

Absender*in: Name / Adresse

Place / Date

His Excellency
President of the Republic of Ghana
Jubilee House
Kanda Accra
GHANA

Anti-Witchcraft Bill 2023

Your Excellency,

The rights of women accused of witchcraft should be protected.

Time and again, people, predominantly older women, are accused of witchcraft in Ghana. This deep-rooted practice has led to untold suffering, discrimination and violence.

I urge you to sign the Anti-Witchcraft Bill as a matter of urgency to protect those at risk.

The tragic case of Akua Denteh, a 90-year-old woman from Kafaba in the Savannah region, is just one of the sad examples of the horrific consequences of witchcraft accusations. On 23 July 2020, she was beaten to death after being accused of witchcraft. Hundreds of people accused of witchcraft have suffered abuse and have been driven from their communities to live in seclusion in camps.

Behind these accusations often lie superstition, envy and old beliefs, leading to serious human rights violations and abuse. The victims, mostly elderly women, are subjected to brutal attacks, displacement and social marginalization. Such acts stand in contrast to the values of justice, human dignity and equality.

Legislation is urgently needed! The Anti-Witchcraft Bill, which has been carefully drafted after extensive consultations with various stakeholders, aims to address this serious and urgent problem.

We call for, as contained in the Bill:

- a ban on accusing people of witchcraft,
- severe deterrent penalties,
- protective measures, safe havens and support systems such as psychological and medical care and reintegration programs into society for those affected.
- conducting nationwide campaigns to raise public awareness of the impact of witchcraft accusations and the importance of protecting human rights,
- creating a clear legal process for victims to obtain justice and compensation.

In the hope that women and girls will soon receive the much needed support, I thank you very much for your efforts.

Yours sincerely

Copy:
Botschaft der Republik Ghana
Stavangerstraße 17-19
10439 Berlin