), sixteen (16), twelve (12), nine (9) and two (2). She stated that she was in Ejura between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 2021.

She began her testimony by posing a question to the Committee, which was whether it was the Police or the Committee who were investigating the death of her husband. The Committee explained its role to her and stated that this was different from that of the Police. The Committee explained that, the investigations of the Police was to ascertain the culprits who killed her husband and to prosecute them if possible, while that of the Committee was to find out the events and the occurrences that precipitated the rioting and what took place during the rioting so that appropriate recommendations and actions could be made or taken. She was informed that she was at liberty not to testify. She chose to testify.

She told the Committee that her husband was an NPP member and he participated in every NPP event in Ejura. She said “Kaaka” was a phone repairer and a fashion designer. She confirmed that “Kaaka” was someone who was interested in the development of his community and took photographs which he uploaded on his various social media handles. She stated that because of that, some of the NPP members found fault with him and threatened him to stop uploading such contents on social media.

She added that, about a month prior to his death, “Kaaka” went to a base at Ejura called Badukrom, where one young man threatened “Kaaka” to stop social media activities because he was tarnishing the image of the NPP party. She further stated that there was a quarrel between the young man and “Kaaka” and they were separated and “Kaaka” took his motorbike and left. According to her, “Kaaka” informed her when he got home about this particular fight. She advised “Kaaka” not to go to that base again. She stated further that, “Kaaka” often told her that he was not going to stop his activism.

She said based on all this, she believes that, it was the work that he was doing that resulted in somebody killing him. She said, though “Kaaka” told

her the names of the persons who had been threatening him, she has not informed the police. When questioned when the threats started, Sahada said her dead husband had started receiving threats during the NPP primaries and the general election period in 2020.

She also stated that she had no knowledge that any member of the “Kaaka” family had requested the police to accompany them to the cemetery for the burial of “Kaaka”. Answering a further question, Sahada now stated that she had already informed the police about the persons who were threatening “Kaaka”. She also mentioned that, she had told the police that there was a very good relationship between “Kaaka” and his mother and brother.

She stated that at the time of her husband’s death, she was asleep in her bedroom and her neighbour woke her up to come out as she (the neighbour) had heard something some noise but upon enquiry the neighbor said she did not see anything. However, upon further question Sahada admitted seeing her husband’s body where the neighbor had pointed.

She also said that the youth were agitated because of the killing of her husband which they thought was unjust. She requested the Committee help to conduct proper investigations into her husband’s death. She also insisted that her co-tenant who said she had seen her husband’s brother killing her husband should be called to testify as she did not believe what the woman was saying.

### **17. Abeewakas Umar**

Abeewakas Umar testified as a resident of Ejura. He stated that he was a cousin of “Kaaka”. He admitted that he was at Ejura on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 and went to the cemetery with the other family members to bury “Kaaka”.

At the cemetery, he said he saw some of the youth running away from the cemetery but because he was at the graveside, about 200 meters away from where the youth were, he could not tell why the youth were running away.

He stated that, after the burial, he saw the youth protesting in town. He said there was a large crowd around 12:30 pm and at this point, he entered the mosque to pray and after praying, because he had a headache, he lay down to rest. He stated that because he did not want to be disturbed, he even turned off his phone.

He stated further that it was around 4:30 p.m, when he woke up and offered his prayers in that same mosque, that he saw some people who were aggrieved. He said it was at this point that the Imam informed him that, because of the protests some soldiers had come and had shot two people dead. He further stated that, he was told this incident happened about 30 minutes after they had returned from the burial.

He testified that after the Maghreb prayers, he went to the hospital to see those who were injured. He was informed that one has been transferred to the Duayaw-Nkwanta Hospital. He then went home and does not know of any other things that happened.

When questioned about his role in the protests, he denied being one of the protestors but stated that, he knew the reason for the protest to be the demand for justice for the death of “Kaaka”. He explained that he only went to the hospital because some of the injured were his neighbours. He also stated that as a member of the family of “Kaaka”, he had no information that the family had requested for police protection at the cemetery as the Police claimed. He said he was an electrician, and Owner and Manager of an Orphanage which has about 250 orphans.

