



13th March, 2023.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Military Brutality in Ghana Must Stop: A Statement from the Accra Collective of the Socialist Movement of Ghana.

The report of military brutality against civilians in Ashaiman on the dawn of Tuesday, Tuesday, 7 March 2023 are deeply concerning to the Accra Collective of the Socialist Movement of Ghana. We have received reports of military personnel using excessive force against civilians, including beatings, arbitrary detention, and torture. Such actions violate international human rights law and must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

The use of military force against civilians is a clear violation of Ghana's Constitution, which protects the right to life, freedom from torture, and the right to a fair trial. Military personnel are bound by these laws and must be held accountable for any violations they commit.

According to media reports, the Military High Command deployed personnel into Ashaiman to search for some residents who were alleged to have killed a soldier. This unfortunately led to innocent civilians facing brutality from the military personnel. A series of human rights abuses involving but not limited to flogging, making some people eat cow dung, restricting the free movement of residents, and raiding homes were meted out to the people of the Ashaiman. Innocent people have been hurt both physically and psychologically due to this barbaric incident.

This in no way reflects the mandate of the military, which is to be equipped and maintained to perform their role of defence of Ghana as well as such other functions for the development of Ghana as the President may determine, according to the 1992 constitution of Ghana in Article 210 Clause (3). The Ghana Armed Forces regulations, Armed Forces Act, 1962 Act 105 places obligations on military officers as defenders of the nation. It obliges them not to interfere with the rights of other citizens.

The Accra Collective of the Socialist Movement of Ghana condemns all forms of violence and human rights abuses and condemns the violence meted out by the military on civilians. We



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call on the military to take a step back and allow the Ghana Police Service to conduct thorough investigations into the unfortunate killing of the soldier.

We would like to respectfully remind the President of Ghana, who is the Commander in Chief of the Ghana Armed Forces, the Ministers of Defence and Interior, the leadership of the Ghana Armed Forces, and the Ghana Police Service, that they must promptly, independently, thoroughly, and efficaciously investigate this unfortunate incident.

Our collective is calling for an independent investigation, as a matter of urgency, to ensure that the military personnel involved in carrying out the human rights abuses in Ashaiman are held accountable and that adequate compensation is given to the victims.

We stand in solidarity with all those who have been affected by military brutality in Ashaiman.

Blaise Tulo Jr.

Convener,

Accra-Collective Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG)