



PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

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FOSDA Urges Immediate Action to Combat Gun Violence Among Youth

The tragic case of the 16-year-old student involved in gun violence at the Adventist Senior High School in Kumasi in the Ashanti region of Ghana, is as a pressing reminder of the need for comprehensive arms control and regulation in the country. The incident highlights the alarming easy accessibility and availability of firearms in Ghana, posing a significant threat to peace and security in the country.

FOSDA's Media Monitoring of Violent Incident Report for the fourth quarter of 2024 recorded 30 cases of gun-related violence, representing 25% of the total cases recorded during this period. This marks a 7% increase of gun-violence recorded for the third quarter of 2024, where there were 19 cases of gun-related violence.

Even though the increase in gun-related violence can be attributed to the 2024 general elections and escalation of the Bawku violence during that period, the situation did not improved remarkably. FOSDA has recorded 27 cases of gun-related violence for the first quarter (January to March) of 2025.

FOSDA strongly urge the National Commission on Small Arms, the Ministry of The Interior and other related Government agencies to prioritize the effective regulation of arms as well as the local production of armes in the country. We call on government to as a matter of urgency review the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons Act of 2007, as well as the Arms and Ammunition Decree of 1972 (NRCD 9), to ensure they address current challenges effectively. Additionally, passing the National Arms Control List is crucial to establishing a more robust regulatory framework that can help curb the circulation of illegal firearms and enhance public safety.

Implementing the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) would be a vital step in reinforcing Ghana's commitment to regulating arms transfers and preventing illegal trade. By aligning national legislation with international standards, Ghana can better control the flow of weapons and ensure comprehensive monitoring and reporting of arms transactions. This approach not only strengthens domestic control measures but also contributes to international efforts in reducing gun violence and maintaining peace and security.

It is crucial that Ghana aligns its local legislation with international standards to strengthen Ghana's regulatory framework and also enhance cooperation with global partners in combating illegal arms trade.

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