He explained that although party politics had destroyed Ejura, the town was peaceful before the death of “Kaaka”.

At this point, a video of the rioting was shown to Abeewakas, in which he could be clearly seen in the midst of the crowd granting an interview to the Multimedia journalist in an angered mood. He admitted that, it was him in the video but that this was just shortly before he went to the mosque and later to take a rest and so he had not taken part in the riot.

The Committee played some more of the video to him to prove to him that in spite of his denial, he was present when the military arrived. He admitted

that fact and said he withdrew to the mosque as stated as soon as he saw the Military arrive.

He then introduced into his testimony the fact that “Kaaka” during his lifetime had mentioned that some persons were threatening him because of some videos he was making. He also said he gave this information to the journalists who were interviewing him and he then presented the videos to the Committee. His videos were, therefore, played and in brief, he explained the contents to the Committee. He said it was an interview he granted on Guidance TV in which he narrated the threats that “Kaaka” had received from some persons on several occasions.

He also presented to the Committee an audio recording of “Kaaka” allegedly speaking about the said threats on his life. Again, he stated that “Kaaka” during his lifetime mentioned in a video that, it was the MCE of Ejura who had directed his thugs to warn him, regarding his posts on Facebook. The warning, he said was to the effect that, if he “Kaaka” did not stop what he was doing, then whatever happens to him would have been of his own doing. He presented to the Committee five (5) videos and one audio recording which were marked as “K-series”

### **18. Salamatu Mohammed**

Salamatu Mohammed testified as a resident of Ejura and the mother of victim Mohammed Awal Misbau, a 16-year-old whose leg had been amputated. She narrated that after “Kaaka” was buried, some young men returned from the cemetery agitated as to the cause of his death. After the burial, she said her son came to her that he was hungry and wanted to go outside to buy food. She stated that her son took money and went to buy the food and after about 10 minutes, she received a call that her son had been hit. She rushed to the hospital where she was informed that his situation was critical but he had regained consciousness and had asked for her. She saw her son injured with his leg tied up.

She said her son told her that, while he was going to buy food, he saw Military men arriving in town and people running away. She says her son



suddenly realized he had fallen down and he only regained consciousness at the hospital.

Her son was referred to Duayaw Nkwanta Hospital and because of the extent of his injuries, he was transferred to KATH where his leg was amputated. She said her son was currently on admission at KATH and that he is an apprentice mechanic. She pleaded that owing to the uncertainties regarding his future health, the Government should make provisions to take care of her son's future.

### **19. Fuseini Ibrahim**

Fuseini Ibrahim testified as a resident of Ejura and as a husband of Sadia Fuseini. He stated that he is a farmer and that he was not in Ejura on the 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, the night "Kaaka" was assaulted, but had been in Tamale for three (3) weeks.

He stated that he returned to Ejura on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021. He narrated that while in Tamale his wife had called him and asked him to return home urgently. He said when he finally arrived on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, his wife told him about how she saw one Iddi, a brother of "Kaaka" pull his seriously injured and helpless body into a dark part of their bathroom. He said he discussed the issue with his uncle who advised him to wait a while until "Kaaka" had been buried to report to the police.

He said on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, after the burial of "Kaaka", he, his wife and uncle went to the Ejura Police Station and lodged a complaint about the incident. The Police promised to arrest Iddi and he was eventually arrested and some of the youth were angry with him and his wife and said they had lied against Baba Iddi. He, therefore, had to take his wife and child into hiding because of threats from the youth. He also mentioned another co-tenant, a woman, who was also said to have met Baba Iddi running from the scene on the night of "Kaaka's" assault. He explained that, this second woman is also in hiding. He said he personally knew Baba Iddi and the entire "Kaaka" family. He stated that he and his wife were co-tenants to the "Kaaka" family and they had been living in the same house for about 19 years. He explained that the "Kaaka" family in that house comprised of his

mother, his brother Iddi, another brother whose name he did not give, as well as “Kaaka” and his wife and their children.

