

Ghana

GHANA

COUNTRY ASSESSMENT

COUNTRY INFORMATION AND POLICY UNIT

ASYLUM AND APPEALS POLICY DIRECTORATE

IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY DIRECTORATE

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Scope of the document

I SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

1.1 This assessment has been produced by the Country Information & Policy Unit, Immigration & Nationality Directorate, Home Office, from information obtained from a variety of sources.

1.2 The assessment has been prepared for background purposes for those involved in the asylum determination process. The information it contains is not exhaustive, nor is it intended to catalogue all human rights violations. It concentrates on the issues most commonly raised in asylum claims made in the United Kingdom.

1.3 The assessment is sourced throughout. It is intended to be used by caseworkers as a signpost to the source material, which has been made available to them. The vast majority of the source material is readily available in the public domain.

1.4 It is intended to revise the assessment on a 6-monthly basis while the country remains within the top 35 asylum producing countries in the United Kingdom.

1.5 An electronic copy of the assessment has been made available to:

Amnesty International UK

Immigration Advisory Service

Immigration Appellate Authority

Immigration Law Practitioners' Association

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants

JUSTICE

Medical Foundation for the care of Victims of Torture

Refugee Council

Refugee Legal Centre

UN High Commissioner for Refugees

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Geography

II. GEOGRAPHY

2.1. Ghana is a West African coastal state comprising the area formerly known as the Gold Coast together with the part of Togoland which had been administered by the British Government. It is situated on the Gulf of Guinea and is bordered by Cote d'Ivoire to the west, Burkina Faso to the north and Togo to the east. The country consists of ten regions covering an area of 238,537 square kilometres. The capital city of Ghana is Accra. **[1][2]**

2.2. The last census of 1984 enumerated the population at 12.3 million but the United Nations most recent estimate, made in 1997, put the total population at 18 million. English is the official language but there are a number of other major national languages. The main one is Akan, of which Twi and Fanti are the most commonly used forms, while others include Ga and Ewe. **[2][3][50]**

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History

III. HISTORY

3.1 The land now known as Ghana received its first contact with Europeans in the second half of the fifteenth century when Portuguese navigators went in search of gold. Later visits from various European nations eventually resulted in the British government assuming control in the nineteenth century. Independence was achieved on 6 March 1957 with the amalgamation of the Gold Coast and British Togoland to form a fully self-governing member of the Commonwealth. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

3.2 Since achieving independence Ghana has experienced relatively little in the way of political stability. The country became a republic on 1 July 1960, and Kwame Nkrumah, who had been Prime Minister of this state and its predecessor since 1952, was made President. Nkrumah's Convention People's Party (CPP) became the sole legitimate political party when the country was declared a one-party state on 21 February 1964 and when a military coup deposed Nkrumah on 24 February 1966, the scene was set for a long period of political uncertainty. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

3.3 Following the Nkrumah regime, Ghana has seen numerous coups and changes of government. The official ban on party politics was removed in May 1969 and following elections in August Busia of the Progress Party assumed office as Prime Minister on 1 October. However the Busia government proved unable to resolve Ghana's economic problems and increasing hardship prompted renewed discontent. On 13 January 1972 the armed forces again seized power under the leadership of Lt-Col (later General) Acheampong. A National Redemption Council (NRC) comprising senior army and police officers assumed control of the country and political parties were once again banned. Following the NRC's seizure of power, several abortive coup attempts were made by the armed forces or supporters of the banned political parties. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#) In July 1978 Lt-General (later General) Akuffo assumed power in a bloodless coup. He subsequently dismissed a number of leading officials of state agencies. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

3.4 In 1979 the ban on the formation of political associations was ended and parties were registered in preparation for the general election which was scheduled for June. In May however there was an abortive coup led by Rawlings. He was imprisoned for his part in this, but was released after a short while by other officers. On 4 June he successfully seized power and established an Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC). In the same month Acheampong, Akuffo, Afrifa and other senior officers were convicted on charges of corruption and executed. The AFRC indicated that its assumption of power was temporary and the general election took place as scheduled in June 1979. As a result the PNP (People's National Party) formed a governing coalition with the UNC (United National Convention) and the leader of the PNP, Dr Hilla Limann, was inaugurated as president on 24 September. The government's attempts to stimulate the economy failed and there was further discontent. In March and May 1980 and February 1981 several

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attempts to seize power by members of the armed forces were reported. [1][2]

3.5 In his third attempted coup, Flt Lt Rawlings seized power on 31 December 1981 from the elected government of President Hilla Limann, which was widely perceived as inept and thoroughly corrupt. Rawlings instituted the rule of the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) under which the 1979 constitution was suspended; the Council of State abolished; the legislature dissolved and political parties proscribed. In 1982, a system of Public Tribunals, in effect people's courts, was set up to run parallel with the normal court system and PNDC Law 4 was promulgated which allowed indefinite detention without trial for anyone considered to be a threat to national security. The military government also abolished the city and district councils and replaced them with People's Defence Committees (PDCs) and, in the workplace, Workers' Defence Committees (WDCs) (see annex D). In 1984, an amendment to the Habeas Corpus Act, PNDC Law 91, removed the power of courts to enquire into the reason for an individual's detention under PNDC Law 4. [1][2][5][8][20]

3.6 In December 1990, Flt Lt Rawlings disclosed intentions for the drafting of a constitution by the end of 1991 and in May 1991, a 260 member Consultative Assembly was established and charged with this task. The following December, the National Electoral Commission began work on the demarcation of electoral regions in preparation for the supervision of elections and the preceding national referendum on the proposed constitution which was held on 28 April 1992. The constitution was approved by 92% of the 43.7% of the electorate who voted. [1][2]

3.7 As part of this consultative process, the PNDC had announced, in June 1991, an amnesty for Ghanaian political exiles living abroad. Those excluded from the amnesty were people who had been convicted by a court or tribunal of a criminal offence or those wanted by the police for a criminal offence. In response to pressure from human rights groups, the legislation permitting indefinite detention without trial was repealed with effect from 30 September 1992. The organisation of political parties was legalised in May 1992, although they were not permitted to register under the names of former parties active under earlier constitutions. [8][24]

3.8 The presidential election took place on 3 November 1992 and was won by Rawlings, standing on behalf of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), who took 58% of the popular vote. There were allegations from opposition parties of wide scale fraud in the conduct of the election but the international monitoring groups who had acted as observers concluded that, despite isolated irregularities, most noticeably in the inaccurate voters register, the outcome was valid. The opposition parties, nevertheless, boycotted the subsequent elections for the National Assembly, which were postponed and eventually held on 29 December 1992. As a result, President Rawlings' NDC took control of an Assembly with only two independent members and no other opposition. The largest opposition party, the New Patriotic Party (NPP), announced in August 1993 that it was prepared to recognise the legitimacy of the NDC

government and subsequently entered into dialogue with a view to reducing political tensions in the country. [15][48][49]

Presidential and Parliamentary Elections 1996

3.9 For the first time since Ghana achieved independence in 1957, an elected government had survived a full term and was called upon to defend its large parliamentary majority in democratically contested elections. The presidential and parliamentary elections were contested on 7 December 1996 and were scrutinised by international observers, including groups from the EU, the Commonwealth, two US non-governmental organisations, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). Media reports described the elections as free and fair, even hailing them as "among the fairest held in Africa". [36][37][38]

3.10 There were three candidates for the Presidency: the incumbent J Rawlings of the "Progressive Alliance" (NDC/EGLE/DPP), J A Kufuor of the "Great Alliance" (NPP/PCP) and E Mahama of the PNC. The parliamentary elections were contested by a variety of political parties and independent candidates. It was initially anticipated that a high turnout would be detrimental to the chances of the incumbent but despite a very high turnout of 76.8% Rawlings and the National Democratic Congress comfortably retained power. Rawlings' share of the vote held firm at 57.2% (in comparison to the 58.4% that he won in 1992) and, although his NDC party now has to contend with a genuine parliamentary opposition, it was able to maintain a clear majority. In March 1998 a new Council of Ministers was appointed [4][36][37][38][41][42][45][46]

Economic situation

3.11 Following independence, in 1950's, Ghana's economy was one of the strongest in Africa. However, misplaced development schemes, mismanagement and widespread policy reversals have resulted in a sharp decline in the country's position. [1][2] Under the Provisional National Defence Council government of Flt Lt J J Rawlings (1981-1993) an economic recovery programme was instituted in close collaboration with the World Bank and the IMF. However, the government, whilst remaining determined to put the economy back on track has acknowledged the widespread poverty and poor standard of living in the country and has vowed to maintain expenditure on education and basic health. [1][2][50]

3.12 The economy suffered in 1998 due partly to a lengthy power supply problem. A drought, which lasted for a few years, resulted in low levels of water in the Volta Lake, reducing the electricity produced by the Akosombo dam, which is the main power source. In March 1998 the Minister of Finance announced the re-introduction of VAT two years after widespread unrest led to its withdrawal. [2][4] The economy remains dependent on agriculture, which accounts for 59% of employment. Service sector growth outpaced agriculture and industry in 1998. In 1999 there was a drop in the price of gold and cocoa, two of Ghana's most important economic resources, this coincided with a rise in the price of oil, which slowed economic growth from 4.6% in 1998, to 4.4%. Inflation decreased from 15% to 13.8 %. [4]

3.13 The EU has granted 27 million euros in aid to Ghana over a three year period as part of its National Indicative Programme, this money will service debt repayment, have with road repairs, water and electrical infrastructure. Health care, audit services and technological training will also benefit. Japan has also granted Ghana a fifty-five million-dollar loan, payable over twenty years, to finance economic development and help with the balance of payments. The fall in the price of gold led to difficulties in the Ashanti goldfield, which led to the minister of mines and energy being sacked. The Ghanaian government re-evaluating its investment into this major industry, and together with the other shareholders has prepared a package of reforms that it is hope will improve its performance.

[82][83][90][91][92]

3.14 The World Bank has recently approved a credit of US \$67 million for Ghana's Agricultural Services Subsector Investment Project, aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and incomes, thus reducing rural poverty. The aims of the project also include improving food security and providing the basis for faster and environmentally sustainable economic growth. The World Bank reported that rural dwellers represent 63% of Ghana's population and agriculture now accounts for 38% of its gross domestic product. However, some 84% of Ghana's poor live in the countryside, where the poverty rate stands at 52% compared to 23% in towns. The 'Daily Graphic' newspaper recently reported that Ghana is to receive US \$560 million between August and December from international financial bodies and other source. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has agreed in principle to release US \$35.1 million, while the World Bank will disburse US \$134.9 million. Another US \$260 million is to be free by the first week of October through Ghana Cocoa Board's syndication with international financial institutions for the purchase of cocoa. Kwabena Duffuor, governor of the Bank of Ghana, said such donor funding should help stabilise the economy and serve as a springboard to generate more foreign revenue through the support of non-traditional commodities. **[100][101]**

Instruments of the state

IV. INSTRUMENTS OF THE STATE

The Political System

4.1 The Fourth Republic was inaugurated on 7 January 1993. Its constitution provides for an elected executive president, a council of state, a unicameral parliament and an independent judiciary. The constitution forbids legislation to make the country a one-party state and guarantees the right of Ghanaians to belong to a political party of their choice. Parties must, however, be registered and for this they are required to have a national organisation represented in all regions and must not be based on ethnic, tribal or religious grouping. **[14]**

4.2 Ghana has transformed from being a single party state into a constitutional democracy. The Presidential elections of 1992 ended 11 years of unelected authoritarian rule. The opposition contested the December 1996 parliamentary and presidential elections, which were described as free and fair by international observers. The Presidential term ends in December 2000, and President Rawlings is constitutionally barred from standing for a third term. The President appoints the Vice-President, and nominates council of Ministers, which is subject to approval by Parliament. **[5][51][68][80]** Presidential and parliamentary elections in Ghana are due to be held on 7 December 2000, one day earlier than planned. Ghana's electoral Commission Chairman Kwadwo Afari-Gyan said that the date needed to be changed because there were conflicting interpretations of the expiry of the presidential term, the dissolution of parliament and the fixing of election dates. The new date requires the approval of parliament. Vice-President Mills won the NDC nomination unopposed. His running mate is Assistant Attorney General, Martin Amidu. John Kuffor remains the NPP's candidate and his running mate is Mahama Aliu. **[47][102]**

4.3 Legislative power is vested in the 200 member Parliament, which is elected by universal suffrage for four years. The parliament is dominated by the President's party the National Democratic Congress (NDC) which holds almost two thirds of the seats. **[1][4]**

