



PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

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KUMASI SDA SHS SHOOTING IS EVIDENCE OF HIGH PROLIFERATION OF GUNS IN GHANA

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 evidence of the alarming easy accessibility and availability of firearms in Ghana, posing a significant threat to peace and security in the country. The incident is a pressing reminder of the need for comprehensive arms control and regulation in the country.

FOSDA's Media Monitoring of Violent Incident Report for the fourth quarter (October to December) of 2024 recorded 30 cases of gun-related violence, representing 25% of the total cases recorded during the period. This marked a 60% increase of gun violence incidents recorded for the third quarter (July to September) of 2024, where we recorded 19 cases of gun-related violence incidents.

Even though the increase in gun-related violence incidents for the last quarter of 2024 can be attributed to the 2024 general elections and escalation of the Bawku violence during that period, the situation has not improved markedly so far in 2025. FOSDA has recorded 27 cases of gun-related violence for the first quarter (January to March) of 2025. This is a worrying indication of the high proliferation of guns in the Ghanaian system. FOSDA's media monitoring recorded 10 incidents of gun violence in the first quarter (January- December) in 2024, signifying a 170% increase for the same period in 2024. These are worrying trends, with poor regulation as one of the root causes.

FOSDA strongly urges 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 the government to urgently review the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons Act of 2007 and the Arms and Ammunition Decree of 1972 (NRCD 9) to ensure they address current challenges and arms proliferation 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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