Home Office
BUILDING A SAFE, JUST AND TOLERANT SOCIETY

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GHANA

Home Office Science and Research Group

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION SERVICE

Country of Origin Information Reports are produced by the Science & Research Group of the Home Office to provide caseworkers and others involved in processing asylum applications with accurate, balanced and up-to-date information about conditions in asylum seekers' countries of origin.

They contain general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum/human rights claims made in the UK.

The reports are compiled from material produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources. They are not intended to be a detailed or comprehensive survey, nor do they contain Home Office opinion or policy.

Disclaimer: "This country of origin information report contains the most up-to-date publicly available information as at 31 July 2005. Older source material has been included where it contains relevant information not available in more recent documents."

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1. Scope of document

1.1 This Country of Origin Information Report (COI Report) has been produced by Research Development and Statistics (RDS), Home Office, for use by officials involved in the asylum / human rights determination process. The Report provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum / human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. It includes information available up to 31 August 2005.

1.2 The Report is compiled wholly from material produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources and does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy. All information in the Report is attributed, throughout the text, to the original source material, which is made available to those working in the asylum / human rights determination process.

1.3 The Report aims to provide a brief summary of the source material identified, focusing on the main issues raised in asylum and human rights applications. It is not intended to be a detailed or comprehensive survey. For a more detailed account, the relevant source documents should be examined directly.

1.4 The structure and format of the COI Report reflects the way it is used by Home Office caseworkers and appeals presenting officers, who require quick electronic access to information on specific issues and use the contents page to go directly to the subject required. Key issues are usually covered in some depth within a dedicated section, but may also be referred to briefly in several other sections. Some repetition is therefore inherent in the structure of the Report.

1.5 The information included in this COI Report is limited to that which can be identified from source documents. While every effort is made to cover all relevant aspects of a particular topic, it is not always possible to obtain the information concerned. For this reason, it is important to note that information included in the Report should not be taken to imply anything beyond what is actually stated. For example, if it is stated that a particular law has been passed, this should not be taken to imply that it has been effectively implemented unless stated.

1.6 As noted above, the Report is a collation of material produced by a number of reliable information sources. In compiling the Report, no attempt has been made to resolve discrepancies between information provided in different source documents. For example, different source documents often contain different versions of names and spellings of individuals, places and political parties etc. COI Reports do not aim to bring consistency of spelling, but to reflect faithfully the spellings used in the original source documents. Similarly, figures given in different source documents sometimes vary and these are simply quoted as per the original text. The term 'sic' has been used in this document only to denote incorrect spellings or typographical errors in quoted text; its use is not intended to imply any comment on the content of the material.

1.7 The Report is based substantially upon source documents issued during the previous two years. However, some older source documents may have been included because they contain relevant information not available in more recent documents. All sources contain information considered relevant at the time this Report was issued.

1.8 This COI Report and the accompanying source material are public documents. All COI Reports are published on the RDS section of the Home Office website and the

great majority of the source material for the Report is readily available in the public domain. Where the source documents identified in the Report are available in electronic form, the relevant web link has been included, together with the date that the link was accessed. Copies of less accessible source documents, such as those provided by government offices or subscription services, are available from the Home Office upon request.

1.9 COI Reports are published every six months on the top 20 asylum producing countries and on those countries for which there is deemed to be a specific operational need. Inevitably, information contained in COI Reports is sometimes overtaken by events that occur between publication dates. Home Office officials are informed of any significant changes in country conditions by means of Country of Origin Information Bulletins, which are also published on the RDS website. They also have constant access to an information request service for specific enquiries.

1.10 In producing this COI Report, the Home Office has sought to provide an accurate, balanced summary of the available source material. Any comments regarding this Report or suggestions for additional source material are very welcome and should be submitted to the Home Office as below.

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ADVISORY PANEL ON COUNTRY INFORMATION

1.11 The independent Advisory Panel on Country Information was established under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 to make recommendations to the Home Secretary about the content of the Home Office's country of origin information material. The Advisory Panel welcomes all feedback on the Home Office's COI Reports and other country of origin information material. Information about the Panel's work can be found on its website at www.apci.org.uk.

1.12 It is not the function of the Advisory Panel to endorse any Home Office material or procedures. In the course of its work, the Advisory Panel directly reviews the content of selected individual Home Office COI Reports, but neither the fact that such a review has been undertaken, nor any comments made, should be taken to imply endorsement of the material. Some of the material examined by the Panel relates to countries designated or proposed for designation for the Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) list. In such cases, the Panel's work should not be taken to imply any endorsement of the decision or proposal to designate a particular country for NSA, nor of the NSA process itself.

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Website www.apci.org.uk

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2. Geography

2.01 The US Library of Congress (accessed 15 June 2005) notes that "Ghana, which lies in the center of the West African coast, shares borders with the three French-speaking nations of Côte d'Ivoire to the west, Togo to the east, and Burkina Faso (Burkina, formerly Upper Volta) to the north. To the south are the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean." **[4a] (p1)** Oxfam's 'Cool Planet' website (accessed 15 June 2005) notes that, "The country lies just above the equator and is on the Greenwich meridian line which passes through the seaport of Tema, about 24 km to the east of Accra, the capital." **[30]**

2.02 Oxfam continues:

"Lake Volta, dominates Ghana's south-eastern territory, and is the world's largest artificial lake. The lake was created when the Akosombo hydro-electric dam was built in 1964. Geographically, Ghana lies within the tropics. The north of the country differs greatly in climate from the south. Southern Ghana is much wetter, has high temperatures all year round, and has a very short dry season." **[30]**

2.03 Europa Publications, Africa South of the Sahara 2005, 34th edition, records that "Ghana covers an area of 238,537 sq km (92,100 sq miles). The March 2000 census recorded a population of 18,845,265, giving an approximate density of 79.0 inhabitants per sq km." **[1] (p492)** In 2003, the United Nations estimated that the population was 20,922,000 with a density of 87.7 inhabitants per sq km. **[1] (p492)** "The major ethnic groups in Ghana include the Akan, Ewe, Mole-Dagbane, Guan, and Ga-Adangbe. The subdivisions of each group share a common cultural heritage, history, language, and origin… Despite the cultural differences among Ghana's various peoples, linguists have placed Ghanaian languages in one or the other of only two major linguistic subfamilies of the Niger-Congo language family, one of the large language groups in Africa. These are the Kwa and Gur groups, found to the south and north of the Volta River, respectively. The Kwa group, which comprises about 75 percent of the country's population, includes the Akan, Ga-Adangbe, and Ewe. The Akan are further divided into the Asante, Fante, Akwapim, Akyem, Akwamu, Ahanta, Bono, Nzema, Kwahu, and Safwi. The Ga-Adangbe people and language group include the Ga, Adangbe, Ada, and Krobo or Kloli. Even the Ewe, who constitute a single linguistic group, are divided into the Nkonya, Tafi, Logba, Sontrokofi, Lolobi, and Likpe. North of the Volta River are the three subdivisions of the Gur-speaking people. These are the Gurma, Grusi, and Mole-Dagbane. Like the Kwa subfamilies, further divisions exist within the principal Gur groups." **[4c] (p1-2)**

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3. Economy

3.01 Europa Publications, Africa South of the Sahara 2005, 34th edition, states that: "At independence in 1957, Ghana possessed one of the strongest economies in Africa. However, the economy declined sharply in the following 25 years. During that period real per head income fell by more than one-third, and the Government tax base was diminished. The resulting large deficits led to rising inflation and a burgeoning external debt burden. It also resulted in lower expenditure on, and a general neglect of, the country's infrastructure, as well as its education and health services. By 1981 average annual price inflation was running at 142%." **[1] (p498)**

3.02 Europa reports that, during the 1980s and 1990s the Rawlings administration co-operated with the World Bank and the IMF to introduce a series of Economic Recovery Programmes that introduced a measure of stability to the Ghanaian economy. A number of controversies concerning the under reporting of debt ensued in 2000 and 2001, but under the terms of an IMF debt service agreement the economic situation improved. **[1] (p498)**

Steady growth in 2003, along with significant new inward foreign investment and a good harvest placed Ghana in a favourable economic position in the election year of 2004. "In December 2003, the IMF commended the Ghanaian authorities for their successful conduct of macroeconomic policy in 2003, stating that the economy was 'on a steady growth path'. Ghana's return to high inflation shortly after President John Agyekum Kufor took office, in January 2001, proved to be short lived. The rate of inflation peaked at 41.9% in the 12 months to March 2001, but it had been reduced to 21.3% by the end of 2001 and to 15.2% by the end of 2002. Higher global petroleum prices, coupled with a removal of fuel subsidies in early 2003, placed upward pressure on inflation, which by January 2004 was running at 22.4%. The 2004 budget set a target of reducing inflation to below 10% during the 2004/05 financial year." **[1] (p497)**

3.03 Europa (Ghana 2005) notes that the economy is based primarily on the country's lucrative gold and cocoa sectors. In 2003 gold and cocoa accounted for nearly 60% of exports. In December 2003, the IMF congratulated the Government for its success in diversifying exports with the production and export of non-traditional agricultural products, such as, cassava, yams, plantains, maize, rice, peanuts, millet and sorghum. The country has been known as a source of gold for many centuries; large scale extraction, which commenced in the 1880s, underwent a major revival in the 1990s, which has subsequently proved to be sustainable source of revenue. **[1] (p499)**

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4. History

4.01 The USSD background note on Ghana (November 2004) notes that "The constitution entered into force on January 7, 1993, to found the Fourth Republic. On that day, Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings was inaugurated as President and members of Parliament swore their oaths of office." **[2a] (p5)** Europa Publications, Africa South of the Sahara 2005, 34th edition, states that, the new government's first budget introduced a package of severe economic austerity measures that resulted in an immediate increase in food, transport and supply costs. In the aftermath of the election the main opposition parties, who were without representation in the legislative body, formed an alliance as the Inter-Party Co-ordinating Committee (ICC). Throughout the first half of 1993 the ICC continued to dispute the outcome of the presidential election. However, in August 1993 the NPP (New Patriotic Party) broke rank with other members of the ICC by announcing that it was now prepared to recognise the legitimacy of the election results, thereby undermining the solidarity of the ICC. **[1] (p494)**

4.02 The USSD note on Ghana (November 2004) notes that the next round of presidential and legislative elections was held in 1996 with opposition alliances fully contesting the elections. International observers described the elections as peaceful, free and transparent. Rawlings was returned to power with 57 per cent of the popular vote. However, Rawlings's party, the NDC, was returned with a reduced number of seats; 133 of the 200 parliamentary seats. **[2a] (p5-6)**

4.03 Europa 2005 notes that, under the terms of the 1993 Constitution, presidential candidates are prohibited from seeking re-election to a third term in office. **[1] (p495)** The USSD note on Ghana (November 2004) reported that:

"The December 2000 elections ushered in the first democratic presidential change of power in Ghana's history when John A. Kufuor of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) defeated the NDC's John Atta Mills – who was Rawling's Vice President and hand-picked successor. Kufuor defeated Mills by winning 56.73% of the vote, while the NPP picked up 100 of 200 seats in Parliament. The elections were declared free and fair by a large contingent of domestic and international monitors. After several by-elections were held to fill vacated seats, the NPP majority stands at 103 of the 200 seats in Parliament, while the NDC holds 89 and independent and small party members hold eight." **[2a] (p6)**

BBC News reported on 11 December 2004 that, John A. Kufuor obtained a second term as president by winning 52.75 per cent of the vote, nearly 8 per cent more that his main contender, John Atta Mills of the NDC, who picked up 44.32 per cent of the vote. The governing party obtained 129 seats with the main opposition being the NDC with 88 seats; other opposition parties obtained seven seats. **[5a] (p1)** Europa 2005 noted that, following the creation of 30 new constituencies, the number of seats in parliament following the December 2004 election stood at 230. **[1] (p509)**

