

## 'WE'RE SUFFERING, DYING'

### Aggrieved Gold Coast Customers Cry Out; Picket At Finance Ministry To Demand Locked Up Funds From Govt



**H**undreds of Aggrieved Customers of the erstwhile Gold Coast Fund Management now Blackshield Fund Management Limited yesterday commenced a 48-hour picketing at the Ministry of Finance to demand all their locked up funds from the government. The angry Gold Coast Customers most of whom are pensioners and were clad in red with arm and head bands holding placards with the inscription "Our hard earned money stolen from us", "We're suffering, investing in our children's school fees not a crime", "We are tied and dying, pay us now" among others said they would collect every pesewa owed them. The group has for the past five years demanded payment of all locked up

*cont. on pages 6&7*

### SMG Condemns NPP Attack, Intimidation Of UTV Workers

**T**he Socialist Movement of Ghana has vehemently condemned the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) for its attack on United Television (UTV), a private television station in

*cont. on page 5*

### Leave Ellembele MP Out Of Evalue-Ajomoro -Gwira Upcoming NDC Primaries Saga — NDC Supporters Tell Emmanuel Ennor Kofi, Others



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## Palestine

### Gamal Nasser To Speak On Real Situation As World Stands With Palestinian Struggle



**D**r Gamal Nasser Adam, an academic and scholar will the Islamic University College in Accra will this week address a public forum on the real situation in occupied Palestinian territories by Israeli forces.

Dr Adam Nasser is expected to provide insight into the extent of land grab, destruction of Palestinian homes, farms and livelihoods, the daily atrocities and massacres committed by Israeli occupation forces backed by the United

*cont. on page 3*

### Death Penalty: Sosu Writes To President Nana Akufo-Addo Over Plight Of 181 Prisoners

page 8

# The INSIGHT

## EDITORIAL

### HANDS OFF OUR FORESTS!

**T**he continued degradation of the country's lands, forests and ecosystem is very worrying.

This is in spite of warning from environmentalists about the dangers associated with continued deterioration of the country's natural reserve due to exploitation of natural resources.

Some months ago, a group of professors renewed the warning to government about attempts to allow the forest to be exploited for its bauxite.

The warning was as a result of the fact that most river bodies generate their source of water from the Atiwa Forest reserve.

That warning has not been heeded and there are clear indications that the engineers will soon enter the forest.

There are also some forests which are facing similar such threats.

The World Bank recently cautioned Ghana against the continuous wanton degradation of its land, forest and other natural resources warning that the country risked not achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15, which is protecting the ecosystem to promote biodiversity.

It is the hope of this paper that somebody somewhere would see wisdom in taking steps to stop the land degradation and reverse the trend by embarking on reforestation to win back degraded lands and forests.

There is clearly the need, in the face of the facts presented, for the government to hands off the Atiwa forest and other natural resource.

## NPP May 'Collapse' Before 2024 Elections - Atik Mohammed Warns



*Atik Mohammed, convener of Mass Action Committee*

**A**tik Mohammed has cautioned the governing New Patriotic Party to call their presidential aspirant, Kennedy Agyapong and the Ashanti Regional Chairman, Bernard Antwi Bosiako alias Chairman Wontumi, to order or else the party may regret before the 2024 elections.

The former PNC General Secretary admonished the leadership of the party to put their house in order, stressing if they don't, the party may collapse due to the unbridled behavior of some of the leading members, particularly the aforementioned names.

He noted that the threats and counter threats issued to one another are unhealthy and a canker to the NPP.

"All these show there is a serious, serious leadership vacuum in the NPP . . . These are isolated manifestations of the deep-seated power vacuum or the leadership vacuum I'm talking about and the earlier they dealt with it, the better for them," he stated on Peace FM's morning show "Kokrokoo".

He opined that the NPP, contrary to popular views that it is an elite party, "now it's been taken over by those who can shout the loudest, those who can claim they have money and those who can insult the more. That's what the NPP has been reduced to and we have seen that

manifest in these elections or in these campaigns".

Atik warned the NPP saying, "they are going into an election and their primaries preceding the elections can collapse the party before even the main election and there seems not to be a figurehead calling everybody to order . . . a lot needs to be done in the NPP, otherwise before 2024, it will be difficult to refer to that entity as the political party they set up".

Source -- [peacefmonline.com](http://peacefmonline.com)

## THE INSIGHT

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# Palestine

## Gamal Nasser To Speak On Real Situation As World Stands With Palestinian Struggle



Thousands rally in Times Square in solidarity with Palestine (Photo: ANSWER Coalition). Peoples across the globe have organized rallies in support of Palestine as Israeli forces besiege the Gaza strip following Hamas' massive armed operation into Israel

from front page

States (US) and some western allies contrary to what the world has been made to understand, thus culminating in the historic and unprecedented retaliatory attacks by Hamas last Saturday.

The forum which is under the auspices of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and the Accra Collective of the Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) will take place at the Freedom Centre, Kokomlemle in Accra on Thursday October 12, 2023 at 5.00 pm.

The programme will be chaired by Comrade Kwesi Pratt Jnr., General Secretary of the Socialist Movement of Ghana.

Several progressives and activists are expected to attend the forum.

Meanwhile, Israel's brutal response to the Hamas-led surprise offensive operation, has been met with sharp condemnation from people across the world. Mass protests have taken place in dozens of cities globally in support of the Palestinian cause and to condemn the disproportionate escalation by Israel.

On October 9, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant harshened existing measures against Gaza when he announced a "complete blockade" of the enclave following the launch of the offensive by Palestinian resistance groups. In Gaza, there is to be "no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed," Gallant said in a televised address. He also called Palestinians "human animals." News reports claim that Israel is using the illegal chemical weapon white phosphorus against Palestinians.

Despite these clear violations of international humanitarian law, heads of state from across the global north have pledged complete

support to Israel and harshly condemned resistance actions by Palestinians, with some deeming the actions as "terrorist".

