



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Representation in Ghana

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PRESS UPDATE

UNHCR, Accra, 11 November 2005--- UNHCR has deployed a protection and field safety team to Krisan to address protection concerns emanating from the recent turmoil in Krisan refugee settlement.

The team, which is also measuring the level of damage in the settlement, confirms earlier reports of destruction to UNHCR offices, public buildings and vehicles. The settlement clinic, power generator and boreholes however, still stand.

Krisan, which has remained calm with adequate Police presence now, has some 1,200 residents left who are quite shaken by the events. The rest of the population, mostly from the group that had been convinced to relocate to the Elubo border, is apparently apprehensive about returning and are lodging with Ghanaians in the fishing villages nearby. Security forces have assured UNHCR that they are only interested in bringing the alleged key perpetrators to book and not the masses.

Currently, six of the suspected ring leaders of the group which convened at the Ivorian border with Ghana last week and reportedly led the subsequent riot, have been arrested and it is expected that they will be charged today.

The misunderstanding stemmed from a misconception that an assistance package which seeks to improve refugees' self-reliance, is a clandestine move on the part of UNHCR to halt the resettlement of certain refugee nationalities.

UNHCR is collaborating with the authorities to ensure that the security and protection of all refugees, particularly those in the Krisan settlement is guaranteed. Except for an elderly refugee woman recovering from an unrelated surgical procedure, follow up at the Ekwe referral hospital did not reveal any wounded refugees.

The team will remain in the district to monitor events and address the protection needs of the refugee community.

Krisan refugee settlement can accommodate two thousand persons at maximum capacity.

For further information contact:

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Public Information

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