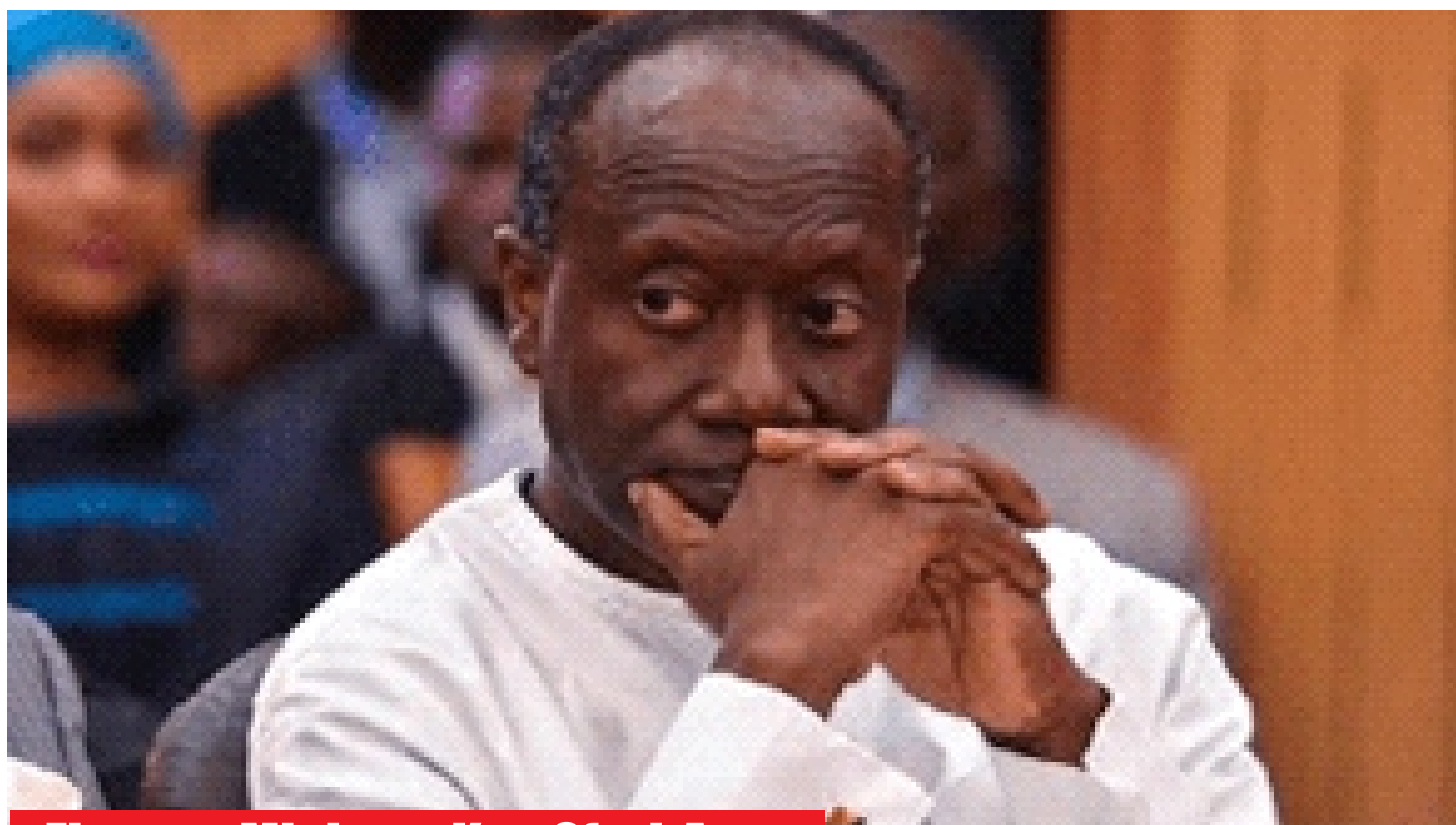


ECONOMIC CRISIS

Minority Reiterates Call For Dismissal Of Finance Minister



Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) Parliamentary Minority has reiterated its call for the dismissal of Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta for alleged incompetence in the management of the economy.

Dr Cassiel Ato Forson, the Minority

Leader, speaking at a press conference in Accra, said: "The President must spare Ghanaians the agony of waking up tomorrow to see Ken Ofori-Atta still in charge of the economy."

The press conference was held on the back of a directive from the NDC that the party's minority parliamentary

caucus should not approve the president's ministerial nominees. The party attributed its decision to the economic hardship Ghanaians were facing and the large size government composed by President Nana Akufo-Addo.

Cont. on page 2

Afaglo Urges GES, Education Ministry To Address Low Pass Rate Of BECE Candidates



Mr. Novihoho Afaglo

Following the release of the 2022 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) results in the country, a cross-section of Ghanaians have taken to social media platforms and traditional media to chastise the Ghana Education Service and the Ministry of Education for the

Cont. on page 5

As Four Unions Appeal To Ex-President To Contest 2024 Elections...

German Based NGO Supports Mahama's Flagbearership Bid



Callistus Mahama Abukari receiving the donation on behalf of John Dramani Mahama

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Towards Tackling Economic Needs Hon Kumi Charges Youth Of Ayensuno To Have Faith In NDC



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Lack Of Public Funding Of Political Parties' Major Cause Of Monetization, Says Prof. Ransford Gyampo

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The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

ADDRESS THIS FUNDING GAP!

The Ghana AIDS Commission is not happy about its dwindling budgetary allocation.

Officials of the Ghana AIDS Commission who appeared before the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament a fortnight ago were full of lamentations that they received only GHC3 million instead of the GHC14 million budgetary allocation to them in 2022.

According to the officials the funding gap or challenge greatly affected their work as it had dire consequences on the delivery of its mandate.

Clearly, the funding bottlenecks accounts for the recent rise in cases of HIV/AIDS infections in the country since monies needed to embark on sensitization programmes are not forthcoming as expected.

This development justifies the saying that you cannot eat your cake and have it which means that rise in infection need be blamed on reduced funding.

The rise in the cases of HIV infections in the country is very worrying as measures needed to address the canker appear to be suffering funding challenges and this must be of concern to all

The Ghana Aids Commission and several world bodies and stakeholders succeeded to a large extent in creating the awareness of condom use and abstinence in time past but the sudden rise in cases of HIV infections simply means that something is not being done or gone wrong.

