

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
OFFICE OF THE IMMIGRATION JUDGE**

<i>In the Matter of</i> _____	Hon. Judge _____ No. A _____
<i>In Removal Proceedings</i>	Individual Hearing: _____

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

DOCUMENTS CONCERNING COUNTRY CONDITIONS IN GHANA

EXHIBIT

Country Report on Human Rights in Ghana: 2014, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, June 25, 2015.

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2014&dclid=236364>

“While the constitution and law prohibit such practices, there were credible reports police beat and otherwise abused suspects, prisoners, and other citizens. According to the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), beatings of suspects and other citizens occurred throughout the country but were generally unreported in official channels because victims were reluctant to file formal complaints.”

“There were credible reports that police extorted money”.

“LGBT persons faced widespread discrimination in employment and education, as well as police harassment and extortion attempts (see section 7.d.). There were reports police were reluctant to investigate claims of assault or violence against LGBT persons. According to the HRAC, gay men in prison were often subjected to sexual and other physical abuse. The government took no known action to investigate or punish those complicit in the abuses.”

“In August police in Walewale, a small farming town and capital of the West Mamprusi District, Northern Region, arrested a 21-year-old man on suspicion of being homosexual and “recruiting” other youth to be homosexual. Police stated the arrest was for the suspect’s own safety, since residents of the town had vowed to kill

the man and his entire family if he was not removed from the community.”

“While there were no reported cases of police or government violence against LGBT persons during the year, stigma, intimidation, and the attitude of the police toward LGBT persons were likely factors in preventing victims from reporting incidents of abuse.”

Muslim Youth From Madina Hunt For Gay Suspect, Report Ghana News, April 2, 2015.

<http://www.reportghananews.com/muslim-youth-from-madina-hunt-for-gay-suspect/>

“A suspected gay Muslim escaped death by the whisker when he was confronted in public by some area boys in madina about the fact that he was a homosexual. A good samantan came to his rescue as he quickly whisk him away in a car. According to community leaders, the young man, Ibrahim Farouk Moro, had been introducing teenagers in the community to homosexuality. The man leading the manhunt, Abdullai Jibril, told ReportGhanaNews.com in an interview: “When we catch him, we will cut off his head then pour acid on his body and then burn the body to serve as a deterrent to others” The alleged homosexual, Ibrahim Farouk Moro has gone into hiding and nobody seems to have any idea about his whereabouts. What is certain is that he is no longer welcome in madina.”

Gay man brutally beaten by mob in Ghana, TKG NEWS, Feb. 11, 2015.

<http://www.tkgnews.com/gaymanbrutallybeatenbymobinghana/>

“A well-known event promoter was brutally beaten by a mob in Ghana over the weekend for being gay.”

“During the attack, Rothmans was forced to confess his desire to ‘chop’ (have sex with) Salim in a video, which has since gone viral in the west African country along with a photo of him dripping in blood.”

“In my 5 years of working as a human rights lawyer in Ghana, I have come across cases where sexual minorities were prosecuted for ‘unnatural carnal knowledge.’ However, I am yet to come across a single case of someone being prosecuted for assaulting a gay, lesbian, bi or trans person,” she [human rights lawyer Kuukuwa Andam] told Gay Star News.”

Ghana school tries to lynch two gay students, Darren Wee, GAY STAR NEWS, Feb. 9, 2015.

<http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/ghanaschooltrieslynchtwogaystudents090215>

“Two students at an all-boys high school were arrested in Ghana after their

classmates tried to lynch them for sodomy.”

“Ghana punishes ‘unnatural carnal knowledge’ with up to three years in jail.”

Police arrest gay man in Ghana for ‘recruiting’ other men into homosexuality, Liam Johnson, GAY STAR NEWS, Aug. 25, 2014.

<http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/police-arrest-gay-man-ghana-%E2%80%98recruiting%E2%80%99-other-men-homosexuality250814>

“A 21-year-old student from Ghana has been arrested by police, after angry residents threatened to kill him because they suspect he is gay.”

“The suspect’s family were targeted by an angry group with weapons at their home, and were told their son should not return if he is released, and are now living in fear.”

Muslim youths lynch gay man in Ghana and are still hunting his lover, Andrew Potts, GAY STAR NEWS, May 27, 2014.