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5. State structures

CONSTITUTION

5.01 The US Department of State (USSD) background note on Ghana (November 2004), records that:

"The 1993 constitution that established the Fourth Republic provided a basic charter for republican democratic government. It declares Ghana to be a unitary republic with sovereignty residing in the Ghanaian people. Intended to prevent future coups, dictatorial government, and one-party states, it is designed to establish the concept of powersharing. The document reflects lessons learned from the abrogated constitutions of 1957, 1960, 1969, and 1979, and incorporates provisions and institutions drawn from British and American constitutional models. One controversial provision of the constitution indemnifies members and appointees of the PNDC from liability for any official act or omission during the years of PNDC rule. The constitution calls for a system of checks and balances, with power shared between a president, a unicameral parliament, an advisory Council of State, and an independent judiciary." **[2a] (p6)**

5.02 Europa Publications, Africa South of the Sahara 2005, 34th edition, notes that:

"Under the terms of the Constitution of the Fourth Republic, which was approved by national referendum on 28 April 1992, Ghana has a multi-party political system. Executive power is vested in the President, who is Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. The President is elected by universal adult suffrage for a term of four years, and designates a Vice-President (prior to election). The duration of the President's tenure of office is limited to two four-year terms. It is also stipulated that, in the event that no presidential candidate receives more than 50% of votes cast, a new election between the two candidates with the highest number of votes is to take place within 21 days." **[1] (p509)**

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POLITICAL SYSTEM

5.03 Europa notes that, legislative power is vested in a single chamber Parliament, with members elected by direct adult suffrage for a four-year term. 30 new constituencies were created for the December 2004 election, increasing the size of the legislature to 230. The President appoints a Council of Ministers, subject to approval of Parliament, which acts as the country's executive cabinet. **[1] (p509)** The USSD background note on Ghana reports that "According to the constitution, more than half of the presidentially appointed ministers of state must be appointed from among members of Parliament." **[2a] (p6)** Europa notes that the Constitution also provides for a 25-member Council of State **[1] (p509)**, comprised of prominent citizens whose role it is to give advice on national issues. The body is similar to the traditional Council of Elders, according to Ghanaweb.com (07/01/2005). **[6a] (p1)** Additionally, Europa notes that there is also a 20 member National Security Council, which is chaired by the Vice President. **[1] (p509)**

5.04 Europa reports that for administrative purposes, Ghana is divided into 10 regions: Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Volta and Western. A regional minister is appointed by the central government to head the administration of each region. **[1] (p510)**

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JUDICIARY

5.05 Europa Publications, Africa South of the Sahara 2005, 34th edition, notes that, Ghanaian Civil Law is based on English Common Law, and statutes as modified by subsequent Ordinances. The basis of most personal, domestic and contractual relationships is rooted in Ghanaian customs. Criminal Law is based on the Criminal Procedure Code 1960, which is mainly derived from English Common Law. **[1] (p512)** The US State Department 2004 (USSD) report, published on 22 February 2005, noted that "Defendants are presumed innocent, trials are public, and defendants have a right to be present, to be represented by an attorney (at public expense if necessary), and to cross-examine witnesses. In practice, the authorities generally respected these safeguards." **[2d] (Section 1e)**

5.06 Freedom House noted in its Ghana country report, published September 2004, that "Ghanaian courts have acted with increased autonomy under the 1992 constitution, but are still occasionally subject to executive influence. Traditional courts often handle minor cases according to local customs that fail to meet constitutional standards. Scarce judicial resources compromise the judicial process, leading to long periods of pre-trial detention under harsh conditions." **[16] (p3)**

5.07 The USSD 2004 notes that:

"The Constitution provides for an independent judiciary; however, the judiciary was subject to influence, and corruption remained a serious problem. The Government took steps during the year to address corruption. There were numerous allegations of corruption within the judicial system. On August 2, the Chief Justice said that some judges had not heard a single case or written a decision all year. A 2003 report adopted by the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Judiciary provided details on corruption in the judiciary, including accounts of extortion; misuse of remand, bail, and contempt of court charges for bribery; and acceptance of gifts or money in exchange for expedited or postponed cases, or losing records. The Committee recommended establishing and enforcing codes of conduct, transparent complaint procedures, and disciplinary mechanisms; however, none of these recommendations had been implemented by year's end. The Chief Justice continued his campaign to end corruption and increase transparency of the Service by fulfilling his promise when he took the position in 2003 to create an annual report that accounted for the Service's activities and addressed grievances. A Complaints Unit of the Judicial Service continued to receive and investigate complaints of corruption, delays, and unfair treatment. According to the Annual Report of the Judicial Service, the Complaints Unit of the Judicial Service received 258 complaints and petitions between July 2003 and July. Of these, 63 cases were disposed of, 74 came under investigation, and 121 were pending at the end of the period under review. There was no formal action taken in the 2003 judge bribing investigation, and the judge retired during the year." **[2d] (Section 1e)**

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5.08 An article on USINFO.STATE.GOV, dated 27 October 2003, reported that the US State Department sponsored the visit of three US judges to assist in the training of the Ghanaian judiciary. The project looked at issues such as ethics, alternative dispute resolution, research, writing and court administration and also allowed the American judges to assess the needs of the Ghanaian judicial system. The US judges reported that the main underlying problem faced by the Ghanaian judiciary was a lack of funding and facilities. It was noted that the World Bank would not provide funds for reform until an independent appraisal of the Ghanaian judiciary had been undertaken. It was reported that the former Chief Justice in Ghana would not agree to such an independent assessment being made. **[17] (p1-2)**

5.09 A report by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) accessed, 14 January 2005, noted that "In Ghana, courts seem to exercise unlimited discretion in determining the amount of bail, or in remanding people to prison without charge for indefinite periods. It has been reported that approximately one-third of the prison population of Ghana are remand prisoners." **[9] (p43)**

5.10 Europa 2005 notes that "The Superior Court of Judicature comprises a Supreme Court, a Court of Appeal, a High Court and a Regional Tribunal; Inferior Courts include Circuit Courts, Circuit Tribunals, Community Tribunals and such other Courts as may be designated by law. In 2001 'fast-track' court procedures were established to accelerate the delivery of justice." **[1] (p512)**

The following, is a list of the different judicial bodies that operate in Ghana, taken from Europa.

- **Supreme Court:** Consists of the Chief Justice and not fewer than nine other Justices. "It is the final court of appeal in Ghana and has jurisdiction in matters relating to the enforcement or interpretation of the Constitution" **[1] (p512)**

- **Court of Appeal:** Consists of the Chief Justice and not fewer than five Judges of the Court of Appeal. It has jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals from any judgment, decree or order of the High Court.

- **High Court:** Comprises the Chief Justice and not fewer than 12 Justices of the High Court. It exercises original jurisdiction in all matters, civil and criminal, other than those for offences involving treason. Trial by jury is practised in criminal cases in Ghana and the Criminal Procedure Code, 1960, provides that all trials on indictment shall be by a jury or with the aid of Assessors.

- **Circuit Courts:** Exercise original jurisdiction in civil matters where the amount involved does not exceed C100,000. They also have jurisdiction with regard to the guardianship and custody of infants, and original jurisdiction in all criminal cases, except offences where the maximum punishment is death or the offence of treason. They have appellate jurisdiction from decisions of any District Court situated within their respective circuits.

- **District Courts:** To each magisterial district is assigned at least one District Magistrate who has original jurisdiction to try civil suits in which the amount involved does not exceed C50,000. District Magistrates also have

jurisdiction to deal with all criminal cases, except first-degree felonies, and commit cases of a more serious nature to either the Circuit Court or the High Court. A Grade I District Court can impose a fine not exceeding C1,000 and sentences of imprisonment of up to two years and a Grade II District Court may impose a fine not exceeding C500 and a sentence of imprisonment of up to 12 months. A District Court has no appellate jurisdiction, except in rent matters under the Rent Act.

- **Juvenile Courts:** Jurisdiction in cases involving persons under 17 years of age, except where the juvenile is charged jointly with an adult. The Courts comprise a Chairman, who must be either the District Magistrate or a lawyer, and not fewer than two other members appointed by the Chief Justice in consultation with the Judicial Council. The Juvenile Courts can make orders as to the protection and supervision of a neglected child and can negotiate with parents to secure the good behaviour of a child.

- **National Public Tribunal:** Considers appeals from the Regional Public Tribunals. Its decisions are final and are not subject to any further appeal. The Tribunal consists of at least three members and not more than five, one of whom acts as Chairman.

- **Regional Public Tribunal:** Hears criminal cases relating to prices, rent or exchange control, theft, fraud, forgery, corruption or any offence which may be referred to them by the Provisional National Defence Council.

- **Special Military Tribunal:** Hears criminal cases involving members of the armed forces. It consists of between five and seven members. **[1] (p512)**

5.11 Regarding the 'Fast Track' court procedure the USSD 2004 noted that:

"Fast Track Courts, a division of the High Court of Judicature, are authorized to hear cases involving banks and investors, human rights, electoral petitions, government revenue, prerogative writs, defamation, specified commercial and industrial cases, and criminal cases that involve substantial public money or are a matter of extreme public importance. The majority of cases filed before the Fast Track Court were for banking and commercial matters, and human rights and defamation. These courts tried cases to conclusion within 6 months." **[2d] (Section 1e)**

5.12 On the subject of the "fast track" court procedures, Jane's Sentinel Security Assessment, West Africa, April 2004 noted that:

"On 11 February 2002, Mr Tsatsu Tsikata, ex-Chairman of the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation, …. Challenged the constitutional status of the Court and, on 28 February, the Supreme Court ruled in his favour by a 5-4 majority. The Attorney General, Nana Akuffo Addo, immediately announced his intention to file for a review of the Supreme Court ruling; and on 26 June the Supreme Court, sitting with a full bench of 11 judges, reversed its earlier decision by a 6-5 majority." **[41]**

5.13 The USSD 2004 noted that in addition to the formal judicial system:

"The Chieftancy Act gives village and other traditional chiefs power to mediate local matters and enforce customary tribal laws dealing with such matters as

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divorce, child custody, and property disputes. However, the authority of traditional rulers has steadily eroded and been vested in civil institutions, such as courts and district assemblies. In January, chiefs in Tema took part in a 3-day ADR (Alternate Dispute Resolution pilot) training, and the training resulted in the recommendation that traditional councils should have their own constitutions, apart from the Chieftaincy Act, to help institutionalise the role of local leaders in settling cases. The recommendation had not been implemented by year's end." **[2d] (Section 1e)**

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THE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

5.14 The World Guide 2003/2004 (New Internationalist Publications Ltd) reported that President Kufour approved the creation of the National Reconciliation Commission (NRC). "The commission, similar to others implemented in several African countries, will grant immunity to those who testify and try to solve the 200 cases of disappeared persons, mostly during Rawlings' military regime." **[25] (p266)** The Executive Summary of the NRC report (October 2004) stated its goal as "see and promote national reconciliation among the people of this country be recommending appropriate redress for persons who have suffered any injury, hurt, damage grievance or who have in any other manner been adversely affected by violations and abuses of their human rights arising from activities or inactivity's of public and persons holding public office." **[40] (p2)**

5.15 However, Jane's Sentinel Security Assessment, West Africa, April 2004 noted that it was likely that the setting up of the NRC was likely to intensify partisan divisions within the country. "However, perceived witch hunts against NDC [National Democratic Congress] politicians appear to be motivated by competition within the NPP [New Patriotic Party] and the agendas of party radicals such as Attorney General Nana Akuffo Addo. Kufuor moved Addo away from the justice ministry to foreign affairs in April 2003, ending his role in the 'reconciliation' process. Tension fell after Rawlings appeared before the NRC in March 2004 and was subjected only to very brief questioning." **[41] (p2 executive summary)**

5.16 allAfrica.com reported on 21 April 2005 that Ghana's National Reconciliation Commission (NRC) submitted its report to the government earlier this month. According to allAfrica.com the report finds that the country's military, police and prison services were most to blame for human rights abuses that had occurred since independence. However, "The violations were not confined to unconstitutional governments, the report stated, but the commission estimated that 84 percent of all abuses took place when military regimes were in control." **[24a]** The NRC report can be found at the following link – http://www.ghana.gov.gh/NRC/index.php

5.17 Commenting upon the NRC's report, which was published in October 2004 but not made public until April 2005, the Ghanaian Government in a White Paper issued on 22 April 2005 stated that it was satisfied that the Commission had kept faith with "letter and spirit" of the legislation under which it was empowered, and that "In all its dealings, the Commission has shown a commendable commitment to the rules of fairness. **[38] (p2)** Among the recommendations made by the Commission the Government accepted the following points:

- Government accepts the General Recommendations made by the Commission on the Ghana Armed Forces, the Police Service and the Prisons Service. Accordingly, it directs the Councils of these institutions to study the recommendations carefully with a view to their implementation.