**US, stop funding Israel's crimes!**

Amid the intensification of the violence, thousands took to the streets in cities across the United States, including [San Francisco](#), [Chicago](#), [Tampa](#), [Los Angeles](#), and [Atlanta](#) on October 8. The United States is the number one funder of Israel, sending an average of USD 4 billion each year to the occupier. A rally in Times Square, organized by the ANSWER Coalition, the Palestinian Youth Movement, Al Awda NY, and others, drew particular attention of New York politicians. The Governor of New York, Kathy Hochul, [tweeted](#) a day ahead of the rally started, "The people of Israel are facing violent terrorist attacks and civilian kidnappings. I condemn plans to rally in Times Square tomorrow in support of the perpetrators of these horrific actions. The planned rally is abhorrent and morally repugnant."

The Peoples Forum [responded](#) to Hochul with worries that such statements sanction violent counter protesters. "We condemn the reckless comments of Gov. Hochul inciting hatred against our constitutional right to protest," the organization wrote. "Resistance against oppression & apartheid is a fundamental right of the Palestinians. We stand with them in their just struggle."

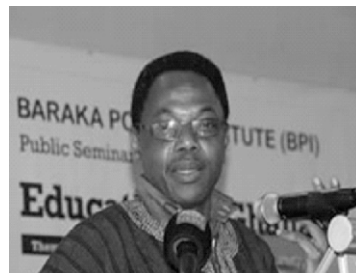
NYC Mayor Eric Adams also condemned the rally, [writing](#), "At a moment when innocent people are being slaughtered and children kidnapped in Israel, it is disgusting that this group of extremists would show support for terrorism. I reject this." Bronx Congressman Ritchie Torres attributed the organization of the rally to the Democratic Socialists of America and proceeded to attack the organization [writing](#), "The DSA is calling for the destruction of the Jewish State amid the largest single-day massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. When it comes to the butchering and kidnapping of Israeli civilians and children, the DSA

leadership has no shame. No decency. No humanity. Only hate."

Even still, NYC authorities took measures to impede the advance of the march. The New York Police Department prevented the rally's organizers from using any form of amplified sound, and prevented the march from taking the streets despite thousands participating—highly unusual for protest actions in the city. Following a similar protest in Tampa, Florida, ultra-right wing Governor Ron DeSantis denounced the rally in the city, and also in Fort Lauderdale.

"Hamas is a terrorist group that is dedicated to the destruction of Israel and commits atrocities to further that end," he [wrote](#).

A rally also took place on Saturday in Washington, DC, where protesters led chants such as, "They got tanks, we got hang gliders, glory to resistance fighters," referring to Palestinian freedom fighters entering Israel



on hang gliders.

In mainstream coverage of the rally, *The Washington Post* [edited out](#) all mention of Palestine to "Palestinian territories," altering the title of the event from "All out for Palestine" to "All out for Palestinian Territories." One of the supporting organizations had its name changed from Maryland 2 Palestine to Maryland 2 Palestinian Territories. In defending these changes, a Washington Post copy editor seemed to [tacitly admit](#) that there is an autocorrect function at the publication that changes the word "Palestine" to "Palestinian territories."

**¡Viva Palestina libre!**

In West Asia and North Africa, thousands took to the streets to

## Ghana's Democracy Is Threatened – Sammy Gyamfi

The Communication Officer for the opposition [National Democratic Congress](#) (NDC), [Sammy Gyamfi](#), has lamented about the state of Ghana's democracy.

According to [Sammy Gyamfi](#), Ghana's democracy is currently threatened due to the number of attacks on people with opposing views in the country.

The NDC's communication officer, who was speaking on this week's episode of Legal Agenda on [GhanaWeb](#) TV, further shared that Ghana's democracy is under threat because of the ruling government, the NPP.

This, [Sammy Gyamfi](#) explained, is because the youth cannot express their grievances or protest against the government of the day without being attacked or manhandled. [Sammy Gyamfi](#)'s comments also come on the back of the arrests which many lawyers term as illegal but characterised the three-day #OccupyJulorbiHouse protest. "The sad reality is that today, our



**Communication Officer for the NDC, Sammy Gyamfi**

democracy as a country is threatened, and it is threatened because of the kind of government we have. A government that is suppressing dissent and oppressing opposing, you know, persons in the country. Persons who disagree with him. Persons who are opposed to them. And so, consistently, you've seen harassment of political opponents; you've [seen] the harassment of the media and now, we are seeing the harassment of innocent citizens, including young people who are dissatisfied with the management or if you like the administration of this country. "They are dissatisfied and disillusioned by the misrule and the mis-governance, the

support Palestine. In Tehran, hundreds gathered at a central square named "Palestine" in a show of support.

People also took to the streets waving Palestinian flags in [Istanbul](#), [Sanaa](#), [Tunis](#), [Beirut](#). Hundreds also rallied in [Kuwait](#) and [Morocco](#).

In Bolivia, a crowd [gathered outside](#) of the US Embassy in La Paz, expressing solidarity with Palestine, holding signs with slogans such as "It's not terrorism, it's self defense."

In London, hundreds gathered outside of the Israeli embassy in London in support of the resistance.

On October 9, hundreds marched in solidarity with Palestine in Sydney, Australia, organized by the Palestine Action Group Sydney. Demonstrators marched from Town Hall to the Sydney Opera House, which is scheduled to light up in white and blue in support of Israeli occupation. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese [denounced](#) the march, saying on Sydney radio 2GB, "I absolutely believe [the march] should not [go ahead]. I think people need to really take a step back."

maladministration of the Akufo-Addo-Bawumia-NPP government, and they want to vent their frustrations, and they want to do so through peaceful protests, and yet, you see—impediments being put in their way by the government and institutions which are supposed to protect us. The just-ended #OccupyJulorbiHouse is a classical example," [Sammy Gyamfi](#) told the host of Legal Agenda, Matilda Boateng Nartey. Ghana's democracy is one that has come under scrutiny with time.