It is the view of this paper that the government in spite of the economic challenges should provide the commission with the needed funding in a bid to address this menace.

ECONOMIC CRISIS

Minority Reiterates Call For Dismissal Of Finance Minister

from front page

Dr Forson said the NDC minority caucus would participate in the vetting of the President's ministerial nominees but would not subscribe to a consensus vote at the level of the appointments committee.

This, he said, would ensure that the matter was brought before the full House for a vote to be taken in secret.

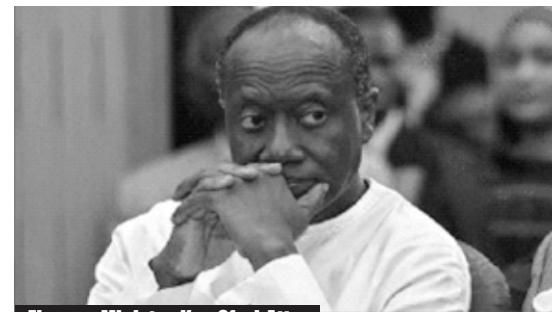
"We in the Minority wish to make it clear that we remain committed to ensuring greater scrutiny and will spare no effort to protect the public purse," he said.

"In line with this, we are taking part in the vetting process so that at the very minimum, we can scrutinize the president's decision in bringing up those nominees."

Dr Forson said Ghana was currently going through the worst economic times in its history, stating that six years of economic mismanagement by the Akufo-Addo regime had rendered life unbearable, in fact, almost impossible, for millions of Ghanaians who struggle daily to make ends meet.

"Many people struggle to afford even one meal a day. The situation in respect of feeding in Senior High Schools across the country is even more disturbing," he said. "We are burdened with unsustainable debt. Currently, standing at over GHS 600 billion representing about 103 per cent of our gross domestic product (GDP), this is the highest level of indebtedness in the 4th Republic."

He said inflation was galloping at hyper levels, and that Ghanaians were confronted with daily price



Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta

increases beyond the reach of majority of the people.

Touching on the size of Government, Dr Forson urged the President to take immediate steps to reduce the number of political appointees at the Office of the President.

He appealed to the President for reduction in the number of Ministers from the current 86 to 65.

The Minority Leader also advocated the merger of Ministries, citing the merger of Information and Communication, Transport and Railways; Chieftaincy and Tourism; and Sanitation and Local Government.

He also asked for the immediate reduction in the number of political appointees at the Office of the President.

THE INSIGHT

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As Four Unions Appeal To Ex-President To Contest 2024 Elections... German Based NGO Supports Mahama's Flagbearership Bid

By **Muhammed Faisel Mustapha**

Health4yu, a German-based Non-governmental Organization (NGO) with a branch in Ghana that focuses on health care delivery, has donated an amount of 40,000 to support the former President John Dramani Mahama's bid to lead the party as its flagbearer. The donation is in line with the former President's demonstration of his commitment to improve health care delivery through the renovation of the maternity and children's ward in his hometown.

In a statement read by the Secretary of the NGO, Alhaji Osman Ali on behalf of the Executive Director Alhaji Jalali Yunusah stated that Health4yu is aimed at improving and providing health care support for inhabitants in local communities.

According to him the former President's passion in supporting health care in the country is what has compelled the organization to surprise him with the package. He added that Health4yu has recognized the commitment of the former President to provide health care by renovating the maternity and children's wards in his hometown as a way of giving back to the people.

In an interview with a member of Health4yu you delegation, Alhaji Musah Fuseini also known as Soroko revealed that the organization through Alhaji Jalali Yunusah has donated medical equipment to the Oblogo Health Centre in Weija-Gbawe Municipality of the Greater Accra. According to him the items donated include, hospital beds, mattresses, examination couches, drips wheelchairs, drugs among others which has gone a long way to support the people of the

Municipality.

A member of the Health4yu organization Madam Tina Asare Bofo stated that Alhaji Jalali Yunusah through the organization supported victims of the flood disaster in Weija-Gbawe and its environs with rice and soap.

The leader of the delegation, Hon. Alhaji Mohammed Ashka revealed that Alhaji Jalali Yunusah has procured and cleared two fully-loaded 40-footer containers of medical equipment to Support Healthcare Delivery In the Weija-Gbawe Constituency. He added that construction of an ultra-modern medical facility for the people of Weija-Gbawe Municipality is also in the pipeline.

He used the opportunity to thank the Secretary of the former President for the warm reception given them adding that



Callistus Mahama Abukari receiving the donation on behalf of John Dramani Mahama

Health4yu organization is ready to support the former President in his mission and vision to bring quality health care to the people of Ghana.

Alhaji Ashka prayed for Allah's guidance and protection for the former President and wish him well in all his endeavors. Receiving the cash on behalf of the former President John Dramani Mahama, Dr. Callistus Mahama Abukari expressed his profound gratitude to Alhaji Jalali Yunusah and the delegation for the kind gesture.

According to him the former President appreciates the good work of the Executive Director and the organization for their support to various health care facilities in Weija-Gbawe and beyond.

He prayed for Allah's blessings upon the organization to live up to it expectations and do more to benefit the citizenry.

The delegation included, Alhaji Mohammed Ashka, Alhaji Musa Fuseini, Alhaji Osman Ali, Madam Tina Asare Bofo, Mabel Klutse, Mr. Osman Bawa and Joseph Brews Cobbold.

Four Unions Appeal To Mahama To Contest 2024 Elections

By **Gifty Mamley Agyemang**

A Joint coalition of Unions and Association namely; Motor Riders Union, True Drivers Union, Concerned Drivers Union and Abossey Okai Spare-part Dealers Association has petitioned former President John Dramani Mahama to contest for the presidency come 2024 general elections.

According to the unions John Dramani Mahama will be the best leader to address the country's current economic challenges if elected President. Presenting the petition to the office of the former President, the Public Relations Officer of the Motor Riders Association, Setsofia Quashie said Ghanaians are yearning for a change in government that will lead to the transformation of the economy. He said, "Since you left, everything has been in shambles,

we can't even buy fuel to work to make ends meet. Things have been so tough that we can't wait to see you come to rescue us. We are by this petition asking you to endlessly consider the points raised and do the needful by heeding to the call of all Ghanaians who are yearning for a change."

