

# KEN THOMPSON

## He Says IMF Bailout Won't Solve Ghana's Economic Problems



**Mr Kenneth Thompson**

**R**enowned businessman and Chief Executive Officer of Dalex Finance, Mr Kenneth Thompson, has said Ghana needs effective home grown economic management measures rather than seeking bailouts from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "IMF is a circus that attracts attention but doesn't deliver much, but with discipline and dedication we can build our own country without relying on foreign aid," he said. Mr Thompson said this at the Stakeholders Engagement and Workers' Appreciation Day organised by the Tema Regional Office of the Ghana News Agency to address issues of national

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### GPRTU Says Rate Of Fuel Increment In Ghana Alarming

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**Kwaku Ofori Asiamah, Minister of Transport**

### Mike Pompeo & CIA Sued for Spying On Americans Who Visited Wikileaks Founder Julian Assange In Ecuadorian Embassy In U.K.

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## Concerned Second Hand Dealers Association Fights Energy Commission Over Planned Ban On Imported Second Hand Goods

*BY Florence Anim*

**T**he Concerned Second Hand Dealers Association of Ghana (CSHDAG) has reacted to Energy Commission's Intent to ban second hand

goods as circulated on some news portals on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2022. On 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021, the Energy Commission at a meeting with the Ghana Traders Association (GUTA)

discussed with the traders how high appliances they import into the Country consume energy and its negative impact on the environment and hence

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# The INSIGHT

## — EDITORIAL

### DEAL WITH THIS HEALTH MENACE

**T**he revelation that there is upsurge in stroke cases among young people per records at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi is very deeply worrying.

There is clearly no doubt that non-communicable or lifestyle diseases appear to have fast taken over from communicable which used to be our bane as a country. According to the Neurologist, Dr. Fred Stephen Sarfo those as young as 13 are now developing the condition which one suffers when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts resulting in lack of blood to the brain and thus death of the brain cells.

According to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital it records between 800 and one thousand cases, each year with more than 300 dying and the rest becoming permanently disabled.

With its high risk factors being hypertension, diabetes, high alcohol intake and lack of exercise among others, there is the need for improved or change in lifestyle including other health measures to adequately deal with the situation. Stress is also another causative or factor and health authorities need to intensify public education to reverse the tide. The revelation that there is upsurge in stroke cases among young people per records at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi is very deeply worrying.

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## Mike Pompeo & CIA Sued for Spying On Americans Who Visited Wikileaks Founder Julian Assange In Ecuadorian Embassy In U.K.

**L**awyers and journalists in the United States (US) have sued the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and its former Director, Mike Pompeo for spying on them while they met Julian Assange when he was living in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he had political asylum.

The lawsuit is being filed as Britain prepares to extradite the WikiLeaks founder to the United States, where he faces up to 175 years in prison for violating the Espionage Act by publishing classified documents exposing U.S. war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan. We speak with the lead attorney in the case, Richard Roth, who details how a private security company stationed at the London Embassy sent images from Assange's visitors' cellphones and laptops as well as streamed video from inside meetings to American intelligence. He says the offenses breach a range of client privileges and could sway a U.S. judge to dismiss the case if Assange is successfully extradited.

#### Transcript

*This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.*

**AMY GOODMAN:** This is *Democracy Now!*, [democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org), *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman. The CIA and former CIA Director Mike Pompeo have been sued for spying on U.S. lawyers and journalists who met with Julian Assange while he was living in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he had political asylum. The lawsuit is being filed as Britain prepares to extradite the WikiLeaks founder to the United States, where he faces up to 175 years in prison for violating the Espionage Act by publishing classified documents exposing U.S. war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan. Assange spent nearly seven years inside the embassy, from 2012 'til April 2019, when Metropolitan Police entered the embassy, arrested him, after Ecuador revoked his political asylum.

The lawsuit filed Monday accuses the Spanish security firm UC Global of spying on Assange and his visitors inside the embassy on behalf of the CIA. UC Global and the company's director, David Morales, are also named as defendants in the new lawsuit, which comes less than a year after Yahoo News revealed the CIA considered abducting, and

possibly assassinating, Assange while he was in the embassy.

Several plaintiffs in the lawsuit spoke during an online news conference. This is Deborah Hrbek. She's a media lawyer who visited Assange at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London several times to discuss sensitive legal matters.

**DEBORAH HRBEK:** On arrival, there was a strict protocol, for the protection of Julian, we were told. Passports, mobile phones, cameras, laptops, recording devices and other electronic equipment were turned over to the security guards in the lobby. We learned much later, through a criminal investigation under the supervision of a court in Spain, that while visitors like me were meeting with Julian in the embassy conference room, the guards next door were taking apart our phones, removing and photographing SIM cards and, we believe, downloading data from our electronic equipment. Their boss, David Morales from UC Global, who appears to have been recruited by the CIA through associates of Sheldon Adelson during a visit to a tech conference, was making regular trips to Washington, D.C., to New York, to Las Vegas, reportedly to hand over thumb drives and to receive further instructions from his U.S. government handlers.

