

PRESS RELEASE

THE URGENCY FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION TO CURB THE CYCLE OF ELECTORAL VIOLENCE IN OUR DEMOCRACY

(For immediate Release: 14 July 2025)

The Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG) and the Civic Forum Initiative (CFI) have observed with grave concern the acts of violence that occurred during the re-run of the parliamentary elections in 19 polling stations at the Ablekuma North constituency. We are alarmed by the reports and disturbing video evidence of physical assaults inflicted on fellow citizens, including journalists, voters, and a former Member of Parliament.

These incidents reflect a dangerous pattern of electoral violence and impunity that continues to threaten the integrity of Ghana's democratic process. Elections must be peaceful expressions of the people's will, not battlegrounds for political intimidation and fear.

Recalling the infamous act of electoral violence that occurred during the 2019 Ayawaso West Wuogon by-election, 2020 and 2024 general elections at Tolon and Ahafo Ano South West Constituencies, we have observed that political inertia in dealing decisively with perpetrators of electoral violence has contributed to the growing culture of reprisal attacks and election impunity.

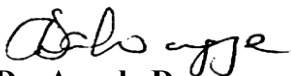
Bold steps need to be taken to ensure that violent political tactics and political vigilantism are eradicated from our body politic to maintain peace and national cohesion. We therefore call on the IGP and the Attorney General to ensure that perpetrators of the assault are arrested and duly prosecuted to ensure the rule of law in elections. These actions will deter the behaviour and the culture of impunity surrounding elections. Furthermore, we urge the National Elections Security Task Force to adopt a more proactive and preventative approach ahead of the upcoming by-election in Akwatia.

We call on civil society organizations to engage the two major political parties on the urgent need to break the vicious cycle of electoral violence.

In conclusion, we are of the firm belief that the recurring nature of electoral violence and impunity demands constitutional and institutional reforms and a collaborative approach by the media and the police in ensuring accountability to prevent further erosion of public confidence in our electoral systems and law enforcement bodies.

The Institute for Democratic Governance and Civic Forum Initiative empathize with all victims of political violence. We remain committed to advancing a democratic culture in Ghana that is peaceful, inclusive, and accountable.

SIGNED



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