- Government is convinced that the best way to prevent the misuse of these forces as documented by the Commission is to ensure transparency, fairness and the highest level of professionalism in the recruitment, training and deployment of these forces. Further, the training should make the men and women who comprise these forces sensitive to the values of human rights and the challenges in their relations with civilians.

- Government remains committed to the decentralization of all public institutions. Government therefore considers the recommendation regarding the decentralization of the Police Command as a proposal for the future. For now, the critical areas for attention are the manpower resources and improvement in working conditions as well as instilling a sense of professionalism and integrity and respect for human rights in the members of the service. **[38] (p3)**

5.18 In addition to these recommendations, the Commission also recommended that a Reparation and Rehabilitation Fund be set up those affected by the events covered by the report. The Government's White Paper accepted these recommendations stating that it was taking "Urgent steps" to establish the fund by the end of the year, and that it would be fully resourced to ensure that it is effectively deployed as an important healing tool for Ghana. **[38] (p3)**

5.19 The Norwegian Council for Africa published a news story that appeared in the Ghanaian Chronicle on 1 July 2004 reported that the National Reconciliation Commission (NRC) had come under fire from two senior ex-officials. The two, ex-National Security Chief, Captain Kojo Tsikata and the former Deputy Attorney General and ex-presidential running mate of Professor John Atta Mills (of the opposition NDC), Mr Martin Amidu. Both who had originally been appointed to their positions under Flt. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings regime, criticised the NRC stating that the body was un-constitutional and was biased. **[39]**

(See also section 6 on **Human Rights**)

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THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE (CHRAJ)

5.20 Human Rights Watch published a review in 2001 on the role of the CHRAJ, it noted that:

"The CHRAJ was established in 1993. The CHRAJ absorbed the position of the Ombudsman which had been created by the 1979 Constitution and in existence since 1980, but without adequate enforcement powers. The framers of the constitution chose to establish a single national institution to address all aspects of human rights and administrative justice… The CHRAJ's independence is guaranteed under the 1992 Constitution and is not subject to the control of any government department or person. The CHRAJ is obliged to report annually to Parliament. Parliament may debate the report and pass resolutions, but it

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cannot change any of the decisions of the commission or dictate staff recruitment or procedural regulations by the CHRAJ." **[35]**

5.21 The CHRAJ's website (accessed 17 August 2005) notes that:

"The Commission comprises a Commissioner and two Deputy Commissioners. The Commission has proposed that its membership should be expanded by the appointment of two additional Deputy Commissioners or Assistant Commissioners. A staff of 738 full time employees at the Headquarters, the regions and districts, supports the Commission."

"The CHRAJ has a nationwide network of offices. Article 220 of the Constitution requires the Commission to establish offices in all ten regions and 110 districts of the country. The Commission presently has ten regional offices and 99 district offices. This Constitutional requirement is intended to ensure that the services of the Commission are accessible to the widest possible number of Ghanaians. The ten Regional Offices are headed by Directors who are lawyers." **[36a]**

5.22 Human Rights Watch noted that the CHRAJ posses broad investigative powers, including the ability to investigate complaints. More importantly, Human Rights Watch noted that the CHRAJ is also vested with strong enforcement powers under Section 8 of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice Act, including the power to issue subpoenas for the attendance of a witness or any relevant information or evidence and the ability to pursue contempt charges in the courts against any person failing to obey its request. The CHRAJ is empowered to enforce a remedy "through such means as are fair, proper and effective." **[35]**

See the CHRAJ website for full details of its functions and powers – http://www.chrajghana.org/index.jsp

5.23 allAfrica.com reported on 1 August 2005 that an increased public awareness of the role of the CHRAJ has resulted in huge increases of those seeking help with human rights cases. For example, the report noted that in 2001, the commission received 10,523 cases, in 2002, 12,381 while the figure for 2003 showed that the commission received 13,726 cases. allAfrica reported a spokesman for the CHRAJ as saying "'The high number of complaints means that people have become aware of the existence of CHRAJ as an institution responsible for the protection of their rights. It also means that more and more people are becoming aware of the need to defend their rights and this is positive for our democracy,' Mr. Bosompem said."

Of the type of complaints that the Commission receives, allAfrica went on to report that:

"Documents of the commission show that most of the cases received were family-related ones, which, in 2003, constituted 57per cent of the total cases received. This has been attributed to the increased campaign for children and women's rights in the last couple of years… "It is significant that the Commission's informal approach to case resolution is bearing fruits. This is reflected in 7,275 of cases resolved or 60.3 per cent, having been resolved through mediation and only 471 or 3.9 per cent being handled through hearing and decided," the report stated. Meanwhile, the Ghana Education Service

(GES) and the Ghana Police Service have been named as the worst offending public institutions in terms of human rights issues." **[24c]**

"The article noted that of the state institutions, the Ghana Education Service and the Ghana Police Service continue to be the worst offenders. "The Chronicle gathered that the major cases involving the GES were usually those bordering on embezzlement of funds, salary disparities and delays among others, while those involving the police were usually cases that had to do with wrongful arrest and detention of suspects, interdictions and transfers, among others." **[24c]**

5.24 Commenting further on the efficacy of the CHRAJ, allAfrica.com reported on 27 July 2005 that the number of corruption related investigations taken on by the commission had increased in recent years (2000 – 2004). During that period, the Head Office of the Commission investigated 61 corruption related cases, with five more still under investigation. The article elaborated upon high profile corruption cases, noting that the Commission had made "Investigations into allegations of corruption and illegal acquisition of assets made against four government officials, a probe into the activities of the Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) and a case against a former Commissioner of the National Insurance Commission (NIC) are named as high profile cases that have been investigated by CHRAJ." However, opposition parties condemned the commission for what it saw as a lackadaisical approach to its mandate. With other critics suggesting that the Commission was too tied to the government. **[24d]**

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RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

5.25 The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights published a list of treaties that Ghana had signed up to as of June 2004.

The following treaties have been signed by Ghana: the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). **[23]**

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LEGAL RIGHTS & DETENTION

5.26 The US Department of State (USSD) report on Human Rights Practices in Ghana 2004 notes that "The Constitution provides for protection against arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile; however, arbitrary arrest and detention were problems." **[2d] (Section 1d)** It was also reported that while civilian authorities generally maintained effective control over security forces, there continued to be credible reports that some members of the security forces committed numerous serious human rights abuses. **[2d] (Introduction)**

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5.27 A report by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) accessed, 14 January 2005, noted that "In Ghana, courts seem to exercise unlimited discretion in determining the amount of bail, or in remanding people to prison without charge for indefinite periods. It has been reported that approximately one-third of the prison population of Ghana are remand prisoners." **[9] (p43)**

5.28 The USSD 2004 notes that,

"The Constitution provides that an individual detained should be informed immediately, in a language that the detained person understands, of the reasons for the detention and of his or her right to a lawyer and an interpreter, at state expense. It allows judicial authorities to hold citizens for up to 48 hours without filing charges against them, requires judicial warrants for arrest, and provides for arraignment within 48 hours. The Constitution requires that a detainee who has not been tried within a 'reasonable' time be released either unconditionally or subject to conditions necessary to ensure that the person appear in court at a later date." **[2d] (Section 1d)**

5.29 However, a survey conducted by the Centre for Democratic Development (CDD) on Police-Community Relations, published in 2003, found that many of those arrested believed that they were not treated according to the law. Many reported that police often violated their human rights. The survey reported that 46 percent of respondents claimed that they were not informed of the charges against them, while 51 percent claimed that they were not read their rights. A further 67 percent reported they were not given access to a lawyer, and 44 percent believed they were presumed guilty from the onset. **[2d] (Section 1d)**

5.30 The USSD 2004 further noted that:

"In practice, while the incidence of abuse lessened, many abuses still occurred, including detention without charge for longer than 48 hours, failure to obtain a warrant for arrest, and remand of prisoners into investigative custody for indefinite periods by renewing warrants or simply allowing them to lapse. On June 8, the Director of Operations for the Prisons Service stated that 1,270 remand prisoners whose warrants had expired were still in prison custody. In addition, at times persons were detained for trivial offences or on unsubstantiated accusations. Authorities routinely failed to notify prisoners' families of their incarceration; such information often was obtained only by chance. The court has unlimited discretion to set bail, which may be prohibitively high. The court may refuse to release prisoners on bail and instead remand them without charge for an indefinite period, subject to weekly review by judicial authorities. Police also demanded money from suspects as a precondition for their release on bail.

"In November, seven active and retired military personnel were arrested for allegedly plotting a coup against the Kufuor Government. Although one person was found in possession of illegal weapons, the remaining six were released after being detained for longer than the lawful period of 48 hours."
[2d] (Section 1d)

5.31 The US Department of State (USSD) report on Human Rights Practices in Ghana 2004 notes that:

"The court has unlimited discretion to set bail, which may be prohibitively high. The court may refuse to release prisoners on bail and instead remand them without charge for an indefinite period, subject to weekly review by judicial authorities. Police also demanded money from suspects as a precondition of their release on bail." **[2d] (Section 1d)**

5.32 The USSD 2004 also noted that:

"Large numbers of long-term remand prisoners remained a serious problem. During inspections of prison facilities, the Director-General of Prisons met numerous remand prisoners who had been detained for up to 10 years without a trial. Some detainees served longer periods of time in remand cells than the allotted time for the crime committed. In May, the Kumasi Central Prison, which also housed many remand prisoners, reportedly threatened to release prisoners whose warrants had expired to prompt a response from the local authorities. Later that month, the Prisons Service and the Attorney General's office announced that all remand prisoners with expired warrants should have their cases referred to court for a speedy trial. The Prisons Service also recommended that the courts expedite the cases of, or else grant bail to, persons accused of minor offences. As a result, two circuit courts on June 17 renewed the remand warrants of 23 prisoners, all of whom were facing armed robbery charges.

"On April 3, 34 persons, including several chiefs, were remanded into police custody for allegedly rioting, causing damage, stealing, and arson. Two juveniles among the group were remanded to a children's home. CHRAJ (Commission for Human Rights and Administration Justice) made a public complaint on April 18, saying that the police had violated the law in detaining the suspects for longer than 48 hours. On April 26, 10 of the 34 suspects were released on bail and ordered to reappear before the court at a later date. There was no further update on the case at year's end." **[2d] (Section 1d)**

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DEATH PENALTY

5.33 According to Amnesty International in its 2004 Annual Report on Ghana, "The death penalty remained on the statute books. In April 2004 an Accra High Court sentenced Dereck George Mensah to death for murdering his employer." No executions were carried out between January and December 2003. **[7]** In an article on Ghanaweb.com, entitled Death Penalty in Ghana – The Facts, accessed 13 January 2005, it reported that the death penalty has, in practice, been abolished, with the last executions taking place in July 1993. **[6b]** This is confirmed by a report by Inter Press Service News Agency, Challenges 2004-2005, that notes that Ghana is considered as "de facto abolitionists" because they have not put anyone to death in at least the last decade. **[8] (p2)**

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INTERNAL SECURITY

5.34 As recorded on Ghanaweb.com the Ministry of Interior has overall responsibility for the maintenance and enforcement of Internal Law and Order. The Ministry has responsibility for the following: Police, Prisons, National Fire Service, Immigration

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Service, Narcotic Control Board, National Disaster Management Organisation and the Refugee Board. **[6e]**

5.35 The US State Department report on Human Rights Practices (USSD) 2004, noted that:

"The police, under the jurisdiction of an eight member Police Council, were responsible for maintaining law and order. The military continued to participate in law enforcement activities during the year. A separate department, the Bureau of National Investigations, handles cases considered critical to state security and answers directly to the executive branch. While civilian authorities generally maintained effective control over security forces, there were some instances in which elements of the security forces acted independently of government authorities. Some members of the police and other security forces committed numerous serious human rights abuses." **[2d] (Introduction)**

5.36 Crime and Society, a comparative criminology tour of the world (accessed 27 August 2005) noted that:

"Police and other security forces have committed some serious human rights abuses. Security forces have committed a number of extrajudicial killings of criminal suspects… Police have continued to use rubber bullets and water cannons in crowd control situations. In recent years, the police service in particular has come under severe criticism following incidents of police brutality, corruption, and negligence. Public confidence in the police remains low, and mobs attacked several police stations due to perceived police inaction, a delay in prosecuting suspects, rumors of collaboration with criminals, and the desire to deal with suspects through instant justice." **[43] (p10)**

5.37 On the subject of police corruption and use of excessive force, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office noted on the 25 August 2005, that there are a number of avenues open to individuals to pursue a grievance against the police, the FCO stated that:

"There are several avenues for people to complain about police behaviour. They can go through the police's own complaints procedure. This is an internal procedure that goes up through the station or regional commander. If it is deemed serious it is passed to the Ghanaian CID. The Police have told us that people also complain through their MPs, Ministers and the President's Office.

