



**LAND RIGHTS
DEFENDERS**

2024 – 2025 Annual Impact Summary

Defending Ancestral Land Rights in Ghana's Ashanti Region & the Global South

2 Landmark Court Victories	114+ Acres of Land Legally Affirmed	GH¢1M Compensation Guarantee Secured
3 Active Legal Cases	7+ International Media Features	1 UN Presentation Made

Source: GlobalGiving Progress Reports 2024–2025; Ghana Court Records

Executive Summary

The 2024–2025 period marks the most consequential phase in Land Rights Defenders Inc.'s history. From its founding in 2023, LRDI has rapidly evolved from a grassroots advocacy initiative into a globally recognized human rights organization, securing landmark court victories, achieving major international media coverage, and building a robust legal strategy to permanently protect the ancestral lands of the Benimasi-Boadi Indigenous community in Ghana's Ashanti Region.

This summary covers the organization's key achievements, legal milestones, advocacy impact, and program activities across the reporting period of November 2024 through early 2026, as documented in quarterly progress reports submitted to GlobalGiving.

Legal Milestones & Court Victories

November 27,
2024

Circuit Court Landmark Ruling

Justice Abdul-Razak Musah of the Kumasi Circuit Court delivered a landmark decision affirming the Huahi Achama Tutuwaa Royal Family's inalienable rights to their ancestral lands, grounded in the concept of Allodial Title (Absolute Ownership) under Section 2 of Ghana's Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036). The court recognized Abusuapanin Odeneho Odehyee Nanaba Kwabena Badu as the legitimate head of the family with authority to administer the lands.

July 2025

GH¢1,000,000 Compensation Guarantee Secured

In its ruling on the motion for an Interlocutory Injunction against Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and the Land Commission, the High Court ordered KNUST to execute an Undertaking to pay GH¢1,000,000 (~\$85,000 USD) as compensation as part of damages should the Royal Family succeed in the main suit. This legally solidifies the financial risk for the defendant and confirms the high valuation of the family's claim prior to trial.

July 24, 2025

Court Order Issued Against Encroachment

The High Court issued a formal order against ongoing encroachment of the Benimasi-Boadi ancestral lands. Despite this order, encroachment has continued — including grading of new areas, damage to sacred groves and burial grounds, and removal of community warning signposts. LRDI is preparing a committal of contempt application to enforce the order.

December 9,
2025

Case Management Conference

The Case Management Conference took place as scheduled. The defendants did not file their defence, did not contest the claim, and did not comply with earlier court orders. The Court adjourned to March 19, 2026 to assign a definitive trial date.

October 21,
2026

High Court Trial Scheduled

The High Court has set October 21, 2026 as the trial date for the main suit against KNUST and the Land Commission. LRDI is preparing extensively for this trial, which represents the final determination of the family's land rights.

2020 (Prior)

High Court Judgment — 114 Acres Affirmed

Justice E. Senyo Amedahe of the High Court affirmed the family's ownership of 114 acres of land within the Benimasi-Boadi area. This earlier ruling forms the foundational legal precedent upon which subsequent litigation is built.

Source: GlobalGiving Progress Reports; Ghana Court Records 2020–2025

Program Activities & Advocacy Impact

Program Area	Key Activities (2024–2025)	Outcomes
Legal Advocacy	Direct legal representation; filing motions; court appearances; professional misconduct complaint at General Legal Council; Affidavit in Opposition to legal objections; contempt application preparation	2 court victories; GH¢1M guarantee; expedited trial ordered; Court of Appeal matter advancing
Community Education	Virtual community meetings with Benimasi-Boadi leaders and residents; distribution of informational materials on land rights under Ghana's Land Act; social media advertising campaigns; printed postcards and outreach materials	Community informed of legal rights; broader awareness raised; community warning signposts mounted on ancestral lands
Global Advocacy & Media	Media outreach to international publications; podcast interviews (Indigenous Earth Community Podcast, Global Development Primer); UN presentation; op-ed publications; social media campaigns	7+ international media features (2024–2026); UN engagement; case recognized as global precedent for Indigenous land rights
Cultural Preservation	'Echoes of Ancestry' / 'The Last Guardian of Ashanti' book project; documentation of royal lineage and historical land grant; preservation of oral history and court records	Book manuscript in development; historical record being formalized; cultural heritage documented for future generations
Encroachment Monitoring	Field documentation of encroachment; mapping of affected areas; photographic evidence collection; legal filing preparation	Encroachment documented and reported to courts; contempt application being prepared; sacred sites identified