He said there was no bad blood between himself and the “Kaaka” family. He gave the name of his uncle who accompanied him to the police station as Mohammed Mohammed. He testified that he believed that “Kaaka’s” death was the cause of the agitations in the town on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Answering a question, he testified that he has been married to his wife for eighteen years and knew her to be a very quiet person who does not seek unnecessary attention.

## **20. Sadia Fuseini**

Sadia Fuseini testified as a resident of Ejura, a farmer and the wife of Fuseini Ibrahim. She said they are both co-tenants with the “Kaaka” family. She confirmed that she was in Ejura on the 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 when Kaaka was harmed.

She narrated that on the night of 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, she was in her room performing ablution when she heard the sound of “Kaaka’s” motorbike entering the house. Suddenly, she heard a loud thump and she thought it was the sound of the motorbike falling down. She said that, she therefore, stopped what she was doing to listen.

Not long after, she heard the sound of groaning and she went out to see what was happening. She said it was at this point that she saw “Kaaka’s” brother, Iddi, holding “Kaaka’s” hands and dragging him towards the common bathroom. She explained that initially, there was light and she could see everything, but suddenly the light went off just as she started to frantically call out and knock at Sahada’s (“Kaaka’s” wife) door. When she stopped knocking the door, she turned to see Iddi leaving the scene.

Meanwhile, another co-tenant, who is also her friend had come out because of the commotion and stated that, she had bumped into Iddi as he went out. She believes that, the co-tenant must have heard her and came out as she was shouting and calling for Sahada. She explained further that, because Iddi was a brother to “Kaaka”, she was afraid to mention that to any of the relatives

and was just praying that “Kaaka” would recover and tell his own story but unfortunately, he died.

She further explained that, when she called Sahada, she woke up as well as “Kaaka’s” mother and another brother. She said a teacher in the house and his wife also came out and that Sahada even brought a torchlight which they flashed towards the bathroom where Sahada saw her husband lying on the floor. She said that they put “Kaaka” on the motorbike of the teacher and rushed him to the hospital.

She also confirmed her husband’s story that, there was no bad blood between them and the “Kaaka” family prior to the incident. However, after this issue, she said, there has been bad blood between them and the “Kaaka” family.

She further stated that, she and her husband had lived in the same house as the “Kaaka” family for about 18 years. She finally explained that she had been afraid to tell the story initially because her husband was not in town and as a woman, she was afraid to tell the truth to avoid Baba Iddi turning his anger on her.

## **21. Muniratu Alhassan**

Muniratu Alhassan testified as a resident of Ejura, a co-tenant of Ibrahim and Sadia Fuseini as well as the “Kaaka” family. She said she was in Ejura on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, 2021, when “Kaaka” was injured. She narrated that on that Friday night, she heard the sound of “Kaaka’s” motorbike coming towards the house. She stated that the door to her room is outward facing.

After the motorbike arrived, she heard an unusual sound. She came to her porch to see what was happening. Then she heard Sadia calling Sahada and banging on her door and asking her to come out. As she was making her way to the scene she bumped into Baba Iddi, who was leaving the house. She then shouted that somebody had caused injury and that person is running out so people should come and see him. She stated that whilst she was shouting, she heard Sadia asking Sahada to bring a torchlight which she did and they all saw “Kaaka” lying there.

She said there is a teacher in the house who used his motorbike to convey “Kaaka” to the hospital. Before the incident, she said she had no trouble or issue with the “Kaaka” family. She also stated that she had lived in the same house with the “Kaaka” family for twenty (20) years. She confirmed that she saw “Kaaka” injured and lying down on the floor. She confirmed that she had given a statement to the police about the incident. She explained that she lived in the house with her husband and further explained there was now bad blood between her and the “Kaaka” family, after she lodged a complaint to the police.

## **22.Nana Osei Kwadwo Ansebie II**

Nana Osei Kwadwo Ansebie II testified as the Nifahene of the Ejura Sub Traditional Area and a resident of Ejura. He stated that the general security in the town before the incident was generally calm.