4.4 There are a number of political parties currently active in Ghana broadly divided into left and right groupings, reflecting the traditional Ghanaian political divide. For the purposes of the 1996 elections, the ruling NDC were joined by the EGLE (Every Ghanaian Living Everywhere) party and the Democratic People's Party (DPP) to form the "Progressive Alliance". The main opposition party, the New Patriotic Party, was allied to the People's Convention Party (PCP) under the banner of the "Great Alliance". The "Great Alliance" was able to take some comfort from the results of the 1996 elections, having established itself as the only real alternative to the NDC with 64 seats (59 of which were NPP), and with its presidential candidate, J A Kufuor, taking 39.9% of the vote. Other parties to contest the elections included the People's National Convention (PNC) and the National Convention Party (NCP). The PNC's presidential candidate, E Mahama, received only 3% of the vote and the party won only one seat. **[26][36][37][38]**

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4.5 Membership of the NPP and other opposition parties is now widespread and open. Ordinary Ghanaians are not discouraged from membership or harassed because of it. The General Secretary of the NPP, J Agyenim Boateng, stated publicly in 1994 that, "the prevailing peaceful atmosphere in the country does not warrant any Ghanaian to hide behind the party to seek asylum abroad", a view that he re-affirmed in November 1996. **[6][30]**

4.6 In July 1999, the new National Reform Party (NRP) received its final certificate of registration. The NRP leader is Goosie Tanoh. The Party was formed from a splinter group that defected from the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC). The law requires that within 60 days of receiving their final certificate the party must submit detailed records of its assets and accounts. A few days after receiving its final certificate the NRP were linked to the Convention Party (CP) in possible alliance talks. The Convention Party had formerly been called the People's Convention Party (PCP). **[55][69][76][102]**

4.7 Although the government has the power to refuse to register a trade union, it has not proscribed union membership, nor has it interfered with the rights of workers to join unions, even during the PNDC era. Union membership is, however, currently experiencing a decline in numbers. Trade union activity is governed by the Industrial Relations Act (IRA) which has laid down a system for settling disputes. The right to strike is recognised as legitimate under law when negotiation and mediation have failed. There is no convincing evidence of any systematic persecution of individuals on account of their TU membership or activities. **[4]**

The Constitution

4.8 The Constitution was approved by a national referendum on 28 April 1992, and enshrined in it is a multi-party political system. Executive power is vested in the President who is also the Head of State. The President is elected by universal suffrage for a term of four years and appoints a Vice-President. The President can serve no more than two four-year terms. The constitution guarantees the fundamental human rights and freedoms of every Ghanaian citizen. **[14]**

4.9 The Constitution invests legislative power in the 200 member one chamber Parliament, which is elected for a four-year term. The President with the approval of Parliament appoints the Council of Ministers. The Constitution also provides for a 25 member Council of State comprising presidential appointments and regional representatives, and a 20 member National Security Council, both of which act as advisors to the President. It is also written into the Constitution that if no presidential candidate receives more than 50% of the votes cast, a new election between the two candidates with the highest number of votes is to take place within 21 days. **[1][14]**

The Police

4.10 There are reports of frequent unlawful detention of suspects in police cells, and allegations that some police officers extort money or valuables from suspects before granting them bail. The police, are

under the jurisdiction of an eight-member Police Council, and are responsible for maintaining law and order. A separate department, the Bureau of National Investigations (BNI), handles cases considered critical to state security and answers directly to the executive branch. Although the security apparatus is controlled by and responsive to the Government, monitoring, supervision, and education of the police in particular remain poor. There are credible reports that the Police have committed some serious human rights abuses. [4][5]

4.11 In August 1997 the authorities filed murder charges against two policemen and a police labourer after the unexplained death of man in an Eastern Region police cell in February 1996. On 21 December 1997 police in Accra fired upon a car full of youths killing one and injuring another. A police spokesman said that they were responding to a report of an armed robbery and the car, which was in the area, refused to yield to or heed the police vehicle. Suspicious of this behaviour, the police fired warning shots aimed at the car's tyres but these passed through the rear window and killed one of the passengers. As at 30 January 1998 the case was under consideration and one of the officers was in custody. [5] In November 1997 hundreds of men were arrested after rioting broke out in Akwatia. Some were reported to have been beaten or ill-treated by police during transportation to Accra. Most were released but approximately 60 were charged with murder and allegedly held in cramped and unhygienic conditions. [12] [75]

4.12 In 1998 as a whole it was reported that the police had killed eight individuals. These included three people were reported to have been shot dead by the police in May 1998 at Aflao according to Ghanaian radio. The first one was shot when police used their guns in an attempt to ward off a group who turned on police who had come to the aid of a woman they were attacking. The group then chased the police when they withdrew, and beat one of the policemen until other police rescued him. The group then later charged the police station, where the police opened fire killing two more members of the group. The Minister for the Interior Okaidza Adamafio expressed regret at the deaths. He implied that he had called for an inquiry into the shooting incidents and would take action at the appropriate time. [4][63]

4.13 In November 1998 the police established a special judicial tribunal to try officers suspected of unlawful and careless use of weapons. In each of the shooting cases reported in 1998 the officers involved were suspended from duty and an investigation was undertaken. The findings of the investigation are reported to the Attorney General's office for action. Some police personnel also undertook a retraining course for fifty officers to improve police skills and address the problem of the careless use of firearms. [4]

4.14 In September 1998 the Inspector General of Police called for a cleaning up of the police service. A statement said that " the harassment of civilians, unauthorised motor-checks, unlawful detention of suspects, collection of money before granting bail, shoddy investigation of criminal cases, and other undisciplined acts which dent the image of the service continue to be perpetrated." [4]

4.15 Reports of police committing extrajudicial killings, brutality and

corruption continued in 1999, as a result public confidence in the police remains low. In January 1999 the Presidential Archer Commission reported its findings, and addressed the manpower, training and logistical needs of the police. The Inspector General of Police Publicly acknowledged these problems and is attempting to address them through better riot control training, and training in human rights. [4]

The Judiciary

4.16 The civil law in Ghana is based on the Common Law, doctrines of equity and general statutes, which were in force in England in 1874 (as modified by subsequent Ordinances). Ghanaian customary law forms the basis of most personal, domestic and contractual relationships. Criminal Law is based on the Criminal Procedure Code, 1960, derived from English Criminal Law, and since amended. The Superior court system comprises of the Supreme Court, a Court of Appeal and a High Court of Justice. Inferior courts include Circuit Courts and District Courts among others. Trial by jury is practised in criminal cases and the Criminal procedure Code provides that all trials on indictment shall be by a jury or with the aid of Assessors. [1][2]

4.17 The constitution establishes both the judicial and financial independence of the judiciary. It abolished the tiers of public tribunals and replaced them by Regional Tribunals under the control of the Chief Justice. Chairmen of Regional Tribunals are required to have the qualifications to be a High Court judge. The public tribunals were, however, able to complete consideration of cases partly heard before them on the coming into force of the constitution. A right of appeal from the Regional Tribunal to the Supreme Court had already been established. The integrity of the legal system is undermined by a lack of financial resources. There were however no official charges of judicial corruption. [1][4][14][21]

4.18 It would appear that the judiciary is sometimes subject to executive influence. The Constitution enables the government to nominate up to 15 members of the Supreme Court, and confirmation of appointment is the responsibility of parliament, which is dominated by the Government's party. The Chief Justice also has the power to appoint justices of his choice to hear cases. The belief that the judiciary can sometimes be subject to executive influence was furthered during 1998 by the judiciary's crackdown on members of the privately owned press. An editor was jailed for 9 days in another contempt of court case where the legality was again questioned. All the affected journalists are opponents of the Government and have made personal criticisms of the President and his family. [4][13]

4.19 Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty, trials are public and defendants have a right to be present, to be represented by an attorney, to present evidence and to cross-examine witnesses. The authorities respect and observe these rights in practice. [4]

4.20 Traditional courts continue to operate and the Chieftaincy Act 1971 gives village and paramount chiefs powers in local matters, including the implementation of customary tribal laws dealing with minor issues such as land disputes and customary divorce. Tribal

customs are permitted but any customary practice that infringes an individual's fundamental human rights or which dehumanises or is injurious to the physical and mental well-being of a person is specifically proscribed by the constitution. **[14]**

Arrest, detention and the death penalty

4.21 The death penalty remains for crimes of murder, armed robbery and treason. Twelve prisoners were executed by firing squad in July 1993, the first executions since February 1990. They had been convicted on various charges of murder or armed robbery and some for both. According to Amnesty International no executions were carried out during 1996 or 1997. In January 1994, a number of prisoners who had been under sentence of death for ten years had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment; those sentenced to death for economic sabotage had their sentences commuted to fifteen years imprisonment. **[9][10][11][12]**

4.22 In February 1999, a High Court sentenced four people to death after a long running treason trial. A fifth accused was discharged and acquitted. The four convicted of conspiracy and treason charges were Alex Ofei, Kwame Ofori Appiah, Sylvester Addai Dwomoh and John Owusu Boakye. All are members of a London based church called the Cherubim and Seraphim. The court found Emmanuel Osei Kofi not guilty. The prosecution said the accused, led by two retired fugitive army officers had planned to overthrow the government by force in September 1994. **[10][12][52][75]**

4.23 Amnesty International stated that at least seven prisoners convicted of treason in the 1980's remain in prison. The trials by Public Tribunals did not meet international standards of fairness because they were not independent of government control. The prisoners were unable to appeal against their sentences because of provisions in the 1992 Constitution. **[12]**

4.24 In February 1997 22 prisoners had their death sentences commuted under a clemency measure brought in August 1996. These included former Captain Adjei Edward Ampofo, who had been convicted in absentia of involvement in an attempted coup in 1983 and arrested in 1986. Former Sergeant Oduro Frimpong, who had the death sentence imposed in 1985 after a trial in camera for involvement in an alleged coup plot in 1984, although the death sentence was never actually confirmed by the government. **[12][29]**

4.25 Arbitrary arrest and detention remains a problem. The Constitution does not allow arbitrary arrest and detention, and states that an individual should immediately be informed of the reason for his detention, and be allowed access to a lawyer. It also requires judicial warrants for arrest and provides for arraignment within 48 hours. In practice however these safeguards are frequently ignored and abuses occur, including detention without charge for longer than 48 hours and failure to obtain a warrant for an arrest. Sixty men charged with murder following rioting in Akwatia in November 1997 were reportedly held in cramped and insanitary conditions in one small police cell. Another problem, despite being against the law, is the fact that individuals are sometimes detained for trivial offences. Individuals are also sometimes detained on unsubstantiated

accusations. [4][5][12][75]

4.26 The 1996 Committee for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) report on prison conditions said that improvements in the way the criminal justice system is administered was urgently needed, as many citizens were being denied their rights to be charged within 48 hours. The Attorney General has asked CHRAJ for a list of those detained for 6 years or more to enable their cases to be investigated. According to the Attorney General's office a committee is investigating how the remanded prisoners can be brought to trial quickly or released. By the end of 1998 the committee was still investigating this problem. Remand suspects are known to have been held in prison, for as long as 8 years, before being brought to trial. [4][5]

Prisons

4.27 Ghana's prisons are antiquated and overcrowded but are subject to inspection by investigative teams from CHRAJ, but NGO's have been denied access. The 1996 CHRAJ report on prison conditions recommended improvement in the administration of criminal justice. Remanded suspects may remain in prison for up to 9 years before being brought to trial. Approximately 23% of the prison population consist of detainees awaiting trial. [4][5][17]

4.28 Prisoners are malnourished. Families supply extra food to prisoners. Prisoners are not usually provided with medicine unless paid for by the inmates themselves, or their families. The Government accepts the findings of the 1996 CHRAJ report, but has stated that it lacks the funding for further improvement. In spite of this, some improvements were made during the year, including an increase in prisoners' food allowance and an amnesty to old and ill prisoners. The Ghana Prisons Service has formed an assessment team to inspect facilities. [4]

4.29 The Prison Service Council, established in 1998, visited Central and Volta Region prison facilities in early 1999. Following these inspections, the council suggested that prison authorities adopt a more humane approach to dealing with prisoners. The Council identified the number of remand prisoners, due to the courts' inability to hear cases promptly, as the greatest problem facing the prison system. The Council also criticised health hazards (including poor sanitation) and the state of prison structures. While the CHRAJ has access to monitor the prisons, the Government resisted granting access to the press. [4]

4.30 In 1998 two journalists reported what they had experienced and observed during their 30-day incarceration. Inmates of the Sunyani Prison in the Brong-Ahafo Region demonstrated on 2 September to protest the alleged extortion of cash and seizure of food and belongings by some prison officials in the Central Region. Some suspects allegedly pleaded guilty in order to be sent to prison and leave the unsanitary conditions in police remand cells. In a speech on 17 December 1999 at a prison officers' graduation ceremony, President Rawlings stated that the Government is considering the introduction of parole, suspended sentences, and community service as a way to alleviate the overcrowding in prisons. [4]