"A person can also complain to the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ). [See section 5.20 on the **CHRAJ**] CHRAJ is an independent body set up under the 1992 Constitution. One of its roles is to investigate complaints of human rights abuse. It can summon people under oath to appear before its' investigation. It will then make recommendations to the appropriate authority. If nothing is done with these recommendations, it can bring an action to court.

"CHRAJ also inspect police cells and prisons and produce an annual report that is submitted to parliament. The report highlights cases of abuse or bad practise.

The NGO Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), are about to start a project on improving police accountability in Ghana (funded by the FCO). They believe that there needs to be a greater knowledge in both the police force and

general public about accountability and human rights. The Ghanaian police force are working with CHRI on this project." **[42]**

5.38 IRINnews.org noted on the 17 August 2004 that, "The Government has finally lifted a state of emergency and a night time curfew in the Dagbon region of northern Ghana, two and half years after the Dagbon King was beheaded and his palace razed to the ground during bloody clashes between rival clans." The Dagbon's rival clans, the Andani and the Abudu, have been vying for the chieftaincy for more than half a century, with each clan aligning itself with alternative governments as they came to power. Clan rivalry led to a serious outbreak of violence in March 2002, when 30 people were killed in a three-day battle and 3,000 others were forced to flee their homes. **[15c] (p1)**

5.39 The US State Department report on Human Rights Practices (USSD) 2003, noted that:

"Political clashes also led to several deaths, injuries, and property damage. On April 22 and 23 [2003], in Tamale, Northern Region, NPP and NDC supporters clashed over displays of party flags and paraphernalia, resulting in four deaths, during a several-day lapse in the area's state of emergency. Security forces quelled the riot. On April 23, Parliament re-imposed the state of emergency and curfew. By April 26, security forces had arrested 208 suspects. There were reports that many persons were detained for several days without being informed of their offence and without medical treatment. Many of those detained were beaten or forced to lie on hot pavement. Authorities charged 8 with the murder of 1 of the 4 deceased and 114 suspects with causing unlawful harm and damage. No one was charged in the deaths of three other persons. Those charged with murder were all acquitted on December 17 due to lack of evidence. The trials of those charged with unlawful harm were ongoing at year's end. Opposition NDC party members called for an official inquiry into the situation, alleging that security forces abused, harassed, and discriminated against their party supporters during the incident; however, no judicial inquiry occurred by year's end, and the Government denied the allegations."
[2b] (Section 1a)

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PRISONS AND PRISON CONDITIONS

5.40 According to the US State Department report 2003 (USSD):

"Prison conditions in most cases were harsh and sometimes life threatening, despite government efforts during the year to improve them. The 2003 Prisons Service Annual Report revealed that prisons remained overcrowded and under-financed. According to the report, there was a monthly average of 11,038 prisoners serving in prisons meant for a total population of 6,500. The report also noted that the President granted amnesty in 2003 to 1,823 prisoners to help relieve the congestion in prisons." **[2b] (Section 1c)**

The USSD 2004 noted that overcrowding in some prisons had reached levels of around 300 percent. "The Prisons Service also established eight prison camps for those convicted of minor offences, providing conditions similar to house arrest." **[2b] (Section 1c)**

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5.41 The USSD 2004 noted that:

"The Government also sought to address the unsafe and unsanitary conditions of the prisons during the year. Much of the prison population was held in buildings that were originally old colonial forts or abandoned public or military buildings, with poor ventilation and sanitation, dilapidated construction, and limited space. In April, the Government committed $25 million to transform the Prisons Service to construct a new prison complex in the Greater Accra region. Additionally, the Government secured a $19.2 million loan from the South African Government to procure training materials and vehicles for Prisons Service officers." **[2d] (Section 1c)**

5.42 A report by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) (accessed 14 January 2005) noted that, Ghanaian prisons were severely overcrowded and conditions were often life threatening. **[9] (p50)** The USSD 2004 noted that overcrowding contributed to a high prevalence of communicable diseases. According to the Ghanaian Prison Service, 115 prisoners died from diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and anaemia during 2003. The USSD also noted that "Overcrowding contributed to a high prevalence of communicable diseases." **[2d] (Section 1c)** However, according to the Institute for Security Studies, the President, in an attempt to relieve overcrowding authorised the release of over 2000 first time offenders in 2003, who had less than one year of their sentences remaining. Prison camps also existed for offenders who had been convicted of committing minor offences, although conditions at these camps were akin to house arrest. **[9] (p50)**

5.43 According to the ISS, prisoners depended on family for food and medicine. **[9] (p50)** The USSD 2003 noted that "Prisoners' daily food allowance was approximately $0.57 (4,000 cedis)…Bedding was available for only 30 percent of the inmates, and there was no funding for clothes. Medical facilities were inadequate, and the prisons supplied only the most basic medicines." **[2b] (Section 1c)**

5.44 The USSD 2004 noted that "Female prisoners were held separately from male prisoners. The Criminal Code stipulates that, regardless of the offence, all women convicts should be tested for pregnancy upon incarceration. If a convict is pregnant, the convict should be kept at a place where her health needs can be met. In spite of this directive, there were 42 pregnant convicts and 20 babies serving time with their convict mothers in 2003, according to the Prisons Service Annual Report." **[2d] (Section 1c)**

5.45 The USSD 2004 states that "Juvenile offenders were held separately in the Borstal Institute, a juvenile correction center. Juveniles who inflated their ages to avoid lengthy rehabilitation sentences in the Borstal Institute made the problem of overcrowding worse. During the year, the Department of Social Welfare and Prison Services collaborated to transfer any known juveniles in adult cells to juvenile correction centers." **[2d] (Section 1c)**

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MILITARY SERVICE

5.46 A report by the UN Economic and Social Council, entitled 'The Question of Conscientious Objection to Military Service' dated 16 January 1997, noted that

there is no military conscription in Ghana. **[10] (p10)** Europa 2005 notes that "In August 2003, Ghana had total armed forces of 7,000 (army 5,000, navy 1,000 and air force 1,000). The defence budget for 2003 was estimated at 250,000m. cedis." **[1] (p518)** Wikipedia reported that in addition to the three main branches of the military, there are also the National Police Force, Palace Guard and Civil Defence. Military expenditure amounted to US $35.2 million or 0.7 per cent of GDP. **[32]**

5.47 Child Soldiers Global Report 2004 noted that with regards to national recruitment legislation and practice, "According to the 1992 constitution it 'shall be the duty of every citizen to defend Ghana and render national service where necessary' (Article 41). This 'national service' is not always military service, but often consists of public service, sometimes in the rural areas. There is no conscription and the armed forces consist entirely of volunteers. The minimum age of recruitment is 18. There were no reports of under 18s in the armed forces." **[27]**

MEDICAL SERVICES

5.48 The Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research at University of Ghana (ISSER) noted that, Ghana has an extensive network of public health care facilities, including hospitals, clinics and health centres, it noted that there were 215 hospitals and 1758 health centres (1999 figures). **[12] (p2 and 27)** In October 2003, Ghanaweb.com reported that the Government's flagship National Health Insurance Bill (NHIS) had passed into law. It was reported that the NHIS would enable residents in Ghana to obtain basic healthcare services without payment at the point of delivery. **[6c] (p1)** The new NHIS system replaces the 'Cash and Carry' system introduced in 1985, whereby the Government levied user charges for health care services and the full cost recovery for drugs. The system, widely reported to have priced many out of receiving treatment, had increased the dependence of the poor on more traditional non-orthodox medicine and treatment, reported ISSER. **[12] (p3)**

5.49 The National HIV/AIDS/STI Policy published by the Ghana AIDS Commission, dated 04/01/2005, states that in relation to NHIS, "The Government shall seek to support policies that will make it possible for people who are HIV/AIDS positive to obtain insurance. For the present, the prevention and management of opportunistic infections for PLWHA (people living with HIV/AIDS) shall be covered under the National Health Insurance Scheme." **[31] (paragraph 5.7)**

5.50 Ghanaweb.com reported on 25 August 2004 that the Minister of Health, Dr Kwaku Afriyie, announced that the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) would go into full operation in November 2004. Dr Afriyie said that to qualify for free medical treatment, people were expected to register with a health insurance company within their districts. They would then receive a card that would entitle them to free treatment at all government hospitals and health centres. **[6d] (p1)** Reuters reported on the 17 January 2005, that insurance subscriptions for the new NHIS would range between $8 for people on low incomes to $53 for high earners. Members of the scheme will be able to access a range of treatments covering about 90% of ailments treated in public hospitals; however, the scheme will not cover top-end treatments such as heart surgery. **[13] (p2)**

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5.51 The US Library of Congress, Ghana – Health Care (accessed 17/01/2005), notes that "Ghana has the full range of diseases endemic to a sub-Saharan country. According to WHO, common diseases include cholera, typhoid, pulmonary tuberculosis, anthrax, pertussis, tetanus, chicken pox, yellow fever, measles, infectious hepatitus, trachoma, malaria and schistosomiasis. Others are guinea worm or dracunculiasi, various kinds of dysentery, river blindness or onchocerciasis, several kinds of pneumonia, dehydration, venereal diseases, and poliomyelitis." **[4b] (p1)** An article by Reuters (17 January 2005) noted that, Government statistics show that malaria accounts for 40 percent of all cases treated at outpatient departments around the country. **[13] (p1)**

5.52 Reuters also reported in January 2005, that the Government had announced substantial increases in its spending on treating malaria and TB. It noted that "About three million of Ghana's 20 million population seek treatment for malaria each year, so officials have decided to tackle the mosquito-borne disease by switching from chloroquine to the more expensive artesunate-amodiaquine as the first line treatment, according to the Malaria Control Program. It will now cost US $1.30 from the previous 10 US cents to treat a single case of malaria, Boateng [Head of the Ghanaian Health ministry's drug procurement division] said." The hope is that the effective first time treatment of malaria will reduce infections thereby reducing the cost of buying anti-malarial drugs. Malaria accounts for 40% of all cases of outpatient treatment. **[13] (p1)**

5.53 Furthermore, Reuters also noted that the Ghanaian government had announced increased spending on drugs to combat multi-drug resistant tuberculosis and penicillin-resistant pneumonia. The Ministry of Health blamed un-regulated medical prescriptions and the inappropriate use of certain drugs for the rise in resistant strains of both illnesses. **[13] (p1)**

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HIV/AIDS

5.54 The US State Department (USSD) report 2004, noted that:

> "Discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS was a problem, and the fear of being stigmatized continued to discourage persons from being tested. In April, the Inspector General of Police publicly urged all police officers to be tested voluntarily through a free service available to the police. During the year, several key government representatives publicly denounced discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS. The Cabinet approved a policy to protect persons living with HIV/AIDS." **[2d] (Section 5)**

5.55 In July 2004, the Ghanaian Health Service published its final report for the year 2003. The report noted that "HIV/AIDS continues to be a major public health challenge. The cumulative cases as at 2003 stood at 72,581 with new cases being 7,215 and a sero-prevalence rate of 3.6%." The report noted with concern that the most vulnerable age group is also the most economically active population, the 30-34 year old group. **[14] (p23-24)** However, a report by IRIN plusnews.org, (accessed 17 January 2005) notes that "According to the Sentinel survey, 3.6 percent of Ghana's 19 million people were HIV positive last year, up from 3.4 percent in 2002. That implies there are 684,000 Ghanaian living with the virus, although not all of them will have developed AIDS-related illnesses yet." **[15a] (p1)** Reuters reported on 15 April 2005 that "Ghana's HIV-