This is due to several arrests that have been witnessed by individuals who spoke against the ruling government. The most recent of such arrests was the arrest of 49 participants of the just-ended #OccupyJulorbiHouse protest. The victims of the arrest, however, were released on the same day of their detention.





# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Israel To Impose Total Blockade Of Gaza As Air Strikes Continue

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on Monday [announced](#) a “complete blockade” of Gaza and said that “there will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed.” In his announcement Gallant stated: “We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly.” Gaza is one of the world's most densely populated areas with a population of 2.3 million. The defense minister's declarations come just one day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu formally declared war on Hamas. Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes have continued to carry out indiscriminate bombings across the Gaza strip, targeting schools, mosques, civilian buildings. Israeli media reported on Monday that at least 1,000 tons of explosives have been dropped on Gaza, targeting [500 locations](#), mostly civilian residential areas.

According to latest from the [Palestinian Ministry of Health](#), a total of 560 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli airstrikes in Gaza since Saturday, including at least 91 children. Over 2,900 Palestinians, including 244 children, have also been injured. The Israeli bombings in Khan Younis and Rafah in the early morning of Monday led to the death of entire

families.

The United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) claimed that Israel targeted a school run by them in the Gaza strip which was used as a shelter for people displaced due to the Israeli airstrikes.

According to the UN, over 123,000 Gazans have been displaced following Israeli attacks. The UN [Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(OCHA\)](#) stated that around 73,000 Palestinians have taken shelter in school buildings inside Gaza.

There were also unverified reports of Israeli forces [allegedly using](#) white phosphorus during the bombings on Monday. The use of the substance is banned under international law. Meanwhile, Palestinian resistance groups continue to advance with Operation Al-Aqsa Flood. The total number of Israelis killed since the operation was launched early on Saturday has crossed 800, with over 2,243 injured. **Fighting in multiple locations** Several Israeli settlements are witnessing heavy fighting between

the Palestinian resistance and the Israeli ground forces. According to the *Times of Israel*, fighting was ongoing in at least seven or eight locations inside the 1948 borders early Monday morning. The newspaper later [reported](#) Israeli forces claim that they had taken control of all these towns and settlements from the Palestinian fighters.

Fighting was still ongoing in Sderot, which was first attacked by the Palestinian resistance on Saturday, with several Israeli casualties reported.

According to *Al-Jazeera*, Israel has amassed over 100,000 reserve troops in preparation for a ground offensive on Gaza. Palestinian resistance forces claimed on Monday that they have captured at least 130 Israeli troops and citizens who are being held hostage and may be exchanged for Palestinian prisoners inside Israeli jails. There are over 5,000 Palestinians are currently being held in different Israeli jails.

**World community cannot ignore Israel's colonial and racial agenda** During a special session of the UN Security Council on Sunday, Palestinian ambassador to the UN Riyad Mansour questioned the

stance taken by some countries and media houses regarding Israel's so-called “right to defend,” saying that it was a wrong understanding of history which only starts when Israelis are hurt.

The UNSC [did not decide](#) on any immediate course of action due to disagreements among the permanent members. While the US demanded condemnation of Hamas' actions, the Russian and Chinese ambassadors refused to issue any blanket condemnation naming Hamas and instead demanded an immediate ceasefire and the start of a peace process which has been stalled for decades.

Mansour reiterated that Palestinians have been enduring Israeli atrocities for decades, which is never acknowledged, while repeated Palestinian pleas to the UN are ignored. “When Israel now tries to justify yet another assault (on Gaza) by the same faulty premise, no one should say or do anything to encourage it down this path. We know only too well that the messages about 'Israel's right to defend itself' will be interpreted by Israel as a license to kill, to pursue the very path that led us



here,” he added. Mansour also demanded accountability from international organizations who he said have repeatedly failed to hold Israel accountable for violating international laws. “You cannot say 'nothing justifies killing Israelis' and then provide justifications for killing Palestinians. We are not sub-humans. We will never accept rhetoric that denigrates our humanity and reneges our rights. A rhetoric that ignores the occupation of our land and oppression of our people.” He also questions countries like the US which have expressed support to Israel, asking them how they could ignore Israel's colonialist and racist agenda.

Meanwhile, the US has decided to move its *USS Gerald R Ford* carrier strike group closer to the Mediterranean to provide support to the Israeli armed forces.

### Biden Backs Out On Campaign Promise, Announces Expansion Of US-Mexico Border Wall

By Amanda Yee

On Thursday, October 5, the Biden administration announced that it would be expanding the South Texas border wall in order to deter migrants crossing into the United States from Mexico. In a sweeping move of executive power, [Biden waived 26 federal laws](#)—including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act—to facilitate the construction of 20 additional miles of the border wall in the Rio Grande Valley, an area which has seen 245,000 “illegal” crossings in the current fiscal year, according to [the Department of Homeland Security](#). The waiver of these federal laws expedites the planned expansion, allowing the administration to circumvent onerous reviews and time-consuming lawsuits that could challenge the border wall's construction.

This move comes despite Biden's own 2020 campaign promise that “[there will not be another foot of \[border\] wall constructed](#)” if elected. And once in office, Biden issued a proclamation



in January 2021 [pledging that](#) “It shall be the policy of my Administration that no more American taxpayer dollars be diverted to construct a border wall.”

Biden defended the administration's decision, claiming the funds were already allocated from a 2019 congressional appropriation and that his hands were tied.

“The money was appropriated for the border wall,” [Biden said](#). “I tried to get them to reappropriate, to redirect that money. They didn't. They wouldn't. In the meantime, there's nothing under the law other than they have to use the money for what it was appropriated for. I can't stop that.”

According to a [2022 Jama Surgery report](#), the border wall has directly resulted in an “unprecedented

increase” in injuries and deaths as migrants attempt to scale the barrier, with the [University of California San Diego trauma center reporting](#) a five-time jump in the number of “high severity injuries” since 2019.