He said the Former President Mahama must come back to the Political scene to complete the numerous Crucial Public Projects dotted across the country that has been abandoned to save Ghanaians from unemployment and hardship. The Unions also appealed to other members in the party (NDC) who might want to contest Former President John Mahama on the ticket of the NDC as presidential candidate to do the humble thing by allowing Mahama to go unopposed so that with all hands on deck victory will be theirs come 2024 general election to continue the good work he started. The former Chief of staff, Julius Debrah receiving the petition on

behalf of John Mahama expressed his appreciation and said the former president will consider the request.

Already, a former Finance Minister and Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Dr. Kwabena Duffuor, and a former Metropolitan Chief Executive of Kumasi, Kojo Bonsu have declared their intentions to contest the flagbearership of the NDC when the party opens nominations for the presidential primary.

We the joint coalition of Unions and Association namely; Okada Riders Association - 0244202620- True Drivers Union - 0554822565 Concern Drivers Union - 0243804009

Abossey Gkai Spare- parts Dealers Association - 0540377307 By this Petition, earnestly imploring you to consider running for President in the 2024 Election. This is because the current state of our nation requires a tried and tested leader as your good self,

capable and competent enough to take our beloved country out of the current economic mess we find ourselves in.

2) By this petition , we're passionately requesting your Excellency to assure Ghanaians, beyond all reasonable doubt , that your Second Coming is certain and it's bound to happen .This would certainly allay all lingering fears and doubt on the minds of all well - meaning Ghanaians who are anxiously awaiting your Second Coming

3) Mr. President , the numerous Crucial Public Projects dotted across the country that have stalled and completely abandoned , must be the Compelling Reason why you must consider your comeback on the Ghanaian Political Scene as a Matter of Urgency and of Prime Importance in order to finish the unfinished businesses as the case may be.

4) Since you left, everything has been in shambles. We can't buy fuel to work to make earns meat. Things

have been so tough that we can't wait to see you come to rescue us.

5) This clarion call is a communal labor exercise and so we are calling on all well-meaning Ghanaians to join u

In Conclusion, we the joint coalition of Unions and Association are by this Petition earnestly requesting your Excellency to consider the various points raised in this petition and do the needful by heeding to the heartfelt clarion call of all Ghanaians who seek the Peace and Prosperity of our dear Nation, Ghana, whose Citizens are yearning for that crucial 'change that would bring a Radical Paradigm Shift in the Ghanaian Economy.

We believe JM knows the Road and we're happy to follow the one who knows the Road. May the good Lord bless our homeland Ghana and make our Nation great and strong again.

Signed

Joint coalition of Unions and Association.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Protestors In Rabat Condemn Multinational Retailer For Links With Firms Complicit In Israeli War Crimes

Security personnel have repressed a sit-in organized by progressive forces and the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement's national campaign in Morocco's capital city of Rabat. The protest was called against French multinational retail corporation Carrefour and its complicity in Israel's settler-colonial apartheid regime. Protestors gathered outside a Carrefour building in Rabat, waiving the Palestinian flag and raising slogans of solidarity. However, they were soon violently shoved back by uniformed guards and a non-uniformed man carrying a walkie talkie. Videos from the protest also show police personnel present at the site.

In March 2022, Carrefour, which owns or franchises nearly 14,000 stores across the world, announced a [new franchise agreement](#) with Israeli company Electra Consumer Products and its subsidiary Yenot Bitan, a supermarket chain.

In November, seven prominent

French and Palestinian trade unions and NGOs published a [report](#) detailing how Carrefour had ignored both French and international legal and ethical obligations by partnering with companies that are "direct and indirect actors in the colonization of Palestine by Israel, a war crime condemned by the UN." Yenot Bitan is known to operate in at least three illegal Israeli settlements—Ariel, Alfei Menashe, and Maaleh Adumim. Not only that, it is known to source produce from at least one settlement in the occupied West Bank and another in the occupied Golan Heights in Syria. It also sells products from Israeli companies that are either directly [manufacturing](#) or sourcing their products from illegal West Bank settlements.

The links to occupation and settler-colonialism don't end there. Yenot Bitan's parent company, Electra Consumer Products, is itself owned

by Elco Limited, an Israeli holding company whose subsidiary Electra Limited is one of 112 companies involved in Israel's illegal settlements, as [documented](#) by the United Nations.

Electra Ltd. has been involved in the ongoing colonization of Palestinian land through the construction and maintenance of infrastructure including transport, housing, water distribution, and telecommunication systems, as well as providing services and supplies, including generators, to the Israeli occupation army. A month after the report was published, the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC) launched the [#BoycottCarrefour](#) campaign.

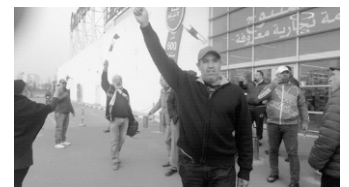
The company owns or operates stores across [10 cities](#) in Morocco.

Activists in Morocco have vehemently rejected international complicity in the colonization of

Palestine, including Rabat's normalization agreement with the Israeli occupation.

Over 650,000 Israeli settlers are present across 164 illegal settlements and 116 outposts across the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. Israel's far-right government has accelerated this project of colonization, having recently approved nine new outposts and announcing the construction of 10,000 housing units in the West Bank. Settlement expansion, which is already a war crime, has been accompanied by the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in the form of home demolitions and forced displacement, all of which constitute an act of "[domicide](#)," according to UN experts.

While Western corporations such as Carrefour continue to draw profits from this historical violence against the Palestinian people,



BDS Morocco and other groups protest against French multinational Carrefour in Rabat. BDS Morocco and other progressive forces held a protest outside French retail multinational Carrefour over its franchising deal with Israeli companies involved in illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories

their governments continue to provide diplomatic cover, allowing Israel to carry out these violations while issuing weak statements of condemnation.

On February 20, the UN Security Council was set to vote on a resolution demanding that Israel "immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory." Just days after expressing its "deep dismay" at settlement expansion, the US ultimately [stalled](#) the resolution, averting the vote on Monday.

