

THE MATTER OF THE KIDNAPPED TAKORADI GIRLS

We will first like to sympathise with families of Ruth Abakah, Priscilla Blessing Bentum, Ruth Love Quayson and Priscilla Koranchie, the four kidnapped girls for the trauma they have had to endure all these months. Yesterday, the Inspector-General of Police held a press conference to inform the public of the purported results of the DNA testing of human remains that were suspected to be those of the four girls kidnapped more than a year ago. It is not far from the case that such hastily and visibly thoughtlessly organized press conference was an attempt to cover up the ineptitude of the police and quickly close the case.

We decry the non-seriousness and unprofessionalism displayed by the police since these kidnappings happened. The police claimed that the suspect who was arrested on 22nd December 2018 escaped custody on 30th December 2018. The suspect later revealed that he was aided to escape by some CID personnel. In fact, natives of Takoradi believe that truly it was impossible for him to escape without any help. Has this matter been investigated? Who were the culprit police officers? What happened to them? Or was the suspect telling lies?

Ghanaians have not also forgotten the announcement by the Director-General of the CID, Maame Yaa Tiwaa Addo-Danquah, that the police knew where the girls were and that they would soon be brought back safely to their families. Was she deliberately lying to the public? Are we training our officers to peddle false hopes or deliver results professionally? What punishment has she suffered for this unethical conduct?

The DNA testing was done on the basis of the discovery of certain human parts. How is it possible that four bodies decomposed without any residents reporting any stench? And is it possible for a dead body to quickly turn into bones within one year of death? Why did they not visit the place for over a year upon arresting the suspect?

With so many lingering questions, we agree with the families that the police cannot be trusted on this matter. The Ghana Police Service has failed the families and this country and cannot simply sweep the matter under the carpet with a press conference. We demand the resignation of the Head of the CID, Maame Tiwaa Addo-Danquah, for her unprofessional handling of this matter and the acting IGP, James Oppong-Bannuh for first failing to sack Maame Tiwaa and then attempting to cover up this mess. We further call for an independent investigation to answer the questions asked above.



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