**“We're being stabbed in the back”** Environmental rights activists met Biden's announcement with quick condemnation.

In an [open letter](#) denouncing the move, environmental political action organization Sunrise Movement wrote, “The Biden Admin's Department of Homeland Security (DHS) plans to fast-track their border wall construction will not only create dangerous conditions for migrants seeking refuge in the US, but will also trample protections for clean water, Indigenous graves, and endangered species.”

“Similar border walls have already caused countless deaths as well as irreversible ecological damage across our southern border by impeding the natural migrations of people and wildlife,” the letter continued. “The Biden Administration must take immediate action to reverse this

decision and stop any further construction of the border wall.” The Biden administration's announcement comes just one month after [a report issued by the Government Accountability Office](#), which found that the construction of the border wall under the Trump administration had wreaked “irreparable” damage to the surrounding environment. This damage included permanently altering migration patterns of wildlife such as the endangered ocelot, putting it at even greater risk of extinction; wiping out native vegetation such as the saguaro cactus; and disrupting important Indigenous cultural sites and burial grounds.

Other migrant rights activists also noted that Biden's expansion of the border wall was not a departure from the Democrats' immigration policy, but merely a logical continuation of it. “Biden militarizing [the] border wall and, in doing so, trampling Indigenous sovereignty, endangering migrants, and hurting ecosystems is not just a 'Trumpian' move,” stated Canadian organizer

and writer [Harsha Walia](#) on X. “It actually follows in [the] legacy of Democrats like Obama and Clinton—who first started [the] push to militarize [the] southern border.”

“Of course, likening it to Trump policies is useful to lay bare the hypocrisy,” Walia continued. “But also recall how key Dems have been to hardened borders: expanded detention and deportation, criminalizing migration, militarizing [the] border, and outsourcing of border enforcement to third countries.”

Still, many couldn't help but feel betrayed by Biden's announcement.

Nadya Alvarez, who spent years fighting a lawsuit which sought to seize her family's property to build the border wall during the Trump administration, told [The Guardian](#), “Biden didn't keep his promises—what happened to his word? We thought maybe we'd be OK with a Democrat as president, and now Biden did this. We're being stabbed in the back.”

# SMG Condemns NPP Attack, Intimidation Of UTV Workers

*from front page*

Accra, describing it as “growing resort to intimidation and repression of the Media and indeed ordinary citizens - especially the UTV case”. The SMG in a statement issued yesterday signed by Abdulhaq Ibrahim, on behalf of General Secretary of the organisation expressed concern about the unruly attack on the station noting that the incident gives cause for worry since it not the first and came in the wake of earlier warnings from the ruling party's stalwarts. “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)”. The statement noted that the NPP's

attack on UTV cannot be dismissed as the intemperate misdeeds of a few misguided individuals but the latest in a string of broad-daylight strong-arm tactics deployed by the Government and the party (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 Short 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 statement said. This is the full text of the

statement; **SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA (SMG)** 10<sup>th</sup> 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 cannot 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 Short 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, 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 Sahel 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!

Signed  
Abdulhaq Ibrahim  
For General Secretary

## Akufo-Addo, EC Are Preparing For A Dirty Fight In Election 2024 - Prof. Joshua Alabi



**Professor Joshua Alabi**

The former National Vice Chairman of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Professor [Joshua Alabi](#), has raised concerns about the upcoming 2024 elections, suggesting that President Nana Akufo-Addo and the [Electoral Commission](#) (EC) are preparing for a contentious battle to retain power. According to him, the posture of both the president and the EC suggests that they are going to play dirty in the elections. Professor Alabi, a seasoned

politician and academician, also called upon the youth to take an active role in shaping the future of Ghana, emphasising their potential to bring about meaningful change. “At the same time, the president's actions, pronouncements, and excuses coupled with the posture of the electoral commissioner suggest that they are not prepared to give up power easily. They are prepared for a very dirty fight. “This, therefore, marks the beginning of a powerful journey followed by passion and energy for our youth, the force that has the potential to reshape the very fabric of our party and the nation as a whole. Comrades, you are not merely the future; you are the driving force of the present.” Prof. Alabi also addressed the current economic challenges facing Ghana and the role of political leadership in addressing them. He referenced President Akufo-

Addo's statements about the government's inability to solve the economic problems it had allegedly created.

To him, the statement by the president gives the NDC the green light to capture power come 2024.

“The president has told the whole nation that he and his team are not capable of solving the economic mess that they have created and if his favourite candidate and possibly their flagbearer is a member of his team, then the signal is that Ghanaians must wait for the NDC.

“Bawumia is going to be the flagbearer and Bawumia is a member of his team, so what he is telling us is that wait for the NDC,” he added.



# Leave Ellembele MP Out Of Evalue-Ajomoro-Gwira Upcoming NDC Primaries Saga — NDC Supporters Tell Emmanuel Ennor Kofi, Others

Thousands of supporters of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in the Evalue-Ajomoro-Gwira Constituency of the Western Region have vehemently slammed the latest verbal attacks meted out to the Member of Parliament (MP) for Ellembele Constituency who doubles as the former Minister of Energy and Petroleum, Hon. Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah by some hooligan youth believed to be working for the Chairman of the Evalue-Ajomoro-Gwira Constituency of the NDC, Mr Emmanuel Ennor Kofi.

The embattled Chairman of the party, they noted, had formed these indisciplined youth group, ostensibly to attack the integrity of the sitting MP, Emmanuel Armah-Kofi Buah. According to them, Mr Kofi is alleged to have spearheaded the series of allegations and also sponsored the diabolic act of the young group simply because his wife, Madam Augustina Ama Tabuah Kwofie is contesting the sitting MP in the incoming Evalue-Ajomoro-Gwira constituency NDC parliamentary primaries scheduled to take place on Saturday October 28, 2023.

