



COMMISSION ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE
(CHRAJ)

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE – 26TH JUNE 2026

As Ghana joins the international community to mark the 2026 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the Commission reaffirms that torture can never be justified. No circumstance, whether linked to security, crime control, punishment, or mental illness, can excuse the deliberate infliction of suffering or the denial of a person's inherent dignity.

Torture is not only a violation of the law; it is a grave assault on human dignity. Its effects often extend beyond immediate physical pain, leaving lasting psychological, emotional, and social harm for victims, families, and communities. The prohibition of torture is therefore absolute under the 1992 Constitution of Ghana and the United Nations Convention against Torture.

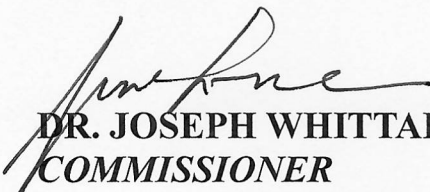
Despite ongoing legal and policy reforms, the Commission remains concerned that practices like chaining, prolonged confinement, and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment continue to be reported in some settings. Many persons deprived of their liberty also face overcrowded conditions, limited access to healthcare, and weak rehabilitation support. Preventing torture requires ensuring that every person is treated with humanity, dignity, and respect.

The Commission notes that Ghana supported recommendations during its Fourth Cycle Universal Periodic Review aimed at strengthening safeguards against torture and ill-treatment. These include establishing a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, improving accountability for misconduct and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, and strengthening protections for persons with disabilities and mental health conditions.

In this regard, the Commission calls on Parliament to expedite passage of the CHRAJ Amendment Bill, 2025, which establishes the Commission as Ghana's NPM and provide a stronger legal framework for addressing torture. The Commission also

acknowledges efforts to improve access to justice, strengthen human rights education within the security sector, and advance mental health reform, including under the Mental Health Act, 2012 (Act 846).

As this day is commemorated, the Commission stands in solidarity with victims and survivors of torture. Their experiences remind us that torture is not abstract; it is a lived reality with lasting consequences. The Commission therefore calls on all stakeholders to renew their commitment to preventing torture, investigating allegations promptly and impartially, holding perpetrators accountable, and ensuring effective remedies for victims. Ghana must continue building a society in which the dignity and rights of every person are protected without exception.



DR. JOSEPH WHITTAL
COMMISSIONER