



PRESS RELEASE/01

REBUTTAL TO GHANA POLICE SERVICE'S 3 AM PRESS RELEASE **-22ND SEPTEMBER 2024**

The Democracy Hub takes note of the press release issued by the Ghana Police Service regarding the events of our ongoing demonstration and wishes to respond as follows:

- 1. Right to Demonstrate:** The Constitution of Ghana guarantees every citizen the right to assemble and demonstrate peacefully. Our demonstration is a lawful exercise of this right, and any actions taken by the police to disrupt this process violate our democratic freedoms. We find it alarming that the police have framed our peaceful demonstration as a matter of public disorder, rather than respecting our constitutional rights.
- 2. Allegations of Violence and Unlawful Acts:** We categorically deny the Ghana Police Service's assertions that the Democracy Hub engaged in unlawful acts, including blocking intersections, setting fires, or harassing road users. Our organizers and participants have been consistently instructed to demonstrate peacefully, and at no point did we deviate from this directive. Any incidents that may have occurred were isolated and cannot be attributed to the organizers or the core of our peaceful assembly.
- 3. Police Actions and Public Safety:** It is ironic that the Ghana Police Service claims to have launched a 'special operation aimed at safeguarding safety, security, law, and order,' yet resorted to excessive force and intimidation tactics against peaceful demonstrators. Blocking roads, diverting traffic, and deploying a heavy police presence only escalated tensions and caused more inconvenience to the public than the demonstration itself. The actions of the police have been more disruptive than any acts attributed to our movement.
- 4. The UnGhanaian Label:** The police's attempt to label our actions as "unGhanaian, uncivil, and unlawful" is not only disrespectful but also disregards our fundamental right to hold our leaders accountable. The essence of being Ghanaian is rooted in our spirit of resilience, unity, and the pursuit of justice. Our demonstration is a reflection of these values, as we seek to raise awareness of the issues affecting ordinary citizens, including corruption, environmental degradation, and unemployment.

5. **Police Coordination with NPP affiliated Groups to Attack Protestors:** As many of you said yesterday on Television, the Ghana Police Service coordinated with the Deputy National Organizer of the NPP to lead a group of nearly 100 individuals to come and confront protestors, by granting them access to pass through areas they had barricaded near Jubilee House. We demand immediate answers for the obvious actions calculated to intimidate and injure protestors.
6. **Call for Dialogue:** We urge the Ghana Police Service to engage in constructive dialogue with us rather than resorting to misinformation and intimidation. We remain open to engaging with the authorities to ensure that our demonstration continues in a manner that upholds both public safety and our democratic rights.
7. **Commitment to Peace:** The Democracy Hub is committed to maintaining peace throughout our protest and ensuring that all activities are conducted in accordance with the law. We call on the Ghana Police Service to respect our rights and to provide the necessary security and support for our demonstration, as is their constitutional duty.

In conclusion, Democracy Hub will continue to exercise our right to protest peacefully. We call on all Ghanaians to join us in standing up for our rights and ensuring that our voices are heard in the quest for a better and more just society.

Signed,
Democracy Hub

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