He stated that, the Traditional Council did not receive any information about the impending riots by the youth. He indicated that in the evening of 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, a group of young men rushed to the Palace of the Ejurahene and complained to him about the slow manner that the police were handling the investigations into the death of “Kaaka”. The youth also told the Ejurahene that as at the time they were making the complaint, the police had failed to visit the crime scene. The youth stated that, they doubted the police could handle the investigations properly. They had, therefore, come to see the Ejurahene to ask for his intervention.

The Ejurahene then called the Municipal Police Commander on phone, but could not reach him. He tried to calm the youth down and promised them that, he would personally follow up on the issue and he believed that the police would definitely do the right thing.

He indicated that in the afternoon of Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, news began filtering in that “Kaaka”, had died at KATH, Kumasi. The youth in the Zongo community were seen gathering in the evening and set up a roadblock near the Central Mosque on the Ejura-Atebubu highway. A group then moved aggressively through the Central Business area of the town towards the police station. They vandalized the charge office and some vehicles

parked at the Police Station. They continued and attacked the Municipal Assembly checkpoint, not too far from the Police Station. He further indicated that after that, the mob dispersed.

He stated that, when the situation calmed down, Nana Ejurahene sent an urgent message to the Zongo youth for a meeting at the Palace. At about 8:00 am on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, some youth reported at the Palace and the Ejurahene expressed to them his disappointment and displeasure about the previous day's demonstrations and rioting. He urged them to allow the security agencies to handle the situation and not to take the law into their own hands. He also admonished them to go and give their colleague a befitting burial.

The Nifahene further stated that, a few hours after they had left the Palace, they received information to the effect that, a Police Water Canon Van had been chased away from the cemetery by the irate mob. He indicated that from the cemetery, the crowd destroyed a structure painted in NPP colours. He also stated that, before the youth could move to the center of the town, they encountered the joint Police and Military team and in the ensuing chaos, some of the protestors sustained gunshot wounds. Two died and three were seriously wounded.

He stated further that, later in the evening, the Commanders of the Police and Military forces called at the Palace at the request of Nananom. The Zongo chiefs, the Ejura Chief Imam and representative of the Zongo youth were also present. He informed the Committee that, the youth leadership present, requested for time to give information on a local radio station, to advise their friends and brothers of the presence of a reinforcement team and for them to cooperate with security agencies and to avoid any further confrontation. The security heads also explained that their presence was to prevent crime and not to cause it. He said, fortunately, there were no further clashes.

He further stated that, the Ejurahene donated amounts of GHS 5,000 to each of the two families whose wards had been referred to KATH for further treatment and GHS 2,000 each to those who had been discharged and gone home.

He finally submitted to the Committee a written statement, analyzing the causes of the incident and some recommendations from Nananom.

Upon questioning, he presented to the Committee, two empty shells which he confirmed were handed over to one of the chiefs, (the Krontihene) by the youth on the day of the shooting. They were marked and tendered as “Exhibit L” and “L<sup>1</sup>”. He told the Committee that, the Traditional Council had a very good relationship with the MCE as well as all the security heads of the town.

He explained that notwithstanding the provocative nature of sending a Police Water Canon Vehicle to the cemetery, knowing the youth of Ejura, they could still have rioted. This, he explained, was because Ejura over the years had experienced lots of violence, especially during the political seasons where the military always had to intervene to cool things down.

In expressing his views on the timing of the military intervention, he stated that, the violence degenerated at a very fast rate and the situation was fluid and so it was difficult for the police to wait and go through their normal procedures before inviting the military. He also supported the fact that the police sent a water cannon vehicle to the cemetery because of the events that had occurred on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 before the burial. He however admitted that the presence of that vehicle could have been an act of provocation to some extent. He again stated that, the youth would still have done what they did because the Ejurahene had called and spoken to them twice before the incident on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 but they still failed to listen.