HR General

V. HUMAN RIGHTS

Introduction

5.1 The Constitution of the Fourth Republic, inaugurated on 7 January 1993, guarantees the fundamental human rights and freedoms of every Ghanaian citizen. There is no evidence to suggest that individuals' constitutional rights have been systematically abused. The constitution made provision for the establishment of the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), inaugurated in October 1993, which is charged with the investigation of complaints of violations of fundamental rights and freedoms, injustice, corruption and abuse of power by public officials. The Commission is permitted to take court action against human rights offenders and to challenge the constitutionality of the sources of such offences. There have been no reports of politically motivated disappearances in 1997 or 1998. In July 1998 the Supreme Court ruled that CHRAJ had jurisdiction to investigate government actions before the 1992 Constitution came in to force and in cases where statutes of limitations had prevented investigations by the courts. In 1997 the government has sought to stop the CHRAJ from ordering redress, in cases of arbitrary dismissal, prior to the restoration of civilian rule in 1993. The Court also ruled that the CHRAJ's powers to review government confiscation of property did not extend to confiscation authorised by special courts set up by military decree. **[4][5][13][14][16][21]**

5.2 There are a number of civil rights organisations active in Ghana. The most active are the Ghana Committee on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Human Rights Committee of the Ghana Bar Association, both organisations opened branch offices in 1993. During 1993 the law faculty at the University of Ghana at Legon set up a Human Rights Study Centre. **[21]**

5.3 On 28 January 2000 the Ghanaian cabinet recommended six international human rights treaties for parliamentary ratification. These treaties are the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, CCPR 1996, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, CESCR 1996, and the Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, OPC. The others are the International Convention on the protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and members of their Families 1990, UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1994, and the Convention on the Non-Application of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity. **[84]**

5.4 The Cabinet also approved for ratification Convention 182 of the 87th Session of the International Labour Organisation in June 1999. This Convention relates to the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour. The Geneva Convention Bill 1998 was also proposed for ratification, which relates to sanctions for breaches of four Geneva conventions. **[84]**

Freedom of Assembly

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5.5 The constitution guarantees freedom of assembly and the Government generally respects this right in practice. The Government does not require permits for demonstrations. Parliament passed a public order law in late 1994 requiring that all organisers of special events or processions inform the police of their intentions so that the police can institute precautionary measures. The authorities prohibited two demonstrations in 1999, the first was a demonstration in support of women's rights in October was organised by a radio personality who was perceived to be critical of the government. The second was a organised by Jubilee 2000, an organisation that campaigns for debt relief. On both occasions the reason given was the failure by the organisers to give sufficient notice to the authorities. **[4][5]**

5.6 In March 1993, police used excessive force to break up a student demonstration at Legon University, resulting in injuries to several demonstrators and police and three female students being shot. The government later accepted that the authorities had over-reacted and those who had sustained injuries were compensated. **[9][21][35]**

5.7 On 11 May 1995, the peaceful "Kume Preko" march in Accra, organised by the Alliance For Change (AFC) to protest against the imposition of Value Added Tax and the high cost of living, was violently disrupted by armed men purporting to belong to the Association of CDRs. The violence resulted in the deaths of five people (four demonstrators and one alleged ACDR member). The police moved quickly to contain the violence and a number of arrests were made, although no one was subsequently charged due to a lack of evidence. Later marches organised by the AFC passed off peacefully. The Interior Minister stated that the cases of those killed during this demonstration have been closed because "no clear point of responsibility can be identified" regarding the killing of the 4 civilians at the demonstration. The Alliance for Change expressed shock at this statement, and said they would continue to agitate to ensure the matter was not laid to rest. **[23][27][28][31][43][44][53]**

5.8 In early 1996 the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) applied to investigate allegations that the government was involved in the killing of the five demonstrators by armed government supporters. During 1998 the Supreme Court had still not given a date to hear CHRAJ's application. **[13]**

5.9 The University in Accra banned on campus demonstrations. However university students obtained a waiver and demonstrated peacefully against proposed fees in May 1998. In August 1998 police used water cannons, tear gas and rubber bullets and truncheons to dispel protestors at an unauthorised demonstration. On 13 August 1999 police used tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons to disperse students who had gathered in Accra to demonstrate against fee increases. The People's National Convention (PNC) expressed disgust at the manner in which the police disrupted the peaceful demonstration. Three days later students in Kumasi also demonstrated against the increase in university fees and general hardships. **[4][56][57][58][70][71]**

5.10 Journalists and human rights activists marched on the Supreme

Court in support of freedom of speech after the jailing of two journalists for contempt of court. The demonstrations were monitored by the police and passed off peacefully. [4][13]

Freedom of Association

5.11 The Constitution enshrines the right to freedom of association. The Government generally respects this right. Non Governmental Organisations (NGO's) are required to register with the Registrar General's office, although this is routine. A bill, which is currently in a parliamentary committee, would, if it became law, establish a government body with the power to deny, suspend or cancel an NGO's right to operate. [4][5]

Freedom of Speech and the Press

5.12 The constitution provides for freedom of speech and of the press and opposition political parties and others have used these freedoms to criticise the Government. The Government has allowed more control of print and electronic media to be transferred to the private sector. The Government pressures and intimidates certain newspapers indirectly by allowing pending lawsuits to continue unresolved. There are 15 newspapers including 2 government-owned dailies, 2 government-owned weeklies and several independent newspapers published weekly, bi-weekly or tri-weekly. One of the government-owned dailies has national circulation. However, most newspapers circulate regionally and many of the smaller independent newspapers are available only in the capital. Accra has eight radio stations one of is government-owned, while seven stations are independent they cannot be characterised as outspoken critics of the Government. The number of independent radio stations outside Accra also expanded. The government-owned television station is the only station that broadcasts nation wide. Two other television stations began broadcasting during 1997; one is independent the other is partially owned by the Government. [4][5]

5.13 The Government-owned media occasionally reported charges of corruption or mismanagement in government ministries and government-owned enterprises but they never directly criticised the Government's policies or President Rawlings' activities. The Government occasionally disciplines or dismisses journalists working in government subsidised media for articles deemed unacceptable. The Government ended subsidies to the state-owned publishing companies and the newspapers are published by profit making printing companies but have not been offered for public sale. [4][5]

5.14 The independent press was often harshly critical of the Government's policies and its coverage of President Rawlings, his wife and his regime often bordered on the profane. Although the Government did not overtly suppress the independent media, authorities remained suspicious and wary of them. The Government and its officials used civil suits and occasionally criminal libel suits to threaten independent editors and journalists. In the most glaring case the Government continued to prosecute two independent journalists under a rarely used sedition law for allegedly libelling President Rawlings and his wife and through them, the State. The trials, repeatedly postponed, were seen by many observers to signal a

renewal of press harassment. The two journalists were eventually jailed for one month each in July 1998 for contempt. The case was widely regarded as being legally flawed. There was a particularly overt sign of the regime's suspicious and distrustful attitude toward press freedom in May when the Government asked an accredited diplomat, who had criticised the country's criminal libel laws, to leave the country. [5][13][74]

5.15 The Government readily granted accreditation to foreign journalists. Foreign periodicals were sold in Accra and other major cities and circulated freely even when they contained articles critical of the Government. In April 1998 the Minister for Youth and Sports won a libel case that was filed against a private newspaper that reported on his possible involvement in the 1995 killings of four demonstrators. [4][5]

5.16 There was no restriction of academic freedom on university campuses. The National Union of Ghanaian Students, one of the more vocal critics of the Government is allowed to organise and hold meetings. In August 1997 the threat of a large protest helped avert an increase in electricity charges. [4][5]

5.17 In an unprecedented move, the law firm, which has been instructed to act in over 30 libel cases filed by Ministers and members of the NDC, has now filed a suit against Trans Afrika News, publishers of the Independent newspaper. They have also named, in the suit, LJS Colour Publication Ltd, a printing house in Accra. The writ is claiming general damages for libel for a publication in the Independent of 19 May, which was headed "Minister exchanges blows with NDC Activist." There is a suspicion amongst some in the media that this is an attempt to frighten the printing houses in Accra, which do business with the private media. Nearly all the private press in Ghana possesses no printing presses of their own and use printing houses, which may now be more reluctant to do business with them. There are currently about 100 libel cases against the private press in Ghana. [54] In June 1999, the Minority group in Parliament tabled a motion to challenge the level of coverage of political parties by the State-owned media. Nana Akufo-Addo of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), who moved the motion, argued that the State-owned media was not complying with a Supreme Court ruling to grant equal time, space and access to the activities of all parties in the country. [59]

5.18 In late October 1999 a tape which appeared to implicate President Rawlings in several extralegal actions in the pre-democratic era, including murder, bombing and arson, was published and broadcast by some of the private media. The Government denied the authenticity of the tape and arrested the journalists and publishers involved. The journalists were released on bail of approx. 10.5 million Cedis, and three of them, including an opposition Member of Parliament (the publisher), were provisionally charged with publication of false news. The private radio announcer who broadcast part of the tape was fired, allegedly for failing to abide by the station's procedures. By the end of the year, there had been no formal government investigations into the allegations on the tapes or prosecutions of the journalists. [4]

5.19 Some privately owned newspapers were harshly critical of the

Government's policies and of President Rawlings, his wife, and his regime generally, and some reporters and editors were alleged, at times, to have failed to abide by professional ethical guidelines. People affected by such lapses, most often Government officials, showed a tendency to go to court. The Government, government officials, and private individuals filed a record number of civil libel suits (over 120 before the courts), and one criminal libel suit remains in progress at year's end. The Government continued to prosecute two independent journalists under a rarely used sedition law for allegedly libelling President Rawlings and his wife, and, through them, the State. The trials, repeatedly postponed, were seen by many observers as a sign of press harassment. For example in July 1998, after being found in contempt of court, two newspaper editors were sentenced to 1 month's imprisonment and each publisher was fined approximately 10 million Cedis. According to the Minister of Communications, the criminal libel law and other such laws simply check the excesses of journalists. [4]

5.20 In addition on November 11, after a 5-year libel trial, the editor of an independent paper, which had printed allegations against the First Lady, was sentenced to 90 days in prison. He was also fined approximately 1.5 million Cedis for two counts of intentional libel. He was released on December 29 after serving his full term, including time in remand before his conviction and sentencing. [4]

5.21 In another recent incident Mr Cabral Blay Amihere the editor of the Independent newspaper was detained by the military, after publishing an article which said that soldiers had refused to obey an order relating to a march, and was held overnight on 13/14 January 2000. In light of this incident, the Ghana Journalist Association held a meeting to discuss the intimidation of journalists, and urged that only Constitutional means be used to seek redress against journalists who print articles where the truth is disputed. [85][86]

5.22 The National Media Commission is researching comparative freedom of information (FOI) legislation with the intent to propose draft Freedom of Information legislation for the Government's consideration. This draft legislation had not been presented to the Government by year's end. The Government readily granted accreditation to foreign journalists. The British Broadcasting Corporation and Radio France International have

full-time FM re-broadcasting stations in Accra, and several foreign radio broadcasts, including Voice of America (VOA), have part-time affiliations with local stations in several cities. Foreign periodicals were sold in Accra and other major cities and circulated freely even when they contained articles critical of the Government. Most citizens obtain their news from the electronic media, the VOA, and the BBC radio service. Several companies have cable or satellite re-broadcasting stations that serve the country's three major cities. [4]

5.23 There have recently been attacks on newspapers critical of the Ghanaian government, the offices of the " Crusading Guide" newspaper were smeared with excrements. The privately owned "Free Press" and " Ghanaian Chronicle", papers also critical of the government, have been subjected to similar attacks in the past. The News editor of the "Crusading Guide" Mr Sedi Bansah was also

recently detained, but later released on bail. [95][96]

Freedom of the Individual

5.24 The Constitution provides for protection against arbitrary arrest, detention or exile and states that an individual detained shall be informed immediately, in a language which the detained person understands, of the reasons for the detention and of the right to a lawyer and to an interpreter, at state expense. It also requires judicial warrants for arrest and provides for arraignment within 48 hours. In practice, however, many abuses occur, including detention without charge for longer than 48 hours and failure to obtain a warrant for arrest. The government press reported that the Inspector General of Police and the Northern Region police commander were both sued in 1996 by a private businessman for unlawful arrest and detention.

[4][5]

5.25 The court has unlimited discretion to set bail, which can be excessive. It may refuse to release prisoners on bail and instead remand them without charge for an indefinite period, subject to weekly review by judicial authorities. It is common to remand a prisoner to investigative custody. The Constitution requires, however, that a detainee who has not been tried within a reasonable time shall be released either unconditionally or subject to conditions necessary to ensure that he appears at a later date for court proceedings. [4][5]

5.26 The 1996 CHRAJ report on prison conditions recommended improvement in the administration of criminal justice, which currently denies many citizens their constitutional rights to be charged within 48 hours, to have bail posted within the same period and to a speedy trial. The report concluded that the penal system was unwittingly but inexorably punishing the innocent [5]

5.27 In June 1991 the PNDC announced an amnesty for political exiles which did not however include persons who were implicated in acts of subversion against the Government. However, in March 1992 the Government granted an amnesty to 17 prisoners who had been convicted on charges of alleged subversion. In January 1994, President Rawlings extended an amnesty to some previously convicted prisoners and renewed the offer of an amnesty to political exiles overseas. The offer still did not extend to those convicted of a criminal offence, declared wanted by the police or previously sentenced to death by a court or Public Tribunal. This offer was again renewed on 6 January 1995 - rapists, murderers and drug smugglers exempted - and a number of Ghanaians have taken advantage of it to return to live in the country unmolested. For example, on 22 January 1995, J H Mensah, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning until 1972, made a high profile return visit to Ghana, having been issued with a Ghanaian passport on 12 January 1995 after spending fourteen years in exile. Another person to have benefited from the latest amnesty was the journalist, Gershon Dompseh, who had been serving a twenty-year prison sentence for economic sabotage, imposed before the introduction of the new constitution, for the illegal possession of confidential government documents. Kwame Amelorku, the official who supplied Dompseh with the documents and was imprisoned with him, was also released along with over 1100 other prisoners, although eight former soldiers serving sentences for their

involvement in an attempted coup in 1983 are still detained.

[1][6][8][24][25][29]

5.28 The trial of Karim Salifu Adam, a former soldier in the Ghanaian army, arrested in 1994 on accusations of plotting to overthrow the government, began in May 1996. Adam's case was sent for retrial in July 1997 because no judgement had been reached in his treason trial before one of the judges died, although all of the evidence had been heard. In February 1998 the Supreme Court rejected a defence application against a retrial. Adam's allegations that he had been tortured while incommunicado and illegal detention after his arrest were not thoroughly and impartially investigated. Although this case highlights the slow working of the Ghanaian judicial system, there is no evidence to suggest that defendants are treated unfairly, illegally or extrajudicially if found guilty. There have been no politically inspired disappearances since the inauguration of the new constitution.

[11][12][13]

5.29 Amnesty International has highlighted the recent case of Anthony Kofi Mensah Djentuh, a former senior civil servant, and his wife Maria O'Sullivan-Djentuh a businesswoman. A Circuit Tribunal in Accra convicted them on 16 August 2000, of assaulting a public officer and offensive conduct. They were acquitted on a charge of deceiving a public officer. Amnesty International attribute these charges against Mr and Mrs Djentuh, to an attempt by the Ghanaian authorities to find their 23-year-old son, Selassie O'Sullivan-Djentuh. The alleged reason for this action is because of a former relationship between Mr Selassie Djentuh and a daughter of President Rawlings.

[97]

5.30 The Djentuh family has allegedly been subject to a number of incidents of harassment and intimidation. Mr Selassie Djentuh was reported to have been abducted and assaulted on 15 January 2000 by members of the presidential guard, but was released after three days. In March 2000, he was charged in connection with a traffic accident that occurred in November 1999, and fined. Mr Djentuh and his brother have since left Ghana. [97]

5.31 In a possibly related incident in October 2000, the offices of the "Crusading Guide" newspaper were smeared with excrement. The paper had reported the details of the Djentuh case, and its Editor in Chief Kweku Baako has been critical of the ruling National Democratic Party in the past. [95]

Freedom of Movement

5.32 Both Ghanaian citizens and foreigners are free to move throughout the country without seeking permission, though numerous police checkpoints exist across the country. Such checkpoints, which are in evidence on most roads and in the cities, are an accepted fact of life and operate in a bid to control smuggling. Most are left unmanned during daylight hours. Complaints about police harassment caused the government to reduce the number of checkpoints from 125 to the 38 most essential posts. Ghanaians are able to obtain passports on demand and are free to leave the country and to return. In 1986 relations between Ghana and Togo became strained following subversive activity by Ghanaian dissidents based in

Togo and an attempted coup in Togo which was allegedly initiated from Ghanaian territory. The common border between the two countries was closed in October but was re-opened by Togo in February 1987 and by Ghana in May. In October 1991 the two governments signed an agreement of the free movement of goods and persons between their countries. However, in October 1992 Ghana denied claims, by the Togolese government, that it was implicated in subversive activity by Togolese dissidents based in Ghana. In November Rawlings formally protested to the Togolese government after five Ghanaians were killed by Togolese security forces on the border between the two countries. [1][5]

5.33 The government co-operates with the UNHCR and other humanitarian organisations in assisting refugees. Ghana has a liberal policy of accepting refugees from other West African nations. The government provides first asylum. It provided first asylum in recent years to Togolese refugees, most have now returned to Togo as part of the UNHCR's organised voluntary repatriation programme. It continued to provide first asylum to some 5,907 Togolese, approximately 14,600 Liberians, 490 Sierra Leoneans (including 302 who were granted refugee status in December 1997) and 27 Nigerians. There were no reports of persons not being allowed to request asylum. There were no reports of forced return of persons to a country where they feared persecution and there were no forced expulsions of refugees with a valid claim to refugee status. [1][5][14]

Freedom of Religion

5.34 When the Provisional National Defence Council government enacted the Religious Bodies Registration Law (PNDC Law 221) on 19 June 1989, all churches and religious bodies were obliged to register with the Religious Affairs Committee at the National Commission for Culture. By the end of 1990, there had been eleven thousand applications for registration. When the law was announced the government put a freeze on the activities of two international sects, the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons). Two indigenous sects were disbanded, the Nyame Sompaa Church at Ekwankrom and the Jesus Christ Church of Dzorwulu; it was alleged that both sects sexually exploited women within the church. The freeze on the Mormons was lifted in December 1990 and on the Jehovah's Witnesses in November 1991, however, and both churches are again free to practise their faiths. [7][19]

5.35 The constitution guarantees freedom of religious observance, practice and teaching. There is no evidence of any religious persecution in Ghana. Traditional religious practices are common, but rites and customs, which dehumanise or are injurious to the physical and mental well being of a person, are prohibited. The Government has taken steps to promote interfaith understanding. At government meetings and receptions there is usually a multi-denominational invocation, and religious leaders from various faiths are often present. [14][64]

5.36 Approximately 40 % of Ghana's estimated population of 18 million are at least nominally Christian. Christian denominations include Roman Catholic, Methodist, Anglican, Mennonite, Evangelical

Presbyterian, Presbyterian, African Methodist Episcopal Zionist, Christian Methodist, Evangelical Lutheran, F'eden, numerous charismatic faiths, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), Seventh-Day Adventist, Pentecostal, Baptist, and the Society of Friends. Christianity often includes an overlay of traditional beliefs. About 30 % of the population adhere to traditional indigenous religions or other religions. These religions include a belief in a supreme being, referred to by the Akan ethnic group as Nyame or by the Ewe ethnic group as Mawu, and lesser gods who act as intermediaries between the supreme being and man on earth. Veneration of ancestors also is a characteristic, as they too provide a link between the Supreme Being and the living and may even be reincarnated at times. The religious leaders of those sharing these diverse beliefs commonly are referred to as priests and are trained in the arts of healing and divination. These priests typically operate shrines to the supreme deity or to one of the lesser gods, relying upon the donations of the public to maintain the shrine and for their own maintenance. [64]

5.37 Muslim make up about 25 % of the population. Three principal branches of Islam are represented in the country: the orthodox Sunnis and Tijanis, and the Ahmadis; the orthodoxy of the latter group has been questioned. The Shi'a branch virtually is absent from the country's Islamic community. [64]

5.38 The Government assisted in mediating inter-religious disputes. The Greater Accra Regional Co-ordinating Council conducted a workshop on managing religious conflicts in April 2000, several weeks before the annual ban on drumming, between 8 May and 8 June, which resulted in a workable compromise between religious and traditional leaders. The participants agreed that in 2000, drumming should be subdued and confined inside churches, in order for the traditionalist sects and Christians to practice their beliefs unhindered. While tension persists between the Christian community and the traditional authorities over the annual ban on drumming in the ethnic Ga traditional area, both groups agreed to exercise restraint; there were no reports of violence during the spring 2000 annual ban. In April 2000, the National Commission for Civic Education held an interfaith forum to address religious conflict. Discussion centred on the idea that freedom of worship must be preserved, and religious groups therefore should respect each other's religious beliefs and practices. [64]

5.39 On 20 February 2000, the Ho district (Volta region) chief executive led a joint operation with police and health personnel to immunize the children at an Apostolic Faith of Kpalexose ("Well-Rooted Faith" in the Ewe language) church, a local church founded in 1931, against poliomyelitis. Church members consistently have refused immunisations on the grounds that their faith forbids the use of orthodox medicine. Police surrounded the church during worship services and health personnel administered the vaccine. It was reported that 155 children up to age 5 received the vaccine. The local community reportedly supported the overriding of individual religious convictions as being in the greater national interest of eradicating polio. [64]

Freedom from Racial Discrimination

5.40 Ghana is a multicultural country whose national borders encompass several tribal groups. Almost all Ghanaians have a sense of tribal as well as national identity and tribal rivalries occur. Discrimination on grounds of ethnicity, however, is strictly forbidden in the constitution and no one particular tribal group is favoured by the government. Although some political parties draw greater support from one tribe than another, none is tribally based and no such party can be legally registered. [7][14]

HR Specific Group

VI. HUMAN RIGHTS: SPECIFIC GROUPS

Ethnic groups

6.1 Despite accusations from opponents that the government is predominantly comprised of members of the Ewe ethnic group from eastern Ghana, many senior officials come from different ethnic backgrounds and it would seem that allegations of ethnic discrimination are not well founded. **[7]**

6.2 Instances of ethnic tension do exist though and these sometimes result in fighting. In the lesser populated and developed Northern Region, there have been long running tribal disputes over land rights and chieftaincy matters which on occasions erupt into violence. The most recent outbreaks have been in 1992 and 1994, the latter serious enough to require the declaration of a state of emergency in the area and the large-scale deployment of troops, to put a stop to the fighting. The government initiated peace talks between the two sides and the state of emergency was lifted in August 1994. However, there were sporadic outbreaks of violence during the early part of 1995. Since 1994 the Inter-NGO Consortium and the Nairobi Peace Initiative facilitated peace talks between the warring groups. Delegations from the Dagomba, Konkomba, Nanumba, Gonja, Nchumuru, Nawuri and Bassare ethnic groups met at the Peace and Reconciliation Consultation in Kumasi between 26 February and 1 March 1996, to sign agreements, peacefully resolving their differences. In response to reports of latent insecurity, the Permanent Peace Negotiating Team (PPNT, a facilitative body whose primary purpose is to mediate disputes) extended its activities to some northern parts of the Volta Region in October 1997. In December it supervised a peace accord among all parties to the conflict who were residing there. **[1][2][5][7]**

6.3 In August 1997, a number of disturbances occurred in the Brong-Ahafo Region leaving three people dead and displacing more than 1,000 people from their homes. The riots in the Banda area of the Wenchi District were the result of land disputes between the chiefs of the Brohani and Menji tribes. Riot police were subsequently brought in, in an attempt to contain any further incidents. **[32][33]**

6.4 Clan disputes also sometimes arise. A dispute between two clans of a farming village in Nkwanta District on 1 January 1998 resulted in eight people being killed, after one faction attacked another. No arrests were made although police investigations are believed to be continuing. This particular dispute dates back two years. **[79]**

6.5 On 4 August 1999, two factions clashed in a chieftaincy dispute in Teshie, a suburb of Accra. At least five persons sustained gunshot wounds and one person was stabbed. One chief's residence was set afire. Property worth tens of thousands of dollars was destroyed. At issue was which faction has the authority to perform customary rites to usher in the celebration of the ethnic Ga Homowo festival, a festival thanking the gods for providing food during the year. Since the 1995 death of the former chief, both factions had claimed to be the legitimate heir. The dispute currently is pending before the Ga

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traditional council. [4]

6.6 A similar incident occurred on 7 August 1999 at Oshiye in the Ga district of Accra. Six civilians and two army officers were injured. An off-duty army sergeant reportedly led one of the factions, who, according to one report, enlisted the aid of over a dozen well-armed, off-duty soldiers, who clashed with inhabitants. The case is before the courts. In 1994-95, an estimated several thousand citizens died in the north in a conflict driven by chieftaincy and land issues dating from pre-colonial times. [4]

6.7 In January 1999 two factions of Kumasi's ethnic Moshie community signed a peace agreement at the behest of the then-regional minister. However, the long-standing dispute resurfaced on 24 December 1999 after the Supreme Court had ruled on the Moshie leadership issue 15 December 1999. One man died from a stab wound and another was injured. [4]