Anti-War Groups Stage Protest Against Munich Security Conference



A pro-Kurdish contingent from the leftist rally in Munich (Photo: @KGK_News Twitter) The conference has been widely criticized for not supporting a negotiated settlement to end the war in Ukraine and instead encourages further military escalation

Anti-imperialist and leftist groups have protested in Munich, Germany against the ongoing 59th annual Munich Security Conference (MSC) which began on Friday February 17. Left-wing groups including the German Communist Party (DKP), Socialist German Workers Youth (SDAJ), and others marched in the city and

slammed MSC as the conference of warmongers. The mobilization saw the participation of tens of thousands of people who condemned the conference and called for peace. Anti-fascist groups also denounced the far-right groups who also organized protests in Munich on Saturday.

The Munich Security Conference is an annual conference on international security policy that has been organized in Munich since 1963. In this year's three day conference, around 700 delegates including US vice president Kamala Harris, UK PM Rishi Sunak, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron, and the leadership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the

European Union (EU) are participating. No representatives from Russia were invited. Deliberations over providing more funds, sophisticated arms, and ammunition to Ukraine to fight Russia have dominated the discussions so far. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the conference on Friday via video conference and requested to scale up the EU, US, and NATO support for Ukraine. Other topics on the agenda include climate change and cybersecurity. Meanwhile, anti-imperialist and workers' organizations in Germany have heavily criticized their

government's heavy political and financial investment in fueling the war effort in Ukraine, and its refusal to address the ongoing cost of living crisis in the country. Opinion polls also indicate that a majority of the German population supports immediate negotiations to end the war. Workers and their unions in public sector services and other sectors have already organized warning [strikes](#) this year demanding higher wages to cope up with soaring inflation.

On February 17, the day with MSC 2023 started, staff from aviation security, ground transport and the public service at seven German

airports, including Munich, went on [strike](#) demanding an increase in wages and more staff.

"The German government has actively cheered on this war and continues to do so. While we pay the bill, the EU coordinates and realizes arms deliveries," DKP and SDAJ wrote in a [statement](#). They highlighted that rather than seeking to build peace, politicians and representatives from the military and business sectors participating in MSC, are planning to prolong the war in Ukraine.

Afaglo Urges GES, Education Ministry To Address Low Pass Rate Of BECE Candidates

from front page

seeming fallen standard of education in the country.

According to some Ghanaians, this year's BECE results if not the worst in terms of pass rate in recent times, it will be among the lowest adding that many candidates failed woefully and cannot gain access to the senior high schools. Among the people speaking against this development is the Chief Executive Officer of Marrer Ghana Limited and Susagtd Boat Building, Mr. Novihoho Afaglo, who has described the phenomenon as a disgrace to the country's education system. Mr. Afaglo attributed this year's low BECE pass rate and

the general performance of education in the country to inconsistent policies and programmes by political leaders and lack of political will to develop the sector. He said from former President Kufour's era to the current government, there hasn't been a defined educational policy for basic schools to senior high schools as each political party continue to change duration and time for basic education. "I remember during the latter part of Kufour's administration, Senior High Schools duration was changed from three to four years but when late Professor John Evans Atta Mills and John

Dramani Mahama took over they changed it back," he stated. Mr. Afaglo revealed that for the past 20 years, there hasn't been any single year that teachers and university lecturers do not embark on a strike action because of bad conditions of service, book allowance, research allowance and others which invariably affect the growth of education in the country. On 2022 BECE results, he expressed his displeasure over the results attributing the low pass rate to lack of planned programmes and policies by the government and the Ghana Education Service to work out



modalities geared towards improving the falling standard of both BECE and West African Senior School Certificate Examination. He charged the GES and the

education ministry to be apt in their policies and work assiduously to ensure that education which is the gateway to development is properly given the necessary attention it deserves.

Towards Tackling Economic Needs

Hon Kumi Charges Youth Of Ayensuno To Have Faith In NDC

By Joseph Nana Yaw Cobbina

A businessman and a financier of opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) in the Ayensuno Constituency has advised the party's youth to have faith in the party.

Hon. Kwaku Kumi described President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo's led government as a failed one that has messed up the country's economy. According to him the only party that can turn round the fortunes of the country is the NDC and former President John Dramani Mahama. Speaking on the sidelines of the Amanase Bomukye and Cocoa festival held at Amanase in the Eastern Region, Hon Kwaku Kumi urged the youth in the Constituency not to give up but rather have confidence in the NDC and John Mahama. Hon Kwaku Kumi also called on the people to have hope in Hon Nana Yaw Teddy Addi (who is he)

adding that more good things are in the pipeline should the NDC recapture power in the upcoming 2024 general elections. "The youth must consider certain things in life rather than being too hasty to go in for ritual money and that should be the last thing they should think of as a short cut to survive in life" he noted. He advised the youth to exercise restraint in their day to day life and avoid the use of illicit drugs such as Tramadol, Wee and alcohol. According to him, he is ready to support Ayensuno youth in diverse ways to enable them achieve something meaningful in life. Hon Kwaku Kumi was optimistic that come what may the NDC will surely unseat the NPP to save the country from the bad



leadership and economic hardship imposed on Ghanaians by the NPP government. He wished the elders and entire community of Amanase a happy festival celebration. According to him, he has been hearing some jokes from the NPP that they're are going to break the eight years syndrome with the incompetent and economic hardship Ghanaians are going through and urged them to stop such jokes. The businessman donated an amount of five thousand Ghana Cedi cash for the Amanase community centre project and assured them that his door

Associating My Surname To Akufo-Addo For Nepotistic Reasons 'Irritating' - Sophia Akuffo

A former Chief Justice (CJ) of the Republic of Ghana, [Sophia Akuffo](#) has said she is irritated by association of her name 'Akuffo' with President [Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo](#)'s name. Speaking on UpFront on JoyNews restreamed by MyNewsGh.com, [Sophia Akuffo](#) said when people attach her name to the President "as though I have no merit or capacity, yes that irritates me but I don't let it bother me". The former CJ said she finds it "irritating" that people refer to her as a family member of the President for which she was appointed to be Chief Justice. The former top judge also spoke about her "ideology". "If you insist on ideology... which I thought was outdated after Communism... Maybe I can say I am egalitarian..." she revealed. She said she was first appointed to the Supreme Court straight from private practice by late former President John Rawlings before President Kufour appointed her to the African Court and President Akufo-Addo made her Chief

Justice. She said she cuts across as a "friend of everyone and an enemy to none". The National Democratic Congress (NDC) National Communications Bureau has severally accused the Akufo-Addo government of running a family members and friends government. The party released at the bureau's 6th edition of the Moment of Truth, a forum the party has used to comment on important issues of governance and government policies since 2018. But [Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo](#) later replied that he has only two family relatives in his Government. According to the President, all allegations leveled against him to be running a family and friend Government are not true. Nana Addo disclosed that one of the family relatives in his Government is Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta – the Finance Minister of the Republic of Ghana. "Mr. Ken Ofori Atta is my cousin." He said and added that Amoako-Atta, Roads Minister is also related to him.