In other words, during our meetings with Julian at the embassy, recordings of our confidential conversations and the contents of our electronic devices were being delivered into the hands of the United States government. I'm a New York lawyer. I have the right to assume

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## THE INSIGHT

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# KEN THOMPSON

## He Says IMF Bailout Won't Solve Ghana's Economic Problems

*from front page*

concern and contribute to development. Ghana, since independence, has sought bailouts from the IMF 17 times and is currently in the process of signing onto another programme of the Fund. Speaking on the topic: "Navigating through the current economic crisis with or without the IMF," Mr Thompson said the country must have a paradigm shift in attitudes and deeds to break the cycle.

He called for measures such as reduction in expenditure and the number of government appointees, cut

in tax exemptions to foreign companies as the country lost huge amounts of money annually to such exemptions, and efficient collection of taxes to increase revenue and bring the economy back on track.

Mr Thomson said there was the need to block loopholes and deal with unprofitable State-Owned Enterprises saying the right incentives must be put in place to change behaviours in those sectors.

He advocated greater investment in agricultural, tourism, and the service sectors by encouraging more indigenes to venture

into those businesses, saying; "There is no foreigner who will develop the country but us."

Mr Francis Ameyibor, Tema Regional Manager, GNA, appealed to economic and technical experts to explain the possible implication of the IMF bailout on the ordinary person.

"We must begin to address economic and general national issues without the usual political colours, anytime we brand national subject politically the state loses the people," he said, and called for nationalism and patriotism to achieve sustainable development.



**Mr Kenneth Thompson**

## Concerned Second Hand Dealers Association Fights Energy Commission Over Planned Ban On Imported Second Hand Goods



*from front page*

the intent to ban such goods.

The meeting however ended in conclusively with an assurance from the commission to get back to the traders. The meeting has since not be recalled for proper deliberation on the

matter. However there is news making rounds on the air waves about the intention of the Energy Commission to ban second hands imported appliances. Due to this, the Concerned National second Hand Dealers Association at a press conference has reacted

to the Energy Commission intention through the government to ban second hand goods that are imported into the country. The group says the decision is draconian.

The President of the Association, Daniel Asare addressing the media said, such decision from the government will only lead to high rise unemployment cases in the Country and in the end compound the worse economic conditions in the Country.

The home used electronic appliances being television, irons, microwaves blenders, computers, gas and

electronic cookers he mentioned are all energy efficient.

Mr. Asare said such products are European standards which most of them are store rejects and have very low consumption rates as compared to the brand new products imported from China of which the Energy Commission recommends for the public..

He also down played news circulating that home used products have some chemical substances in the which causes health problems since there is no scientific proof to that. Meanwhile Vice President of

the association Lawrence Adu Twum reiterated the job opportunities in importing such goods which augment the few jobs provided for by the Government and as a result taken huge burden from them (Government) to find jobs for these home used dealers. He said, home used products contributes a lot to GDP hence the economic benefits.

The group however pleaded with the Christian Council, the National Chief Imam and all opinion leaders in the Country to come to their aid to abolish such intent from the Energy Commission.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Joint US-South Korea Military Exercises Conclude, With An Eye On North Korea And China

By Aditya Sarin

Between August 22 and September 1, the United States and South Korea concluded their largest joint military drills in the Korean Peninsula since 2017, under the name 'Ulchi Freedom Shield'. Over the last four years, the scope of the annual exercises had been scaled back, first because of Donald Trump's attempts at diplomacy with North Korea's Kim Jong-un and later because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With these drills, however, the US and South Korea seem to be attempting to send a clear message to both North Korea and China of their united military posture in the region, and come at a time when the US' encirclement of China continues rapidly.

The military relationship between the US and South Korea, officially the Republic of Korea (ROK), has a long history, stretching back at least as far as the Korean War. The US has maintained a force of at least tens of thousands of troops in South Korea since prior to the Korean War, and, while South Korean forces are otherwise independent, at times of war they are subordinated to the command

of a US general as part of the ROK/US Combined Forces Command. 28,500 US troops are stationed in South Korea, making it the country with the third highest number of US troops outside of the US.

While the recent exercises have been conducted against a nameless enemy, it is not hard to see towards whom their message is aimed. The site of the exercises is only 32 kilometers from the border and De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea. Live-fire tank and troop maneuvers have been practiced as the US and the ROK engage in simulations and seek to increase interoperability of their deployments and technologies. War-gamed attempts to seize "weapons of mass destruction" and mount a defense of Seoul suggest that they are preparations for potential conflict with North Korea. Trump's attempts to seek a diplomatic end to the North Korean nuclear program were unsuccessful, as have been the US economic sanctions and blockades. These

exercises must be seen as a continuing show of force towards the same chief end. As part of his campaign and even more recently, new South Korean Premier Yoon Suk-yeol has touted his willingness to engage in "decapitation strikes" against the North Korean leadership, as part of a broader turn towards support for, and from, US interests in the region.

He has also more recently offered a bouquet of economic enticements for North Korea to abandon its nuclear program, an offer that was rejected out of hand by Kim Jong-un's sister Kim Yo-jong, who pointed out that it was merely the restatement of a similar offer that had been made and dismissed in the past. The North sees its nuclear arsenal as non-negotiable and the key to its global legitimacy, and is no doubt also aware of what has happened to other countries such as Libya and Iran that have agreed to put holds on their military nuclear capabilities at the behest of the US. With US bases and troops having been positioned so close



(Photo: US Ministry of Defense). The military exercises point towards a more aggressive US presence in the Pacific and increasing encirclement of China

to its border for almost its entire existence as a country, it is easy to understand why North Korea does not see a reduction in its military capabilities as a particularly pressing or, indeed, sensible priority. The resumption of these joint military exercises has also been viewed with alarm by China, which, like North Korea, has repeatedly pointed to US attempts to set up a NATO-like organization in Asia. As tensions in the region reached unprecedented levels recently following US politician 'Nancy Pelosi's provocative visit to Taiwan, it seems that US military presence in the region is only

likely to increase in the near future. South Korea and the US also recently participated in trilateral military exercises with Japan near Hawaii, signaling what might be a new low in hostilities that trace their roots to the Japanese occupation of Korea which only ended in 1945 when the administration of South Korea was handed over briefly to the US. This too has been noted with concern by China, and suggests that the US is coordinating its allies in the region as it attempts to extend its global hegemony ever-further eastward.

### Progressives In Poland Demand Effective Measures To Prevent River Pollution



Environmental actions groups in Poland have protested the inaction by the government on the contamination of rivers across the country. On Saturday, September 3, hundreds of activists, gathered on the call of the Save the Rivers Coalition at the historic Siekierki-Neurüdnicz bridge on the Polish-German border under the banner 'Together for the Oder River.' They demanded immediate measures to prevent the contamination of the river. Activists called for measures to resist the contamination of the Oder river and fight corporate intervention in the name of conserving the river.

Over the past few months, fish and other creatures have been found dead in the Oder river, leading to agitation by environmental groups and people living on the banks of the river in Poland. The government and its authorities have been accused of reacting slowly to the crisis. Those living on the banks of the river and activists removed tonnes of dead fish from the river at different spots. Even though several reports attribute the mass mortality to mercury poisoning, Polish authorities have reportedly stated that the crisis was caused by the growth of golden algae.

Opposition parties, including the Polish left, slammed the conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party-led government for its insensitive approach in handling the crisis as well as covering up and downplaying the magnitude of the environmental disaster. Succumbing to the protests by the opposition, the government fired two officials of the water authority and the environmental authority for failure to perform their duties. The 'Together for the Oder River' mobilization activists stated, "For weeks, the inhabitants of the Oder region have been confronted with the tragedy of the river. Today, the topic has disappeared from the front pages of newspapers; it is swept under the carpet. We may

never know what really happened. We must not allow the Oder crisis to be forgotten; we must not allow ourselves to be forgotten because the only way to avoid similar tragedies in the future is to restore the river, as all scientific institutions confirm." The Save the Rivers Coalition has called for a radical change in the approach towards water management and the adoption of reforms for setting up effective flood and drought prevention mechanism, starting initiatives for the restoration of surface water, divestment from new proposals for cargo shipping in rivers including Oder, Vistula, Noteć, Bug, Narew, Warta and Brda, and implementing continuous

initiatives for improving water quality in rivers and lakes. Leftist political party Razem expressed support for the proposals and initiatives of the Save the Rivers Coalition. Razem stated, "The catastrophe in Oder river is not the first case of an ecological disaster in a Polish river. Two years ago the Barycz river was contaminated. It has not taught the rulers anything. Releasing chemicals into the river or throwing garbage into the forest is still normal." "Environmental poisoning is an act to the detriment of the health and lives of humans and animals, and should be prosecuted," added Razem.



# 26th GJA Media Awards Launched

The Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) has launched the 26th GJA Media Awards in Accra.

This year's GJA Media Awards will be held on November 12, 2022, at the Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City. The theme for this year's Awards is: "Walking The Path Towards Economic Recovery: The Role Of The Media". This time, journalists are entreated to file their stories on the GJA online platform which was activated on Thursday, September 1, 2022. They are expected to file stories written only in 2021 and not 2022 and as well as be members of the GJA.

Speaking at the launch, the GJA President, Mr. Albert Kwabena Dwumfour explained that last year, the GJA was unable to organise the awards due to circumstances beyond its control. However, he said the Association

started preparations very early this year so that it does not miss out this time around.