Fuming with anger at the embattled Ennor Kofi and his trouble makers group, the NDC supporters made up of key opinion leaders and top shots of the party in the area denied the wide spread allegations leveled against Armah-Kofi Buah to the effect that the MP has been sponsoring electioneering activities of the sitting Member of Parliament for Evalue-Ajomoro-Gwira Constituency, Hon. Kofi Arko Nokoe. They also rubbished the assertions that the current MP in the area has performed poorly with false claims that when he is voted to win the upcoming NDC primaries scheduled to take place Saturday October 28, 2023 to lead the party in the 2024 general elections, Honourable Nokoe would automatically lose the parliamentary seat to the New Patriotic Party (NPP).

The supporters of the NDC were responding to the allegations levelled against Armah-Kofi Buah by the youth group of the area led by some top capos of the NDC. The group accused the Ellembele MP of sponsoring campaign

activities of MP for Evalue-Ajomoro-Gwira Constituency to help him win the NDC upcoming parliamentary primaries in order for the Ellembele MP to have upper hand on their MP (Honourable Kofi Arko Nokoe) to score their political points. In a latest voice audio, the NDC Polling Station branch Chairman of Gwira Eshiem 1B, Mr Jonathan Anaman who is a close confidant of Mr Emmanuel Ennor Kofi was heard verbally attacking Armah-Kofi Buah and Kofi Arko Nokoe.

The visibly angry Jonathan Anaman singled out Armah-Kofi Buah taking him to the cleaner, warning his followers also to immediately stay away from the electoral activities of Evalue-Ajomoro-Gwira Constituency else he would incur their wrath. Jonathan Anaman who was described as a staunch member of the party in the area was heard saying that the NDC faithfuls in Ellembele and Evalue-Ajomoro-Gwira have demonstrated that they are the one holding the upcoming NDC primaries of the various constituencies which elections parliamentary candidates were put on hold by the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the NDC.

Mr Jonathan Anaman threatened in the audio that: "I am sounding warning to those who put their mind in the upcoming NDC primary to be making some unwanted and useless calls in regard to the upcoming NDC primaries to immediately stop that habit or else he would go ahead to expose them in the public."

He stressed that he was sounding the warning because the NDC should be aware that if the delegates make the mistake to vote for the incumbent NDC MP for the area for whom, Honourable Armah-Kofi Buah is sponsoring to win the primaries to lead the NDC in the 2024 polls, we will surely lose the seat to the NPP. He stressed that the supporters and members are scheming this evil agenda to ensure that the NDC loses its parliamentary seat to the NPP in the 2024 general elections to make the Evalue-Ajomoro-Gwira become an orphan constituency for the party. "You surely know or you are aware that if the current MP is voted to win the upcoming NDC primaries to lead the party, we are definitely going to

lose the parliamentary seat. You know all these yet, you are still going round imposing the MP on the delegates of the area.

Mr Jonathan stressed that Honourable Armah Kofi Buah and followers are pushing these plans so that when we lose the seat, we, the supporters of the NDC in the constituency come to beg him so that they continue to have an upper hand on us.

"If Kofi Buah develops the Ellembele Constituency well, does that mean we will be expecting Honourable Kofi Buah to come to develop Evalue-Ajomoro-Gwira for us?" No!

Jonathan Anaman is alleged to have stated in the audio which has gone viral.

But in a quick rebuttal, the supporters jumped to the defense of Kofi Buah and acknowledged the wonderful services the Ellembele MP has offered to the whole of Nzemaland and beyond.

They continued that Honourable Armah Kofi Buah's services in particular has pushed the developmental agenda of Gwira community forward.

According to them, the voice audio by Jonathan Anaman claiming that the MP of Ellembele is sponsoring Kofi Arko Nokoe is completely baseless and unfounded.

They stated categorically that Mr Jonathan Anaman defected from the ruling NPP in 2020 general elections, explaining that although

he was not qualified to contest for the NDC Polling Station Branch Executives position, the Chairman forced him in because he knew he was going to use him to cause confusing in Evalue -Ajomoro -Gwira. They indicated that their intent is to create disintegration in NDC to pave way for the return of Catherine Abelema Afeku so the Chairman can be in his questionable business which he is currently doing with Mr Jonathan and some other boys.

However, when contacted via telephone call on Monday October 9, 2023 to get his side of the story, the Evalue-Ajomoro-Gwira Constituency Chairman responded simply that: "I heard you but I am busy now and you can call me tomorrow."

## GREDA Raises Alarm Over Money Laundering In Real Estate Sector



GREDA's Executive Secretary Sammy Amegayibor

The Ghana Real Estate Developers Association (GREDA), the umbrella body of property developers, has bemoaned the influx of illicit money into the real-estate sector – describing it as alarming and with dire repercussions for the economy. With the banking sector having closed all the loopholes for money launderers, GREDA said the real estate sector – built or landed properties – is increasingly becoming a haven for people who have dishonestly acquired wealth; indicating a rapid rise of criminals purchasing high-value properties in recent years.

GREDA's Executive Secretary Sammy Amegayibor – who made the revelation to B&FT, stressed that this problem is not limited to only Ghana but the whole West African sub-region. Indeed, the disturbing phenomenon was reported on by the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) at a recent conference attended by actors in the real estate sector across West Africa.

Touching on causative factors, he highlighted that real-estate is an attractive target for money laundering due to its high value, low transparency and ease of ownership transfer. This makes it easier for criminals to use properties to store and move illicit funds without attracting much scrutiny.

"If you look at how the banks and other financial institutions operate these days, you will realise that they have tightened their systems; so, it is not easy for laundered money to pass through. This leaves the real-estate sector as the next frontier; we have noticed that people buy properties in the names of relatives and friends, making it difficult to trace the source and true beneficial owners," he said.

The presence of laundered money in the sector poses a significant problem for the economy. For instance, with criminals willing to pay any amount for estate properties, property prices in urban centres have skyrocketed over the last few years – making it nearly impossible for lower and middle-class workers to own a house or afford rent fees.