<http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/muslim-youths-lynch-gay-man-ghana-and-are-still-hunting-his-lover270514>

“A gang of Muslim youths are wanted by Ghanaian police over the lynching murder of a gay man but their local community is refusing to cooperate with authorities to help catch them and they are reportedly still trying to hunt down a man they believe was his lover.”

“Police are investigating but are not hopeful they will make arrests.”

Global Attitudes Project: Homosexuality, PEW RESEARCH, April 15, 2014.

<http://www.pewglobal.org/2014/04/15/global-morality/table/homosexuality/1/>

“Do you personally believe that homosexuality is morally acceptable, morally unacceptable, or is it not a moral issue?”

Ghana: 98% believe homosexuality is morally unacceptable

Country Report on Human Rights in Ghana: 2013, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, February 27, 2014.

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2013&dliid=220119>

“According to the criminal code, “unnatural carnal knowledge” is defined as “sexual intercourse with a person in an unnatural manner or with an animal.” It states that individuals who have unnatural carnal knowledge “of any person of 16 years or over with his consent” is guilty of a misdemeanor.”

“LGBT persons faced widespread discrimination in employment and education, as

well as police harassment and extortion attempts. There were reports that police were reluctant to investigate claims of assault or violence against LGBT persons. According to the HRAC, gay men in prison were often subjected to sexual and other physical abuse. The government took no official actions to investigate or punish those complicit in the abuse."

"In April Opoku Ware Secondary High School in Ashanti Region expelled 19 students for allegedly practicing homosexuality...In the same month, an additional 34 students were dismissed from Wesley Girls Senior High School in Kumasi for engaging in 'lesbianism.'"

Ghana to crackdown on lesbian schoolkids, Joe Morgan, GAY STAR NEWS, Nov. 1, 2013.

www.gaystarnews.com/article/ghana-crackdown-lesbian-students011113

"The Education Ministry has vowed to severely punish any student caught engaging in 'homosexual or lesbianism activities'."

"He said: 'It is a big problem and it is an issue that nobody is happy about. Those who engage in homosexuality and lesbianism, I mean these are practices that we don't condone in our parts of the world.'"

Annual Report 2013: Ghana, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, May 23, 2013.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/ghana/report-2013#section-55-7>

"Sexual activity between consenting adults of the same sex remained a crime under Ghana's Criminal Code. Violence against people suspected of same-sex relationships continued. In March 2012, young people in Accra's James Town community disrupted a planned wedding ceremony between two women, and assaulted them and their guests. The women were later arrested and detained at the James Town Police station for 'engaging in illegal practice'. They were released after their relatives intervened."

Freedom in the World 2013-Ghana, FREEDOM HOUSE, May 20, 2013.

<http://www.refworld.org/country,,,,GHA,,51a316fe4b,0.html>

"Same-sex sexual activity among men is illegal, and individuals suspected of homosexual relations face discrimination and abuse."

State-Sponsored Homophobia; A world survey of laws: Criminalisation, protection and recognition of same-sex love, Lucas Paoli Itaborahy and Jingshu Zhu, INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANS AND INTERSEX ASSOCIATION, May 2013.

http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/90_1369137119_ilga-state-sponsored-homophobia-2013.pdf

“Over the last ten years, the focus on equal rights, law reforms, community cohesion, diversity, families and migrations for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) Africans has gone from bad to worse. The possibility for legal liberation on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity has been further thrown into chaos.”

“Thirty-six countries in Africa have laws criminalizing homosexuality, some with the death penalty, and many more with harsh jail sentences. By far, it’s the continent with the worst laws on the books when it comes to homosexuality and other sexual minorities, a phenomenon which is in part rooted in bad colonial-era laws and political situations, religious autonomy, [and] strong negative belief in cultural and family values.”

“African leaders believe that behaviours deviating from the normal gender roles are phases that the children encounter and can be addressed only through ensuring regulatory laws to prevent the unknown and unacceptable sexual behaviours.”

Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2012: Ghana, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, April 19, 2013.

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/204336.pdf>

“In November 2011 media accounts reported British Prime Minister Cameron was considering suspending direct aid to countries with poor records on LGBT rights. In response the late President Mills commented that Ghana was committed to upholding human rights as provided by the constitution, but he would not initiate a change to the law.”