Religious groups

6.8 The constitution guarantees freedom of religious observance, practice and teaching. There is no evidence of any religious persecution in Ghana. Traditional religious practices are common, but rites and customs, which dehumanise or are injurious to the physical and mental well being of a person, are prohibited. [14]

6.9 There appears to be increasing violence in Ghana between Muslim sects. The worse trouble spots were listed by the Inspector General of Police Mr Peter Nanfuri as: Yamale, Wa, Pusiga, Prang, Wenchi, Kintampo, Kumasi, Accra, Secondi-Takoradi and Cape Coast. The disturbances according to Mr Nanfuri, have centred around the Tijania and Usuna factions. At Tamale, Wa and Wenchi lives have been lost and property destroyed. There have also been attempts to burn mosques. The Inspector General directed police to arrest anyone who used public places of worship to attack verbally other religious groups. He also said the police would deal severely with any Moslem faction, which took up arms against others. The Muslim elders are reported to have commended the police and other security agencies for ensuring peace in the country. [62][65][66]

6.10 The Kumasi police have arrested 108 members of the al-Sunna and Tijaniya Muslim sects following clashes, which started on 30 August 1998. The regional police commander said that suspects were being screened and those found to have been involved in the unrest would be prosecuted. The Ashanti regional Security Council has urged members of both the Sunna and Tijaniya sects to respect and tolerate each other's views. The council also directed that the use of public address systems by the two sects should stop. A meeting was held between the council and members of the two sects in Kumasi. The regional minister Daniel Ohene-Agyekum warned that the council would deal sternly with all those who foment religious conflicts. He also said the police would be issued with search warrants to check the premises of any person or group of persons suspected of harbouring arms. He stated that the military and the police would continue to monitor the Zongo and Aboabo communities to ensure there is no breach of the peace. [65][66]

6.11 However, there was a serious disturbance in November 1999 during a Central Region football game between an Islamic and Methodist middle school. Property belonging to Muslims, including approximately one hundred houses and three mosques in the town of Agona Nyakrom, was destroyed. Youths attacked Muslims in this area including the headmaster of the Islamic school, who was badly beaten. Five people were shot during these disturbances. Newspapers report that as a result of this incident, large numbers of Muslims had moved out of the area. Religious factional violence has resulted in deaths, and vigilante style instant justice led to a number of deaths of suspected witches. **[4]**

Homosexuals

6.12 The practice of homosexual acts is illegal in Ghana though the law is not strictly enforced and homosexuality is generally regarded with tolerance. **[34]**

The Disabled

6.13 There is no evidence that disabled persons are the victims of deliberate discrimination and the rights of the disabled are guaranteed within the constitution. Although the constitution recommends that appropriate facilities for disabled persons should be in place wherever possible, this is not always observed in practice. **[4]**

HR Women and Children

VII. HUMAN RIGHTS: WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Women

7.1 The Ghanaian constitution makes the provision that women are afforded the same rights and freedoms as men and that there should be no discrimination on account of a person's gender. Women are guaranteed equal rights with regard to employment, training and promotion and the constitution states that workplaces should provide child-care facilities, thereby removing possible obstacles to women's occupational progress. Although in reality women may still be subject to some level of societal discrimination, usually within traditional rural communities, various groups exist to promote and protect the role of women. One such group is the "31st December Women's Movement" headed by Nana Rawlings (wife of the Head of State). Although this organisation has often been the target of criticism for its political affiliation with the government, its main purpose is to mobilise support for development from women. There are no obstacles to the participation of women in government. There are currently 18 female parliamentarians and six female ministers. **[21][78]**

7.2 The constitution forbids any acts, which are injurious to the well being of any individual, and as such prohibits acts of violence against women. However, violence against women in Ghana constitutes a significant problem. Rape and domestic violence also remain serious problems. Abuses often go unreported, though the media are increasingly bringing incidents into the spotlight. The police tend not to intervene in domestic disputes. Institutionalised violence against women is also a problem in Ghana. In November 1998 the police administration established a "women and juvenile unit" to handle cases involving domestic violence, child abuse and juvenile offences. In the first quarter of 1999 this unit had recorded 199 cases, including 30 assaults and 9 rapes. The unit is located in Accra and works closely with the Department of Social Welfare, FIDA and the Legal Aid Board. **[4]**

7.3 In June 1998 Parliament passed amendments to the 1960 Criminal Code to provide additional protection for women and children. The legislation added new definitions of sexual offences and strengthened punishments for others. The mandatory sentence for rape was doubled, and it also contained provisions that banned customary servitude (Trokosi) protected women accused of witchcraft and made forced marriages illegal. **[4]**

7.4 Rural women can be punished by banishment by the traditional village authorities for teenage pregnancy or suspected witchcraft. Most women banished in this way believe they will be killed if they attempt to leave. The legislation passed in June 1998 seeks to protect women from such practices. The Committee for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and human rights NGO's are mounting a campaign to end this traditional practice. In 1998 the International Federation of Women Lawyers persuaded the custodians to abolish the Gambaga witches home in the northern region, contingent on the performance of "exorcism" rites and the

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payment of accommodation and discharge fees. However, a few months later there was an increase in the number of alleged witches banished to the home, largely due to the communities' belief that these women were responsible for an outbreak of cerebrospinal meningitis which claimed many lives in the area. [4][5]

7.5 The Presbyterian Church also sponsored a "go home" project to reintegrate into society women accused of witchcraft and forced to live at the Gambaga "witches" village. A total of 55 of 200 such women have reunited with their families. The project also provided for loans to enable the liberated women to become more financially independent and to contribute to the well being of their families. [4]

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

7.6 The traditional practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) is still ongoing in some areas. As of 1994 FGM became a criminal act, but this legislation has been criticised as being too lacks. Officials at all levels have spoken out against the practice of FGM and local NGOs are making some inroads through their educational campaigns to encourage abandonment of FGM and to retrain practitioners. According to one study the percentage of women who have undergone FGM may be as high as 30%, although most observers put the figure at more like 15%. Nearly all the northern ethnic groups practise FGM. Five people were reportedly arrested for performing FGM in 1998. One woman was arrested for performing FGM on a teenage girl in the Upper East region. Another practitioner was jailed for performing FGM on three teenage girls. Two individuals were arrested in September 1998 for performing FGM on 8 girls. In almost all of the cases the practitioners were actively sought out by the victims, sometimes without their parents' knowledge, in a quest to become ready for marriage. [4][5]

The Trokosi system

7.7 The Trokosi system found among the Ewe ethnic group, and most common amongst the inhabitants of South-East Ghana, is another practice, which contravenes Ghanaian law with regard to the treatment of women. Under this institution, young girls are enslaved to "fetish priests" as payment to atone for the crimes of their ancestors or family members or in thanks for a blessing. The practice has been condemned by a number of organisations and the plight of the Trokosi females has been highlighted by International Needs, the Ghana National Commission on Children (GNCC) and the 31st December Women's Movement. [4][21][22] Trokosi was made illegal In June 1998, when the Ghanaian Parliament passed and the President signed legislation to ban the practice of Trokosi. This was a part of comprehensive legislation to protect women and children's rights. Human rights activists believe that the goal of eradicating the Trokosi practice is attainable with the new law. NGOs, such as International Needs, and government agencies, like CHRAJ, have been campaigning against Trokosi for several years and are familiar with the locations of the fetish shrines and the numbers of women and children enslaved. Activists know the community leaders and fetish priests, and thus know with whom to negotiate. CHRAJ and International Needs have had some success in approaching village authorities and fetish priests at over 316 shrines, winning the release

of nearly 1,000 Trokosi slaves by mid-2000 and retraining them for new professions. The followers of Trokosi claim this to be a religion, but the Ghanaian authorities do not recognise it as such. [64]

7.8 Under the Trokosi system, a woman becomes the property of the fetish priest, and must work on the priest's farm, and perform other tasks for him. They are also the sexual property of the priests, most Trokosi slaves have children by them. The Trokosis' families must provide for their needs, such as food, but most are unable to do so. There are an estimated 2,000 women and girls bound to various shrines in the Trokosi system, a figure that does not include the slaves' children. In the event that a woman is freed, whether voluntarily by the priest, or as a result of intervention by activists, she generally has few marketable skills and little hope of marriage. As a result, she typically remains bound to the shrine for life by psychological and social pressure arising from a traditional belief that misfortune may befall a Trokosi woman's family or village if she abandons her obligations to the shrine. When a fetish slave dies, her family is expected to replace her with another young girl, thus perpetuating the bondage to the fetish shrine from generation to generation. [64]

Children

7.9 The Government is committed to protecting the rights of children. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child stated at in June 1997 that they were encouraged by the fact that Ghana had included specific provisions relating to children's rights in the 1992 Constitution. It also welcomed the establishment in 1992 of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) which is also involved with the protection of the human rights of children. The Committee did however express some concerns about the lack of co-ordination between national and local government bodies dealing with the welfare of children. Forced childhood marriages also exist in Ghana, although they have been illegal since November 1998. Child prostitution is illegal although it does exist. [5]

Education

7.10 There is little or no discrimination against female children in education, but girls and women frequently drop out because of social or economic pressures. The Government actively campaigns for girls' education. In the high school grades from 1-6, 46% of pupils are girls; from grades 7-9 this drops to 43%. In grades 10-12 the number of girls is only 36% of students and at university level 23% of students are girls. However, overall the enrolment of women at the university level has increased by 5% from 1993 to 1998. [4][77]

7.11 Ghana is aiming to improve girls' education. The government has launched a free universal basic education initiative, aimed at the gradual phasing out of all parental financial responsibilities by the year 2002. The President's wife said that a higher percentage of males (84%) than females (69%), attend and complete secondary school. Part of the reason for this was that parents had to meet all the costs of their children's education and could only afford to pay for the boys. However the recent initiative should help to counteract this. [40][77]

HR Other issues

VIII HUMAN RIGHTS: OTHER ISSUES

Civil Disturbances

8.1 In October 1997 one youth was shot dead and two others were seriously wounded and a number arrested when approximately six hundred demonstrators protested against the fact that refuse had not been collected for several weeks in Nima, a slum area on the north-eastern side of Accra. One of the two wounded subsequently died. In November 1997 one civilian and one police officer were killed during a clash between police and citizens in the diamond-mining town of Akwatia in the Eastern Region. Thirty-five police officers stormed the Akwatia diamond market to arrest illegal diamond traders. A mob, which eventually numbered 5,000, attacked the police. The mob seriously injured 9 police officers, including one that later died. 2,000 people were later arrested, the majority of which were released. **[5]**

8.2 In January 1998 four people were killed and 26 wounded in a dispute between rival Moslem sects over the ownership of a graveyard in the western town of Wenchi. The trouble started when the Tijaniyyas allegedly tried to stop members of the Al-Suna sect from burying dead members of their sect. Police are reported to have made more than 60 arrests after members of the orthodox Tijaniya Moslem group attacked members of the Al-Suna sect with guns and machetes, killing four of them. By mid-January order had returned but the area remained tense. The regional crime officer said a screening exercise would be carried out to see who would be brought to trial. There does not appear to be any further information available about whether these trials have taken place yet. **[60][61][73]**

8.3 In the Wenchi District of Brong-Ahafo region there were serious disturbances throughout 1998, which have resulted in the deaths of three people. The troubles were the result of a land dispute between the chiefs of the Brohani and Menji tribes. **[32][33]**

8.4 In May 1998 three people were reported to have been shot dead by police in Aflao according to Ghanaian radio. The first one was shot when police used their guns in an attempt to ward off a group who turned on police who had come to the aid of a woman they were attacking. The group then caught up with the police, and attacked one. The police later opened fire when the group began attacking the police station, killing two more members of the group. **[63]**

8.5 On 1 October 1998 there was a violent demonstration by students at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi which resulted in the university being closed. On 5 October however it opened again, and the registration of continuing and fresh students proceeded smoothly. It was reported that the campus was calm. **[67]**

Security Situation

8.6 As a military regime, the government of President Rawlings (the

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then PNDC) aligned itself closely with other left-wing countries such as Libya, Cuba and the former Eastern Bloc. The country has, however, attempted to forge stronger links with more developed nations in the search for financial and technical aid. Although relations with various neighbouring countries were tense during the 1980s (most notably Togo and Cote d'Ivoire), general improvements have occurred since Ghana's transition towards democracy. Ghana's respectability in the region was also aided by Rawlings' year as chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) until July 1995. Ghana has contributed troops to the Nigerian-led ECOMOG, a regional intervention force, which has been stationed in Liberia since 1990 and has been instrumental in monitoring the situation in Sierra Leone since a military coup there in May 1997. [39][50][72]

