



10th October, 2023.

STATEMENT ON NPP INTIMIDATION OF UTV WORKERS

The Socialist Movement of Ghana condemns the NPP's growing resort to intimidation and repression of the Media and indeed ordinary citizens - especially the UTV case.

In the UTV case, firstly, one William Yamoah, NPP Finance and Administration Director, wrote formally to the Station demanding that they "reform" UTV's United Showbiz programme (to make it more palatable to the NPP). Secondly, one Edward Mandela Wiafe (NPP Greater Accra Regional Deputy Youth Organiser) accompanied by some 30-odd suspected members of the NPP launched a physical invasion of the Station on Saturday, 7th of October. The marauders again demanded the restructuring of programme panels (to remove persons they deem critical of the NPP Administration and insert people more "representatives" of their views). This assault disrupted station programming and placed Station workers in fear for their security.

NPP's attack on UTV can not be dismissed as the intemperate misdeeds of a few misguided individuals. It is the latest in a string of broad-daylight strong-arm tactics deployed by the Government and the NPP to ram their views down society's collective "throat". We have commented in the past on the growing sponsorship of militias by the Akufo-Addo Government and its shameful treatment of the Emil Shorte report on political violence. We note the recent vicious attacks on NPP members during their September "super-delegates" primaries in the Upper West Region. We note that to date neither NPP nor the Akufo-Addo Administration has condemned this thuggery despite the damage it has done in terms of the open split in their Party. We also note that no responsible state agency appears **willing** to investigate this event and that the Peace Council remains impotently silent. We recently commented publicly also on State attacks on demonstrators and journalists at the recent "Julorbi" demonstrations in Accra. There are sadly many more examples of this NPP intolerance that contextualize the assault on UTV.

The pattern we see is an assault on democratic rights. The ruling elite seeks to prevent the exposure of its **weaknesses**. It seeks to demobilize the increasingly angry and disgusted Working people and the Youth and Women who suffer the harshest consequences of NPP misrule. It fears the possibility that these social forces acting democratically will rise to sweep away their unlawful decadence and usher in a new and better societal governance.

Indeed, this pattern of undemocratic lawlessness is not simply about the NPP and the Ghanaian masses. There is a global crisis of elite repression. This reflects the economic, social, and ethical collapse of global capitalism and its inability to give the People what we need in terms of decent work, basic needs like housing, healthcare,

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education, decent recreation, and dignity. Repression has become “standard operating procedure” for neo-colonial regimes around the world.

For example, within the last week we have drawn attention to the shameless crackdown by the BJP administration in India on progressive media - "Newsclick" and Tri-Continental Research Services over trumped up national security offenses, when indeed these news houses have simply exposed the depths of the chauvinist and anti-People agenda of the BJP. Similar crackdowns have characterized the political process throughout West Africa and explained the unrest that has led to military takeovers in some Sahal countries. We have just in the last few days seen the eruption of a new and terrible phase in the Palestinian struggle against Israel's Apartheid occupation of Palestine.

This world-wide repression is doomed to fail. Just as the NPP's tactics are failing and mobilizing even more of our Youth into street protests.

We congratulate the youth and call on them to remain fearless in the retrieval and protection of our democratic rights.

We congratulate the Ghana Journalists Association for its forthright stance on the UTV attack and the mealy-mouthed response of both the Akufo-Addo administration and the NPP as a party. We call on GJA to broaden the scope of its critique to address the problem as a pathology of imperialism and not just wayward local politicians.

We call on the Akufo-Addo administration to check its agents and supporters and operate within the ambit of the spirit and letter of the Constitution. We call for swift independent investigation of all allegations of political violence and intimidation and appropriate punishments for offenders.

We call on the social Establishment - religious and cultural institutions and the Ghana Peace Council to call the ruling Party and the State to order and to demand that it exercises restraint in dealing with all protesters.

Long live democracy!

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for General Secretary

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