He said this year, the Association is decoupling the GJA Awards from the Dinner event so that the GJA Can have two major programmes within the year.

First, he said the GJA Awards which will be a cocktail ceremony would be held, and then later in December, the annual GJA Dinner night, which will be more of a socialization event where industry players and GJA's corporate partners get the time to meet and socialize.

"One significant thing about this year's Awards is the fact the GJA Journalist of the Year is very competitive as the winner is going to be selected based on competitive entries. This is a departure from the practice whereby the Awards Committee selected a winner in consultation with the National Executive," the GJA President stated.

To make the awards more competitive

and relevant, he said the GJA has reduced the number of awards from over 50 to about 36.

Meanwhile, he said the Association was also introducing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Award this year to place premium on African trade.

He therefore, urged all journalists who believe their works meet the criteria set out by the Awards Committee to file their entries, assuring them that the process will be fair and transparent.

"This year's awards promises to be great and exciting and I can assure you that it will also be controversy-free. I trust this Awards committee, which is made up of men and women of integrity, to do a good job at the end of the day.

We will ensure that deserving and hardworking journalists are duly honored on that day," he added.

**Theme**

Speaking about the theme for the awards, Mr Dwumfour believed that the theme was apt due to the current economic challenges Ghana is facing now.

"Indeed, there couldn't have been any better theme. I hold the view that, as journalists, we have a role to play in ensuring that the economy is stabilized for our common good. We can do this in many ways," he said. He continued that, "Firstly, as watchdogs of society, we must just ensure that the government or any state institution does not spend outside their budget or engage in any frivolous expenditure. When we focus on these things, we can help the government achieve fiscal stability."

**Auditor General's Report**

Touching on the recent Auditor General's Report, Mr. Dwumfour said, "We should make sure that the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General are duly



implemented to protect the public purse. We are all aware of the current Auditor General's Report, which has sent shock waves across the country.

I believe that if journalists manage to focus on the Auditor General's Report and ensure that the findings are fully implemented, this country will save millions of cedis every year, which we can channel into programmes like Free SHS, the School Feeding Programme, etc." He also urged journalists to encourage all citizens and businesses to pay their taxes for national development.

## GPRTU Says Rate Of Fuel Increment In Ghana Alarming

The Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU) has described as alarming the recent hikes in prices of petroleum products in the country.

Fuel prices at the local pumps shot up by about 5.4 per cent from September 1, 2022, with petrol and diesel trading at an average of GH¢11.55 and GH¢14.50 respectively.

At the beginning of the year, petrol and diesel were trading at an average of GH¢6.9 and GH¢7.0 per litre respectively. In an interview with the Ghana News Agency, Mr Abass Imoro, Head of Communications, GPRTU, said the rate of increment in the last few weeks would affect the income of commercial drivers.

"We are almost in a buy-and-sell business. The rate at which we are buying (fuel) now is alarming. It is really affecting our business," he said. Mr Imoro said the leadership of the GPRTU would meet this week to deliberate the increasing fuel prices and consider policy decisions that would limit the impact on its members.



**Kwaku Ofori Asiamah, Minister of Transport**

Asked if the meeting would decide on an increment in transport fares, he said: "We have to reflect on the whole issue before we take a decision."

In the last pricing window (which ended on August 31, 2022), the national average price per litre of petrol stood at GH¢10.95, up from GH¢10.58 in the previous window, representing a 3.50 per cent increase. Diesel's national average price per litre also stood at GHS 13.42 from a previous average of GH¢13.28, representing a 1.05 per cent increase, according to data compiled by the Institute for

Energy Security (IES).

The IES had projected that petrol and diesel prices would go up by 5 per cent to 10 per cent at the various pumps in the current pricing window, adding close to GH¢70p per litre to the existing prices.

"The sharp depreciation of the Ghana Cedi against the US Dollar at over 10 per cent is identified as the main cause for this rise.

"Consumers are advised to plan accordingly to the expected price hikes in the coming days," it said.

**Source -- GNA**

## Encroachers Damage Aviation Installations ... GCAA Loses Cables, Signal Equipment Under Threat

The Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) is losing some of its sensitive installations in Accra, including cables used to direct pilots during landing and take-off.

This is due to increasing attacks on the authority's properties in the La Nkwantanang and the La Dadekotopon municipalities.

Among the installations are the main signal-receiving station near Madina and the signal-transmission station at La Wireless.

"As soon as an aircraft enters our airspace, the controllers need to start communicating with the pilots, so that we avoid collision. Some of the cables being cut are electricity, communications and aeronautical wires. Sometimes an aircraft will be in the air and communication will break, which is dangerous," he added. The Madina and the La Nkwantanang stations house communications equipment (receivers and

transmitters) that collect and transmit signals on aircraft in the country's airspace to air traffic controllers at the Kotoka International Airport (KIA). Based on the signals or information, the air traffic controllers are able to communicate effectively with pilots in order to guide aircraft to avoid collision and ensure safety at all times. Mr Kraikue indicated that frequent communication disruptions between pilots and air controllers could erode the gains made in aviation safety over the years, after the country had obtained Africa's highest score in Aviation Safety Oversight in 2019 conferred by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). He said poor performance in aviation safety had a negative impact on the general aviation economy because commercial airlines would be hesitant to use the airspace.