“In March a gang of men assaulted nine people they believed to be LGBT individuals in Jamestown, a neighborhood of Accra, forcing them from their homes and attacking them with canes and sticks...No arrests had been made in the case by year’s end.”

Ghana: Amnesty International welcomes Ghana’s support of recommendations to improve conditions and reduce overcrowding in prisons but regrets Ghana’s rejection of recommendations to decriminalize same-sex relations, and to combat the climate of homophobia and discrimination against LGBT persons, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, March 20, 2013.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR28/001/2013/en/e28b947b-4986-4957-bbbb-452a7f9d5941/afr280012013en.html>

“Amnesty International ... is very disappointed at Ghana’s rejection of recommendations to decriminalize same-sex relations, and to combat the climate of homophobia and discrimination against LGBT persons.”

“Consensual same-sex conduct remains a crime in Ghana’s Criminal Code,

punishable by up to 25 years' imprisonment, and despite constitutional guarantees discrimination based on sexual orientation persists. Discriminatory attitudes are sometimes fuelled by statements by senior officials, such as, for example, in July 2011, when the Western Regional Minister encouraged people to inform on those they believed to be 'homosexual' and instructed the security forces to arrest the country's gay population."

AI Condemns Tamale Chief for Endorsing Lynching of Gays, VIBE GHANA, March 18, 2013.

<http://vibeghana.com/2013/03/18/ai-condemns-tamale-chief-for-endorsing-lynching-of-gays/>

"The Chief is reported to have told the media that his Palace has received several reports of homosexual activities in the locality."

"The youth there are said to be angry with the development and plan on lynching any person suspected to be engaged in homosexuality."

"The Tamale sub-chief has apparently given his blessing to such plans."

Operational Guidance Note: Ghana, UNITED KINGDOM: HOME OFFICE, January 2013.

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/50ebfe5a2.pdf>

"Under Ghanaian law, male homosexual activity is officially illegal. . . . The Constitution of Ghana guarantees the protection of all human rights for Ghanaian citizens 'whatever his race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, religion, creed or gender', but does not mention sexuality."

"There are no registered LGBT organizations in Ghana, and in 2006, the government banned an LGBT rights conference that was supposed to be held."

"Gays and lesbians have frequently been the victim of blackmail, with blackmailers threatening to 'disclose' their status; they have faced extortion, direct threats, assault, rape and murder."

"It was reported that four men who worked within the community of gay men were arrested in May 2010 in connection with an alleged sexual assault and were later charged with sodomy. The case was first brought to the Takoradi Circuit Court on August 24; however, it had not been heard by the end of 2011."

"Recent condemnation of homosexuality by religious and political leaders in Ghana has led to a climate of fear preventing men who have sex with men (MSM) from accessing vital health services. . . . The minister of Ghana's Western Region... publicly described homosexuality as 'detestable and abominable' . . . Other religious leaders and politicians have followed suit, condemning homosexual activity."

"Human rights abuses against individuals suspected of same-sex relations

continued. On 20 July 2011 ... the Western Region Minister, ordered security forces to arrest all gay men and lesbians in the west of the country, and called on landlords and tenants to report anyone they suspected of being gay or lesbian."

"LGBT persons continue to be subject to societal harassment, discrimination, intimidation, and threats. . . . [I]n general the Ghanaian authorities do not provide gay men, lesbians and bisexuals or those perceived as such with effective protection."

"[H]omophobic attitudes are prevalent across the country."

Anti-gay hate overshadows Ghana elections, Dan Littauer, GAY STAR NEWS, December 9, 2012.

<http://www.gaystarnews.com/article/anti-gay-hate-overshadows-ghana-elections091212>

"Campaigns by NPP supporters have been riddled with anti-gay rhetoric and rants, alleging the outgoing government was soft on homosexuality which said to be western 'imported' 'disease' that threatens to infect the country."

"Campaigners also demanded that plans by the NDC to introduce school sex education must exclude teachings about homosexuality as it will lead to AIDS infections and moral decay of society."

"Ghana's main Christian and Muslim religious leaders demanded that any government will 'not legalize same sex marriages or recognize same sex relationships', which they deemed as an 'evil' and 'danger' 'threatening' the country."

