



For Immediate Release!

Date: Thursday, July 31, 2025.

PUSAG COMMENDS GOVERNMENT'S INITIAL EFFORTS BUT DEMANDS STRONGER ACTION ON THE ESCALATING HOSTILITIES IN BAWKU, NALERIGU, AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

The Private Universities Students' Association of Ghana (PUSAG) expresses deep concern and profound sorrow over the growing insecurity and violent unrest in Bawku, Nalerigu, and surrounding communities in the Northern and Upper East Regions. These tragic developments continue to place the lives and futures of students in serious jeopardy.

Reports confirmed by local authorities indicate that on Saturday, July 26, 2025, one student in Bawku was fatally shot, while two others tragically lost their lives in separate shooting incidents in Nalerigu. These are not isolated cases but part of a broader pattern of violence that has, over the past five years, displaced more than 15,000 students in conflict-prone communities across northern Ghana, according to regional education data.

We commend the Ministry of the Interior and relevant security agencies for initiating emergency evacuations of students to safer locations. We also acknowledge steps being taken by the Regional and District Security Councils to facilitate the safe return of final-year WASSCE candidates, ensuring they can write their examinations without fear or obstruction.

However, PUSAG believes the time has come for stronger, firmer, and more coordinated national action. Ghana cannot afford a future where education is sacrificed on the altar of communal violence. Students who make up over 65% of the affected youth population in the regions must be seen not as collateral victims but as a national priority.

We therefore:

1. Demand a comprehensive and sustained peace enforcement strategy beyond evacuation. Security interventions must go hand-in-hand with community-based peacebuilding, youth re-engagement, and disarmament operations.
2. Call on the Ministry of Education and Ghana Education Service to provide psychosocial support, academic continuity strategies, and safe learning alternatives for displaced students, including mobile revision centres or virtual instruction for WASSCE candidates.
3. Urge Parliament's Select Committees on Education, Interior, and Youth & Sports to conduct urgent joint oversight visits to the affected areas and present a national response strategy to Parliament for immediate implementation.



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4. Appeal to traditional authorities, opinion leaders, and youth groups in Bawku, Nalerigu, and surrounding communities to embrace dialogue, de-escalate tensions, and protect the sanctity of education in their respective areas.

We cannot allow conflict to rob Ghana's young people of their right to education, peace, and dignity. Every student life lost is a national failure we cannot afford to repeat.

Education is the hope of these communities. When students are forced to flee classrooms because of gunfire, or when parents are afraid to send their children to school, the ripple effects are profound—socially, economically, and psychologically.

We reaffirm our commitment to work with the National Peace Council, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Education, and other student bodies including NUGS, TTAG, PASAG, GRASAG, GUPS etc to ensure that education is never interrupted by violence and that no student is left behind because of conflict.

We stand in solidarity with the families affected and all students enduring fear, displacement, and loss. Now is the time for collective action, not symbolic gestures.

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