



GHANA FOR UGANDA
AFRICAN COALITION IN SOLIDARITY
WITH THE PEOPLE OF UGANDA

26th April 2020

STATEMENT ON THE ARREST & TORTURE OF PEOPLE POWER'S
HON. ZAAKE FRANCIS

We, the members of the Coalition in Solidarity with the People of Uganda, have observed with horror the blatant abuse of human rights by the Museveni regime in Uganda and must condemn the actions of the regime and its agents, as well as anyone who facilitates the abuse.

1. We have observed the escalation in violence perpetrated against Ugandans by their government under Yoweri Kaguta Museveni — from the August 2018 murder of People Power mobiliser and driver Yasin Kawuma; to the regular abductions, torture, detention incommunicado of citizens thought to be a threat to the regime, the silencing of the free speech of writers, targeted murder and brutalisation of opposition members and supporters.
2. We were angered by the murder of 28 year old People Power activist Ritah Nabukenya who was intentionally run over by a Uganda Police Force vehicle in February 2020, as well as the murder of People Power supporter Dan Kyeyune, shot in the head by Uganda Police as he returned from Ritah Nabukenya's funeral less than 48 hours later.
3. We have been closely following the treatment of activists in Uganda during the COVID-19 Pandemic, and applaud the efforts of said activists to ensure that people in need are fed. We applaud attempts to collaborate with the State Task Force, and support the activists' innovative attempts to continue feeding Ugandans in need, despite Museveni's directive to charge those caught doing so with attempted murder.
4. We condemn in the severest terms the treatment of **People Power's Hon. Zaake Francis**, who has been mobilising resources to feed people in his constituency during the lockdown in Uganda. Hon. Zaake was violently arrested by police and military forces at his home in Mityana Municipality, Mityana District, on the evening of Sunday 19 April 2020 and remains unlawfully detained as at Sunday 26th April 2020. He is yet to make a Police Statement, and no formal charges have been made public; a vague Police media brief accuses him of violating *Sections 117, 171 & 204 of Uganda's Penal Code Act Cap. 120.*

For days Hon. Zaake was been subjected to unspeakable torture while in detention at Mityana Central Police Station, at the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (CMI) in Nsambya Military Barracks, and at the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) in Kireka. His captors denied him food and medical care, and have severely limited his access to

legal representation and loved ones, finally transferring him to a state run hospital where he remains in detention. He is in great pain, blind and unable to walk, with major injuries to his leg and spine.

The political situation in Uganda is of concern to all well-meaning Africans across the world. We must condemn the abuses perpetrated against our brothers and sisters in Uganda. It is in the spirit of Pan Africanism and in the belief that a united Africa is a strong Africa, that we call for the following:

1. The IMMEDIATE and UNCONDITIONAL release of Hon. Zaake Francis who has been held for almost a week without being charged in court. His human rights must be respected - he must be allowed to pursue medical care in an institution of his choosing, and be allowed access to his legal representation and his family.
2. The arrest of the following agents of the Museveni regime to answer to the accusations made against them with respect to the abduction and torture of Hon. Zaake Francis:
 1. Mityana Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Isha Ntumwa
 2. Mityana District Police Commander (DPC) Alex Mwine
 3. Wamala Region Police Commander (RPC) Kagarura Bob
 4. All police and military officers identified by Hon. Zaake to have been present during his illegal detention.
3. An immediate review of the directives denying Ugandans in opposition the ability to support their brothers and sisters during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
4. The immediate cessation of all intimidation of activists working to provide food in their communities, such as People Power Coordinator Natukunda Innocent, and Abdallah Kitatta Kiwanuka.
5. The African Union to revive some of the faith of the African People in her structures and intent by upholding the values outlined in Agenda 2063. The AU must condemn the actions of the Museveni regime and take appropriate measures to support the restoration of democracy. Concrete steps must be taken to ensure that Ugandan people - particularly opposition members and supporters - are free to go about their business without fear of intimidation and assault. Uganda must be suspended from the African Union until such time that democracy is returned.
6. The mobilisation of resources and networks in support of the People Power movement's efforts to heighten advocacy for Hon. Zaake's unconditional release and ensure a swift and fully-fledged legal response, currently being led by a team of People Power Lawyer-Coordinators, including Hon. Asuman Basalirwa, Hon. Medard Lubega Ssegona, Hon. Mwiru Paul.

Ugandan lives matter.

We stand with the People of Uganda as they fight both the COVID-19 Pandemic and the even deadlier Museveni regime. We stand with them as they work to reclaim their right to self-determination, in the faith and knowledge that Uganda will soon be free.

Towards a Liberated Africa.
#UntilWeAreAllFree

Signed,



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**GHANA
FOR
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Concerned Africans in Ghana

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