In answer to a question whether the military were needed in civilian riot control, he said the military was always on standby as a tool available to government to act as the President directed in keeping internal security. He also confirmed that the police at Ejura lacked the needed personnel and logistics including vehicles, riot control equipment and other necessary tools and therefore asked the government to support in that vein. He also requested for the establishment of a military detachment in Ejura because according to him, the youth of Ejura have no respect for the police. Finally, he stated that there was no community center in the town and therefore,

could not confirm the kind of social activities that the traditional authorities and the youth participate in, apart from naming and marriage ceremonies, festivals and funerals.

## **FINDINGS**

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1. We note from the onset that, an examination of the entire evidence obtained, clearly demonstrates that, the death of Mohammed Ibrahim (a.k.a Kaaka) served as the catalyst that triggered the disturbances which took place in Ejura, on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2021, culminating in the death of two persons and injuries of four others.
2. In relation to the events, leading to the death of “Kaaka”, Sahada Hudu (wife of the deceased “Kaaka”), informed the Committee that during the lifetime of her husband, he was very critical, through social media, of the lack of development in Ejura. This according to her, courted the anger of certain persons in the NPP (the Party to which her late husband belonged).
3. According to Sahada, her husband informed her about the threats issued by certain individuals against him regarding his activities on social media. In her view, the husband might have been killed as a result of his social media activities.
4. Abeewakas Umar, testified and tendered five videos and an audio to support his testimony that, the late “Kaaka” informed him that the MCE of Ejura had directed his thugs to warn “Kaaka” regarding his activities on social media. According to Abeewakas Umar, these warnings were to the effect that, if “Kaaka” did not stop what he was doing, then he must blame himself for whatever might happen to him. The Committee examined all the five videos and the single audio presented to it by him.
5. Before dealing with these exhibits given to the Committee by Abeewakas, the Committee observed that the said Abeewakas was economical with the truth during his testimony before the Committee. This, we note, affected his credibility. Despite the fact that Abeewakas, during the demonstration on the 29th June 2021, played a leading role in the said agitations and even granted lengthy interviews to both Edward Oppong Marfo of Citi News and Erastus

Asare Donkor of the Multimedia group, he cleverly and disingenuously presented facts to the Committee as if he did not take part in the protestations. However, when confronted with the videos tendered by Erastus in which he was seen defiantly demanding justice and urging the youth on, he started weeping.

6. As a matter of fact, his conduct before the Committee was disappointing to the members. In the light of the conduct exhibited by the said Abeewakas, the Committee had to examine his evidence with all the caution required in making any inferences. An examination of the five videos tendered by him have no bearing on the alleged threats on the life of “Kaaka” as stated by Abeewakas. In one of the videos “Kaaka was seen directing traffic. In two of the videos, “Kaaka” was showing and complaining about the poor sanitation in Ejura especially around the public toilet. The fourth video contains some traditional elders pouring libation in respect of the forcible re-opening of the Ejura market which had been closed during the Covid lockdown. The fifth video was of “Kaaka” complaining about the lack of development in Ejura.
7. The Committee notes that the authenticity of the videos and audio presented to it by Abeewakas is highly in doubt. These videos only surfaced after the death of “Kaaka”. The Committee further notes that the wife of “Kaaka” eloquently narrated everything she said was passed on by her late husband. In all these she said she did not report the alleged threat on the life of her husband to the police, neither did she give the names of the said persons who were threatening her husband to the police although she claimed she knew those persons.
8. The Committee further received the evidence of one Sadia Fuseini, a co-tenant of the “Kaaka” family. Her testimony was that, on the night of 26th June 2021, she was performing ablution in her room, when she heard the engine sound of “Kaaka’s” motorbike. She suddenly heard a noise which aroused her suspicion. Her curiosity led her to find out what had happened in the compound of the house. She stated that, she saw the elder brother of the late “Kaaka”, called Baba Iddi, dragging the deceased “Kaaka” towards the direction of the general bathroom. Just then the light went off around the bathroom. She stated further that she raised an alarm and went to knock on the door of Sahada Hudu, the wife of “Kaaka”. Other tenants in the house, including “Kaaka’s” mother and another brother, also came out and with the assistance of a torchlight “Kaaka” was found lying down unconscious. He was later taken to the hospital.