AIDS infection rate has dropped for the first time in five years, and is now down countrywide to 3.1 percent from 3.6 percent in 2003, according to a new sentinel survey released this week." **[13b] (p1)**

5.56 The United Nations Country Profile – Ghana (Johannesburg Summit 2002), noted that the Ghanaian government has drawn up a five-year plan to combat HIV/AIDS. Key components of government policy include: dealing with the HIV/AIDS threat, using the national HIV/AIDS control strategy; shifting from facility based services by emphasising community based care, focusing on placing nurses in communities and reducing financial barriers by abolishing the cash and carry system of payment for services. **[11] (p19)**

5.57 The National HIV/AIDS/STI Policy published by the Ghana AIDS Commission, dated 04/01/2005, notes that "Comprehensive, cost-effective and affordable care shall be made accessible to all people with HIV and related illnesses. The Government of Ghana shall explore all available means both internally and externally through its links with the International community and donors, to make sufficient anti-retroviral drugs available and affordable at all levels." **[31] (paragraph 3.2.5.2)**

(See also section 5 on **Medical Services** for additional information on the abolition of the cash and carry system)

5.58 The 2003 Ghanaian Health Service report reported that Ghana is active in promoting HIV/AIDS prevention and care, especially among the young. A number of programmes have been expanded upon, particularly Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VTC) with 29 VTC centres across the country. The Government has followed up a pilot in the prevention of mother to child transmission by opening 19 new sites. **[14] (p24)**

5.59 Reuters noted on 15 April 2005 that "According to Ghanaian authorities, about 2,028 people are currently receiving state subsidised ARVs (Anti-Retro Viral), out of the 70,000 people who should be on treatment. In 2004, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria gave Ghana a grant of US $15 million over two years for the distribution of ARVs. The government has planned for a six million-dollar budget in 2005 to subsidise ARV therapy." **[13b] (p2-3)**

5.60 IRIN PlusNews reported on 6 May 2004, that the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced that it wanted to place 29,000 Ghanaians living with AIDS on anti-retroviral therapy by 2005. At the time the article was written, only 1,000 people were receiving anti-retroviral therapy at four major hospitals, where the drugs administered are heavily subsidised by the government. Napoleon Graham of Who-Ghana, is reported to have said that "In Ghana, placing 29,000 people on anti-retrovirals under the three by five initiative [three million people receiving anti-retroviral therapy by the end of 2005] amounts to 50% coverage of people currently living with HIV/AIDS." Graham is also quoted as saying that the initiative will not end after 2005, but will be a continuous process. **[15a] (p1-2)**

5.61 Reuters reported on 17 January 2005 that "The Ghanaian government has issued tough new guidelines for medical practitioners as it prepares for a big hike in health spending. It has ordered a switch to more expensive, but more effective drugs for treating malaria and a big increase in anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment for people living with AIDS." **[13a] (p1)**

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EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

5.62 The USSD report 2004 stated that:

"Within the limits of its resources, the Government was committed to protecting the rights and welfare of children. In 2003, the Government finalized the design of its long-term development plan – the Education Sector Plan (ESP) 2003-2015. The ESP establishes an operational framework and indicates the Government's long-term commitment to achieving universal primary education. The Government was in the process of implementing this plan at year's end [2004].

"Education is compulsory through primary and junior secondary school (the equivalent of grades 1 through 9); however, education is not free. … The Government abolished the payment of any type of charges in 40 deprived districts as part of its overall goal of making education accessible to all children by 2015.

"In 2003, the gross enrolment rate was 81.3 percent at the primary level with 84.6 percent of boys enrolled compared with 78 percent girls. Enrolment was lower in the northern three regions than in the rest of the country (69.6 percent). At the Junior Secondary School (JSS) level, 67.1 percent of eligible children were enrolled, with 71.7 percent of eligible boys and 62.4 percent of eligible girls enrolled.

"The Government strongly supported the U.N.'s Education for All goals. During the year, the Ghana Education Service (GES) actively campaigned for expanded education of girls by providing scholarships at the JSS and Senior Secondary School levels and providing incentives for female teachers to teach in rural areas. …

"These efforts have been accompanied by increased government support of 'informal' schools, which target children that must work to help support their families. The Government also increased educational opportunities for students with disabilities by increasing grants to primary schools serving these students during the year. Some children were unable to attend school because they worked to supplement their family's income, they had to travel long distances to reach the school, or there was a lack of teachers, especially in more rural areas. In addition, authorities did not enforce children's attendance at school regularly, and parents rarely, if ever, were sanctioned for keeping their children out of school. …

"There were frequent reports that male teachers sexually assaulted their female students. The girls often were reluctant to report the attacks to their parents, and social pressure often prevented parents from going to authorities. … There were several press reports of teachers and headmasters/headmistresses either arrested for sexual harassment of female students or dismissed for ignoring reported problems." **[2d]**

6. Human rights

6.A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

OVERVIEW

6.01 Freedom House noted in its 2004 report that "Ghana is considered a model for stability in West Africa. It has contributed troops to peacekeeping efforts in the region and has hosted peace talks on Liberia." **[16] (p1-3)** BBC News reinforced this opinion by reporting on the 27 April 2004 that "Ghana is an unusually well-administered country by any standards, and particularly by the standards of west Africa." **[5b]** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office – Ghana country profile, last reviewed 1 May 2005, also noted that "Currently, Ghana's record is good. There is an independent judiciary and free and active press. The new Government is keen to promote human rights and to move away from the abuses of the past." However, the profile went on to note that "The death sentence remains on the statute books." **[3]** Transparency International noted in its 'Corruption Perceptions Index 2004' that Ghana ranked at 64 out of 146 countries. Ghana's score taken within the context of other Africa countries places it in the top 5 countries on the continent not deemed to be the most corrupt. **[34]**

6.02 The US State Department report 2004 (USSD) notes that:

"The Government generally respected the human rights of its citizens; however, there were problems in several areas. Police use of excessive force resulted in some unlawful killings and injuries. There continued to be credible reports that police beat suspects in custody, and that police arbitrarily arrested and detained persons. Prison conditions remained harsh and life threatening. Police corruption and impunity was a problem. Prolonged pre-trial detention remained a serious problem. Corruption in all branches of the Government remained a serious problem, although some initiatives were taken to correct this. At times the Government infringed on citizens' privacy rights. There were occasional reports that government officials pressured government media outlets to minimize coverage of opposition politicians. Police set up barriers, ostensibly to patrol illegal smuggling, but motorists often complained that they used these barriers to demand bribes from motorists. A night time curfew in the north was lifted in August. Violence against women and children was a serious problem; however, the Government continued to prosecute sexual abuse against underage girls and courts gave lengthy sentences and remanded several individuals in custody for such abuse. Trokosi, a traditional form of ritual servitude that is prohibited by law, was practiced on a limited scale in one region of the country. Female genital mutilation (FGM), although illegal, still was practiced. Societal discrimination against women, persons with disabilities, homosexuals, and persons with HIV/AIDS was a problem. Trafficking in women and children was a problem. There were some incidents of politically and ethnically motivated violence, and some ethnic groups complained of discrimination. Child labor, including forced child labor, was a problem in the informal sector. Vigilante justice also was a problem." **[2d] (Introduction)**

6.03 Amnesty International's Ghana 2004 report, covering events between January and December 2003, noted that "A death sentence was imposed; no executions

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were carried out. A National Reconciliation Commission started its hearings into human rights abuses during Ghana's periods of unconstitutional government since 1957. A woman was imprisoned for practising female genital mutilation. A draft Domestic Violence Bill was still not tabled in parliament." **[7]**

6.04 The USSD 2004 reported that "'Machomen' (party thugs) and land guards, private security enforcers hired by citizens to settle private disputes and vendettas, caused injury and property damage during the year. The machomen were organized privately and operated outside the law. There were some allegations of police complicity with these extralegal security agents." **[2d] (Section 1c)**

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FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE MEDIA

6.05 Freedom House noted in its 2004 report that "Freedom of expression is constitutionally guaranteed and generally respected. Fulfilling a campaign promise, the Kufuor government in 2001 repealed Ghana's criminal libel law and otherwise eased pressure on the press. Numerous private radio stations operate and several independent newspapers and magazines are published in Accra. Internet access is unrestricted." **[16] (p1-3)**

6.06 The US State Department report 2004 (USSD) notes that "There were occasional reports that government officials pressured government media outlets to minimize coverage of opposition politicians." **[2d] (Introduction)**

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JOURNALISTS

6.07 Reporters without Borders – Ghana 2004 Annual Report notes that "Ghana is one of the African countries that most respects press freedom. The news media are able to operate freely despite isolated threats and harassment from individuals or local political leaders." **[32]**

6.08 The US State Department report 2004 (USSD) notes that "Unlike in the previous year, there were no reports that journalists were arrested during the year." **[2d] (Section 2a)** However, Afrol News reported on 8 September 2004 that national media watchdogs had heavily criticised the state owned Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) after it had decided to interdict its TV Director and four journalists about a news item concerning the national carrier Ghana Airways. Afrol noted that the interdict was "arbitrary" and resulted from political interference running up to the national elections. **[33a]** An earlier report from Afrol News on 26 July 2004 noted that "A crew from 'TV Africa', an Accra based independent television station, was arrested and detained for two hours by security personnel at President John Agyekum Kufor's private home. The crew was trying to document the controversial acquisition of a nearby hotel building by the President's son, Chief John Addo Kufuor." It was reported that the police had apologised for their actions, stating security concerns for their decision to arrest the TV crew. **[33b]** In the previous report (USSD 2003) the US State Department noted that on 25 August 2003 an independent journalist was arrested and charged with extortion for threatening to print a negative article about a local government official if he was not paid to be silent. **[2b] (Section 2a)**

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FREEDOM OF RELIGION

6.09 Freedom House noted in its 2004 report that "Religious freedom is respected, but there is occasional tension between Christians and Muslims and within the Muslim community itself." **[16] (p3)**

6.10 The US State Department, 2004 International Religious Freedom (USSD IRF) report, noted that:

"The Constitution provides for freedom of religion, and the Government generally respects this right in practice. There was no change in the status of respect for religious freedom during the period covered by this report, and government policy continued to contribute to the generally free practice of religion. The generally amicable relationship among religions in society contributed to religious freedom; however, tensions sometimes occurred between different branches of the same faith, as well as between Christian and traditional faiths. A number of governmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) promoted interfaith and intrafaith understanding." **[2c] (p1)**

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FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY

6.11 The US State Department report 2004 (USSD) notes that:

"The Constitution provides for freedom of peaceful assembly; however, at times the Government restricted this right. The Government does not require permits for demonstrations; however, police can deny use of a particular route. There were no reports that the police arbitrarily canceled demonstrations. In July, during a forum held by the National Commission for Civic Education, a district police commander reminded the public in the Eastern Region that the law requires that all organizers of 'special events' or 'processions' inform the police of their intentions at least 5 days in advance so that the police can institute precautionary measures. The forum was held as part of a series to enable citizens to learn about their rights and responsibilities concerning public rallies. In March, photocopies of the Public Order Act were given to the three main political parties – the NPP, NDC, and CPP – in an election-year effort to get political parties to inform their own supporters about the laws concerning public rallies." **[2d] (Section 2b)**

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POLITICAL ACTIVISTS

6.12 The US Department of State (USSD) report on Human Rights Practices in Ghana 2004 notes that:

"Political parties held national congresses and labor organizations held demonstrations without hindrance during the year. Unlike in the previous year, no political party rallies were postponed or cancelled at the request of police. The Government permitted peaceful demonstrations and rallies during the year.