A perfect example of the impact from money laundering can be seen on the streets of Accra and other cities, where unoccupied high-rise buildings – purportedly acquired with illicit money – have become the order of the day. More worryingly, laundered money may have devastating social consequences and pose a threat to the security of any country, large or small. It provides fuel for drug dealers, terrorists, illegal arms dealers, corrupt public officials and all types of criminals to operate and expand their criminal activities.

"Money laundering fuels corruption and organised crimes, undermines the property market's integrity and contributes to rising property prices, making it more difficult for people to purchase homes," Mr. Amegayibor lamented.

According to the United Nations (UN) Office on Drugs and Crime,

an estimated US\$1.6trillion – or 2.7 percent of global GDP – is laundered each year, with a chunk of that figure finding its way into sub-Saharan Africa, SSA. It stated that due to loopholes in regulatory frameworks and a lack of collaboration between agencies and regulatory bodies, it has become easy for criminals to mingle dirty money with legitimate business transactions – making it difficult for law enforcement agencies to track and prove the crime.

**All-hands on deck**

To combat this problem, GREDA is advocating that regulators and real-estate professionals work together to implement better safeguards and rigorous detection mechanisms.

While he said GREDA is sensitising members to be conscious of the phenomenon and carry out thorough background checks on clients before embarking on any high-value transactions, he added that a collaborative effort is needed to prevent these illicit activities from continuing and to safeguard the real-estate sector's integrity.

Laundered money does not exist in only the real estate sector but almost all sectors of the economy, highlighting the urgency for collaboration to curb the flow of illicit money into the country.

"The need for countries to have strong anti-money laundering mechanisms, coupled with the enhancement of transparent financial integrity, therefore cannot be over-emphasised. Real-estate, the financial sector, security agencies and government must work hand-in-hand to address money laundering holistically," he concluded.

**Source:** [thebftonline.com](https://thebftonline.com)



# Preparing For War Is The Beginning: An Early Warning For Northeast Asia

By Dae-Han Song

July 27 marked the 70th anniversary of the 1953 ceasefire to the Korean War. In the three years leading up to the anniversary, South Korean peace movements organized the international [Korea Peace Appeal](#) campaign to replace the armistice agreement with a peace treaty to conclude the 70-plus-year Korean War. The anniversary has come and gone, but, instead of peace, the Joe Biden, Yoon Suk Yeol, and Fumio Kishida administrations are stoking tensions in the Korean Peninsula as a smokescreen to build a NATO-level US-Japan-South Korea trilateral alliance against China.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has played his supporting role well. By [sidestepping long-standing claims](#) for historical accountability of Japanese colonialism, Yoon has cleared the way for an alliance between the United States' two key allies in the region: its “[cornerstone](#)”—Japan—and its “[linchpin](#)”—South Korea. His diplomatic concessions are key in overcoming the United States' roughshod postwar San Francisco system—in the aftermath of Japan's defeat, the United States [sacrificed justice](#) for the victims of Japanese colonialism in order to wage the Cold War. To shield the trilateral alliance from future democratic pressures, Biden, Yoon, and Kishida announced the “[Spirit of Camp David](#)” on August 18 at Camp David, which institutionalized annual trilateral summits, meetings, and consultations that could survive changes in administration. During an August 28 interview, Francis Daehoon Lee elaborates on the trilateral alliance and the state of South Korea's peace movement. A longtime peace activist and veteran of Korea's democratization movement, Lee was a founder of People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy; is a professor of peace studies at Sungkonghoe University; and is the director of [Peacemomo](#), a research institute for peace and education.

## Nuclear deterrence

Lee points out that—in contrast to the Park Geun-hye administration that first proposed it 10 years ago—extended deterrence (including US nuclear weapons) has,

under Yoon, taken a “[preemptive nature](#).” Furthermore, North Korea is simply “a pretext for the US to prepare, exercise, and train its forces for a preemptive strategy in northeast Asia” against China. In contrast, China has been consistently unwilling to “use military force to change the international order.” Lee is quick to elaborate that “for China, Taiwan is not an international issue; it's a domestic one.” To Lee, China has consistently built its influence through economic relationships. His understanding is buttressed by Beijing's commitment in its [Global Security Initiative](#) to [upholding “indivisible security,”](#) in which the security of one party is indivisibly connected to the security of the other party.

## A linchpin? Cornerstone?

In US military documents about the region, the terms “[linchpin](#)” and “[cornerstone](#)” are constantly thrown about to describe South Korea and Japan, respectively. Yet, what exactly does it mean to be the linchpin or the cornerstone? How do both relate to each other?

Lee starts by explaining how Japan's economy and its nuclear warfare and long-range weapons technology give it greater strategic value. This makes it the “cornerstone” upon which US regional security is built. In contrast, South Korea's “mostly short-range land-based military resources” make it useful “in the way that Ukraine's forces are useful: they can fight to the end on the ground, they can consume their own people and resources.”

After all, despite all the US attacks on China, there exist “brakes” to the ratcheting up of tensions and conflict: During the Trump era, the United States became a divided society; “bipartisan politics is unable to win people over,” Lee says. This makes economic stability vitally important. While Trump and Biden “decided on weakening China instead of coexisting with it,” economic instability puts the brakes on the United States destroying the “economic ties with China,” he says. Lee notes how despite US “decoupling,” trade between both countries [increased](#) while China's trade with other countries decreased.

He likens the US stance on South Korea to its stance on Ukraine.

Western countries want Ukraine to fight for its territory, to win the war. Yet, even as they supply the war globally, they, ultimately, want the fighting “localized.” “What if a similar plan is now in place for northeast Asia? Then, the best option is not American forces fighting Chinese forces. In addition, Japanese forces are not apt for actual fighting. They are trained as supply and global operation networks, and defense forces. So who has the actual fighting force?” South Korea, the US's regional linchpin.

