PARLIAMENT OF GHANA

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Parliament House - Accra (Ghana)

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PRESS STATEMENT

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT ON THE MANSO KENIAGO INCIDENT

The Human Rights Committee of the Parliament of Ghana expresses its profound concern over the tragic events that occurred at Manso Keniago in the Amansie South District of the Ashanti Region on 11 November 2026, involving personnel of the National Anti-Illegal Mining Operations Secretariat (NAIMOS) and members of the local community.

The reported loss of lives and injuries resulting from the confrontation are deeply disturbing. The Committee extends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wishes those who sustained injuries a speedy and full recovery. We also recognise the distress and anxiety this incident has caused among residents of Manso Keniago and surrounding communities.

The Committee acknowledges the Government's legitimate responsibility to combat illegal mining and protect Ghana's environment, water bodies, forests, farmlands and natural resources. However, the pursuit of this important national objective must at all times be undertaken within the framework of the 1992 Constitution, applicable laws and Ghana's international human rights obligations.

The protection of our natural resources and the protection of human life are not competing objectives. Both are essential responsibilities of the State. No enforcement operation, however legitimate its purpose, should be conducted in a manner that compromises the fundamental rights, dignity and safety of citizens.

In particular, the Committee is concerned about the conflicting accounts surrounding the circumstances of the incident, including the reported use of firearms, the number of persons who lost their lives and sustained injuries, and allegations of assault against traditional authorities and other members of the community.

These matters must be subjected to a thorough, independent, impartial and transparent investigation to establish the facts and determine whether the conduct of any individuals involved was consistent with the law and applicable standards governing the use of force by law enforcement officials.

The Committee therefore calls on the Government and the relevant authorities to:

- **Establish an independent investigation**: Ensure that an impartial investigative mechanism is constituted to examine the circumstances leading to the confrontation, the use of firearms, the resulting casualties and all allegations of misconduct.
- **Ensure accountability**: Guarantee that anyone found to have acted unlawfully, irrespective of their official position or status, is held accountable in accordance with the law. No individual should enjoy immunity from accountability on account of acting under official authority.
- **Protect victims and affected families**: Ensure that injured persons receive appropriate and timely medical attention, while the families of those who lost their lives are provided with the necessary support, information and access to justice.
- **Preserve evidence and protect witnesses**: Ensure the preservation of relevant evidence, including firearms, ammunition records, operational orders, medical and post-mortem reports, photographs and video recordings. Witnesses and affected families must be protected from intimidation or reprisals.

- **Review NAIMOS operational procedures**: Undertake a review of the operational guidelines, rules of engagement, firearms authorisation, command and control arrangements, human rights training and de-escalation procedures governing anti-illegal mining operations.
- **Strengthen community engagement**: Ensure that traditional authorities, local government institutions and affected communities are appropriately engaged in the planning and execution of enforcement operations to minimise tensions and prevent avoidable confrontations.

The Committee further emphasises that the right to life, human dignity, personal liberty and freedom of assembly, as guaranteed under the 1992 Constitution, must be respected and protected in all circumstances. These obligations are reinforced by Ghana's commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The Committee will, in the discharge of its constitutional oversight responsibilities, engage the relevant state institutions, including the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, NAIMOS, the Ghana Police Service and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), to obtain further information and examine the human rights implications of the incident.

We also urge members of the public to remain calm and cooperate with lawful investigative processes, while encouraging anyone with credible information or evidence to make it available to the appropriate authorities.

The Committee wishes to reiterate that the fight against illegal mining must be pursued with determination, but never at the expense of the rule of law, human dignity and the sanctity of human life.

Our position is unequivocal: Environmental protection must go hand in hand with human rights protection. The authority of the State must always be exercised lawfully, responsibly and accountably.

The people of Manso Keniago and the entire nation deserve the truth, justice and assurances that such an incident will not be repeated.

SIGNED
HON. ERNEST YAW ANIM
CHAIRMAN, HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE