



GHANA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SMALL SCALE MINERS (G.N.A.S.S.M)

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GHANA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SMALL SCALE MINERS CONDEMNS SHOOTING INCIDENT THAT CLAIMED NINE LIVES AT A MINING SITE IN OBUASI

Accra, Ghana - The Ghana National Association of Small Scale Miners (GNASSM) strongly condemns the violent clashes that occurred late Saturday, January 18, 2025, between some youth of Obuasi and members of Operation Halt II, a military taskforce deployed to halt all forms of illegal mining activities on AGA concession.

The clashes resulted in the shooting and killing of nine persons at a mining site belonging to Anglo Gold Ashanti, Obuasi. Fourteen others are reported to be in critical condition and receiving medical attention at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH).

The Association extends its heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and wishes those injured a speedy recovery.

As we mourn the loss of life, we also seek to understand the circumstances surrounding this tragic incident.

While the GNASSM does not encourage or condone trespassing on mining concessions, we strongly believe that the military could have employed alternative measures to apprehend the trespassers and bring them to justice, rather than engaging in a firefight.

This act of violence is a gross violation of human rights and contravenes the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR), which provide guidelines for mining companies to respect human rights and prevent harm to local communities.

We urge the youth and all small scale miners in and around Obuasi to remain calm and law-abiding as we work closely with all stakeholders to unravel the circumstances surrounding this tragic incident and find lasting solutions to the issue.

We welcome His Excellency, President John Dramani Mahama's swift action to order immediate investigations into the incident to determine the circumstances surrounding the clashes and ensure that any individual found to have acted unlawfully is brought to justice.

Furthermore, we appreciate the government's directive to the management of Anglo Gold Ashanti to fully bear the medical expenses of the injured and facilitate the burial arrangements for the deceased. These actions demonstrate a commitment to accountability and compassion.

We believe that further dialogue among relevant stakeholders will be essential in charting a clear path towards finding solutions to the long-standing impasse between youth of Obuasi and Anglo Gold Ashanti.

Signed:

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