9. The evidence of Sadia Fuseini was corroborated by another tenant, Muniratu Alhassan. She also testified that, upon hearing the alarm raised by Sadia, she went to the scene. On her way to the scene she met the elder brother of “Kaaka” Baba Iddi, leaving the scene. She further corroborated the statement of Sadia in relation to the assault on “Kaaka” that night. Although the wife of “Kaaka” tried to deny the evidence as given by Sadia regarding the assault on her husband that night, she however admitted that Sadia came to knock at her door and informed her of the assault on “Kaaka”. She also admitted seeing her husband lying on the floor unconscious.
10. We, after careful examination of the evidence relating to the events preceding the death of “Kaaka”, are convinced that the evidence as testified to by Sadia Fuseini is more reasonably probable than the unsubstantiated evidence of Abeewakas and Sahada Hudu which are more speculative. We, accordingly find that, the death of “Kaaka” was not directly linked to his social media activism. It is more probably a family feud. This is also supported by the testimony of Aminu Mohammed a resident of Ejura and a friend of the late “Kaaka”.
11. Turning to the events that unfolded on the 28th and 29th June, 2021, the Committee received evidence from the Military, the Police, the Media (namely Multi-media and Citi News) and the Chairman of REGSEC, as well as the Ejura Traditional Council. We have examined the evidence on record and we further find that, there was no need or justification for the dispatch of a Police Riot Vehicle (water canon) to the cemetery on the morning of the 29th of June.
12. This singular act, in the given circumstances on the ground, constituted an act of provocation. Both the District Police Commander and the Deputy Regional Police Commander testified that, it was the family of “Kaaka” who requested for police protection during the burial of the deceased “Kaaka”. This piece of evidence was denied by the family members of “Kaaka” who came to testify. When asked, both the Deputy Regional Commander and the District Police Commander could not tell the Committee the name and particulars of the said family member who made this request. It is observed that, both the Diary of Action contained in “Exhibit D”, which is the docket built on the murder of “Kaaka”, and the Crime Scene Report on the murder of “Kaaka” and the demonstration at Ejura tendered as “Exhibit C” did not contain the name and particulars of any such family member who had made the request.

13. The Committee finds this piece of evidence as an afterthought. One wonders why the burial of “Kaaka” should require Police protection. In the light of the events which happened on the 28th June, it would have been convincing, if the Riot Vehicle had been deployed at either the Police Station or the Municipal Assembly.
14. Evidence before us, that is “Exhibits B-series” and “F-series” tendered by both Erastus Asare Donkor and Edward Oppong Marfo of Citi News, clearly shows that the burial of the deceased “Kaaka” was without any violence until the arrival of the Police Riot Vehicle at the cemetery. It is, therefore, our finding from the evidence before us that, the presence of the Riot Vehicle at the cemetery on the 29th of June was an act of provocation which incensed an already angry and violent youth, thereby culminating in the attack on the Police Riot Vehicle.
15. We note further that, the youth in protesting on the 29th of June on the streets of Ejura, used offensive weapons like machetes, swords, cutlasses, clubs, sticks and stones. We are convinced that these offensive weapons were not necessary for the voice or grievances of the youth to be heard.
16. In the circumstance where on the 28th June, the youth had vandalized part of the Police Station and other properties, it is expected that the security agencies should have been apprehensive of a similar conduct by the youth. This in our view, required a rapid response from the Police. The District Commander of Police Ejura, in his testimony before the Committee stated that, he called for reinforcement from the Divisional Headquarters, Asante Mampong. The Deputy Regional Police Commander also stated that further reinforcement was sent from Kumasi to Ejura. The Committee wonders the nature of all these reinforcements. Examining the evidence of the Chairman of REGSEC (Regional Minister, Ashanti), and that of the Nifahene of Ejura Traditional Council, it appears to the Committee that, the reinforcement that the Police sent to Ejura from Mampong and Kumasi was inadequate and that they were under resourced for riot control on the 29th of June.
17. As a result of the small number of police and the lack of adequate riot control equipment and gear, the Police were overwhelmed. This obviously gave room for the marauding youth to have a field day.
18. We note further that, the Police Administration in both the District and the Divisional levels underestimated the resolve of the youth, thereby creating an atmosphere of fear and panic. A critical examination of the evidence tendered by the security officers who appeared before the Committee,

