



INTERNATIONAL – NORTH AMERICA

PETITION BY NDC PROFESSIONAL FORUM, NORTH AMERICA CHAPTER TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE (CHRAJ) TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE THE KILLERS OF THE 8 INNOCENT GHANAIS WHO WERE SHOT DURING THE DECEMBER 7, 2020 PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

December 29, 2020

The NDC Professional Forum, North America Chapter has observed with dismay the unfortunate occurrence on December 7, 2020 of electoral misunderstandings in some constituencies in Ghana as a result of the failure of Electoral Commission officials in the performance of their work.

Rather than diligently discharging their constitutional role of arbiter in collation and declaration of constituency voter results without prejudice to their personal preferences, and ensuring free, fair collation, and declaration of result, they became the agents of subversion of the objective processes laid down to quickly identify the winners of the constituency level polls.

We are shocked that because of their unprofessional conduct, excessive use of military force was resorted to by military and police agents of the incumbent party and its leadership under President Nana Addo Danquah Akuffo Addo.

At some constituency collation centers, shots were fired into unarmed crowds of voters who had assembled to witness and ensure that their votes were properly counted. This led to the unfortunate killing of the 8 innocent Ghanaians some of whom were first-time voters exercising their franchise for the first time in their lives. One of the victims was a young underage female spectator who just wanted to witness the process.





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This action and unprofessional conduct of military and police agents of the government who, following orders, directed live bullets into crowds of unarmed citizens and instantly killed some of them, we condemn in the strongest terms. And we demand that an independent commission be set up to investigate and identify the specific officers who so terribly misconducted themselves for them to account for their actions and to face the full force of the laws of the land.

We note that these incidents undermined the confidence of Ghanaians in the democratic process and has tainted the good image of Ghana as a peaceful, just and democratic African country. More than that it has threatened the security and stability the country had been enjoying.

The NDC Professional Forum, North America Chapter is saddened by these unfortunate happenings and while we join our mother party the National Democratic Congress of Ghana and all its organs to console the bereaved families for the lives lost, we emphatically call on the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) to do the following:

- Investigate the failures of the Electoral Commission and its Personnel and where found complicit sanction the Commission and any personnel to the full extent of the laws of Ghana
- Conduct a full-scale investigation into the killing of the 8 innocent Ghanaians who through no faults of theirs were gunned down by some military and police officers and irate vigilante groups deployed by the Government.
- Identify who gave the order to shoot, and who ordered the issue of live bullets for police duties at polling stations
- Hold responsible and prosecute the perpetrators and their commanders for the killing of the 8 innocent Ghanaians, irrespective of their political affiliations to set an example and serve as a deterrent for the occurrence of similar actions in the future.
- Make the findings and recommendations and the commission's final report public. In addition, we are calling on, the United Nations, African Union and all Embassies/Foreign missions to engage the President





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of the Ghana, Nana Addo Danquah Akuffo Addo and the New Patriotic Party to stop the use of State Security Agencies to perpetuate mayhem on innocent Ghanaians.

In the interest of full and transparent investigation by the CHRAJ and to ensure the full cooperation of the Akuffo Addo government, the Forum calls on the government to demonstrate good faith by allowing full and complete access of CHRAJ to any of its officials identified as essential to the investigation.

Further to that ensure, the complete independence (hands off) of the investigation panel, necessary resources for the investigation and the freedom to invite testimonies from the public and anyone who can assist the panel come to a fair and an objective assessment of the events under investigation.

To this end, the Forum will expect absolute transparency, cooperation, and support for CHRAJ from the Akuffo Addo government and a commitment that it will ensure an unfettered execution of all substantive findings and recommendations emerging out of the investigation.

The government shall guarantee that it will take no steps to protect its agents or members who may be found complicit in these killings. We invite the keen interest International Partners in the resolution of these electoral incidents in Ghana because it has the potential of threatening peace, security and stability of Ghana as an active partner in promoting development and evolution of democracy in Africa.

More importantly however, the Forum believes it will help ensure that governments and their agents are more careful in addressing electoral problems globally and hopefully establish the rule of law, equity, and justice as cardinal principles in any democracy.

We believe anything short of the above will plunge Ghana into chaos and set a precedent that emboldens others to, in future, take the law into their own hands. The Forum seeks justice and closure for the families who have lost their loved ones through these incidents.





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Further to the above, we wish to use this medium to call the attention of all relevant stakeholders to take immediate steps to bring calm to the country.

Finally, the Forum would like to assure CHRAJ of its readiness to assist it, in investigating the said killings.

Submitted for and on behalf of NDC Professional Forum, North America Chapter

Signed

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[More Info](#)

CC:

Secretary-General, United Nation

Chairperson, African Union

Ambassadors/High Commissioners of Foreign Missions in Ghana

International Election Observers

Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO)

All Media Houses

