



PRESS RELEASE

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STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION, WITCH-HUNT, AND VENDETTA AGAINST OLIVER BARKER VORMAWOR

We are deeply alarmed and disappointed by the Attorney General's politically motivated persistent efforts to deny bail to Oliver Barker-Vormawor, a democracy Hub convenor and a prominent voice in the #FixTheCountry Movement. For the third time, the Attorney General yesterday, requested the courts to continue his remand in custody—a request the courts have unfortunately granted yet again.

The government's relentless pursuit of Oliver is a deliberate attempt to silence dissent and intimidate those who dare to speak out against the misrule and injustices of the Government. These targeted actions reflect a worrying pattern of this Government's oppressive tactics, designed to silence voices like Oliver, that challenge the status quo.

With less than three months remaining in office and their three-year prosecution of Oliver on trumped-up treason charges unraveling, the Akufo-Addo government is clearly intent on using any means necessary to lock him up and punish him before their term ends.

The following long list of selective actions taken by the State against Oliver confirm our fears, as shared by various observers who have predicted the government's intent to punish him for his activism. These actions come in the wake of the arrest of Oliver and 53 other Ghanaian youth who stepped out to exercise their civic right to protest during the #StopGalamseyNow and #ReOccupyJulorbiHouse demonstrations on September 21, 2024.

The State's Politically Motivated and Unjust Actions Have Included the Following:

Patterns of Unfair Treatments and Witch-Hunting Tactics

Oliver Barker-Vormawor's arrest and ongoing detention is a direct attack on the core values of justice, democracy, and free speech in Ghana. As a key figure in Democracy Hub, a civil rights advocacy movement focused on social justice, transparency, and responsible governance, Oliver has consistently worked for the betterment of Ghanaians. The actions of the police, sanctioned by the state, now reveal a troubling trend of injustice and abuse of state power to target citizens.

1. **Denial of Access to Timely Medical Care:** Adding to the injustices, Oliver fell ill while in custody, and despite repeated requests from his family and lawyers for medical

attention, he was denied access to urgent care until September 25, when his condition deteriorated to life threatening levels, before he was rush to ICU. Such callous treatment poses a significant risk to his health and well-being and constitutes a violation of his basic human rights.

2. **Politically Motivated Charges and Remand:** On September 27, Oliver, along with other detained protesters, was arraigned before the Circuit Court of Accra, where they were met with unfair charges and promptly remanded into police custody for two weeks. Their remand was widely condemned by both local and international organizations are unlawful, unjust and unreasonable. Thousands of students and citizens matched on the streets to demand their immediate release, forcing the government two weeks later to finally grant bail to all the detained protesters- except for Oliver.
3. **Denial of Bail Based on Speculative and Prejudiced Concerns:** The court's refusal to grant Oliver bail, citing an ongoing politically motivated treason felony trial, is a biased and prejudiced decision. Oliver has consistently attended every court hearing related to this trial, demonstrating his commitment to due process. Further, the court's claim of a flight risk is groundless. It is outrageous for the State to suggest that his public advocacy could disrupt public order, and using this as basis to remand him to custody is unreasonable and speculative at best, and a clear attempt to suppress his role as a leading figure in the fight for social justice and democracy in Ghana.

Call For Justice

We call on the judiciary to act independently and uphold justice without bias. The right to bail is a constitutional guarantee, and denying it under these circumstances is a travesty. The ongoing persecution of Oliver Barker-Vormawor is a clear violation of his fundamental rights and an affront to Ghana's democratic values.

We urge the Government of Ghana to cease these authoritarian tactics aimed at silencing dissent. These actions undermine the rule of law and threaten the democratic freedoms that every Ghanaian citizen is entitled to.

Democracy Hub stands resolutely in defense of the rights of Ghanaians and the protection of our environment. We will not be intimidated. We will continue to demand justice for Oliver Barker-Vormawor and all others persecuted for standing up for truth and justice.

“Believe me when I say that, I understand profoundly the moral decay of the republic and in our quest to fight for the very soul of this country. I will continue to lead from the front. Not the back like the cowardice of our leaders”.

I am prepared to receive twice the punishment of the next man. And when a cheek is struck, I will turn the next cheek. Trusting that posterity will judge us more fairly. Tomorrow will redeem us, and make whole our sacrifice. Writing to you from a jail cell, where we haven't even had water to bathe in three (3) days. I assure you of my full commitment to this struggle. Ghana, I believe, will rise above its current station. True dignity and Justice will be restored to our people. In our lifetime, or we must die trying.”

-Oliver Barker Mawuse Vormawor (Facebook, Oct 5, 2024)

**Signed
Democracy Hub**



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