Red Books Day 2023: Fight The Rise Of The Right, Read A Red Book

For the past several years, hundreds of thousands of people from social movements, left political parties, trade unions, and left publishers have celebrated the anniversary of the publishing of the Communist Manifesto on February 21 with "Red Books Day". The day celebrates "left books, their authors, and the people's movements they ushered forward". The day also aims to call attention to those movements, publishers, and activists who are increasingly facing attacks from the right wing.

This year marks the 175th anniversary of the text's publication. From India to Brazil, United States to Ghana, events have been organized to encourage the reading of red books and discussions about why they're important. The International Union of Left Publishers which launched the original call for Red Books Day, released this open letter about the day and what it means in our political context today.

We, the International Union of Left Publishers, call on all

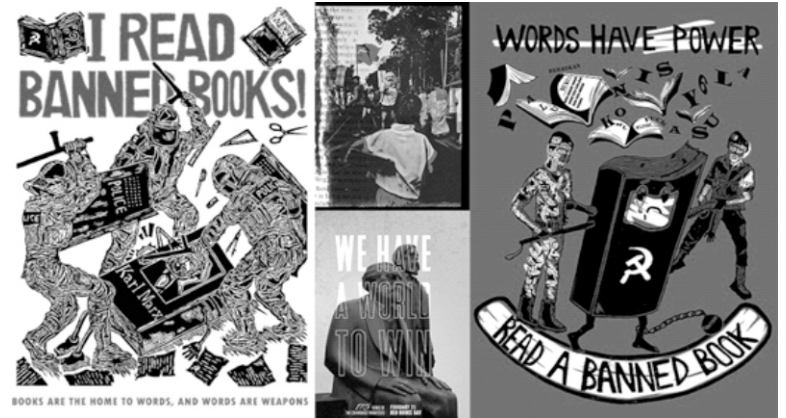
publishers, writers, booksellers, educators, students, workers, and all struggling people to join us on Red Books Day, February 21, 2023, in celebration of the living message of the Communist Manifesto and to stand with us in commitment to its call for unity.

Written in 1848, the Communist Manifesto represents the clarity of vision of two young men who witnessed the beginnings of the disaster that is capitalism and who dedicated their lives to uncovering its function, warning us of what is to come. But its reverberation around the world, we credit to the hundreds of millions, the named but vastly unnamed in every continent who gave everything to build the struggle for liberation, sovereignty, and socialism. The struggle of these millions has given the text a life of its own that continues to inspire all who insist on their rights, and conditions of a dignified life, and who build revolutionary movements today.

Facing the rise of the far right and the proliferation and diversity of its attacks against our writers, our thinkers, our spaces, and our people; and facing the suffocation of the publishing industry by global capitalist markets, we founded our

network on Red Books Day 2020 to launch a counteroffensive in the battle of ideas. Our weapons are left books that amplify the voices of ordinary people, and a strong network of comrades across all continents who are committed to an active practice of internationalist collaboration as we defend the ideas of the people across the world. These ideas, which represent the agenda of the vast majority of humanity, are a direct threat to the hegemony of global capitalism and imperialism. The right-wing forces, along with their ruling class backers, will continue to launch physical and ideological attacks in order to repress them. We, the IULP, refuse to allow the repression of the ideas that light the path for the future, and we draw our strength from the solidarity of our comrades and our people.

Communism may haunt the ruling classes like a spectre, those classes who clutch their profits in fear of those who produce them—but it is the banner, the flag that represents the march of the people of the world toward a future that we build with our own hands, according to our own



Art by members of the Young Socialist Artists group. The day is celebrated in dozens of countries to mark the anniversary of the publication of the Communist Manifesto and to collectively stand up against the rise of the right

needs, and that provides for all. Workers of the World Unite! Down with Imperialism, and Forward Socialism!

Signatures

1804 Books (United States)
Chintha Publishers (India)
Editorial El Colectivo (Argentina)
Editorial Trinchera (Venezuela)
Editorial Txalaparta (Basque Country/ País Vasco)
Estrella Roja (Venezuela)
Expressão Popular (Brazil)
IDEA (Romania)
Inkani Books (South Africa)
Instituto Simón Bolívar (Venezuela)
Janshakti Prakashan (India)
Kriya Madhyama (India)
LeftWord Books (India)

Mangroven Verlag (Germany)
Manifest Llibres (Catalonia)
Marjin Kiri (Indonesia)
Naked Punch (Lahore)
National Book Agency Private Limited (India)
Navatelangana Publishing House (India)
Navayug Prakashan (India)
Yordam Kitap (Turkey)
Red Star Press (Italy)
Uitgeverij EPO (Belgium)
Vadell hermanos Editores (Venezuela)
Vam Prakashan (India)
Vita Books (Nairobi, Kenya)
Založba /*cf (Slovenia)

To sign, please contact IULP here: <https://iulp.org/contact>

ASEPA Petitions CID To Arrest Rev Kusi Boateng

The Alliance for Social Equity and Public Accountability (ASEPA) has petitioned the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) of the [Ghana Police Service](#) to arrest Rev Victor Kusi Boateng, the secretary to the Board of Trustees of the National Cathedral of Ghana.

According to the alliance, evidence provided by the Member of Parliament for North Tongu shows that Rev Kusi Boateng, who is also known as Kwabena Adu Gyamfi, deceived public officials by presenting wrong information to them to acquire national documents.