## Preventing war in Northeast Asia

Building a peace movement in South Korea against the escalation of the new cold war requires understanding Korea's current peace movements. I ask Lee what he thinks about the Korea Peace Appeal campaign, and what tasks are ahead for the social movements. Having participated in the campaign, Lee provides insights and critiques. The purpose of the Korea Peace Appeal was to “bring the world's attention [to the fact] that we Koreans want peace.” The argument “was a

middle common ground between the right and left within the peace movement.” As the campaign attempted to find “a middle ground and to approach the larger public, it inevitably became simple,” and “too Korea-focused.”

This stands in contrast to Lee's regional framework for peace. Peacemomo [proposes](#) an “Early Warning on the Danger of Armed Conflict in Northeast Asia,” in an eponymous report. Such an early warning system is based on understanding northeast Asia as a war theater, in which one party's actions trigger a chain of actions and reactions, inching us toward war. The “early warning,” according to Lee, calls on civil society organizations in the region to watch out for and alert their respective public about the signs and developments toward war: Japan's plan “[to double its defense budget](#)” within five years and “possess counterattack capability”; South Korea and the US's joint air exercise [carrying out](#) “decapitation operation training” against North Korea; and North Korea's [ominous statement](#) that “if the command



US and ROK Marines attend ceremony in South Korea (Photo: US Indo-Pacific Command). July 27 marked the 70th anniversary of the 1953 ceasefire to the Korean War. In the three years leading up to the anniversary, South Korean peace movements organized the international Korea Peace Appeal campaign to replace the armistice agreement with a peace treaty to conclude the 70-plus-year Korean War. The anniversary has come and gone, but, instead of peace, the Joe Biden, Yoon Suk Yeol, and Fumio Kishida administrations are ...

center is in danger, an automatic and immediate nuclear strike will be carried out,” says Lee.

Ultimately, a peace treaty in Korea is not possible without peace in the region. To achieve that, social movements will have to call for disarmament and a shifting of resources from war toward people's well-being. *Dae-Han Song* is in charge of the networking team at the [International Strategy Center](#) and is a part of the [No Cold War](#) collective.

# Death Penalty: Sosu Writes To President Nana Akufo-Addo Over Plight Of 181 Prisoners

6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**H.E. NANA AKUFO ADDO  
PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF GHANA  
JUBILEE HOUSE - ACCRA**

*Dear Your Excellency,*  
**PETITION TO COMMUTE THE SENTENCE OF ALL PERSONS ON DEATH ROW TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT UNDER YOUR PREROGATIVE OF MERCY PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 72(1)(C) OF THE 1992 CONSTITUTION OF GHANA**

I write for and on behalf of all 181 persons currently on death row in respect of the above subject.

I wish to respectfully appeal to your High Office to exercise your prerogative of mercy to commute the sentence of all persons currently on death row to life imprisonment pursuant to the authority granted you under Article 72(1)(c) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana.

Your Excellency, Article 72 (1) (c) of the Constitution of Ghana, 1992 provides as follows: “The President may, acting in consultation with the Council of State-***(c) Substitute a less severe form of punishment for a punishment imposed on a person for an offence;..***”

This petition follows the initiation, passage and assent to a Private Member's Bill to amend the Criminal and Other Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29) and Armed Forces Act, 1962 (Act 105) to substitute life imprisonment for the death penalty.

In view of the above, it will be phenomenal if under your leadership and tenure as President, Ghana appears and is seen to be consistent with recent changes in our laws and related vote at the United Nations in favour of the 9<sup>th</sup>

Resolution for a Moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

Sir, this will also go a long way to entrench your legacy and place for the consequential role played, and the commitment demonstrated towards the advancement and realization of a free, open, progressive, inclusive, and secure society.

I also kindly urge you to consider the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aimed at the abolition of the death penalty, as it is an alternative way and approach to address the challenges associated with the constitutional amendment of Article 3, an entrenched provision which requires a referendum to amend as stated in Article 290 of the 1992 Constitution. Your Excellency, this will go a long way to reinforce particularly to the international community, Ghana's commitment to strengthening and improving its democratic credentials, especially during the Universal Peer Review (UPR); and of our unwavering zeal and commitment towards the preservation of the rule of law and respect for individual rights and liberties.

**World Day against the Death Penalty.**

On Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, the World Coalition Against Death Penalty, CSOs, and the international community would celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> World Day Against the Death Penalty. Reflecting on the milestone achieved by Ghana this year by the abolition of the death penalty from the Criminal Offences Act and the Armed Forces Act, I respectfully pray that you will grant this request to commute the sentences of death to life sentences for all those on death row.

I wish to state my gratitude to you for the support and commitment, thus far, and count on your continued co-operation in the spirit of bipartisan collaboration for the benefit of the Ghanaian people.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

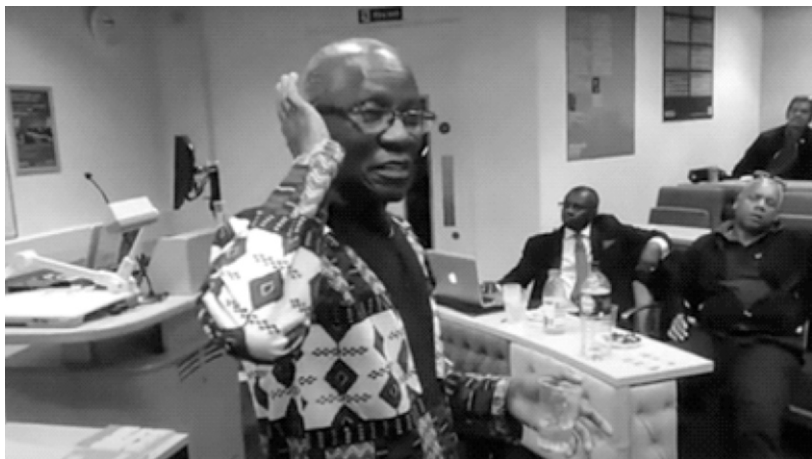
**Hon. Francis-Xavier Sosu (Esq)  
MP, Madina Constituency**

**CC:** 1. The Rt. Hon. Speaker  
Parliament of the Republic of Ghana

Accra 2. The Chairman  
Council of State

Accra.

