



## Media Foundation for West Africa

Fondation pour les Medias en Afrique de  
l'Ouest (FMAO)

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November 27, 2020

The Comptroller General Kwame Asuah Takyi  
Ghana Immigration Service  
Headquarters  
Accra

Dear Sir,

### **PETITION AGAINST MR. ISAAC DZIHLORNU'S THREATS AGAINST AN EDITOR**

The Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) brings you its compliments.

We are writing you as an organisation that works to promote press freedom to investigate the conduct of one of your officers, Isaac Dzihlornu, who has reportedly been issuing threats against Emmanuel Akli, the Editor of *The Chronicle* newspaper.

According to a story published in the November 24, 2020 edition of *The Chronicle*, Mr. Dzihlornu has at various times since 2018, been issuing threats against the paper's editor over a critical publication about him. The threats follow a court judgment in favour of Dzihlornu over the said publication, subsequent to which the Management of *The Chronicle* filed for and obtained a stay of execution of the ruling which had ordered the newspaper to publish an apology to the plaintiff.

"Don't be happy because you succeeded in destroying someone's life. A time will come for you to cry," reads one of the threats sent by WhatsApp in November 2018.

According to Mr. Akli, on January 16, 2019, the day investigative journalist Ahmed Suale was killed by unknown assailants in Accra, the Immigration officer sent him a video announcing the death, accompanied by the threat; "it will happen soon."

This threat was immediately reported to the Police Criminal Investigations Department (CID) of Greater Accra.

Mr. Dzihlornu was invited to the Regional Police the CID in June 2019 over the threats which he denied in the presence of the petitioner, Mr. Akli. He has however continued to issue threats against the journalist. The latest one sent via WhatsApp on November 20, 2020, read;

“This is my last message to you. If you don’t publish a retraction of the stupid and useless stories you publish about me in your newspaper latest by Thursday next week, then you will blame yourself forever. You are from Anlo and I am also from Anlo. My God in heaven will not count it as a sin for me because I have exercised enough patience. You can act on it or leave it. I will seek for justice with even my last blood. Mark it on the wall.”

Press freedom is the heartbeat of democracy, and so any attempt to intimidate the media is an attack on democracy and must be fought back in a robust manner.

The murder of Ahmed Suale, alongside other recent violations, has adversely affected Ghana’s press freedom ranking since the country came up tops in Africa in 2018.

Under the UN Action Plan to end Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, states are required not only to take steps to prevent press freedom violations but also to ensure that violations are investigated and the perpetrators punished. As an important state institution, the GIS is required to take any action within its power to help prevent and punish crimes against journalists, hence this petition.

While the issue is not directly related to the performance of his official duties, the MFWA still believes that the conduct of Mr. Dzihlornu in this matter is disappointing and unbecoming of a senior officer of the Immigration Service.

We therefore appeal to your good offices to take steps to call the officer to order.

In the expectation of your favourable response, we entreat you to accept the assurances of our highest regards.

Your sincerely,



Sulemana Braimah  
Executive Director