ASEPA, in the petition which was sighted by the media, said that Rev Kusi Boateng's actions violate the Criminal and Other offences Act, 1960 (Act 29) and he has to be arrested and investigated.

"We have reasonable conviction that the respondent has violated various provisions of the Criminal and Other

Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29) specifically Sections 251, 215 and 132 relative to the Offences of; Deceiving a Public Officer-Section 251, Deceit of a Court by Personation- Section 215, Defrauding by False Pretences- Section 132

"For the avoidance of doubt, Section 251 of Act 29 read: A person commits a misdemeanour who, with intent to defeat, obstruct, or prevent the course of justice, or the due execution of the law, or evade the requirements of the law, or to defraud or injure a person, or to obtain or assist in or facilitate the obtaining of any passport, instrument, concession, appointment, permission or any other privilege or advantage, endeavours to deceive or to overreach a public officer acting in the execution of a public office or duty,

"... (a) by personation, or by a false

instrument, document, seal, signature, or (b) by a false statement, declaration or assurance, whether written or verbal or by a written or verbal statement, declaration or assurance which the person making the statement, declaration or assurance did not have good reason to believe to be true," parts of the petition which was issued by the Executive Director of the alliance read.

The group said that it is also worrying that Rev Kusi Boateng continues to use both identities without any repercussions.

It added that it is ready to assist the police with all the information it needs in the course of its investigation.

ASEPA petition comes after Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa released more documents of the secretary of the Board of Trustees of the National

Cathedral of Ghana, Rev Victor Kusi Boateng, who he has accused of operating a dual identity for criminal purposed.

The new documents released were contained in an explosive 85-page affidavit filed by Ablakwa's lawyers in opposition to the contempt application filed against him by Rev Kusi Boateng.

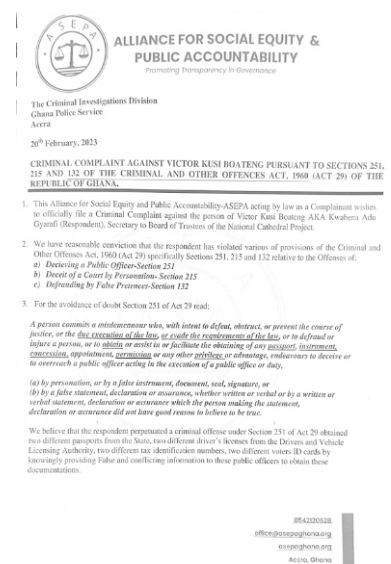
The new evidence included voter registration details and a list of companies registered under the name Rev Victor Kusi Boateng as well as companies registered under Kwabena Adu Gyamfi.

The lawyers exhibited Kusi Boateng's 2016 Voter's ID Card which is in the name Victor Kusi Boateng and his 2020 Voter's ID Card which is in the name Kwabena Adu Gyamfi with a different age.

They also presented documents

that showed that the pastor has registered eight companies under the name Adu Gyamfi with the Office of the Registrar of Companies and another eight under the name Rev Kusi Boateng.

This Is the full petition by ASEPA:



Lack Of Public Funding Of Political Parties' Major Cause Of Monetization, Says Prof. Ransford Gyampo

By Joseph Wemakor

Professor of Political Science at the University of Ghana, Ransford Edward Van Gyampo has identified the lack of public funding of political parties as a major challenge fueling monetization in Ghana, an act which has rocked the country becoming a major threat to its electoral policy and an affront to democracy. According to Gyampo, public funding of political parties would help create a level-playing field for all political parties and aspirants to set ceilings of expenditure for the judicious use of political parties to thrive in achieving electoral politics and lack of it is a bane exacerbating the phenomenon of monetization or moneyocracy which ought to be holistically dealt with. “We keep arguing about why political parties should be funded by the public. Look, it is in our own interest to fund political parties why? Because strong political parties are able to attract and build strong leaders”. “Strong leaders are able to work to transform our economies and to bring about development. Weak political parties will always attract weak people and weak people who do not have grasp over the challenges confronting us therefore will always not be able to fashion out proactive strategies to deal with our challenges”, Ransford Gyampo vividly posited.

The astute Professor made this known while delivering a keynote address at a public forum dubbed “Elections Dialogue” held in Accra at Teachers Hall on Wednesday February 15, 2023. The dialogue was initiated by the Care for Free and Fair Elections

Ghana (CARE GHANA) a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). It was aimed at helping to dissect the economic, security and the sociopolitical implications of vote-buying and selling on Ghana's democratic advancement. The forum which was conducted in hybrid format (in-person/virtual) brought together an audience from across all the political divides in the country, parliamentarians, leaders of various political parties, political groups, stakeholders, students, CSOs representatives and members of the general public. Addressing the forum, the Executive Director of 'CARE' GHANA, David Kumi Addo contends that Ghana's elections have been characterized by alleged and observed cases of vote buying/selling, also known as clientelism. He said vote buying/selling destroys one's choice to shape future decisions and that of generations to come, equally undermines one's fundamental rights as a citizen and one's individual choice of opinion and expression. He further referred to the canker as a breach of the secrecy of the vote and makes voters less of a human being and makes valueless the money spent for polling booths because it undermines the concept of secrecy of the vote. According to him, some schools of thought are of the opinion that, to curb this menace, the focus should be educating the instigators, that is, political parties and candidates while others are also of the view that, it will be more effective to concentrate on the recipient voters. Again, he revealed that other arguments also have it that a broader focus that educates and holds to account other actors such as Election Management Bodies (EC) and the judiciary is with

enormous potential to stop it. “Following this stance, this programme is aimed at providing a platform to scholars, policy-makers, media and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to fully examine the reinforcing role of political parties in electoral clientelism during intra-party elections and, by extension, national elections”, Mr. Addo stated. A member of parliament (MP) who shared an insight into the issues admitted to the fact vote buying/selling is real and permeates every aspect of our social life including within religious settings. The Member of Parliament of the Odododiodioo Constituency, Nii Lantey Vanderpuye, decried that although the phenomenon is a societal problem which is endemic yet the focus has been on the politicians and political actors as the perpetrators. “You see our social set up is such that people think the only way to be able to get to a position is by influencing the person who has the mandate and authority to put you there”, he alluded. While proffering a solution to the problem, he said, “the issue is that, society needs to accept the fact that these are not things we need to do to grow our society so if all of us will be able to be candid to try as much as possible to minimize its prevalence it'll help us”. Some other speakers who added their voices to the discussion include Elvis Afriyie Ankrach, Emmanuel Kwesi Anning, Director Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research, Ekow Vincent Assafuah, Rosina Kyerematen, Dean of Students University of Ghana, Michael Boadi (GII), Nana Yaa Jantua, General Secretary of CPP



Ransford Edward Van Gyampo speaking at the Election Dialogue forum

and Michael Nii Abbey, Programmes Coordinator, Frederick-Ebert-Stiftung Vote Buying/Selling is a phenomenon popularly referred to as moneyocracy or monetization in the Ghanaian electoral parlance.