Media Coverage Timeline

Date	Publication	Article / Focus
Oct 2024	Global Issues	Op-Ed: Inherent rights of the Benimasi-Boadi people against land grabs
Nov 2024	Resilience.org	Guardians of Heritage: The Fight for Land Rights Defenders
Oct 2025	Inter Press Service (IPS)	Indigenous Communities are the Frontlines of Climate Action
Oct 2025	Analyst News	The Climate Crisis Won't Be Solved Without Indigenous Leadership
Nov 2025	Fairplanet	Roots of Resilience: Indigenous Guardians Protecting Benimasi-Boadi's Biodiversity
2025	International Business Times	Indigenous Wisdom and the Future of Land Rights in Africa
Feb 2026	USA Today	The Last Guardian of Ashanti and Why Land, Lineage, and Truth Still Matter

Source: GlobalGiving Progress Reports 2024–2025

Challenges & Ongoing Threats

Escalating Encroachment

Since late 2025, encroachment on Benimasi-Boadi ancestral lands has intensified. New areas have been graded, sacred groves and burial grounds have been damaged, and community warning signposts have been ignored. The July 24, 2025 court order has still not been complied with by the defendants.

Institutional Opposition

Powerful traditional authorities, including actors within the Kumasi Traditional Council, continue to challenge the family's court-affirmed rights. A misinformation campaign circulated by traditional authorities in early 2026 prompted LRDI to file a formal Rejoinder correcting the public record.

Funding Constraints

The legal campaign has been sustained largely through the personal sacrifice of the Founder, who has committed a significant portion of personal income to cover international legal fees and logistical expenses. Securing sustainable external funding remains the organization's most critical operational challenge.

Security Concerns

Due to documented security risks associated with the Founder's refugee status in the United States, LRDI has formally requested permission for virtual appearances before the General Legal Council Disciplinary Committee to ensure full participation while protecting personal safety.

Procedural Delays

Repetitive preliminary legal objections — including one challenging the capacity of the substituted Plaintiff despite this issue being conclusively settled by the Court of Appeal in May 2022 — continue to delay the substantive appeal and increase legal costs.

Looking Ahead: 2026 Priorities

Priority	Timeline	Description
High Court Trial Preparation	October 21, 2026	Prepare senior legal counsel, key witnesses, and full documentation for the definitive trial.
Contempt Application	Q1–Q2 2026	File and pursue the committal of contempt application to enforce the July 2025 court order.
Court of Appeal Advancement	2026	Secure a hearing date and advance the substantive appeal against the lower court ruling.

Book Publication	July 2026	Publish 'The Last Guardian of Ashanti' as a permanent historical and legal record.
Fundraising Campaign	Ongoing	Launch a targeted fundraising campaign to secure sustainable funding for legal operations.
Community Protection	Ongoing	Continue documenting encroachment, protecting sacred sites, and supporting the community.

A Message from the Founder



"The foundations of our case remain strong. The courts have affirmed the family's ownership. Global media have validated the importance of our struggle. The community remains resolute. With your partnership, we can ensure that justice is not delayed into invisibility — and that the ancestral rights of the Benimasi-Boadi People are secured for generations."

— Nana Kwesi Osei Bonsu, Founder & Executive Director

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