8.7 There were reports of shooting along the Ghanaian/Togo border on 16 August 1998. Togolese radio reported that there had been a coup attempt by a small band of Togolese dissidents exiled in Ghana. A high level Togolese delegation subsequently visited Accra and was reassured by Rawlings that the Ghanaian authorities would co-operate with the Togolese to contain border incidents. [79]

8.8 Internal security concerns receded with improvements in the relations between feuding tribes in the Northern Region of the country. Soldiers were deployed to the area and a peace and reconciliation programme led to talks and the signing of a "Kumasi agreement". The Ghanaian government oversees a number of security organisations, though ultimately the responsibility for law and order lies with the police. The Bureau of National Investigations (BNI) is charged with cases that are viewed as critical to state security. [7]

International Human Rights Organisations in Ghana

8.9 The Government co-operates with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian organisations assisting refugees, and the law conforms in all particulars to the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. NGOs interested in human rights continued to grow in strength during 1998 and there were 17 NGOs in this field at the end of the year in Ghana. The Government appears to co-operate with and be responsive to human rights NGOs. Prominent NGOs include the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Amnesty International, the International Federation of Woman Lawyers (FIDA), Women in Law and Development in Africa, and Ghana Alert. Human Rights monitoring organisations are free from government interference. [4]

Health Care

8.10 The government provides medical care at a nominal rate, in 1992 there were 49 general hospitals and about 300 rural health clinics, there are also private health care facilities. However, there were strikes in 1999, when health workers took action over the non-payment of extra duty allowance and to demand better working conditions. There is a community health insurance scheme, but this has been criticised for not addressing the problems of health care amongst the poor. [1][87][88]

8.11 The Ghanaian Ministry of Health has recently allocated 10 million Cedis to health care for the rural poor. The amount, which constitutes 3% of the budget for the health sector, will cover the needs of senior citizens, infants, pregnant women, and people whom the Department of Social Welfare has classified as rural paupers. The ministry's plans were outlined in a report on Ghana's achievements in implementing the goals of the 1995 World Social Summit that was held in Copenhagen. The report notes that since the introduction of a "cash and carry" health delivery system in Ghana, 69% of the sick, mostly rural dwellers have been unable to pay for medical services. **[81]**

8.12 Sickle Cell Anaemia is a hereditary condition that afflicts many people in Ghana, although the precise figure is hard to ascertain. This illness has many complications, the main ones being respirator and circulation problems. The severity of its symptoms varies from case to case, and is characterised by acute attacks of ill health and lethargy which are referred to as a "crisis". This condition is usually diagnosed in childhood, often before the sufferer is a year old. This condition can be life threatening, and limit the ability of a patient to lead a normal life. There are provisions for its treatment in Ghana, but patients are usually expected to meet some of the costs of this care. **[98]**

8.13 Ghana has a National AIDS Control Program, which encourages safe sex practices among sex workers, through its education programme, and providing condoms. However, the infection rate remains high and there is a danger of a major AIDS/HIV epidemic, which will result in many social problems, and have an impact on the economy. On 11 February the first lady Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings launch a national campaign and fund to combat AIDS, aimed at control and prevention. **[89][93][94]**

8.14 About 400,000 Ghanaians have contracted the HIV virus and another 37,296 have developed AIDS. The country's AIDS control co-ordinator, Dr. Kwaku Yeboah, in June said that an estimated 120,000 children in Ghana have been orphaned by the pandemic, 'The Chronicle', an Accra daily, reported Dr Yeboah as saying that mother-to-child infection represents 15% of all cases. The vice chairman of the Ghana National Commission on Children (GNCC), Dr. George Puplampu, in an interview said that taboos about premarital sex and fear of societal disapproval were a hindrance to public discussion of ways to stem the rising incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS. The pandemic, he said, threatens to deplete the country's human resources since it affects the most productive age bracket, and treating AIDS-affected people is costly. **[99]**

Annex A

ANNEX A

POLITICAL PARTIES/Common Abbreviations

United Nkrumahist Party

Informally launched 13 June 1998. Has been granted a provisional certificate of registration by the Electoral Commission under the Political Parties Law 1992.

PARTIES IN EXISTENCE SINCE MAY 1992

Ghana was ruled by the **Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC)** military regime from 31 December 1981 until the restoration of democracy with the inauguration of the Fourth Republic on 7 January 1993. The ban on the formation of political organisations in Ghana was lifted by the PNDC on 18 May 1992 and the following are the main parties/organisations:

Convention Party (CP). (Formerly called the People's Convention Party - PCP) In December 1993, formed by NIP, People's Heritage Party (PHP) and faction of PNC; Chair, J K Tamakloe. The largest Nkrumahist grouping.

Democratic People's Party (DPP). Formed in Accra, 1992; Chair, T N Ward-Brew.

EGLE (Every Ghanaian Living Everywhere) Party. Formed in Accra, 1992; Co-Chair, Oworaku Amofa & Capt Nii Okaj. Alliance of supporters of President J. Rawlings.

Ghana Democratic Republican Party (GDRP). Formed in Accra, 1992; leader, Dr Kofi Amoah.

Great Consolidated Popular Party (GCPP). Registered 18 June 1996. Founder, Dan Lartey, businessman and unsuccessful NIP (National Independence Party) Presidential candidate in Nov 1992, Chairman E.B. Mensah.

National Democratic Congress (NDC). Formed in Accra, 1992; Chair, Alhaji Issifu Ali. Governing party.

New Patriotic Party (NPP). Formed in Accra, 1992; Chair, Samuel Arthur Odoi-Sykes, Secretary General Daniel Botwe.

National Reform Party (NRP). 28 July 1999. Interim National Chairman Peter Kporlugbe.

People's National Convention (PNC). Formed in Accra, 1992; former leader was Dr Hilla Limann but 1996 Presidential candidate was Edward Mahama. Chair Edward Mahama.

United Ghana Movement (UGM). Received its final certificate of registration on 10 January 1997. Chair, Dr Charles Wereko-Brobby.

For the purposes of the 1996 elections, two political alliances were

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formed: the **Progressive Alliance** consisting of the NDC, EGLE and DPP, and the **Great Alliance** which was made up of the NPP, PCP and the PNC. Other political parties, which were formed following the lifting of the ban on political activity in 1992, but which are no longer part of the political scene are:

Inter-Party Co-ordinating Committee (ICC). Formed by NPP, PHP, NIP and PNC after major opposition parties withdrew in protest from the December 1992 Assembly elections to offer some form of credible extra-parliamentary opposition.

National Independence Party (NIP). Formed in Accra, 1992, originally by Botsio and Gbedemah, who both later crossed to the PHP, largely comprising members of the Kwame Nkrumah Welfare Society (KNWS); Chair, Alhaji Ayarma.

New Generation Alliance (NGA). Formed in Accra, 1992.

Nkrumah National Party. Formed in Accra, 1992; led by Kwesi Pratt; formed largely from KNRG, URF, DAG.

People's Heritage Party (PHP). Formed in Accra, 1992; Chair, Frimpong Ansah; Deputy Chair, Alhaji Farl.

Popular Party for Democracy and Development (PPDD). Formed in Accra, 1992; Chair, Kwame Wiafe; Secretary General, Kwesi Pratt. Nkrumahist. Merged with PCP in May 1996.

PARTIES/REGIMES PRIOR TO 31 DECEMBER 1981

United Gold Coast Convention (UGCC). Formed 1947; leader, Dr J B Danquah.

Convention People's Party (CPP). Formed 1949 as breakaway party from UGCC; socialist; leader, Kwame Nkrumah. Governing party from 1951-1966.

Northern People's Party (NPP). Formed 1954 by a group of northern chiefs.

National Liberation Movement (NLM). Formed September 1954 in Ashanti region.

United Party (UP). Formed in 1957 to oppose CPP; leader, Dr Kofi Busia.

National Liberation Council (NLC). Military regime, 1966-1969; ousted CPP in coup of 24 February 1966. Chair, General Joseph Ankrah.

Progress Party (PP). Formed May 1969; leader, Dr Kofi Busia. Governed 1969 - 1972. Perceived as massively corrupt.

National Alliance of Liberals (NAL). Formed May 1969; leader, Komla Gbedemah (former CPP founder member), lost August 1969 elections to PP.

National Redemption Council (NRC). Military regime, 1972-1975;

ousted PP in coup on 13 January 1972, led by Lt Col (later Gen.) Ignatius Kutu Acheampong.

Supreme Military Council (SMC). Replaced executive council of the NRC in October 1975.

Union Government (UNIGOV). Power sharing government (between army, police and public) proposed by Acheampong in September 1976. Never formed and partly responsible for his downfall in 1978 when Gen. Akuffo took over SMC.

Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC). Military government led by Flt Lt J J Rawlings which seized power on 4 June 1979, the first Rawlings incursion.

Action Congress Party (ACP). Formed 1 January 1979; leader Col Frank Bernasko.

United National Convention (UNC). Formed 1 January 1979; leader, William Ofori Atta.

Popular Front Party (PFP). Formed 1 January 1979 by Victor Owusu and Alhaji Yakubu Tali.

Social Democratic Front (SDF). Formed 1 January 1979; led by Alhaji Ibrahim Mahama.

People's National Party (PNP). Formed 1 January 1979; led by Dr Hilla Limann and Imoru Egala. Governed from September 1979 to December 1981.

OPPOSITION GROUPS IN EXISTENCE PRIOR TO THE RAISING OF THE BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN MAY 1992

Campaign for Democracy in Ghana (CDG). Formed 5 May 1982 in Lagos; based in London; leader Maj. (retired) Kojo Boakye Djan.

Co-ordinating Committee of Democratic Forces of Ghana (CCDFG). Formed 1991; alliance of 11 opposition movements and other organisations; Chair, Maj. (retired) Kojo Boakye Djan.

Dawn Group. Formed in London; pro-Rawlings offshoot of Convention People's Party (CPP); socialist.

Democratic Alliance of Ghana (DAG). Formed in London; Chair, Bright Oduro Kwarteng.

Democratic Concerned Citizens Party. Formed in London.

Free Democrat's Union (FDU). Leader, Maj. (retired) Kojo Boakye Djan.

Ghana Democratic Movement (GDM). Formed in London, 1983.

Ghana Democratic Republic Party. Formed in July 1992, USA; leader, Kofi Amoah.

Ghana Democratic Union. Formed in Nigeria; leader, Dr Eduko

Quarfo.

Ghana Movement for Freedom and Justice (GMFJ). Formed in London, August 1986, by Kojo Smith, former member of GDM.

Kwame Nkrumah Revolutionary Guards (KNRG). Formed in Accra; African Socialist; Chair, Sonnie Provencal.

Movement for Freedom and Justice (MFJ). Formed in Accra, 1990; Secretary General, John Ndebugre.

New Democratic Movement (NDM). Formed in Accra; socialist; Chair, Kwame Karikari.

United Party (UP). Centre right; leader, J H Mensah.

United Revolutionary Front (URF). Formed in London; a coalition of Marxist-Leninist groups.

Annex B

ANNEX B - PROMINENT PEOPLE, PAST AND PRESENT

Accra Five - (Kwame Ofori Appiah, Alex Ofei, Emmanuel Kofi Osei, Owusu Boakye, Sylvester Addae-Dwomoh) businessmen, based in London, who were arrested in Ghana on 2 September 1994 and were subsequently charged with treason. It is alleged that they offered money to any soldier willing to support a coup attempt and that they attempted to announce their take-over of the government from Ghana Broadcasting Corporation. In February 1999 four of the accused were found guilty and sentenced to death. These were Alex Ofei, Kwame Ofori Appiah, Sylvester Addai Dwomoh and John Owusu Boakye. Emmanuel Osei Kofi was found not guilty.

Gen. Ignatius Kutu Acheampong - leader of the National Redemption Council (NRC) which seized power in a military coup on 13 January 1972. To offset rivalries within the NRC, Acheampong replaced it with the Supreme Military Council (SMC) in 1975, though he was in turn replaced by Gen. William Akuffo in 1978. When the AFRC came to power in June 1979, Acheampong was executed along with a number of others including Akuffo and Afrifa, following his conviction on charges of corruption.

Karim Salifu Adam - a former soldier and member of the New Patriotic Party (NPP). Adam is alleged to have recruited groups of young men to work as builders in Burkina Faso but once there to have given them military training to support his coup plans. Arrested on 23 May 1994 on his return to Ghana, his trial began in May 1996 and has yet to reach a conclusion.

Lt-Gen. Akwasi Afrifa - replaced Ankrah as chairman of NLC in April 1969 before the restoration of civilian rule later that year. When the AFRC came to power in June 1979, Afrifa along with other senior officials was executed following his conviction on charges of corruption.

Gen. William Akuffo - took over from Acheampong as SMC leader on 5 July 1978 and pressed ahead with plans to return the country to civilian rule. Ousted when Rawlings staged a second coup on 4 June 1979 (the first in May being unsuccessful) and was subsequently executed.

