



ALLIANCE FOR SOCIAL EQUITY & PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Promoting Transparency in Governance

THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE
C/O: US EMBASSY IN GHANA
ACCRA

15TH JULY, 2021

PETITION TO INVOKE VISA SANCTIONS (PURSUANT TO SECTION 212 OF THE US IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT) AGAINST KENNEDY AGYAPONG FOR ENDANGERING THE LIVES OF JOURNALISTS IN GHANA.

1. The **Alliance for Social Equity and Public Accountability, ASEPA** is an accredited Civil Society Organization in Ghana pursuing matters of **Public Accountability** and **Human Rights**.
2. This petition is to invoke **sanctions** of the **United States Government** against a **Member of Parliament** in Ghana who has continuously put the lives of innocent Journalists in Ghana at risk with one casualty already recorded and several others falling victims to his constant abuse and threat of harm against Journalists.
3. That the United States Government has always taken key interest in the safety of Journalists across the World and has always shown strict opposition and in some instances have imposed sanctions on Governments and individuals who have directly or indirectly been involved in attacks or threats against Journalists across the World.
4. One of such instances is the actions the US Government took in the murder of Saudi Arabian Journalist, **Jamal Khashoggi** in 2018. The US Government conducted an investigation and have recently under the **Biden-Harris administration** issued a new visa restriction policy pursuant to **Section 212(a)(3)(c)** of the **US Immigration and Nationality Act** dubbed the "**Khashoggi ban**" which allows the **US department of State** to impose visa **restrictions** on **individuals** or **members foreign governments** believed to be directly involved in the **suppress, harassment, surveillance, threatening or causing harm** to Journalists.
5. In 2019, this same Member of the Ghanaian Parliament, **Mr. Kennedy Agyapong** sitting on National TV issued threats against **Tiger Eye** Journalist **Ahmed Suale**, he also incited mob action against the Journalist for the role he played in investigative expose dubbed "**Number 12**" which exposed the huge **corruption** that had bedeviled football administration in Ghana. A few weeks later the Journalist was **assassinated** in cold blood and till date no one has been arrested.