# Akyaaba Addai-Sebo, The Founder Of Black History Month In The UK



**Akyaaba Addai-Sebo at the African Jubilee Year 1987-1988 launch event (Image: Armet Francis)**

Watching [Black History Month](#) become a national event has been a "remarkable" experience for its UK founder - but he hopes one day to see it being celebrated in the gardens of [Buckingham Palace](#). Born in Ghana, 73-year-old Akyaaba Addai-Sebo is widely and rightly celebrated as the father of Black History Month in Britain. With the help of his colleagues and friends from across his community, he overcame perilous circumstances to push for greater recognition of the nation's diverse African and Caribbean communities, and lay the foundations for a month that highlights often-overlooked parts of Black history in the UK and far beyond.

The early part of Akyaaba's adult life was defined by a period of avid study in the US and trade union work back in his home country, but he came to the UK back in 1984 after fleeing persecution in terrifying circumstances. Pursued by a "death squad" under Jerry Rawlings' regime in Ghana for his outspoken political activism, he was declared a wanted man, escaping the country with the help of his friends in the worker's movement.

On his arrival to Britain he found common cause with [Darcus Howe](#)'s Race Today collective, and

soon after gained work at the Greater London Council (GLC), then run by [Ken Livingstone](#). It was at the GLC that he had a life-changing conversation with a colleague that alerted him to how deep-seated issues of identity were affecting the lives of many Black people in the UK, and stirred a desire in him for change that would see him go on to establish Black History Month. He told the Mirror: "One day I went to work, and the group secretary was there - she was crying. I asked her what was wrong, and she said after she was putting her son to bed after prayers, her son called her back and said - 'Mum, why can't I be white'? She was very devastated - she had named her son after [Jamaican activist] Marcus Garvey, and here is her son having problems with his identity. She was saying that she had failed the son - and I said 'Elizabeth, no, you have not failed your son' - it is the national curriculum, the national educational authorities, the local authorities, the libraries, the churches, all the institutions of state that have failed your son. And they have failed every child growing up in this United Kingdom. It stirred something up in me - something had to be done."

Soon afterwards, Akyaaba began speaking to more Black children around London's local authority

schools, and was shocked to discover how hard many found it to relate to their African heritage. It took him only a couple of months of ruminating and planning before he sprung into action in his capacity as GLC special projects advisor, starting a series of lectures and concerts around London that educated people on Africa's vital contributions to world culture. The period from 1987-1988 was a "significant" one for Africa and Black people, he recalls, marking the 150th anniversary of Caribbean emancipation from slavery, the 100th anniversary of the birth of Marcus Garvey, the 25th anniversary of the Organisation for African Unity, and the 30th anniversary of Ghanaian independence. Looking to build awareness across communities in Britain, Akyaaba and his colleagues declared the period 'African Jubilee Year', a 12-month festival that kick-started Black History Month in the UK.

The African Jubilee Year included the UK's first Black History Month in October 1987, which has been celebrated ever since. A milestone celebration marked the beginning of the jubilee year at Westminster Central Hall on July 31 1987, where First Lady Sally Mugabe - whose husband was "not a pariah" in international politics at the time - was among the speakers, with Linda Bellos from the London Strategic Policy Unit acting as host. Later, in October 1987, the first ever Black History Month was marked in Britain. The month has been kept at the same place in the calendar ever since. It could have been very different, however, as Akyaaba had to persuade his colleagues as to why it should be celebrated differently to the US, where it is marked in February.

He explained: "I said that, we're doing this not because of us; it's because of the kids, because of

the children. And at what time of the year that would you collectively have the attention of the kids other than October? Because the kids will have just come out for their summer holidays, they are not saddled with exams, so their minds are fresh to learn and take instructions.

"And October is the autumn equinox, it has special significance to Africans. It is a harvest period, and it is a time conflicts are settled. It is one of stock-taking, and of renewal - that is why we chose October.

We look at the state of Black Britain - in the past year, what did we do? We review what has happened, and the goals that we set. And we examine our home; the relationship between father and mother, husband and wife, and where we are with each other." Black History Month has since gone on to become a vital movement, with a host of exhibitions, concerts, parties and stage productions taking place up and down the country over the course of the month. Akyaaba has himself moved on from the BHM UK organisation to join vital projects on the global stage, including brokering a ceasefire between warring factions in the late 1990s Liberian civil war, peacekeeping in Sierra Leone and work during the creation of the African Union in the 21st century. More recently, he has also been involved in efforts to fight against deforestation in Ghana.

But he remains deeply attached to the movement. Speaking to the Mirror, he highlighted how Black History Month has been adopted far beyond local authority level, and is now taken on by communities, business and

anyone who wishes to value the contributions of Black and African culture. His role in Black History Month's creation has also brought him some amusing episodes of recognition in his everyday life, and he recalls one moment where a new doctor at his GP surgery in London was left amazed to discover who he was - thanking him and even shouting the hallway to tell his colleagues of his discovery. "He quickly stepped out and said to the nurses - come, come, come, it's the founder of Black History month!", he recalled. There is one place however where he's disappointed not to have seen any celebrations yet - behind the gates of Buckingham Palace. He reflected: "During Black History Month you have the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and leaders of all political parties sending out good wishes and messages. But we have never received anything of that kind from Buckingham Palace. I worked as the operations manager at Notting Hall carnival, and during the carnival we welcomed Prince Charles. We are making preparations for Black History Month at 40, in 2027, and I hope that Buckingham Palace will come out and support what we are trying to do." It is, after all, a month that everyone can celebrate. As schools, homes and communities across the country explore the best ways to mark this month, Akyaaba highlighted how there has always been space for people to add their own varied contributions and lessons. "It is yours to fill it with rich content", he said, adding: "Black history is the history of humanity, Black history is the history of our commonality."