Edward Akufo-Addo - non-executive civilian president from August 1970 until NRC seized power in 1972.

Gen. Joseph Ankrah - head of National Liberation Council (NLC), 1966-69.

Kofi Annan - United Nations (UN) Secretary General.

Prof. Adu Boahen - unsuccessful 1992 presidential candidate for the New Patriotic Party (NPP).

Dr Kofi Busia - leader of the Progress Party (PP) which was victorious in the August 1969 elections. Busia held the office of Prime Minister from 1 October of that year until the military coup of January

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1972.

Alhaji Damba - implicated in a series of small explosions, which took place on 5-7 November 1992 following the presidential election results, for which a shadowy organisation calling itself "Farighan" claimed responsibility. Suspicion fell on Damba, his wives (three in all) and family who were arrested. Damba himself fled but he and others were sentenced in absentia to terms of between two and ten years. Damba is now living in exile in Nigeria.

Fit-Lt William Kofie Domie - arrested in September 1989 for alleged involvement in a plot to overthrow the government (see Quarshigah). Domie died in detention on 29 September 1989, after committing suicide by hanging. All others allegedly involved were later released.

Cpl Halidu Giwa, Sgt Malik and Lance Cpl Adjongba - the leading conspirators in the June 1983 jailbreak and coup attempt. Executed in March 1984 following recapture, after they had been sentenced to death in absentia.

"The three judges" - on 30 June 1982 three Justices of the High Court (Mr Justice Fred Poku Sarkodee, Mrs Justice Cecilia Koranteng-Addow and Mr Justice Kwadwo Agyei Agyepong) and a retired army officer (Maj. Sam K. Acquah) were kidnapped from their homes by four armed men. Their corpses were found in the Accra Plains a few days later. Amidst allegations that these killings were politically motivated and that the government was responsible, an inquiry was launched. The findings of the Special Investigation Board were particularly damning for Capt. Kojo Tsikata (see below) who was named as "the brains behind the plot".

J A Kuffuor - defeated NPP presidential candidate in 1996, who gained 39.9% of the vote. On 24 October 1998 Kufuor was elected to stand as the NPP's presidential candidate at the 2000 presidential election.

Dr Hilla Limann - President of Ghana from 1979-81 as leader of the People's National Party (PNP), until the 31 December 1981 coup, which preceded the PNDC regime. Although arrested after this coup Limann was subsequently released and later went on to challenge for the presidency in 1992 as the candidate of the People's National Convention (PNC). Died 23 January 1998.

J H Mensah - senior NPP politician. Currently the Minority Leader of the House.

John Atta Mills - Current Vice-President and favoured by Rawlings as his successor when he steps down in 2000.

Dr Kwame Nkrumah - founder of the Convention People's Party (CPP) in 1949, prime minister of the Gold Coast (and later Ghana) from 1952 until independence. Became first Ghanaian president in 1960 and was deposed by a military coup in February 1966. Went into exile until his death in 1972.

Victor Owusu - unsuccessful Popular Front Party (PFP) candidate who stood against Limann in 1979 elections.

Maj. Courage E K Quarshigah - alleged architect of the September 1989 attempt to assassinate Rawlings and overthrow the PNDC government. The "Quarshigah conspiracy" as it later became known was never proven and no one ever stood trial. All those accused were eventually released, Quarshigah being freed in 1992.

Fit-Lt Jerry John Rawlings (President since 1992) - current President of Ghana and Head of State since 31 December 1981 when he seized power by way of a military coup. Rawlings had previously staged an unsuccessful coup in May 1979 and was imprisoned. However, he was subsequently released by other officers and seized power on 4 June of the same year before establishing the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC). Rawlings then returned the country to democratic civilian rule about three months later, maintaining that his regime's major concern had been the eradication of corruption (a number of senior officials were executed during AFRC rule). However, following a period of unpopular PNP rule, Rawlings returned to power, this time with the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC). The PNDC military government held power from the end of 1981 until 1992 when political activity resumed. Rawlings became presidential candidate for the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and was successful in both the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections, though he is due to stand down in 2000.

Nana Konadu Agyemang Rawlings - wife of the President and head of the 31st December Women's Movement.

Tommy Thompson, Eben Quarcoo and Kofi Coomson - Thompson (publisher of the Free Press), Quarcoo (editor of the Free Press) and Coomson (editor of the Ghanaian Chronicle) were arrested in 1995 following the publication of articles accusing government officials of drug dealing to fund arms deals. They were subsequently charged with "international libel" which carries a possible ten-year jail sentence. They challenged the constitutional law on sedition in the Supreme Court but lost and are now on bail awaiting trial. **Tommy Thompson died in late 1998**

Capt. Kojo Tsikata - former National Security Advisor to the President. A close ally to Rawlings, Tsikata was implicated in the political killing of three judges and a retired army officer in June 1982. Bowed out of politics shortly before the 1996 elections.

Annex C

ANNEX C - CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS, 1957-1997

1957 On 6 March, Ghanaian independence from the Commonwealth is achieved, led by Dr Kwame Nkrumah of the Convention People's Party (CPP).

1960 Ghana becomes a republic on 1 July, with Dr Nkrumah as President.

1964 Ghana is a one-party state, with the CPP as the sole authorised party.

1966 Dr Nkrumah is removed from his political office in a coup d'etat on 24 February. The coup leaders establish the National Liberation Council (NLC), led by General Joseph Ankrah.

1969 General Ankrah is replaced by Brigadier Akwasi Afrifa in April, a new constitution is introduced and the ban on party politics is lifted the following month. In August, an election for a new National Assembly is held, the Progress Party (PP) wins and is led by Dr Kofi Busia, who is subsequently appointed Prime Minister. The PP government takes office in October.

1972 The army seize power in January, the constitution is abolished and all political institutions are replaced by the National Redemption Council (NRC) under the chairmanship of Lt-Col Ignatius Acheampong.

1975 The NRC is replaced by the Supreme Military Council (SMC) also led by Acheampong.

1976 Acheampong announces plans for a return to civilian rule in the form of union government.

1978 A referendum is held in favour of union government. On 5 July, Acheampong's deputy, General Akuffo assumes power in a bloodless coup.

1979 January - The ban on party politics is lifted and 16 new parties are subsequently registered.

May - A coup staged by junior officers of the armed forces, led by Flt-Lt Jerry Rawlings, fails on 15 May and he is subsequently imprisoned.

June - Following his release by other officers, Rawlings seizes power on 4 June and establishes an Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC). Acheampong, Akuffo, Afrifa and other senior officers are convicted on charges of corruption and executed. On 18 June, a general election takes place, contested by 5 parties and won by Dr Hilla Limann's People's National Party (PNP), which forms a coalition government with the United National Convention (UNC).

September - Dr Limann is inaugurated as President.

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1980 September - Limann announces an amnesty for all political exiles and refugees except those sentenced in absentia by the AFRC. Most prisoners sentenced by special courts during the term of the AFRC are freed in 1980 after applying to the courts for reconsideration of their convictions. However, at the end of 1981, at least 27 such prisoners are still being held.

October - The government announces that a number of agricultural development schemes established by Rawlings are being turned into camps for training active subversives. About 10 people are questioned and detained, one of them being Kojo Tsikata, a former army Captain and close associate of Rawlings.

March & May 1980 and February 1981 - Several attempts to seize power by members of the armed forces are reported.

1981 Throughout the year, prisoners convicted of economic crimes during the rule of the AFRC try to get their sentences revoked by the courts and some prison sentences are quashed. However, in November, the Supreme Court rejects a writ submitted by B S K Kwakye, former Inspector General of Police, alleging that his 25-year prison sentence imposed in his absence by the AFRC was unlawful. The government swiftly orders the re-arrest of all those sentenced by the AFRC and its courts, who had been released since the return to civilian rule in September 1979.

December - On 31 December, Rawlings seizes power for the second time. He abolishes the constitution and assumes chairmanship of a Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC). Limann and other prominent members of the PNP are imprisoned or placed in preventative detention.

1982 March - On 2 March, the PNDC issues a Preventative Custody Law (PNDCL 4) naming 492 persons to be taken into preventative custody for an indefinite period. A number are later released during the year, but by the end of 1982, at least 22 of the people named in PNDCL 4 are still detained without trial. People's Defence Committees (PDCs) replace City and district councils, in order to create mass participation at local level in the revolution. Military personnel staged an abortive coup.

June - On 30 June, 3 High Court judges and a retired army major are abducted from their homes and shot. Although the commission of inquiry is still in progress at the end of the year, 5 people had already been charged with murder and complicity to murder.

November - On 23 November, soldiers stage a coup attempt, suppressed by PNDC troops. Sgt Aloga Akata-Pore (a member of the PNDC) is arrested and detained.

1983 The final report of the Special Investigation Board appointed to investigate the murders of the three High Court judges and former army officer is issued on 30 March, recommending the prosecution of ten people on charges of murder or conspiracy to murder. The ten include Joachim Amartey Kwei and Aloga Akata-Pore (former members of the PNDC) and ex-Captain Kojo Tsikata, the Head of Security and Special Advisor to the PNDC. A special Adjudicator

states that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute five of them, including Tsikata and Akata-Pore. Former President, Hilla Limann and the former Vice-President are released on bail by the end of the year.

February & March - Minor attempts to overthrow the government are made.

May - University students are engaged in violent protests. The PNDC close the universities and turn them into training schools for revolutionary cadres.

June - On 19 June, military exiles from Togo, led by Sergeant Malik, infiltrate Accra, but troops loyal to the PNDC suppress the coup. Hundreds of people are detained following the attempted coup either for their suspected involvement or because they had welcomed the apparent overthrow of the PNDC. Three representatives of the "Free Press" newspaper, which had frequently criticised the government, are also arrested under PNDC Law 42.

August - The perpetrators of the coup attempts of November 1982 and June 1983 are put on trial. Four are executed on 13 August.

1984 Three leading conspirators who had been put on trial are executed in March. The three representatives of the Free Press are released. The universities are re-opened and in December, PDCs are redesignated Committees for the Defence of the Revolution (CDR). The right of habeas corpus against detention under PNDC Law 4 is removed.

1985 February - A number of alleged plotters are arrested in Kumasi and accused of planning to assassinate Rawlings. Later in February, a coup plot is detected in the army and two Majors and three Sergeants are tried.

May - Five conspirators allegedly linked to dissidents in Togo are executed.

1986 A number of people are tried for their involvement in a conspiracy to overthrow the government by dissident Ghanaians, and several death sentences are subsequently carried out. In August, Victor Owusu, leader of the disbanded Popular Front Party (PFP), is arrested for alleged subversion.

1987 In January, 340 prisoners are released, yet the PNDC announces further arrests in connection with an alleged conspiracy to overthrow the government and in November more arrests are made, including former officials of the PNDC.

1988 Three universities are closed for four months following renewed student unrest.

1989 In January, the student loan scheme provokes considerable student discontent, and newspaper and magazine licences become subject to review under new legislation in March. On 24 September, it is alleged that Maj. Courage Quarshigah, former commander of the military police, together with four other members of the security forces, conspired to assassinate Rawlings and overthrow the

government. A number of arrests are made and Flt-Lt William Kofi Domie dies in detention on 29 September. He had allegedly hanged himself. In January 1990, five further arrests are made in relation to the alleged coup. (The plot was never proven and all alleged participants had been released by mid-1992.)

1990 There is increasing demand for an end to the ban on political activity and association. In July, a national commission for democracy (NCD) is established to review Ghana's political and economic future through regional debate, despite criticism from the new Movement for Freedom and Justice (MFJ). On 30 December, Rawlings announces proposals for the establishment of a constitution by the end of 1991.

1991 On 10 May, the PNDC endorse the restoration of a multi-party system. However, it is emphasised that the formation of political associations remains prohibited. An alliance of opposition movements, human rights organisations and trade unions, known as the Co-ordinating Committee of Democratic Forces in Ghana (CCDFG) demands that a constitutional conference be convened to determine a schedule for transition to democracy. Rawlings announces that presidential and legislative elections will take place in late 1992.

December - Rawlings orders the arrest of the Secretary General of the MFJ, John Ndeugre, for allegedly failing to stand when the national anthem was played. An Interim National Electoral Commission (INEC) assumes the functions of the NCD.

1992 April - A national referendum is held on 28 April, and the adoption of the draft constitution is approved by 92% of the votes cast.

May - Legislation is introduced to end the ban on political association, imposed in 1981. Political parties are required to apply to the INEC for legal recognition. 21 former organisations remain proscribed and emergent parties are not permitted to use the names or slogans of these organisations.

June - Six opposition groups obtain legal status and a coalition of pro-government organisations, the National Democratic Congress (NDC), is formed to contest the elections on behalf of the PNDC. The Eagle, or Egle, Party refuses to join the coalition, although they later did so, together with the National Convention Party (NCP).