# Duffuor Snubs Critics Of His Ahotor Project

Former Finance Minister Dr. Kwabena Duffuor has said that he remains resolute in his quest to implement the Ahorto project for the grassroots of the National Democratic Congress (NDC).

In a TV3 interview, Dr. Duffuor said that no amount of criticism from some factions of the party would stop him from helping the youth of the NDC.

He added that he has no ulterior motive for implementing the Ahorto project other than his desire to help the NDC youth and, by extension, the youth of Ghana.

"I want us to help strengthen the country, strengthen the party, and it will affect everybody. Let us get together and help one another.

"No amount of insults or attacks will stop me from what I want to do for you (the grassroots of the party). I gave my salary to Ghana for four years, (and) never took a pesewa; people

were insulting me at that time. I gave my ex-gratia to the country, they insulted me.

Going to my hometown Kumawu, I set up a Rural Bank, and I have never taken sitting allowance for 30 years.

"We are different people. I am not doing this (the Ahorto project) because of anything. I feel in me that I should help people, and I am helping, that is all," he said.

Dr. Duffuor made these remarks after persons in the party criticised him for distributing items to its offices in Kumasi without recourse to leadership.

The General Secretary of the NDC, Johnson Asiedu Nketia, recently berated the ex-Finance Minister over the implementation of the Ahotor project.

According to Asiedu Nketia, there was an agreement after the programme launch that NDC would be in charge of the

implementation. However, they have now gathered intelligence that he was going to distribute some equipment in Kumasi.

Speaking to the press after the annual conference for NDC lawyers, the general secretary and the party felt deceived because Duffuor should have brought the items for them to distribute and not do it by himself or other organisations.

"We have received information from Kumasi that Dr. Duffuor is going to distribute some equipment to our constituencies at Kumasi and we feel betrayed. It is not a bad thing if a former minister wants to support the party in any way, but there is a process that we go through," he said.

## About the Ahotor Project:

Former Finance Minister Dr. Kwabena Duffuor officially launched the Ahotor Project

for grassroots members of the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) in Ashaiman in April.

The donation includes a Public Address (PA) system, 100 plastic chairs and 4 canopies which can be rented out to generate revenue for members.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Duffuor said the Ahotor Project is a real deal for progress, jobs, and generating sustainable revenue for use as welfare – such as hospital bills, funeral donations, school fees, etc.

"We want to create a situation whereby there will be money in the party coffers of every constituency. The project is going to make you fishers and not getting money from people all the time," Dr. Duffuor said.

He said the project will be replicated in all 274 branches, beginning in the Greater Accra Region, and encouraged the



**Former Finance Minister Dr. Kwabena Duffuor**

leadership of the party in Ashaiman to ensure that they boost revenue to meet their needs.

## Duffuor tipped as flagbearer:

Meanwhile, Dr. Kwabena Duffuor has been tipped as one of the possible candidates to contest for the NDC's flagbearership position for the 2024 elections.

## NAM 1 Will Be Prosecuted, Case Docket Almost Ready For Court – Attorney General Affirms



*Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Godfred Yeboah Dame*

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Godfred Yeboah Dame, on Monday, stated that dockets on the Menzgold case is almost ready for prosecution to commence.

"I am happy to state that after painstaking investigations, dockets on that financial crime are almost ready for prosecution to commence in earnest, Mr. Dame said in a speech he delivered at the Thirty-Ninth International Symposium on Economic Crime, Jesus College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.

The Attorney-General who delivered his speech for the second time at this symposium, the first in 2017 when he was a deputy Attorney-General and Minister for Justice told the participants made up of judges, law lecturers, and the Mayor of

London, Alderman Vincent Keaveny, that the Office of the Attorney-General was prosecuting other high-profile cases involving the offences of wilfully causing financial loss to the state, stealing, corruption, fraud, procurement breaches, and money laundering.

Mr. Dame told the participants that "these cases have as their sole object the principle of holding public officers to account and involve sums of over \$850 million."

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice stated that the 2017 banking sector crisis as well as the COVID-19 pandemic shook the foundation of the Ghanaian economy.

He said so far, 20 companies and individuals are being put on trial to deter future occurrences.

Turning his attention to the theme "Selling status – insider crime and abuse," Godfred Dame said economic crimes threaten the prosperity of nations and weaken public confidence in the government of every nation.

