

Right to Information Request for Report of the Ministerial Committee into the Ejura Shootings

1. Earlier today, we the families of the victims of the Ejura Shootings, and the Family of Ibrahim Anyass Mohammed, alias Kaaka, resolved to submit separate Right to Information requests to the Office of the President, and to the Minister of Interior, requesting for access to the Report of the Ministerial Committee constituted at the request of the President to look into the Ejura Shootings.
2. Our request has been made urgent due to the inordinate delay in releasing the Report to the Ejura Community, the Families of the victims of the Ejura shootings and for public discussion.
3. As you are aware, nearly two months ago, on 29 June 2021, certain military personnel were deployed to Ejura, where unarmed civilians, including women and children, were shot at, killed and maimed by the military. Some of the affected persons are members of our families.
4. Following the incident, the President of Ghana called for a public inquiry into the shooting incidents, and a Ministerial Committee was subsequently put in place.
5. As you may recall, many people in Ejura and across the country expressed their disaffection with the Committee and the manner in which the public inquiry was conducted. In fact, instead of being a mechanism for truth searching and for holding people to account, was instead used to shift the narrative and to make murderous perpetrators look like the victims. While the true victims in Ejura were portrayed as hooligans or riff-raffs with no place in our democracy; or as persons who did not deserve protection of our laws. The people of Ejura were instead blamed for the injuries and deaths they sustained at the hands of the military.
6. Even though the Report of the Committee was submitted on the 27th of July 2021, the Report has still not been disclosed for public debate and no punitive actions have been taken, to the best of our knowledge, in connection with the Report.
7. Despite repeated assurances by Government officials that the Report will be released expeditiously, including a claim by the Minister for Information that the Report will be released latest by the end of last week; no such steps have been taken.
8. As a result, we have become apprehensive about the commitment of the Government to releasing the report, and to working towards justice for our families.
9. Also, we are concerned that the delays in releasing the Report are without just cause; and as such lend credence to the belief in many quarters that the Report may be or has been tampered with.
10. In addition to the failure to release, we are concerned that the appropriate authorities have taken no steps to investigate, arrest or prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes, many weeks on.
11. With the above in mind, we have requested for access to the Report of the Ministerial Committee into the Ejura Shootings, in the hope that releasing the Report for Public discussion could kick start the long-delayed process needed to provide justice for our families, and our community.

Signed.

The Families of Abdul Nasir Yusuf; Muntala Mohammed; Halaru Suleiman; and Ibrahim Anyass Mohammed, alias Kaaka.