September - Rawlings retires from the armed forces and is nominated as the presidential candidate of the NDC. This is to be contested by candidates of the People's Heritage Party (PHP), the National Independence Party (NIP), the People's National Convention (PNC) which nominated Dr Hilla Limann, and the New Patriotic Party (NPP). Prior to the election there are reports of violence between NPP and NDC supporters.

October - The legislation, which permitted indefinite detention without trial, is repealed.

November - The presidential election takes place on 3 November and Rawlings is declared the winner with over 50% of the votes cast.

Although Commonwealth observers deem the conduct of the elections to be free and fair, the NPP disagree. A curfew is imposed in Kumasi following riots in which opposition supporters killed an NDC ward chairman. Explosives are detonated in Accra and Tema. A prominent member of the PHP and opposition supporters are detained in connection with the bombings.

December - On 29 December, the legislative elections are boycotted by the opposition parties on account of the alleged electoral fraud of the previous month. The NDC therefore receives the majority of seats. Only 29% of the electorate votes.

1993 January - Rawlings is sworn in as president of the Fourth Republic.

March - The two main perpetrators of the bombings are fined and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

November - A 20-member national security council, chaired by Kow Arkaah, is established.

December - The PHP, NIP and a faction of the PNC merge to form the People's Convention Party (PCP).

1994 February - 500 people are killed in the ethnic clashes of the Northern Region between those of Konkomba and Nanumba origin. Government troops are dispatched and impose a state of emergency in seven districts for three months. Six thousand Konkombas reportedly flee to Togo.

March - Twelve people are killed at Tamale (the capital of the Northern Region) when security forces fire on Dagomba demonstrators who had allegedly attacked Konkombas.

April - Negotiations between the ethnic groups involved in the conflict begin. It is reported that the authorities had discovered a conspiracy to overthrow the government, which involved threats to kill Quarshigah and the editors of two private newspapers. The opposition question the veracity of these claims.

May - The NPP announces its withdrawal from the conciliation discussions between the government and the opposition, due to lack of progress. The state of emergency in the Northern Region is extended.

June - A peace agreement is signed by the seven ethnic factions involved in the fighting in the Northern Region, imposing an immediate cease-fire. Government troops are to remain there and a negotiating team is established to attempt to resolve inter-ethnic differences.

August - The state of emergency is ended as the government announces that order has been restored.

September - Five civilians who had allegedly conspired to overthrow the government are charged with treason.

October - There is an increase in tension in the Northern Region

when further arrests are made, after several people are killed.

November - Following a joint rally of the NPP, PNC and PCP, the parties announce that they will present a single candidate to contest the presidential election in 1996.

1995 February - Valued-added tax (VAT) is imposed, leading to widespread protests.

March - About 100 people are killed as a consequence of ethnic violence in the Northern Region and a curfew is imposed.

April - A joint committee of prominent members of the Konkombas and Nanumbas is established.

May - Five people are killed in clashes between government supporters and protesters for the Alliance For Change (AFC) during an anti-VAT march. The NCP decide to withdraw the party from the government coalition.

June - VAT is suspended and the old sales tax re-instated.

November - A Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice commences investigations into allegations of corruption on the part of government ministers and civil servants.

1996 January - Opposition parties demand that Rawlings resign following allegations that he had assaulted Vice-President Arkaah during a meeting.

February - Three journalists who had published a report alleging the government's complicity in a case of drug trafficking involving a Ghanaian diplomat are arraigned. The NCP and the PCP merge to form the People's Convention Party (PCP), which later disbanded. Six people are killed in the Techiman area following a dispute over tribal status and authority.

May - A violent confrontation between two Muslim factions in Atebubu leads to one death and damage to property.

August - The NPP and PCP announce their formation of an electoral alliance, to be known as the Great Alliance. The NCP is to support the NDC. A demonstration is organised by taxi-drivers.

September - Rawlings is nominated as presidential candidate of the NDC.

October - At least twenty people are wounded in clashes between the NDC and NPP militant supporters in Tamale and Kibi.

November - A network of Domestic Election Observers, comprising 25 groups, is created to oversee the December elections.

December - Presidential and parliamentary elections take place on 7 December. Rawlings and the NDC are re-elected, despite reducing its majority of seats. International observers declare that the elections had been conducted fairly and that 76.8% of the electorate had voted. Fifteen people are injured in clashes between NDC and opposition

supporters in Bimbilla, north of Accra, following the announcement of the election results.

1997 January - Rawlings is sworn in as President on 7 January.

March - A new Council of Ministers is appointed, although ten members of the previous administration remain in office. Ghana celebrates 40 years of independence. The Minister of Finance announces the re-introduction of VAT two years after widespread unrest led to its withdrawal.

May - The head of the US Information Service is expelled from Ghana because of "activities unacceptable from a diplomat". He had allegedly become personally involved in the criminal libel case brought by the government against the editors of the Free Press for publishing an article accusing government members of drug trafficking. In what was assumed to be a retaliatory measure, the US authorities expel a Ghanaian diplomat in June.

August - Serious disturbances in Wenchi District of Brong-Ahafo Region result in the deaths of three people. The troubles are a result of a land dispute between the chiefs of the Brohani and Menji tribes.

October - On 30 October 1997 in Nima, a slum area in Accra, one youth was killed (though some press reports claimed that two were killed) when police fired on a crowd of rioters protesting at the failure of authorities to collect their refuse. After the riot the Interior Minister testified before Parliament that the lives of the police were threatened before they resorted to the use of arms.

November - More than 2,000 are arrested in the diamond-mining town of Akwatia in the Eastern Region in a joint police and military operation, following clashes between police and illegal diamond traders. On 30 November 1997 a policeman shot and killed a taxibus driver's assistant after a traffic violation. The driver was later caught and beaten by army and police personnel. The policeman responsible for the killing was jailed pending immediate and full-scale investigations. The police commander denounced the action regardless of whether a traffic violation had been committed.

1998 January - four people were killed and 26 wounded in a dispute between rival Moslem sects over the ownership of a graveyard in the western town of Wenchi. The trouble started when the Tijaniyyas allegedly tried to stop members of the Al-Suna sect from burying dead members of their sect. Police are reported to have made more than 60 arrests after members of the orthodox Tijaniya Moslem group attacked members of the Al-Suna sect with guns and machetes, killing four of them. By mid-January order had returned but the area remained tense. The regional crime officer said a screening exercise would be carried out to see who would be brought to trial.

On 23 January the former President Hilla Limann died.

May - Three people were reported to have been shot dead by police at Aflao according to Ghanaian radio. The first one was shot when police used their guns in an attempt to ward off a group who turned on police who had come to the aid of a woman they were attacking.

The group then caught up with the police, and attacked one. The police later opened fire when the group began attacking the police station, killing two more members of the group.

July - Two journalists were jailed for one month each in for contempt in connection with an article written about President Rawling's wife Nana Konadu Agyeman.

The Interior Minister has said that the cases of those killed during the 11 May 1995 demonstration organised by the Alliance for Change have been closed because "no clear point of responsibility can be identified" regarding the killing of 4 civilians at the demonstration. The Alliance for Change expressed shock at this statement.

October - There was a violent demonstration by students at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, which resulted in the university being closed. On 5 October however it opened again, and the registration of continuing and fresh students proceeded smoothly. It was reported that the campus was calm.

1999 January - On 13 January , a farmer was fatally shot and 12 policemen injured during a riot at Juaso, outside of Kumasi in the Ashanti Region. A former chief held a year- end party for his supporters although the police had prohibited the gathering. The 36-year- old farmer was reportedly hit by a warning shot fired by the police. The ex-chief and more than 60 townspeople were arrested by a joint police and military team in connection with the riot

February - A high court sentenced four people to death at the end of a long running treason trial. A fifth was discharged and acquitted. The prosecution said the accused, led by two fugitive army officers had planned to overthrow the government by force in September 1994. On 14 February, police fired live bullets indiscriminately into a

Konkomba market crowd, while attempting to stop looting, killing a 15-year-old boy and injuring two other persons.

June - The Minority group in Parliament tabled a motion to challenge the level of coverage of political parties by the state-owned media. On 24 June, an employee of the National Security Council allegedly shot and killed an agricultural officer following a traffic dispute near Abelemkpe in Accra. The suspect, who reported having shot an armed robber, was arrested and released on bail. The case is ongoing.

July - A new party the National Reform Party (NRP) receives it final registration certificate. The party was formed by defectors from the NDC

August - Students demonstrate in Accra and Kumasi over fees and general hardship. Police use tear gas, rubber bullets and water canons against the students in Accra. On 12 August, the Deputy Superintendent of Police allegedly shot a vendor at Soe, near Bolgatanga in the Upper East Region, in a dispute over the siting of a kiosk. The vendor died 3 days later. A stray bullet fired by police during the confrontation injured one other person. The police are

investigating. The Inspector General of Police (IGP) attended the vendor's funeral.

On August 19, a policeman allegedly shot and killed a passenger in a truck after the driver refused to stop when signaled to do so in Winneba in the Central Region. The policeman reportedly was on the lookout for armed robbers and tried to deflate the truck's tires with an AK-47, killing the victim by mistake. The incident is under investigation.

September - On 25 September, a policeman reportedly shot and killed a driver at his residence in Korpeya. The police maintained that the policeman shot him in self-defence.

November - On 13 November a plainclothes police inspector shot and killed the driver of a timber truck at a police barricade in Barekese. Initial reports stated that the man was shot accidentally in a scuffle with the police, but eyewitnesses reported that there was no scuffle and the driver was killed deliberately. Police authorities suspended the inspector immediately and initiated an investigation that was underway at year's end. There was a serious disturbance in November 1999 during a football game between an Islamic and Methodist middle school. Property belonging to Muslims in the town of Agona Nyakrom, was destroyed. Youths attacked Muslims in this area including the headmaster of the Islamic school, who was badly beaten. Five people were shot during these disturbances. Newspapers report that as a result of this incident, large numbers of Muslims had moved out of the area

December - On 24 December 24, a patrol team of police and military personnel shot and killed two passengers in a taxi in Tema. The taxi driver reportedly had failed to stop at a checkpoint. The police say they fired warning shots, but witnesses said there were more than 10 bullet holes in the vehicle and the tires were flat from the shooting. At year's end, there had been no further action.

2000 January - Mr Cabral Blay Amihere the editor of the Independent newspaper was detained by the military, after publishing an article which said that soldiers had refused to obey an order relating to march, and was held overnight on 13/14 January 2000. In light of this incident, the Ghana Journalist Association held a meeting to discuss the intimidation of journalists, and urged that only Constitutional methods be used to seek redress against journalists who print articles where the truth is disputed

Annex D

ANNEX D

The Committees for the Defence of the Revolution

In 1982, the military government abolished the city and district councils and replaced them with People's Defence Committees (PDCs) and, in the workplace, Workers' Defence Committees (WDCs), in an attempt to create mass participation at the local level in the revolution. These were reorganised as Committees for the Defence of the Revolution (CDRs) in 1984. Also in 1984, the Civil Defence Organisation (CDO) was created as a voluntary militia to assist with matters of internal security. They were reorganised in 1987/88 to adopt a role less geared to para-military activities. **[2][20]**

The PNDC took the view that harsh measures were necessary to combat the wide level of corruption, which it saw as threatening the economic fabric of the country, but it was widely criticised for the breaches of civil rights that this entailed. These included extra-judicial killings, "disappearances" of individuals, the detention of political prisoners without trial, lack of independence of the judiciary, lack of free political expression and acts of intimidation by members of the CDO, PDCs and CDRs. **[18]**

Some individual accusations can be substantiated but not all of them and the majority of Ghanaians were little affected by their loss of civil rights. There was in the country in the early years of PNDC rule what has been described as an "atmosphere of intimidation" against opponents, and those identified as potential opponents of the regime. In the later 1980s, however, the PNDC pursued its political agenda less aggressively, repressive legislation was increasingly less used and attempts, albeit only partially successful, were made to curb excesses of authority by the CDRs and CDO. **[18]**

The Association of CDRs

The CDRs were subsequently disbanded in January 1993 and have no status under the 1992 Constitution. Their successor, the Association of CDRs (ACDR), is a purely voluntary organisation, which has lost most of the political influence of its predecessor and its members are not able to act outside the law. Whilst the CDO's political influence is significantly reduced, it still has the ability to mobilise people in support of the President, if required. **[34]**

By 1990, although freedom of political expression was limited and some abuses of civil rights still occurred, the situation was that only a very small number of active opponents of the PNDC had any reason to fear persecution. In July that year, at least partly in response to Western pressure, the PNDC set up the National Commission for Democracy (NCD), chaired by Justice Annan, to organise a series of regional debates on Ghana's political and economic future. **[2]**

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