He said "They can, not only undermine the values we hold dear as a society but also prop up the kind of authoritarian regimes that wreak havoc in the world. We are acutely aware of the knock-on effect of corruption on human rights internationally and on our efforts to combat environmental damage."

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice noted that human rights and nature were the casualties of this system of profiteering, which, in reality, is war by other means.

He said the punishment of corruption requires the establishment of a fair, honest, and efficient justice system.

"Thus, the need to strengthen criminal justice must sit right at the top of our developmental agenda. Criminals ought to be deprived of their assets in order to reduce the impact of their actions and the inspiration they serve to others on the continent. Crime must not be rewarding."

On international effort and cooperation to tackle economic crimes, Mr. Dame said the need for states to cooperate in combating the threat of economic crimes was imperative because culprits exploit differences between countries to further their objectives, enriching their organisations, expanding their power, and avoiding detection or apprehension.

In Africa, he said the launch of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA), whilst presenting Africa with its greatest opportunity to show to the world the strength of its potential and the entrepreneurial spirit of the people, has unleashed a new set of issues of concern to law enforcement authorities, adding that these take the form of migratory problems, social integration challenges, the good old phenomenon of corruption, money laundering and environmental challenges.

He said the passage of the Right to Information Act,

2019 (Act989) and the Witness Protection Act, 2018 (Act 975)

Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044), Corporate Restructuring and Insolvency Act, 2020 (Act 1015), Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992), Revenue Administration (Amendment) Act, 2020 (Act 1029), State Interests and Governance Authority Act, 2019 (Act 990), and Real Estate Agency Act, 2020 (Act 1047) were some interventions under the current administration to tackle corruption in Ghana. Mr. Dame said the Cambridge symposium has established itself as not just a talk shop but has earned the enviable track record of being a global platform that delivers practical solutions to economically motivated crime and misconduct worldwide.

## Source:

[ghanaianimes.com.gh](http://ghanaianimes.com.gh)



# Mike Pompeo & CIA Sued for Spying On Americans Who Visited Wikileaks Founder Julian Assange In Ecuadorian Embassy In U.K.

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that the U.S. government is not listening to my private and privileged conversations with my clients, and that information about other clients and cases I may have on my phone or laptop are secure from illegal government intrusion. This is not just a violation of our constitutional rights. This is an outrage.

**AMY GOODMAN:** That's, again, the attorney Deborah Hrbek, who is a plaintiff in the new lawsuit against the CIA and the former CIA director, Mike Pompeo, for spying on her and other visitors when they met with WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. We're joined now by Richard Roth, the lead attorney who filed the lawsuit on Monday. Lay out the case, Richard.

**RICHARD ROTH:** Hi, Amy. Thank you for having me. So, the case is very — it's very simple and very troubling. Essentially, there are these individuals who work at the embassy who are just there to essentially monitor the traffic that comes in. What we learned was that — through a Spanish court proceeding, we learned that, in fact, UC Global went to a convention and presented at a convention, where Sheldon Adelson, as Deborah Hrbek said, essentially introduced them to — brought them in to the wings of the CIA to not only just monitor who comes to visit Julian Assange in the Ecuadorian Embassy, but to actually take their phones, their cellphone, their laptops, any kind of recording devices, and to image them while they were inside, because when they walked in, they had to leave them with the security company. We also learned that they were streaming, that they actually had



Mike Pompeo

streaming microphones and cameras inside the embassy for meetings with Julian Assange. We learned this in the Spanish court proceeding. And there are witnesses who essentially were employees at UC Global, thinking that they were just doing their job, and learning from Morales that all of this was going back to, quote, "American intelligence." It was going back to the Americans. It was going back to the "dark side." And these individuals came forward and told, essentially, the Spanish court and others that they did not understand at the time that they were part of this enterprise that tape-recorded everything that Julian Assange did. And what's very troubling about it is not only is it a violation of the Fourth Amendment, your right to privacy, but you have lawyers, you have journalists, you have doctors who went to visit Julian Assange. And if doctors went in, there's a doctor-patient privilege. There's an attorney-client privilege. And so, not only did they literally listen in on the conversations, but any client of, for example, Deborah Hrbek's who had information on her laptop — not even Assange's — the U.S. government now has privy to. So, it's very troubling. Deborah's comment that it's an outrage is square on point. And so, what we've done is we've commenced an action to essentially let the world know

and to seek damages for these plaintiffs, who are journalists, who are lawyers, who essentially went to the embassy, unbeknownst to them, had everything of theirs recorded and imaged, and purely, clearly a violation of the Fourth Amendment. So we've sued Morales, UC Global, we've sued the CIA, and we've sued Mike Pompeo for the outrageous conduct.