It is a canker which is having a toll on Ghana's democracy and hampering development. Ghana's electoral success story has not fully yielded the expected democratic culture and improvement in the physical quality of human lives. This is so because elections and their outcomes have oftentimes been shaped by mind. Not for organizing the processes but for buying votes and the conscience of the voters and the electoral kingmakers. Today, it could cost up to 3 million Cedis to win just a seat as a member of parliament and about five-hundred thousand US dollars to win

a seat in a swing constituency. In the conduct of parliamentary primaries, delegates' accounts revealed some aspirants paid up to three-thousand Cedis per person according to corruption watch report of 2020. Similarly, one needs one (1) million of Cedis to bribe voters to be able to win an election that is held at the Inter-party level. But this is dependent on the area of the elections. It costs more in contesting an intra-party election in a stronghold than in an inter-party election in the same area. But in a swing area, one would spend more both at the intra and inter-party elections. Moneyocracy undermines the beauty of our democracy. Moneyocracy gives way to one person or an individual who can pay his/her out without actually having the full support/representing the vision of the larger population. Moneyocracy breeds social injustice, inefficiencies and corruption.

First Anniversary Of John Atta Mills Memorial Heritage Commemorated

The first anniversary of the establishment of the [John Evans Atta Mills](#) Memorial Heritage, which seeks to preserve his heritage and legacy has been commemorated in Accra. Dubbed: “J.E.A Mills Memorial Heritage “a non-profit, independent, non-partisan charitable organisation, established to promote President [John Evans Atta Mills](#)' unique view of society to strengthen democratic values and human development. It was established in 2021, a group of academics, professional colleagues, family members, friends, and former appointees of President [John Evans Atta Mills](#) conceptualised the creation of the J.E.A. Mills Memorial Heritage. A statement by J.E.A Mills Heritage, signed by Alexander Percival Segbefia, Chairman of the Heritage, said President [John Evans Atta Mills](#) passed on July 24, 2012, as the first and only President of Ghana to die while in office.

According to the statement, it was after five decades of distinguished public service to Ghana that Professor J.E.A Mills rose to become the President of Ghana. The statement said his “legacy of commitment to education and the pursuit of excellence, a legacy of devotion to the development of the youth through sports, and a legacy of deep respect for the political process”. According to the statement, February 2023 marks one year of the launch of the J.E.A. Mills Memorial Heritage. We are happy to announce, that during its first year of existence, the Memorial Heritage has lived up to its ideals and objectives. “After its incorporation and a successful launch on February 1, 2022, at the Cedi Conference Centre, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, the Memorial Heritage successfully organised lectures and other activities to commemorate

the 10th anniversary of the death of President [John Evans Atta Mills](#),” the statement revealed. It said the first 10th Anniversary Commemorative Regional Lecture was held for the Northern Sector comprising the Upper East, Upper West, Northern, North East and Savannah Regions at the Tamale Campus of the University of Development Studies on May 28, 2022. According to the statement, a publication titled, 'Atta Mills Speaks', a compilation of the four State of the Nation Addresses by President Mills from 2009 to 2012 was launched during the Ho lecture. “The highlight of the 10th-anniversary commemoration was the Annual Commemorative Lecture which was held on July 26, 2022, at the Accra International Conference Centre. The lecture was chaired by Nana Otuo Siriboe II, Omanhene of the Juaben

Traditional Area and Chairman of the Council of State of the Republic of Ghana and the Keynote speaker was an outstanding personality and revered legal luminary, Tsatsu Tsikata,” the statement revealed. “In its first year, the Memorial Heritage engaged in other activities related to our vision and objectives. These included, but were not limited to, the institution of awards to the overall best five sandwich students of the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS), a University established by President J.E.A. Mills in 2012 in fulfilment of his party, the NDC's 2008 Manifesto promise,” the statement revealed. According to the statement, the Memorial Heritage also supported the NDC to organise a wreath-laying ceremony at Asomdwee Park, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the death of President Mills on July 24, 2022. Earlier, on March 15, 2022, the Memorial Heritage appointed its



Late former President John Evans Atta Mills

Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is chaired by Togbe Afede XIV, the Agbogbomefia of the Asogli State of the Volta Region.

Greater Boston Fights For Justice For Bangladeshi Immigrant Killed By Police

By Natalia Marques

Just four days into the new year, 20-year-old Bangladeshi immigrant and student Arif Sayed Faisal was shot and killed by police in Cambridge, Massachusetts, after appearing to have a mental health crisis. The Cambridge Police Department was quick to call the killing an “officer-involved shooting,” using language that police departments across the US use to shift the blame off of officers who kill or maim civilians. Cambridge police claimed that Faisal advanced towards officers with a knife in hand, implying that the police had no choice but to shoot him dead.

Faisal's death sparked a level of movement that Cambridge city officials didn't expect, Suhail Purkar, a local activist and organizer with the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), told *Peoples Dispatch*. Purkar was a central organizer for a march of hundreds to the Cambridge Police Department headquarters on January 29, when protesters delivered a list of demands to police. These were: release the names of the officers and the unredacted police report; fire, indict, and convict the officers; fully fund alternative emergency response programs separate from the police; disarm and demilitarize the police; and reallocate police funding into community support and safety. Since the killing, Cambridge Police Commissioner Christine Elow made a point to describe the Cambridge Police Department's [high level of training](#) and claim that it is one of the [most progressive departments](#) in the country. “It goes to highlight that no amount of ‘training’ for the police, different curriculums, etc., are going to stop them from being an oppressive force and murdering people in the streets,” said Purkar.