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Unlike the previous year, police did not use force to disperse any demonstration. According to local press reports, in September, police and soldiers assaulted and beat supporters of the NPP in the Upper East region. They were driving to the regional capital to protest the party's national headquarters decision not to hold a local election to select a candidate for parliamentary elections. Police alleged that the protesters did not have permission to demonstrate in the capital. There were no developments in the 2002 cases in which security forces forcibly dispersed demonstrations. Periodically throughout the year, the Northern Regional Security Council imposed temporary bans on outdoor political activities following violent clashes between supporters of the two major political parties in Tamale. In each case, the bans were eventually lifted. On August 18, the ban on demonstrations in the Dagbon Traditional area due to a state of emergency was lifted." **[2d] (Section 2b)**

6.13 However, in their previous report the US Department of State (USSD) report on Human Rights Practices in Ghana 2003 noted that:

"In March [2003], in Navrongo, Northern Region, police cancelled opposition party rallies, allegedly for security purposes to accommodate the Vice President's visit to the area, in the final days before a closely contested parliamentary by-election. In April, in Gomoa East, Central Region, police again cancelled opposition rallies immediately before a bi-election, ostensibly to safeguard the Vice President's security. The practical effect of both incidents was to disrupt opposition campaigning. One opposition party rally was postponed twice due to disagreements between the organizers and security forces on use of route and timing. The rally eventually took place in September." **[2b] (Section 2b)**

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EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

6.14 The US State Department report 2004 (USSD) notes that:

"The Constitution provides for freedom of association, and workers exercised this right in practice. The percentage of workers belonging to unions appeared to be decreasing as more of the workforce entered the informal sector where there was no union activity. The Ministry of Employment and Manpower Development estimated that 80 percent of the work force was employed in the informal sector, and the number was expected to increase. In the past, all unions had to be affiliated with the Trade Union Congress (TUC). Under the 2003 labor law, unions, may operate independently of the TUC, and several groups have established independent unions." **[2d] (Section 6a)**

6.15 The USSD went on to note that:

"The law protects workers from employer interference and their right to organize and administer their unions and workers exercised this right in practice. The law also provides a framework for collective bargaining, and trade unions engaged in collective bargaining for wages and benefits for both private and state-owned enterprises without government interference. However, the Government, labor, and employers negotiated together to set the daily minimum wage through a National Tripartite Committee. The labor law, enacted in late 2003, gives the Committee a formal role to determine and set the national daily wage, consult

on matters of social and economic importance, and advise on employment and labor market issues…

The law recognizes the right to strike; however, the 2003 labor law restricts that right for workers who provide essential services. The Minister of Manpower Development and Employment had not formally designated the list of essential services by the year's end. The right to strike can also be restricted for workers in private enterprise whose services were deemed essential to the survival of the enterprise by a union and an employer. A union may call a legal strike if parties fail to agree to refer the dispute to voluntary arbitration or if the dispute remains unresolved at the end of arbitration proceedings. No union has ever gone through the complete dispute resolution process, and there were numerous unsanctioned strike actions during the year. There have been no legal strikes since independence." **[2d] (Section 6a)**

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PEOPLE TRAFFICKING

6.16 The US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report, dated 3 June 2005, placed Ghana in tier 2. This was a drop from last year's placing at tier 1. The US State Department defined tier 2 as – "Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards." **[2e]** In effect, there are four tiers, 1, 2, 2 'watch list' and 3. On the subject of Ghana, the USSD Trafficking report noted that:

"Ghana is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced domestic and commercial labor. Ghanaian children are trafficked internally for forced labor in fishing villages and cocoa plantations, and to urban areas in the south to work in exploitative conditions as domestic servants, street vendors, and porters. Ghanaian children are also trafficked to Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Nigeria, and The Gambia for exploitation as laborers or domestic servants. Recruiters typically target poor children who are removed from the home community with their parents' consent. Ghanaian women and girls are trafficked to Western Europe – principally Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands – for sexual exploitation. Some young Ghanaian women are trafficked for involuntary domestic servitude in the Middle East. Nigerian females moved to Western Europe for sexual exploitation transit Ghana, as do Burkinabe victims on their way to Cote d'Ivoire. Foreign victims include children brought to Ghana from Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria for forced labor, involuntary domestic servitude, and sexual exploitation.

"The Government of Ghana does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Ghana continued educating the public and providing assistance to trafficked children and their families, but law enforcement efforts were disjointed and hampered by the lack of a comprehensive national trafficking law. The government should proactively seek the passage and implementation of trafficking legislation planned since 2002, support law enforcement training and resources, and improve victim support services." **[2e]**

6.17 IRIN reported on 26 February 2004 that children were being trafficked into Gambia by Ghanaian fishermen for use as sex slaves and for forced labour. It

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noted that the Gambian authorities had questioned a group of 63 Ghanaian children, mostly girls, who had been trafficked into the country for use as "sex slaves" and unpaid domestic servants. **[15d]** The IOM in a Press Briefing Note dated 15 April 2005 noted that it had so far rescued 537 children who had been sold by their impoverished parents to fisherman in Yeji, on the northern shores of Lake Volta. "In February 2005, a group of 107 children were rescued and have since spent time trying to recover from their ordeals in a rehabilitation centre in Accra before being reunited with their parents at the end of the month." The IOM noted that at its request, UNICEF had committed to funding two baseline research studies on child trafficking in the Central and Volta regions, both of which were due to begin in June 2005. **[29]**

6.18 The Foreign and Commonwealth Office stated in a memo dated 25 August 2005, that the Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU) had run a successful education campaign that led to teachers and bus drivers informing police when they suspected child trafficking. "WAJU's view on child trafficking is that the majority of it takes place inside Ghana with Ghanian children rather than Ghana as a conduit for international trafficking." **[42]**

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FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

6.19 The US Department of State (USSD) report on Human Rights Practices in Ghana 2004 notes that, the Constitution provides for freedom of movement and that the Government generally respected these rights in practice. The report continued:

"Citizens and foreigners were free to move throughout the country. Security officers manned checkpoints nationwide to prevent smuggling, seize illegal weapons, and catch criminals, although many were unmanned during daylight hours. The Police Administration continued to erect security checkpoints and conducted highway patrols in response to an upsurge in highway robberies, and police roadblocks and car searches were a normal part of night time travel in larger cities. The police administration acknowledged that some officers occasionally erected illegal barriers to solicit bribes from motorists. The Regional Police Commanders monitored the activities of police personnel working at the checkpoints." **[2d] (Section 2d)**

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6.B HUMAN RIGHTS - SPECIFIC GROUPS

ETHNIC GROUPS

DAGBON KINGDOM

6.20 The World Guide 2003/2004 (New Internationalist Publications Ltd) reported that "Ghana remained an arena for clashes between different ethnic groups. In late 2001, violent confrontations took place between Mamprusis and Kusasis, leaving 50 dead. New clashes took place in March 2002, causing the death of K[i]ng Ya-Na Yakubu Andani II, an Andani and 27 other people. The Government declared a state of emergency and deployed its troops in order to

calm both groups. Historically, Mamprusi people tended to favour the NPP, while Kusasis tend to support the NDC." **[25] (p266)**

6.21 IRIN noted on 17 August 2004 that:

"Dagbon's two clans, the Andani and the Abudu, have been vying for the cheiftaincy for more than half a century. The Andani and Abudu were the sons of Dagbon king Ya Naa Yakubu I. After his death, the kingship rotated between their descendants. This arrangement worked smoothly until 1948 when a selection committee was established which led to accusations of favouritism and bias. Disputes ensued, with each clan aligning itself with alternate governments as they came to power." **[15c]**

6.22 IRIN reported on 17 August 2004 that the Ghanaian government had lifted the state of emergency and night-time curfew in the northern Dagbon region. "The government said in a statement on Monday that residents in Tamale, the regional capital, and Yendi, the seat of the Dagbon tribal kingdom 100 km to the east, would no longer be confined to their houses between the hours of 10pm and 5am." However, IRIN reported that King Ya-Na Yakubu Andani II body still lies in a mortuary. Tradition dictates that the king cannot be buried until the palace, which was destroyed during the disturbances in 2002, has been rebuilt. However "Officials fear his burial could provide another flashpoint. So too could the subsequent process of naming the next Dagbon king." **[15c]** allAfrica reporting the Ghanaian Chronicle (Accra) on 12 April 2005 noted that the burial of the late Dagbon king had been indefinitely postponed creating stiff opposition and displeasure from many Ghanaians, particularly the natives of the Dagbon state and some opposition members. allAfrica noted that "The incumbent government, which was accused of having masterminded the sudden death of the King and 40 others, is still under public attack and accusations of showing 'meagre and lackadaisical attitude' towards finding lasting [a] solution to the over three year old Dagbon crisis." **[24b]**

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WOMEN

6.23 The USSD 2004 noted that "Violence against women, including rape and domestic violence, remained a significant problem. However, most abuses went unreported and seldom came before the courts." **[2d] (Section 5)** The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in a report dated 2 May 2005 noted that, "Statistics reveal that over 90% of the victims of domestic violence are women and children. The era of customary law appears to permit the right of punishment for husbands in some ethnic groups. It has led to a prevalence of wife beating in some communities… A recent national study on violence revealed that one in three women interviewed had been physically abused by a current or most recent partner." **[28]** AFROL Gender Profiles: Ghana (accessed 27 August 2005) noted that "A 1998 study revealed that particularly in low-income, high-density sections of greater Accra, at least 54 percent of women have been assaulted in recent years." **[37a] (p3)**

6.24 AFROL stated that:

"Women continue to experience societal discrimination. Women in urban centers and those with skills and training encounter little overt bias, but

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resistance to women entering nontraditional fields persists. Only about one quarter of university students are women, although women's enrolment is increasing. There is little or no discrimination against female children in education, but girls and women frequently drop out of school due to societal or economic pressures. The Government actively campaigns for girls' education and in 1997 established a girls' education unit within the basic education division of the Ghana Educational Service. Although the percentages of girls enrolled in school increased from 1996, participation is still low… Women's rights groups are active in educational campaigns and in programs to provide vocational training, legal aid, and other support to women. The Government also is active in educational programs, and the President and First Lady are among the most outspoken advocates of women's rights." **[37a] (p2)**

6.25 AFROL also noted that "The police tend not to intervene in domestic disputes. However, 1998 legislation doubled the mandatory sentence for rape. The media increasingly report cases of assault and rape. In late 1998, the police administration established a "women and juvenile unit" to handle cases involving domestic violence, child abuse, and juvenile offenses." **[37a] (p3)**

6.26 The USSD 2004 noted that:

"The Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU) of the police service was established specifically to handle cases of domestic violence, child abuse, and juvenile offences as well as researching patterns and types of crimes against women and children. During the year, 11,984 cases were reported to WAJU. The majority of these were cases of child neglect (7,421) and assault (2,059), most frequently in the form of domestic violence. Of these cases, there were 181 rape cases reported during the year. The Director of WAJU stated the increase in reported cases was due to an increase in victim rights awareness programs. The media also increasingly reported cases of assault and rape. WAJU worked closely with the Department of Social Welfare, FIDA, the Legal Aid Board, and several human rights NGOs." **[2d] (Section 5)**

6.27 The USSD 2003 also noted that "During the year [2003], WAJU, international donors and NGOs collaborated to create a medical trust fund for victims of domestic violence." **[2b] (Section 5)** However, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office stated in a memo dated 25 August 2005, that "WAJU have highlighted the problem of getting medical evidence especially in cases of rape. WAJU do not have their own medical staff. Women are sent to hospitals but doctors will not produce a medical certificate as evidence without payment. Most women cannot pay. WAJU have set up a trust fund to cover these costs but as yet few doctors are aware of it or using it." **[42]**

6.28 The FCO went on to note that "WAJU has offices in all regions, but has few facilities to give support to women fleeing violence." It also reported that "There are only two women's refuges in the whole of Ghana (one run by a charity). Local government involvement in DV [domestic violence] is limited to education programmes and a small number of social workers." **[42]**

6.29 The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) also stated in the memo dated 25 August 2005, that with regard to domestic violence "There is a far greater public awareness of the issue (resulting in increased reporting of it). All police are given some awareness training as part of their basic training. However in the Northern regions there is still some reluctance to accept there is a problem

that has to be dealt with through legal means. This applies both to violence against women and abuse of children." **[42]**