On top of that, Mike Pompeo, in his very first address when he became CIA director, let it be known he was going to go after Julian Assange. He called —

**AMY GOODMAN:** I want to actually play that.

**RICHARD ROTH:** — Julian Assange and WikiLeaks —

**AMY GOODMAN:** Richard — **RICHARD ROTH:** — a nonstate hostile intelligence agency. And he called Julian a fraud. And there's plenty of evidence, more which we will get through discovery, that essentially will lead one to conclude that the CIA went in, took UC Global and put it under its wing to allow it to record and listen to everything that Julian Assange was saying.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Richard, I want to go to that clip of then-CIA Director Mike Pompeo in 2017 talking about WikiLeaks in his first address as CIA director in the Trump administration.

**MIKE POMPEO:** WikiLeaks walks like a hostile intelligence service

and talks like a hostile intelligence service. It has encouraged its followers to find jobs at the CIA in order to obtain intelligence. It directed Chelsea Manning in her theft of specific secret information. It overwhelmingly focuses on the United States, while seeking support from anti-democratic countries and organizations. It's time to call out WikiLeaks for what it really is: a nonstate hostile intelligence service, often abetted by state actors like Russia.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Julian Assange later responded to Pompeo's allegation in an interview with journalist Jeremy Scahill on the podcast *Intercepted*.

**JULIAN ASSANGE:** Pompeo has stated that WikiLeaks instructed Chelsea Manning to go after certain information. That's a interesting revelation. And then there is his statement that this, i.e. WikiLeaks and its publications, end now. So, how does he propose to conduct this ending? He didn't say. But the CIA is only in the business of collecting information, kidnapping people and assassinating people. So, it's quite a menacing statement that he does need to clarify.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And again, Richard Roth, Yahoo News last year revealed that the CIA did consider abducting, and possibly assassinating, Julian Assange while he was in political asylum in the embassy. Your comments on this? And, of course, Pompeo could be a presidential candidate in the next presidential election.

**RICHARD ROTH:** Yeah, Julian Assange and WikiLeaks is a publication. It gets information from sources and publishes it, no different than *The New York Times*, no different than any newscaster. It does nothing more. There is an indictment alleging more. Certainly the government will have to prove it.

But the bottom line is that, thus far, all we've seen is publication. It's no different than the Pentagon Papers, that *The New York Times* actually published.

So, they are — there is a very clear purpose for the news, and that is if information comes in its possession, and it doesn't matter which news source, whether it's Fox or whether it's CNN, then it has — not only is it right, but it has an obligation to tell the world that this is what I have. There's no evidence — and we'll certainly see, if he's extradited, at this trial — that, actually — that WikiLeaks was actually involved in the hacking of any computers by the NSA. Chelsea Manning is a different story. But if Chelsea Manning gives information to *The New York Times*, you can bet your bottom dollar *The New York Times* is going to publish that, because that is its obligation. And that's all WikiLeaks is. Why Mike Pompeo went ahead and went so far, so extreme to essentially label WikiLeaks as a hostile nonstate intelligence service is just remarkable. And then what he did was they went ahead, and using a UC Global, they actually went in, and they are the ones that wrongfully took information. There's a real irony here. While WikiLeaks is being charged of wrongfully taking information, it's the CIA that wrongfully took information, not only of Assange but of U.S. citizens, of Ms. Hrbek, Margaret Kunstler and other plaintiffs. So, there's a real irony here that what they're being accused of is what the CIA was doing, which is very, very troubling.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And, of course, many journalists. I wanted to go back to 2014. In a *Democracy Now!* exclusive, we went inside Ecuador's Embassy in London to [interview](#) WikiLeaks founder Julian

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# Mike Pompeo & CIA Sued for Spying On Americans Who Visited Wikileaks Founder Julian Assange In Ecuadorian Embassy In U.K.

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Assange as he had just entered his third year of political asylum.

**AMY GOODMAN:** We're in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where Julian Assange took refuge two years ago. He's been detained in Britain for close now to four years.

Welcome to *Democracy Now!*, Julian.

**JULIAN ASSANGE:** Thank you, Amy.

**AMY GOODMAN:** How are you doing here? It's been over two years that you have really not seen daylight for any extended period of time.

**JULIAN ASSANGE:** There's been nearly four years that I've been detained without charge, in one form or another, here in the United Kingdom, first in prison, the solitary confinement, then under house arrest for about 18 months, and now two years here in the embassy. The Ecuadorian government gave me political asylum in relation to the ongoing national security investigation by the DOJ, the Department of Justice, in the United States into our publications and also into sourcing efforts. So, did I enter into a conspiracy with Chelsea Manning, who was sentenced last year to 35 years in prison? So, the question as to how I'm doing, of course, personally, it's a difficult situation, in a variety of ways. I would say that when someone's in this position, what you are most concerned about is the interruption in your family relationships. So, because of the security situation, that's made it very hard for my children and my parents.