“Initially [Cambridge authorities] were expecting both the Bangladeshi community and the Cambridge community at large, the Greater Boston community at large, to essentially just hold vigils, and paint murals, or basically make [the community response] something that's very

easy to ignore,” Purkar said. But Greater Boston immediately launched into a flurry of protest actions, fueled by the legacy of the anti-police brutality movement in the United States; the knowledge that, in 2022, US police killed more people than ever before; and the January 7 police killing of Tyre Nichols.

The movement for Faisal had international repercussions: demonstrators in Bangladesh protested the arrival of a US official in Dhaka, holding signs that read “Human Rights are violated in the US Today” and “Justice for Faisal.” Purkar, a young Indian immigrant and a resident of Somerville, a neighboring town, spoke to *Peoples Dispatch* about Faisal's case and the state of the movement. “This is actually something that's very personal to me,” he said. Purkar has lived in the greater Boston Area for two decades, and graduated from University of Massachusetts Boston, where Faisal was studying. Purkar also attends a mosque in the same affordable housing apartment complex that Faisal's parents live in. “It could have easily been me,” Purkar said.

“How many stories like that?”

A key demand of organizers is to release the names of the police officers responsible for Faisal's death, “so that we can investigate whether they have a history of racism, discrimination, and abuse of force,” said Purkar. Purkar compared the movement for justice for Faisal to the movement for [Tyre Nichols](#), a 29-year-old Black father beaten to death by Memphis police within a few days of when Faisal was killed. Protests against Nichols' murder [erupted](#) in the last weekend of January after the footage of his beating was released to the public. In Nichols' case, authorities in Memphis quickly fired, arrested, and charged five officers responsible for the beating, and disbanded the notorious “Scorpion Unit” that the officers were a part of. “When the names of the police officers who murdered Tyre Nichols were released, members from the community came forward in Memphis and they said, hey, we've been brutalized by these same



cops,” said Purkar. “We've been brutalized by the ‘Scorpion Unit,’ which has now been deactivated. [Scorpion has] a history of racism. They have a history of abuse of force. They have a history of brutalizing poor communities of color. How many stories like that [in Cambridge]? How many residents have been brutalized by these same officers in Cambridge that haven't come forward so far? So that's something that we really need to know.”

“It's shocking that in Memphis, the names of the officers have been released, that they were fired and that criminal charges were brought against them,” Purkar said. However, for Purkar, this rare move was not because of “altruism” or “the righteousness of their heart.” He believes that Memphis officials released the officers' names “they were scared of essentially another wave of upsurge against police brutality like we saw in this country in 2020.” The summer of 2020 saw the largest protest movement in US history following the police killing of George Floyd.

It is indeed rare that US police are charged with a crime as a result of a police killing—this has only happened in [2%](#) of such cases from 2013 to 2022. [According to the AP](#), when Derek Chauvin was found guilty for the killing of George Floyd, he was only the eighth police officer to be convicted of murder since 2005, despite the thousands of deaths at the hands of police in the US every year.

“It's only because there has been such public pressure, because activists, including the PSL and other community members, actually shut down their City Council meeting and said that you can't have business as

usual, that they started to even respond more,” said Purkar, referring to the [disruption](#) of the January 23 Cambridge City Council meeting. There has since been a second [disruption](#) by activists on Monday, February 6. “I can't tell you exactly why Cambridge hasn't released the names. But I think the motivating factor in Memphis was certainly that they were afraid of people expressing righteous indignation.”

Activists are also fighting to fire the officers responsible for Faisal's death. Immediately following the shooting, the officer who killed Faisal, who had eight years of experience on the police force, was placed on paid leave. “In no other profession on this planet can you murder somebody in broad daylight and then go on paid vacation the next day,” Purkar said.

“[Faisal's] family hasn't received restitution, they haven't received reparations,” Purkar said. “They're grieving. They're a very working class family. So that's a central demand, to fire these officers right away, to not have these killer cops still working as public servants.”

Another demand is to prosecute the officers responsible, charge them, and convict them. “Those five officers [who killed Tyre Nichols], they have been imprisoned already and criminal charges have been brought forth against them. And that's exactly what needs to happen in this case. And every case as well,” Purkar said.

A “cover-up” in progress

In response to the actions to demand justice for Faisal, eight days after Faisal's murder, Cambridge city officials held what they called a “community meeting” to share the results of their own investigation into the incident with the public. The meeting was attended by the Police Commissioner Christine Elow, City Manager Yi-An

Huang, Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, and other members of the Cambridge City Council. Hundreds of residents of the Greater Boston community gathered to demand transparency regarding Faisal's killing.

At this meeting, Elow and Huang responded to these demands by claiming that there was a city policy preventing officials from releasing the names of the police officers responsible. The response was not acceptable for protesters who, according to Purkar, argued that the policy should be changed, “Policies are made by human beings,” he added.

“The whole world knows that George Floyd was killed by Derek Chauvin. We deserve to know who killed our brother!” Sharik Purkar, another Greater Boston anti-police brutality activist, addressing officials at the meeting on January 12. “You are the people with the power to make the policy. Supposedly you reflect our will. Do we wanna know who killed our brother?” The gathered crowd responded with a resounding “yes!” Elow [told](#) the assembled crowd that the police department must wait for the internal investigation into Faisal's murder to complete.

Six days later, city officials met at a special session of the City Council on January 18. At this meeting, both Elow and Huang appeared to directly contradict their assertion that not releasing the officers' names was an official city policy.

Mayor Siddiqui directly asked Commissioner Elow at the Council meeting, “We believe we heard at the community meeting that it was city policy not to reveal the officer's name after the investigation is completed. Is this a policy passed by the previous Council, Cambridge Police Department policy, or part of the union contract?” To which the Commissioner admitted, “It's not a policy that is in writing, it has been past practice not to release names. There is no uniform, agreed upon standard.”

“It's more of a practice, and not a policy,” Elow said. Purkar said that Elow's admission, appearing to contradict what was said on January 12, came as a result of public pressure by activists. At the City Council meeting, Elow essentially confessed that officials simply “don't want to release the names,” Purkar