

Tuobodom Chieftaincy Dispute Fact Sheet

Context

The chieftaincy dispute in Tuobodom, Ghana, has divided people in this area for decades, leading to the division of the town into two factions—(1) citizens affiliated with the Krotia royal family and (2) citizens belonging to the Abroman royal family. The dispute has spurred several violent incidents and contributed to a general lack of economic progress of the town.

Indicators of Potentially Violent Conflict

The conflict has led to many deaths and injuries over the years, as well as destruction of property and stigmatization of people from Tuobodom as a whole. Residents of Tuobodom report that they live in a constant state of fear, such that loud noises trigger alarm that violence has erupted. Ongoing tensions around land ownership, local politics and leadership, indicate a potential for violence among representatives from each faction of the conflict.

Locally Defined Strategies and Activities

In August 2016, the Purdue Peace Project, with the assistance of the Concern Youth of Tuobodom (CYT), a self-organized local group, convened a two-day actor meeting to engage local citizens in a peaceful dialogue about the chieftaincy dispute. This meeting brought together members of the two royal families, religious leaders, politicians, youth, and other community members. It resulted in the formation of a local peace committee, the Tuobodom Peacemakers Committee (TPMC). Since its formation, the TPMC, which consists of 11 representatives from both factions, has strategized and enacted ways to build peace and heal relations in Tuobodom.

The TPMC, often along with the CYT, has engaged in numerous activities to help promote peace in the community prior to and following the 2016 national elections in Ghana and in relation to the chieftaincy dispute. To date, activities have included direct community outreach, church and school visits, media programs, a peace march and program, monitoring visits to polling stations, youth gatherings and activities, and meetings with the two royal families, among other activities. As a group that includes members from both sides of the conflict, they have attended festivals and events together and paid visits to both royal palaces in a public demonstration of unity.

Impact

One of the biggest outcomes of the project to date has been getting both factions in the same room for the actor meeting, greeting each other and agreeing to work toward peace -- something local citizens report has been extremely difficult to do in the past. Additionally, a peace march in November 2016, which involved community members walking the length of the town and across the street that divides them, was held with representatives from both sides participating and without incidents. More than 1,500 people participated in this event. Between January and March

2017, the TPMC organized a series of meetings among youth and royal family members from the two factions. Because of the meetings, new strategies have emerged as next steps to address the dispute. In this ongoing peacebuilding process, the TPMC members have become recognized peacebuilders such that they, along with members of the CYT, are sought out on a regular basis by other locals and acknowledged publicly.

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