6.30 Amnesty International in its 2004 report on Ghana, noted that government plans to put a draft Domestic Violence Bill before parliament had not been met. **[7]** The USSD 2004 noted that the bill, which was originally drafted in 2002, has been the subject of intense national debate due to the proposed repeal of a section of the criminal code justifying the use of force within marriage. **[2d] (Section 5)** The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (report dated 2 May 2005) noted that the issue of domestic violence was gradually becoming a social evil if one were to look at the rise in complaints of abuse and assault reported to the WAJU and police. It therefore expected the Ghanaian parliament to consider the domestic violence bill to provide a clear legal framework for dealing with domestic violence. **[28]** However, the FCO stated on 25 August 2005 that the Domestic Violence Bill was still before parliament. The FCO was of the opinion that even when the legislation becomes law the immediate impact is expected to be limited as police staff and prosecutors will need to be trained on the use of the legislation. **[42]**

6.31 The USSD 2004 noted that "There were no laws that specifically protect women from sexual harassment; however, some sexual harassment cases were prosecuted under the existing Criminal Code. Women's advocacy groups reported that sexual harassment was a problem." **[2d] (Section 5)** AFROL's Gender Profiles (accessed 27 August 2005) noted that "The Constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, disability, language, or social status. The courts are empowered specifically to order enforcement of these prohibitions, although enforcement by the authorities is generally inadequate, in part due to limited financial resources." **[37a] (p2)**

6.32 The USSD 2004, also noted that:

"There is a Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs to address gender and children's issues; however, women continued to experience societal discrimination. Women in urban centers and those with skills and training encountered little overt bias, but resistance to women entering non-traditional fields persisted. Women, especially in rural areas, remained subject to burdensome labor conditions and traditional male dominance. Traditional practices and social norms often denied women their statutory entitlements to inheritances and property, a legally registered marriage (and with it, certain legal rights), and the maintenance and custody of children. Women's rights groups were active in educational campaigns and in programs to provide vocational training, legal aid, and other support to women. The Government was active in educational programs, and many officials were active, outspoken advocates of women's rights." **[2d] (Section 5)**

(See also section 5 on **Prison Conditions**)

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WITCHCRAFT

6.33 The USSD 2004 noted that "A strong belief in witchcraft continued in many parts of the country. Most accused witches were older women, often widows, who were identified by fellow villagers as the cause of difficulties, such as

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illness, crop failure, or financial misfortune." **[2d] (Section 5)** Additionally, AFROL Gender Profiles (accessed 17 August 2005) reported that teenage pregnancy was also a reason for banishment to 'witch camps'. **[37a] (p1)**

6.34 AFROL noted that "The press reported that hundreds of women accused of witchcraft were sent to penal villages in the Northern Region by traditional authorities, such as a shaman. In 1997 2 villages contained 400 elderly women, and 1 village contained 2,000 women and family members, all sentenced by a village authority who claimed to have the power to divine witches." AFROL went on to note that forced labour was also used at witch camps. **[37a] (p1)**

6.35 The USSD 2004 noted that "The women did not face formal legal sanction if they returned home; however, most feared that they could be beaten or lynched if they returned to their villages. The law provides protection to alleged witches, and the WAJU continued to prosecute violence and societal abuses related to allegations of witchcraft." **[2d] (Section 5)** AFROL reported that "Legislation passed in 1998 provides some additional protection to women banned from their communities for alleged witchcraft." **[37a] (p1)** The USSD 2004 noted that "There were several cases of lynching and assault of accused witches during the year. For example, on August 24 [2004], a 35-year-old man was prosecuted and sentenced to death by a fast-track high court for murdering his wife on the suspicion that she was a witch. The case against four men accused of beating a women to death on suspicion of witchcraft in July 2003 remained pending at year's end." **[2d] (Section 5)**

6.36 AFROL Gender Profiles (accessed 17 August 2005) reported that in addition to legislation NGOs were also working to reduce societal discrimination, the report noted that:

"The CHRAJ and human rights NGO's are mounting a campaign to end this traditional practice, which violates the victims' constitutional rights. The challenge lies not only in persuading custodians of the witches' homes to abolish the practice, but also in educating the community so the women will be allowed to return safely to their homes. In 1998 FIDA had persuaded custodians to abolish the Gambaga witches home in the Northern Region, contingent on the performance of "exorcism" rites and payment of accommodation and discharge fees. However, a few months later, there was an increase in the number of alleged witches banished to the home, largely due to the communities' belief that these women were responsible for an outbreak of cerebrospinal meningitis which claimed many lives in the region." **[37a] (p1-2)**

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FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

6.37 A report by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, published in February 2003, noted that "In 1994, Ghana became the first independent African state to pass a law against female genital mutilation. Ghana is among the few African countries with a law explicitly prohibiting the practice." **[21] (paragraph 275)** The Center for Reproductive Rights, in a report dated 2003, noted that the Ghanaian Criminal Code sets a minimum sentence of three years imprisonment for those responsible for FGM. **[22] (p41)** However, the US State Department report on Female Genital Mutilation dated 1 June 2001 noted that "The law in Ghana protects an unwilling woman or girl against the practice, but

there is little real protection to turn to in many rural areas." **[2f] (p3)** The Center for Reproductive Rights questioned whether current legislation has had the desired effect with the practice of FGM still estimated to be around 30 per cent. **[22] (p33)** The United Nations Commission on Human Rights appeared to back this line with figures that showed that since the criminalisation of FGM there have been seven arrests (between 1994 and 2003) and of those, only two were prosecuted and convicted. **[21] (paragraph 283)** The United Nations Commission on Human Rights also quoted that the figures for FGM could be as high as 30 per cent, but noted that FGM could be as low as 9 and 12 per cent. **[21] (paragraph 283)**

6.38 The USSD 2004 noted that:

"There were several traditional discriminatory practices that were injurious to the health and development of young girls. In particular, FGM was a serious problem. According to a recent study conducted by the Ministry of Health, the prevalence rate among women ages 12 to 19 in the north was approximately 14 to 15 percent. Although the study did not include some females who had not yet reached the typical circumcision age of 15, the prevalence rate indicated a steep drop from the previous study. Often it was performed on girls under the age of 15. Research conducted by the Ministry of Health in the northern regions indicated that intervention programs have been somewhat successful in reducing the prevalence. Some observers believed that in the Northern Region, there was a 15 percent FGM prevalence rate, while others believed that education on the illegality of FGM has driven the practice underground and the real rate was as high as 30 percent." **[2d] (Section 5)**

6.39 However, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights reported that the numbers involved could be higher, noting that FGM is primarily practised among northern sector ethnic groups, up to 86 per cent in rural parts of the Upper West and Upper East Regions. The majority of females are excised before the age of 15. **[21] (paragraph 283)**

6.40 The USSD also noted that:

"Officials at all levels, including traditional chiefs, have spoken against the practice, and local NGOs continued their educational campaigns to encourage abandonment of FGM and to retrain practitioners. In some cases in which FGM was performed, the victims actively sought out practitioners, sometimes without their parents' knowledge, to become ready for marriage. One NGO in the Northern Region reported that mothers frequently failed to return to the hospitals where they delivered their babies for immunizations and to attend postnatal clinics, allegedly because they did not want the hospitals to discover that they were engaging in FGM. The law prohibits FGM; however, members of the legal community advocated for legislation to close loopholes in the law and extend culpability to those who aid in carrying out FGM and to citizens who commit the crime outside the country's borders." **[2d] (Section 5)**

6.41 IRINnews.org reported on 2 February 2004 that "Ghanaian women's rights groups have called for stronger laws against FGM following two landmark rulings in Northern Ghana against the traditional practice. The Ghanaian Association for Women's Welfare (GAWW) has demanded that parents who allow their daughters to have their clitoris and sometimes other parts of their vagina removed by amateur surgeons should be liable for punishment, as well

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as those who actually perform the cuts." Women's rights groups are reported to have said that the laws against FGM are too lenient. IRIN reported that there had been relatively few prosecutions of those responsible for performing FGM operations. But noted that in November 2003, a 45 year old woman was sentenced to five years for circumcising three girls, including a three-week old baby. In another case a 70 year old women was sentenced to five years imprisonment in February 2004 for the circumcision of seven girls. **[15b]**

6.42 The US State Department report on Female Genital Mutilation dated 1 June 2001 noted that "FGM/FGC is most prevalent in the Upper East Region… Studies conducted in 1986 and 1987 showed the practice to exist mainly among the following ethnic groups in the far northern part of the country – Kussasi, Frafra, Kassena, Nankanne, Bussauri, Moshie, Manprusie, Kantansi, Walas, Sisala, Grunshie, Dargati and Lobi." **[2f] (p1)**

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CHILDREN

6.43 The USSD 2004 noted that:

"Within the limits of its resources, the Government was committed to protecting the rights and welfare of children. In 2003, the Government finalized the design of its long-term development plan – the Education Sector Plan (ESP) 2003-2015. The ESP establishes an operational framework and indicates the Government's long-term commitment to achieving universal primary education. The Government was in the process of implementing this plan at year's end… Child labor was a serious problem. The migration of children from rural to urban areas increased, due to economic hardship. Children were driven to the streets to fend for themselves, increasing both the occurrence of child labor and the school dropout rate." **[2d] (Section 5)**

6.44 The USSD 2004 noted that, education at primary and junior secondary school level is compulsory. However, education was not free with the government setting limits on the charges that could be made for compulsory education at $US 10 per term. However, the USSD noted that district assemblies mostly levied school fees of up to $US 50 per term with additional extra classes fees being imposed by teachers to supplement their salaries. The government introduced measures to improve education opportunities for children with disabilities and for children who were required to work to help support their families. The USSD 2004 noted that in spite of relatively high school fees the gross enrolment rate during 2003 stood at 81.3 per cent at primary level, with 84.6 per cent of boys and 78 per cent girls attending. At Junior Secondary School the figures were 67.1 overall with 71.7 per cent of boys and 64.4 per cent of girls attending. **[2d] (Section 5)**

6.45 The USSD 2004 noted that:

"There were frequent reports that male teachers sexually assaulted their female students. The girls often were reluctant to report the attacks to their parents, and social pressure often prevented parents from going to authorities. A 2003 survey reported that 27 per cent of school girls interviewed stated their teacher had pressured them for sex, 25 percent stated they knew at least one teacher having an affair with a school girl, and 79 per cent stated they were sexually

harassed by male classmates. Reliable data for the entire country was unavailable, so the overall scale of this problem was unknown. There were several press reports of teachers and headmasters/headmistresses either arrested for sexual harassment of female students or dismissed for ignoring reported problems." **[2d] (Section 5)**

6.46 The USSD 2004 also noted that:

"WAJU and regular police units increasingly investigated and prosecuted sexual abuse of minors, and press reports of court cases ending in lengthy prison sentences became routine. Teachers also played a significant role in reporting cases of abuse to the authorities… "Defilement," or sexual abuse against minors, remained a problem. WAJU announced in June that between 1999 and May [2004], there were 1,756 cases reported in which men victimized children between the ages of 2 and 15. WAJU also reported that, during the same period, 397 girls over the age of 16 had reported cases of rape and 44 incestuous relationships were reported. WAJU reported that during the year, there were 63 cases of exposing a child to harm and 7,421 cases of child neglect. At year's end, WAJU reported a total of 734 cases of defilement that were reported during the year. In April, a farmer in the Ashanti Region was sentenced to 12 years in jail for sexually abusing a 3-year-old girl in 2003. In June, a district court remanded a 22-year-old man into custody for sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl with disabilities. In July, a 24-year-old man was remanded into custody for sexually abusing a 7-year-old girl in the Central Region." **[2d] (Section 5)**

6.47 However, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office stated in a memo dated 25 August 2005, that while the WAJU (The Women and Juvenile Unit) are able to provide assistance in cases of child abuse, the WAJU has access to only one child psychologist for the whole country. **[42]**

6.48 The USSD 2004 notes that:

"The law sets a minimum employment age of 15 years and prohibits night work and certain types of hazardous labor for those under 18 years of age; however, child labor was a serious problem in the informal sector. The Children's Act establishes a minimum age for employment, prohibits night work and hazardous labor, and provides for fines and imprisonment for violators… However, child labor laws were not enforced effectively or consistently, and law enforcement officials, including judges, police, and labor officials, often were unfamiliar with the provisions of the law protecting children. Observance of minimum age laws was eroded by local custom and economic circumstances that encouraged children to work to help support their families." **[2d] (Section 5)**