clearly demonstrates that, there was no proper coordination in the handling of the situation by the Police.

19. There was no need for the security personnel who were deployed in Ejura to restore calm on the 28th June, to have left Ejura in the early hours of 29th June. The Committee finds that this created a security vacuum in the town. We are convinced that, having withdrawn the security personnel deployed on the 28th June from Ejura, the District Police Commander failed in his duty to adequately brief his superiors in the Divisional and Regional level to beef up the personnel and logistics in anticipation of any eventualities on the 29th June. We note this because, if it was in fact true that the “Kaaka” family requested for security during the burial of “Kaaka”, as alleged by the District Police Commander, that should have been an adequate signal to the District Commander to have immediately requested for the necessary logistics and men to deal with any unwarranted situation. Rather sadly, the District Commander decided to deploy the Riot Vehicle to the cemetery. We find this conduct of the District Commander to be incompetent and he was ill prepared for the occasion.
20. We note that, the testimony of the DCOP that the Police at Ejura visited the scene of the crime (Kaaka’s house), where he was assaulted on the 26th June 2021, could not have been true. This is, because “Exhibit D” (i.e. the Docket on the murder of Kaaka) discloses that the Diary of Action begins with the date 30th June 2021, with information therein relating to the events at the cemetery on the 29th of June. The Committee also found that, in “Exhibit C” (the crime scene report) it has been indicated that, the Police visited the scene of crime on the 26th June 2021. We note that, the record in “Exhibit C” is a report by crime scene experts, which report, in our view, should be based on the Diary of Action which is prepared by the original investigators of the case. We, therefore, find that the statement made in “Exhibit C” had no factual basis in the Dairy of Action and might have been an afterthought. Further, the Nifahene had stated in his evidence that the complaint of the youth to Nana Ejurahene on the morning of 29th June was that, the police had not visited the scene of crime as at that day. In the view of the Committee, the failure of the Police to act promptly on the complaint of assault on “Kaaka” contributed to the rioting.
21. The Committee further finds that, there was no proper security briefing and intelligence gathering and sharing. From the evidence of the Regional Minister who is the Chair of the REGSEC, it is obvious that the intelligence information he received caused him to authorise the deployment of the military. He claimed to have received information from some sources in

Ejura. He deemed this information to be so vital and urgent that he ordered the deployment of the military immediately. He tendered in a video “Exhibit A”. When pressed to disclose the person who gave him (the video of the attack on the Riot Vehicle) the Chairman of REGSEC declined. We note that if there was a proper sharing of intelligence information among members of REGSEC and their respective organisations this “knee-jerk” approach would not have been adopted in the handling of the situation on the ground. We note that, this escalated the situation and thereby provided grounds for the deployment of the Military.

22. The Committee also finds that, the situation became fluid and got out of hand because, the Police:

- 1) Did not work on their intelligence sharing
- 2) Failed to prepare for the situation on the ground
- 3) Over relied on the Military personnel and thereby failed to organise adequately in terms of personnel and equipment.

23. We note this because, from the evidence tendered by the security personnel to the Committee, one thing that was clear is that, all of them agreed that they had intelligence that the youth wanted to attack the Police Station, Municipal Assembly and other installations. If this intelligence were in existence, we are baffled that nothing more concrete was put in place to forestall the escalation of the situation than to rely on Military deployment, knowing that the Standard Operative Procedure (SOP) of the Military is such that they should not be used as a first line of riot control or crises management, but as a last resort.

