



**SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA (SMG)**

**YOUTH WING**

**STATEMENT FROM THE YOUTH WING OF THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA ON THE MISSING 610 PERSONS IN GHANA BETWEEN 2021-2023**

The Youth Wing of the Socialist Movement of Ghana, express our deep concern and profound distress over the alarming issue of the 610 persons reported missing in Ghana between May 2021 and April 2023 as captured on the database of Missing Children Ghana a Non-Profit and Public Benefit Organization that engages the Ghana Police Service and Department of Social Welfare when a person (especially a child) goes missing in Ghana. This situation not only raises grave concerns about the safety and security of our citizens but also highlights significant lapses in our national systems of law enforcement, justice, and social welfare.

The disappearance of these individuals including 560 children between the ages 0 to 18 is a tragic reflection of the broader socio-economic challenges faced by many Ghanaians, including unemployment, poverty, and inadequate social protection. As young socialists, we believe that every Ghanaian deserves to live in a society where their safety is guaranteed and their fundamental human rights are respected.

It is even more troubling knowing such an issue is being given less attention by the government, state institutions and agencies in the country, and even harrowing if authorities feign ignorance of it. It shows clearly what the interest of our Government and the elite in our society is, they simply value profit over human lives and it's a shame to the ideals that birthed our sovereign Republic.

We call upon the government and all relevant authorities to take immediate and decisive action to investigate these disappearances thoroughly. This includes:

1. **Enhanced Investigation Efforts:** Let's mobilize all necessary resources and expertise to locate the missing persons and do everything possible to bring collaborators and perpetrators to book.
2. **Improved Security Measures:** Strengthening community policing and surveillance to prevent further disappearances and ensure the safety of all citizens, particularly vulnerable groups.
3. **Public Awareness and Support:** Launching public awareness campaigns to educate citizens on safety measures and the importance of reporting suspicious activities promptly.
4. **Support for Affected Families:** Providing psychological, legal, and financial support to the families of the missing persons to help them cope with the emotional and practical challenges they face.
5. **Heads Must Roll: We demand that appointees and individuals who are assigned direct oversight over such issues be recalled, have their appointments terminated or forced to resign with immediate effect.**
6. **Social and Economic Transformation:** Addressing the root causes that contribute to such tragic events, including tackling unemployment, poverty, and social inequalities that leave many vulnerable to exploitation and harm.

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**We also call on the Ghanaian media to take particular interest in this issue and help to shed more light and inform the general public on the status of all the investigations.**

As a movement dedicated to the radical transformation of society and the well-being of all Ghanaians, we urge the youth and all citizens to stand in solidarity with the families of the missing individuals especially children. It cannot be that such a grave phenomenon would be treated as a norm instead of an exception in Kwame Nkrumah's Ghana. Let us work together, organise to build a society where every person is valued, protected, and given the opportunity to thrive.

The Youth Wing of the Socialist Movement of Ghana remains committed to advocating and organising for a radical transformation of society under the banner of socialism and together, we'll continue to press for a safer, fairer, and more just world.

In solidarity,

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**Youth Leader**

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