**AMY GOODMAN:** So, that's Julian Assange when we interviewed him. And people can go to [democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org) to see all the [interviews we did with Julian Assange in London](#). But the significance of now him

[being held for — that was 2014. He had been held for four years, so we're 12 years now in the maximum-security Belmarsh prison, where Britain is preparing to extradite him to face espionage charges in the United States. What role do you see your lawsuit playing in the possibility of stopping this extradition?](#)

**RICHARD ROTH:** So, it's a great question. And let's just talk for a second about the fact that he's in a maximum-security prison. A maximum-security prison for a publisher. That, in and of itself, is an outrage. But the role is the following. If in fact we can prove that the CIA was listening to and taking information — and that includes Julian Assange's lawyers, criminal lawyers, in the actual extradition proceeding, and in the proceeding which presumably will be tried in the Northern District of Virginia, when, in fact, he — if in fact he is extradited, and if in fact he's tried. So, think about it. The CIA, years before he's even tried in Virginia, has tape recordings of the conversations Julian Assange had with his lawyers. We think that that information is so outrageous that if, in fact, we prove our case, when we go to the Virginia court, there could be a federal court judge in Virginia that looks at the CIA's conduct and says, "I can't — there's not a chance I will let you try this case, in light of the fact that you're the ones that spied on him. You have all his information."

And the goal with that lawsuit, independent of this one, is to have that lawsuit thrown out, to let the man — let the publisher publish. That's all we're asking, is let the publisher publish. I am not a lawyer in that case. I know the

lawyer in that case. He's a highly qualified Washington, D.C., criminal lawyer. But that's what they're going to — that's the goal there. The goal there is to just let the publisher publish. That's all it is.

And the irony is, yesterday Rand Paul said that the Espionage Act, for which Julian has been essentially indicted, should be repealed. So, on the one hand, you have a major Republican senator saying we should repeal the Espionage Act, and on the other hand, we have a full-court press on Julian to get him convicted for dozens and dozens of years under that same Espionage Act.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And what further information are you getting from UC Global in terms of the Spanish court case, and its connection to Sheldon Adelson, the late casino magnate, where they apparently met in Las Vegas at a tech conference?

**RICHARD ROTH:** Correct. They met at a conference called a SHOT conference, S-H-O-T. And what we've learned is that's when Adelson actually introduced Morales to the CIA. And what we're getting from the Spanish courts — even though it is technically sealed, there is information coming out. And what we're getting from the courts is that people that worked at UC Global did not really — that was not the job they took. Their job was to allow people to come in and out of the embassy in a structured manner. And all of a sudden they find out that the tape recordings are going on, and they're adding recordings here, and they're adding devices there, and they're returning it to America. And they're learning from Morales that this

information is going to, quote, "the Americans." It's going to, quote, "American intelligence." Why would information, A, be taped and go to American intelligence?

So, that's all information that we currently have. We intend on getting a lot more from UC Global. We obviously just started the lawsuit yesterday, so there's a process that has to take place. We certainly expect resistance on many parts, including Pompeo. But that's the information that we intend on getting from these UC Global employees, who are going to tell us that they were directed to engage in this conduct and provide it to the Central Intelligence Agency. It's nothing short of outrageous.

**AMY GOODMAN:** You're also alleging that there was an official Ecuadorian rep, Gabriela Paiz, who was bribed with \$20,000 in cash a month, according to the Spanish lawsuit?

**RICHARD ROTH:** That's correct. That's correct. The money was being paid to numerous people to allow for this intelligence to take place. It's obvious that the purpose of putting someone seeking asylum and going in an embassy is essentially to shield them from the law, which was essentially the case for the first four years. But what happened was, not only was he — he was shielded, I guess, physically. But what happened was that whole process reversed when Pompeo became CIA — the head of the CIA, to essentially get from Assange and all the people that had come in there all the information that really should have been confidential. So, we will — we intend on taking

depositions. We intend on getting documents. The Spanish proceeding is a little difficult to get information from, because it is sealed. But even the Spanish court has subpoenaed Mike Pompeo to testify.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And Mike Pompeo is being sued —

**RICHARD ROTH:** So, the sharks are circling.

**AMY GOODMAN:** — as a private citizen in your case, as well as the CIA?

**RICHARD ROTH:** That's correct. That's absolutely correct.

**AMY GOODMAN:** For damages? And has he responded?

**RICHARD ROTH:** No, he has not responded yet. We just filed it. We will serve it. We don't know what kind of response we're going to get. We do know that he's — that Pompeo — my understanding is that he's been hesitant and has not been forthright with the subpoena in the Spanish courts. I don't know if he'll be forthright or — and will probably have the same hesitancy in New York, but we shall see.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Well, I want to thank you, Richard Roth, lead attorney representing the lawyers and journalists who have filed a new lawsuit over CIA surveillance of their meetings with WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange while he was in political exile in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. He has been jailed now for over 12 years, now at the Belmarsh maximum-security prison, as Britain weighs extraditing him to the United States.

Next up, we look at the growing calls for longtime political prisoner Mutulu Shakur to be granted compassionate release. Stay with us.