24. In relation to the response of the Military personnel on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, we note from the evidence that, immediately the personnel touched down they started firing warning shots, contrary to the evidence of the GOC (Central Command) which was to the effect that, they gave a verbal warning which was ignored before the warning shots began.

25. The testimony of the Commander of the Section (ten men) that went to Ejura, on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, belie the testimony of the GOC (Central Command). An examination of some of the video evidence, tendered by Erastus Asare Donkor show clearly that some of the Youth were throwing stones and other implements towards the direction of the military men. The Committee however do not consider these acts of the youth an extreme provocation that required the firing of live ammunition into the crowd.

26. We note that although the firing of live ammunition achieved the intended purpose of dispersing the rioters, it left in its trail, unnecessary deaths, pain and suffering on the people of Ejura. This in the view of the Committee, could have been prevented if the Police had prepared adequately in terms of personnel and logistics upon receiving the intelligence information prior to the events of 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.
27. We also find the Police Station currently existing in Ejura, to be small and very inadequate to serve the needs of a Municipality like Ejura.
28. We observed that, the MCE failed in his duty to handle the Municipality in relation to his handling and dissemination of general information and intelligent information. His approach to matters concerning the Municipality as the political head of the Assembly was very poorly done. No wonder he had to take cover when his Municipality was in turmoil, leaving a political vacuum and the MUSEC was bereft of any leadership and proper coordination and direction during the crises.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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1. The Committee recommends adequate Compensation for the families of the two deceased persons, namely, Abdul Nasir Yusif and Murtala Suraj Mohammed. Adequate compensation must also be paid to other injured persons, namely Louis Ayikpa (20 years), Awal Misbau (16 years) and Nasif Nuhu (30 years). These are the names known to the Committee.
2. The Committee recommends the immediate transfer of the District Police Commander of Ejura, DSP Philip Kojo Hammond, first for his incompetence in handing the situation and for the fact that, his relationship with the community seems to have been damaged beyond repair.
3. We further recommend the structural expansion of the Ejura Police Station and an increase in personnel.
4. We recommend the removal of the Ejura-Sekyedumase Municipal Chief Executive, Honourable Mohammed Salisu Bamba, since his continuous presence as MCE would exacerbate the already tense security situation in Ejura.

5. It is further recommended that, the Military Establishment review the actions of the Section on the ground, led by Lieutenant Martin Opoku Adusei, for the inappropriate use of force, and apply appropriate sanctions.
6. We further recommend the training of REGSEC, MUSEC and DISEC officials in the Ashanti Region in Conflict and Crises Management at the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College at least once every year.
7. We recommend the development of a joint Standard Operative Procedure (SOP) for Military / Police operations, including roles for indispensable allied agencies like the National Investigations Bureau, NADMO, Ghana National Fire Service, National Ambulance Service, etc.
8. We further recommend that, the NCCE should intensify its Public education in relation to the rights, obligations and civic responsibilities of the people of Ejura.
9. It is further recommended that, all crowd /riot/crises control units be made to wear bodycams and all vehicles and mobile gadgets employed must also have cameras.
10. We recommend the establishment of a Sports and other Recreational Facilities in Ejura under the Zongo Development Fund, so as to re-channel the energies of the youth.

## **CONCLUSION**

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The Committee thanks the Minister for the Interior, Hon. Ambrose Dery, for the confidence reposed in us. We are also grateful to persons and institutions who helped to make our work successful.

Our findings show that, the death of Mohammed Ibrahim aka “Kaaka” and the mishandling of same, was the trigger point for the riots that followed. Meanwhile, the maximum application of force, worsened the situation. We

hope that the ongoing investigations into the death of “Kaaka” would be expedited and the culprit(s) brought to book.

We have put forward some recommendations, which, we believe, would be accepted and implemented.

1. George Kingsley Koomson (JA).....  
Chairman

2. Vladimir Antwi Danso (PhD.).....  
Member

3. Juliet Adime Amoah (Ms.) .....  
Member

4. Marie-Louise Simmons (Mrs.) .....  
Secretary