



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SILENCE AFTER THE STORM: DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GHANA'S MAJOR COCAINE SEIZURES

Accra, Ghana - May 5, 2025

The Africa Center for Security and Counterterrorism (ACSC) is calling for urgent transparency and accountability following Ghana's major cocaine seizures in the first quarter of 2025. While we initially commended our security agencies for their vigilance in intercepting these substantial drug hauls, the subsequent silence and lack of public updates raised troubling questions about Ghana's commitment to following through on these high-profile cases.

In the first three months of 2025, Ghana's security agencies made several significant drug busts, including an estimated \$350 million cocaine seizure of 3.3 tonnes by the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB) in March and a \$150 million cocaine seizure on the Takoradi-Cape Coast Highway. Additionally, suspicious aircraft landings at Kotoka International Airport generated significant public interest after allegations emerged about potential drug trafficking.

Two months have passed without substantive updates on prosecutions, judicial proceedings, or the secure storage of these seized substances. This pattern of silence after highly publicized drug busts is unfortunately familiar to Ghanaians, who have witnessed previous cases where seized

substances mysteriously disappeared or were revealed to be something other than what was initially claimed.

Democratic governance demands transparency. When security agencies trumpet major drug busts with great fanfare but then go silent on follow-up actions, it undermines public trust in these institutions. Ghana's citizens deserve to know what happens after the press conferences end.

The ACSC is particularly concerned about:

1. **The \$350 Million Cocaine Case:** Where are the suspects? What is the status of their prosecution? Where is the seized cocaine being stored, and under what security protocols?
2. **The Kotoka International Airport Incident:** President Mahama directed a committee to investigate suspicious aircraft landings, but Ghanaians have received no updates on the findings. What did the committee discover, and why haven't its conclusions been publicized?
3. **The Chain of Custody:** What verification processes are in place to ensure that seized substances remain intact and are not tampered with or replaced before trial?
4. **Systemic Accountability:** Why do drug-related investigations in Ghana repeatedly fade from public view after initial announcements?

These questions are not merely academic. Ghana's position as a transit point for international drug trafficking has significant security implications for the entire region. The involvement of transnational criminal networks in the drug trade poses direct threats to Ghana's democratic institutions through corruption and the undermining of the rule of law.

The ACSC calls for:

- **Immediate Public Updates:** The government must provide detailed status reports on all major drug seizures from Q1 2025, including information on prosecutions, the chain of custody for seized substances, and verification of the substances' nature and quantity.
- **Parliamentary Oversight:** Ghana's Parliament, particularly the Defence and Interior Committee, must exercise its oversight responsibility by demanding briefings on these cases.
- **Independent Verification:** Independent laboratories should verify the content and quantity of seized substances, with results made public.
- **Judicial Transparency:** Court proceedings related to major drug cases should be accessible to the media and civil society observers.
- **Publication of the Kotoka Airport Investigation:** The findings of the presidential committee investigating suspicious aircraft landings must be made public immediately.

When a democratic government becomes opaque about such issues of national importance, citizens have reason to question whether state institutions are complicit in enabling smugglers. The pattern of fanfare followed by silence raises the troubling possibility that resources are wasted on committees that never produce results or, worse, on investigations deliberately designed to fade away.

The ACSC remains committed to keeping these critical issues in the public consciousness and calls on media outlets, civil society organizations, and concerned citizens to join us in demanding transparency and accountability. A functioning democracy cannot allow such significant security matters to disappear into silence.

Emmanuel Mawanye Kotin
Executive Director

Note to Editors

For favour of publication, please.

Cc:

All media Houses