



# Child Rights International

## PRESS RELEASE ON THE DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS FROM ADISADEL COLLEGE.

Issued; 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023.

Child Rights International has taken notice of a video currently circulating on social media showing two students in Adisadel College engaged in a violent altercation in which one student causes physical harm to the other. We would like to emphatically condemn the act and describe it as a showcase of wickedness which must not be tolerated anywhere especially within our educational institutions.

In that vein, we believe that authorities in the school must activate a series of protocols meant to resolve the issue and prevent its re-occurrence in the future. However, in engaging the right processes due diligence must be taken to ensure that the rights of ALL children involved are protected.

The alleged act committed is criminal in nature and the institution must address the criminality of it based on a proper investigation to obtain a social enquiry report that will determine the kind of systems and the punishment regime to be offered to the parties involved. The parties may include the victim, the perpetrator, and non-participating students who encouraged the act and those who have been entrusted with a standard of care.

The criminal conduct must be referred to the appropriate institutions to handle. If the perpetrator is below 18 years, the trail must be carried out within the Juvenile Justice System where the rights to education is guaranteed even in the process of the trial.

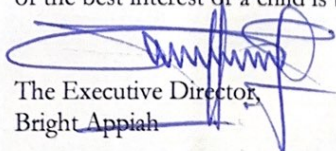
In accordance with the Children's Act, when children exhibit behavioral abnormalities it is expected that proper assessment should be conducted on the child to ascertain the frame of mind of the child to inform the appropriate remedy required. Therefore we recommend a social enquiry report done for subsequent referral to the appropriate institutions such as Social Welfare for clinical services.

The exercise of standard of care is solely a responsibility handed to school authorities therefore, such authority must be exercised in a manner that seeks to protect the best interest of children by creating safe systems in the environment for promoting the welfare of children. It is pertinent to state that in an institution such as Adisadel College, there is a standard of care that dictates a certain level of vigilance by authorities who are tasked with protecting children's right to a safe and supportive environment and therefore in a case such as this, such figures must be held responsible when their duty to provide a safe and secure environment for students under their care is not realized.

Despite the undeniable role the Ghana Education Service (GES) plays in this case, it is our view that the decision to dismiss the students is not informed by appropriate investigative channels and a social enquiry report. Therefore GES must rescind their decision and reinstate the students in the school unless their presence poses extreme threat to other students and such removal must be in accordance with Section 2 (1), (2), 8 (1) & 18 (l), (m) & (n) of the Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560).

Any decision taken in this process must always have the best interest of the CHILD.

Above all let us remember that the most important determinant in the issue is whether the principle of the best interest of a child is being followed and upheld.

  
The Executive Director,  
Bright Appiah