6.49 The USSD 2004 noted that:

"The law prohibits forced and compulsory labor performed by children; however, during the year, children were reportedly sold, leased, or given away by parents to work in agriculture, fishing villages, quarry mines, shops, or homes. It was difficult to determine the extent to which forced and bonded labor by children was practiced… Inspectors from the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare are responsible for enforcement of child labor regulations, and district labor officers and the Social Services sub-committees of District Assemblies are charged with seeing that the relevant provisions of the law are observed. They visited each

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workplace annually and made spot checks whenever they received allegations of violations. All law enforcement and judicial authorities in the country were hampered by severe resource constraints and a lack of public awareness about the problem." **[2d] (Section 6)**

6.50 There were no prosecutions for child labour resulting from government inspections. "Officials only occasionally punished violators of regulations that prohibited heavy labor and night work for children." Although, the USSD notes that inspections were concentrated only in the formal sector, which was not where most child labor was performed. **[2d] (Section 6)**

6.51 The USSD 2004 also noted that:

"ILO/IPEC (International Program to Eliminate Child Labor), government representatives, the TUC, the media, international organizations, and NGOs continued to build upon the 2001-02 "National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Child Labor in Ghana," by increasing institutional capacity to combat child labor. Education and sensitization workshops were conducted with police, labor inspectors, local governments, and communities. Forums were held throughout the country to develop and implement an ILO/IPEC Time-Bound Program, which aimed to eliminate all forms of child labor under specified time periods and benchmarks." **[2d] (Section 6)**

6.52 The USSD 2004 noted that "The GNCC (Ghana National Commission on Children), a policymaking and coordinating body established to improve the lives of children, administered training programs for law enforcement and judicial officials to familiarize them with the Children's Act and other pertinent child labor legislation. Local and international NGOs worked in conjunction with the Government to promote children's rights and were somewhat successful in sensitizing communities to protecting the welfare of children." **[2d] (Section 5)**

6.53 The USSD 2004 also noted that:

"Forced childhood marriage, which is illegal, remained a problem. In August, the Acting Commissioner for CHRAJ [Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice] declared forced marriage as the major human rights abuse issue in the Northern Region. In June, a 16-year-old girl committed suicide to protest an abusive marriage she had been forced into. In September, a chief in the Ashanti Region was arrested and remanded for allegedly defiling a 14-year-old girl. The investigation continued at year's end. There were no further developments in the attempt of Ghana National Commission on Children (GNCC) and the CHRAJ to effect the prosecution of a chief who married a 14-year-old and impregnated her." **[2d] (Section 5)**

6.54 The USSD 2004 also noted that "Child prostitution, although illegal, also existed. The ILO International Program to Eliminate Child Labor (ILO/IPEC) organized workshops throughout the year to create awareness of increasing child prostitution in the tourism industry and create a strategy to combat the problem. There were reports that trafficking in children occurred, for forced labor or sexual exploitation including children being sold into various forms of involuntary servitude." **[2d] (Section 5)**

(See also section 6C on the **Trokosi System**)

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CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

6.55 The Republic of Ghana Government web site (accessed 11 May 2005) lists 23 orphanages located throughout Ghana. Five are government funded and run; the remaining 18 are funded and managed by local NGOs. **[26]** See link for details http://www.ghana.gov.gh/faq/faqans.php?id=0000000056

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HOMOSEXUALS

6.56 The International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) in its country profile on Ghana (updated 31/07/2000), reports that the Criminal Code, Chapter 6, Sexual Offences Article 105, criminalises consensual 'unnatural carnal knowledge'. **[18]** Sodomy Laws noted in an article dated 6 May 2004, that the law, a relic of British colonial rule, groups homosexuality with rape, assault and rape and bestiality. **[19] (p1)**

6.57 The USSD 2004 notes that:

> "The law is discriminatory toward homosexuals, and homosexuality is criminalized in the country. There is a minimum misdemeanor charge for homosexual activity, and homosexual men often are subjected to abuse in prison. In May, the Acting Commissioner for CHRAJ publicly suggested that the Government consider decriminalizing homosexuality to conform to international standards of human rights. Homosexuality was socially taboo in the country, and many persons continued to erroneously link the prevalence of HIV/AIDS only with a homosexual orientation." **[2d] (Section 5)**

6.58 Sodomy Laws noted reports from the International Gay and Lesbian Association, which noted that some gay men are abused while in prison. It further reported the arrest of four gay men for indecent exposure and unlawful carnal knowledge. **[19] (p1-2)** News web-site gmax.co.za reported on 19 September 2003, that the four men received sentences of two years each. **[20]** Sodomy Laws also noted the views of the Acting Commissioner for Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Mrs Anna Bossman, who claimed that homosexuality in Ghana is taboo, making the issue of decriminalisation a difficult subject to discuss. Mrs Bossman said that most people, including religious leaders and judges, will probably refuse to discuss the decriminalisation of homosexual acts. The article also highlighted an example of a professional man who had chosen to hide his sexuality for fear of discrimination and losing his job. The article gave another example of a man who after being beaten and robbed by a group of men was refused help by the police. **[19] (p1-5)**

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6.C HUMAN RIGHTS - OTHER ISSUES

THE TROKOSI SYSTEM

6.59 The US State Department, 2004 International Religious Freedom (USSD IRF) report, noted that:

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"Trokosi, also known as Fiashidi, is a religious practice involving a period of servitude lasting up to 3 years. It is found primarily among the ethnic Ewe group in the Volta Region. A virgin girl, sometimes under the age of 10, but often in her teens, is given by her family to work and be trained in traditional religion at a fetish shrine for a period lasting between several weeks and 3 years as a means of atonement for an allegedly heinous crime committed by a member of the girl's family." **[2c] (p3)**

The AFROL Gender Profile (accessed 17 August 2005) expanded on the reasons why families hand over their daughters to fetish priests, noting that "The belief is that, if someone in that family has committed a crime, such as stealing, members of the family may begin to die in large numbers unless a young girl is given to the local fetish shrine to atone for the offense." **[37a] (p2)** In limited circumstances, both the USSD and AFROL state that where a girl is unavailable a boy will be acceptable.

6.60 The USSD IRF continued:

"The girl, who is known as a Trokosi or a Fiashidi, then becomes the property of the shrine god and the charge of the shrine priest for the duration of her stay... The practice explicitly forbids a Trokosi or Fiashidi to engage in sexual activity or contact during her atonement period. In the past, there were reports that the priests subjected the girls to sexual abuse; however, while instances of abuse may occur on a case-by-case basis, there is no evidence that sexual or physical abuse is an ingrained or systematic part of the practice." **[2c] (p3)**

However, AFROL Gender Profile (accessed 17 August 2005) notes that "The girl becomes the property of the fetish priest, must work on the priest's farm, and perform other labors for him. Because they are the sexual property of the priests, most Trokosi slaves have children by them." **[37a] (p2)**

6.61 The USSD IRF finally noted that:

"During the girl's stay, her family must provide for the girl's needs, including food and clothing; however, in some cases families are unable to do so. After a Trokosi has completed her service to the shrine, the girl's family completes its obligation by providing items that may include drinks, cloth, money, and sometimes livestock to the shrine for a final release ritual. After the release ritual, the girl returns to her family and resumes her life, without, in the vast majority of cases, any particular stigma attaching to her status as a former Trokosi shrine participant. In very occasional cases, the family abandons the girl or cannot afford the cost of the final rites, in which case she may remain at the shrine indefinitely." **[2c] (p3)**

However, the USSD's view above is not echoed by the AFROL Gender Profile (accessed 17 August 2005), it notes that "Even if released, generally without skills or hope of marriage, a Trokosi woman has continued obligations to the shrine for the duration of her life. When the fetish slave dies, the family is expected to replace her with another young girl for the fetish shrine." The AFROL profile went on to note that "There are at least 2,510 girls and women bound to various shrines in the Trokosi system, a figure that does not include the slaves' children." **[37a] (p2)**

6.62 The USSD 2004 noted that "Comprehensive legislation protects women's and children's rights and includes a ban on ritual servitude, which many activists interpreted to include Trokosi. According to human rights groups, the practice has decreased in recent years because other belief systems have gained followers, and fetish priests who died have not been replaced. Adherents of Trokosi describe it as a practice based on traditional African religious beliefs; however, the Government does not recognize it as a religion." **[2d] (Section 5)** AFROL noted that human rights activists believe that the goal of eradicating the Trokosi practice is achievable. The report also noted that:

"NGO's, such as International Needs, and government agencies, like the CHRAJ, have been campaigning against Trokosi for several years and are familiar with the locations of the fetish shrines and the numbers of women and children enslaved. Activists know the community leaders and fetish priests and, thus, know with whom to negotiate. The CHRAJ and International Needs have had some success in approaching village authorities and fetish priests at over 116 of the major and minor shrines, winning the release of 2,190 Trokosi slaves to date and retraining them for new professions. The organizations continue to work for additional releases." **[37a] (p2)**

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RETURNED FAILED ASYLUM SEEKERS

6.63 The Foreign and Commonwealth Office stated in a memo dated 25 August 2005, that they were not aware of any reports of returned failed asylum seekers being subject to mistreatment upon return. The FCO also reported that NGOs had also not reported any incidents of mistreatment. **[42]**

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Annex A: Cabinet list - 31 August 2005

President
John Agyekum KUFUOR

Vice President
Aliu MAHAMA, *Alhaji*

Senior Minister
J. H. MENSAH

Minister of Defense
Kwame ADDO-KUFUOR

Minister of Education, Youth, & Sports
Yaw OSAFO-MARFO

Minister of Energy
Michael OCQUAYE

Minister of Finance & Economic Planning
Kwadjo Baah WIREDU

Minister of Food & Agriculture
Ernest DEBRAH

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Nana AKUFO-ADDO

Minister of Health
Courage QUASHIGAH, *Maj. (Ret.)*

Minister of Information
Dan BOTWE

Minister of Interior
Papa Owusu ANKOMAH

Minister of Justice
Ayikoi OTOO

Minister of Lands & Forestry
Dominic FOBIH

Minister of Local Government & Rural Development
Charles BINTIM

Minister of Manpower Development & Employment
Yaw BARIMAH

Minister of Mines
Cecilia BANNERMAN

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs
Felix Owusu ADJAPONG

Minister for Private Sector Development
Kwamena BARTELS

Minister of Regional Cooperation
Kofi APRAKU

Minister of Roads & Highways
Richard ANANE

Minister of Science & Environment
Christine CHURCHER

Minister of Tourism & Modernization of the Capital City
Jake OBESTSEBI-LAMPTEY

Minister of Trade, Industry, & Special Presidential Initiatives
Alan KYEREMATEN

Minister of Women's & Children's Affairs
Alima MAHAMA, *Hajia*

Minister of Works & Housing
Hackman Owusu AGYEMAN

Minister of State in the Minister of Education, Youth, & Sports
Rashid BAWA

Attorney General
Ayikoi OTOO
[44]

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Annex B: Election results – December 2004

EXECUTIVE

President: John Agyekum Kufuor (2000/2004) NPP
Vice-president: Alhaji Aliu Mahama (2000) NPP

The president is elected for a four year term by the people. The government is formed by the NPP

President: 7 december 2004 (. %)	%
John Agyekum Kufuor – New Patriotic Party	53.4
John Evans Atta Mills – National Democratic Congress	43.7
Edward Mahama – People's National Convention	1.9
George Aggudey – Convention People's Party	0.9

Source: Rulers, Angus Reid

PARLIAMENT

Parliament has 230 members, elected for a four year term in single-seat constituencies.

Parliament: 7 december 2004 (. %)		%	230
New Patriotic Party	NPP	.	128
National Democratic Congress	NDC	.	94
Grand Coalition	GC	.	4
– People's National Convention	PNC		
– Great Consolidated Popular Party	GCPP		
– Every Ghanaian Living Everywhere	EGLE		
Convention People's Party	CPP	.	3

Source: allafrica.com **[45]**

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