0542120628

office@asepaghana.org

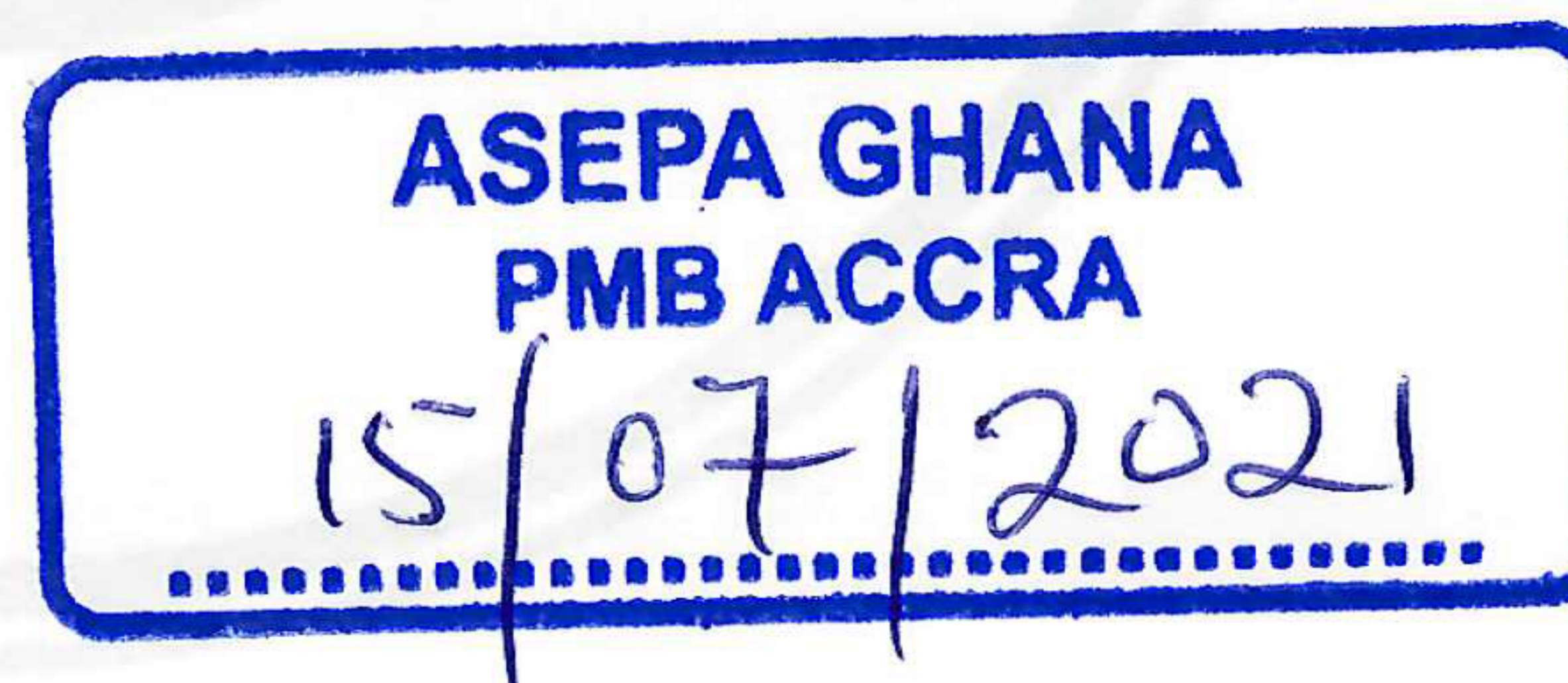
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6. Mr. Agyapong after this incident did not back down on his threats against journalists, rather he has been emboldened by the inaction of Government and the security agencies to arrest and prosecute him for endangering the life of Ahmed Suale to issue more morbid threats against Journalists in the Country.
7. Barely a week ago this same **Kennedy Agyapong**, who acts **the Chairman of Parliament's Defense and Interior Committee** went on live TV to issue another reckless threat against a journalist who works with **Multimedia Ghana Ltd**, a media group in Ghana who runs **Joy FM** as one of its Subsidiaries for appearing and testifying before a **Committee of Enquiry** set up by the President to investigate the murder of a **Civil Activist** in Ejura, a rural community in Ghana.
8. The threats issued by Mr. Agyapong was quite similar to the threats he issued against **Ahmed Suale** in 2019 leading to his eventual assassination and so the media house of the Journalist has taken steps to protect the Journalist from any form of attack by reporting the matter to the Police in the region where the Journalist is based and copied several other entities locally and internationally. **A copy of the complaint would be attached herein for your attention.**
9. We therefore request that the US Government through the Department of State activate the **Khashoggi ban** against Mr. Kennedy Agyapong to retrain him from entering the United States where has a couple of business interests or any United States territory.
10. We also want the United States Government to extend the Khashoggi ban to the **Government of Ghana** and all its officials until such a time when the Government resolves the murder of Ahmed Suale, arrest the culprits and prosecute them. Same sanctions should apply to the **Parliament of Ghana** and its officials if the Parliament fails to remove Mr. Agyapong as the Chairman of the Defense and Interior Committee of Parliament.
11. We are counting on the international interest of the US Government in defending **human rights** and also in the promotion of the safety and well-being of Journalists across the World to help protect Journalists in Ghana who are constantly falling victims to the recklessness and viciousness of Mr. Agyapong.

Signed

Mensah Thompson
Executive Director, ASEPA
Info.thompson.live@gmail.com
mthompson@asepaghana.org



cc.

Ghana Journalist Association
International Federation of Journalists
The Speaker of Parliament.

0542120628
office@asepaghana.org
asepaghana.org
Accra, Ghana