"They further called upon politicians to engage with 'the church and other partners that believe in the Ghanaian and Christian value system which does not countenance homosexuality'."

"Under Ghanaian law, male same-sex sexual activity is illegal. Gay men can also be punished under provisions concerning assault and rape."

Invisible in the City: Protection Gaps Facing Sexual Minority Refugees and Asylum seekers in Urban Ecuador, Ghana, Israel and Kenya, Yiftach Millo, HIAS, November 2012.

http://www.hias.org/uploaded/file/Invisible-in-the-City_full-report.pdf

"Sexual minorities in Ghana face prevalent discrimination, police harassment as well as extortion attempts."

"Ghana's Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) claims penalization is based on proof of having committed sodomy and is not tied to a sexual orientation per se. However, charges against homosexual men and arrests

are recurrent, and are frequently based officially on charges unrelated to Article 105."

"Anti-discriminatory laws protecting sexual minorities are nonexistent in Ghana. Sexual minorities must live in hiding, as public disclosure leads to social ostracism, extortion, and even violence."

"In April 2012, a retired Ghanaian judge appealed to the Supreme Court, asking the Court to disregard gay rights as human rights. The judge argued that under Ghanaian customary law, homosexuality is considered an abomination and, therefore, the right to express non-heterosexual orientation should not be considered a human right."

GHANA: Human rights shortcomings in law and in practice Amnesty International; Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, October-November 2012.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR28/003/2012/en/26d6a941-7a50-4200-8147-d386cc0a8996/afr280032012en.pdf>

"Human rights abuses against individuals suspected of same-sex relations continue, as well as unlawful killings and excessive use of force by police and security officers."

"[D]iscrimination and human rights abuses against individuals suspected of same-sex relations continue. On 20 July 2011, the Western Region Minister ordered the security forces to arrest all gay men and lesbians in the west of the country, and called on landlords and tenants to report anyone they suspected of being gay or lesbian."

"Amnesty International calls on the government of Ghana: ...To protect the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and to amend the Criminal Code to repeal the provision that criminalizes sexual activity between consenting adults; ...To ensure thorough and impartial investigation into all allegations of attacks and threats against individuals targeted because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and bring to justice those responsible in accordance with international standards of fair trial; ...To take effective measures to combat the climate of homophobia."

Countries at the Crossroads 2012 – Ghana, FREEDOM HOUSE, September 20, 2012.

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,FREEHOU,,GHA,456d621e2,505c1732c,0.html>

"The persecution of sexual minorities has escalated. Prominent figures in the media, religious community, and civil society have demanded more robust enforcement of laws in Ghana's criminal code prohibiting homosexuality. The

Bureau of National Security recently announced that it was initiating investigations into the activities of sexual minorities.”

Ghana: Treatment of sexual minorities by society and governmental authorities, including legislation, state protection, and support services, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, August 16, 2012.

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,IRBC,,GHA,456d621e2,50b73e352,0.html>

“[R]eligious leaders have condemned homosexuality. ... [T]his includes Muslim and Christian leaders who have mobilized their congregations against gay-friendly politicians. [C]hurches have led anti-gay protests... Sources report on the first anti-gay rally in Ghana, which took place in June 2010 in Takoradi [Western region]. [T]his rally against homosexuality was attended by more than one thousand people, and organized by the Muslim community with the support of other religious groups and citizens.”

“An organization called the International Movement Against Same-Sex (IMASS), a Ghanaian organization . . . state[d] that their organization ‘will soon start crusades in schools, churches and mosques as well as public places and in the media to expose the dangers of homosexual activities across the country’.”

“[I]f sexual minorities disclose their sexual orientation, they may face eviction, extortion and forced marriage, among other problems. Sources report that sexual minorities are often threatened, including death threats. Sources report on violence against sexual minorities, including hate crimes, rape, murder, and assault. [A]ssault is ‘common’. [A]ttacks especially target homosexual men.”

“[A]ttacks against sexual minorities in Accra continued . [P]erpetrators went ‘house to house’ in James Town neighborhood looking for sexual minorities, chaining them up, and beating them [T]his group ordered sexual minorities to leave the community or ‘face the consequences’ [T]he perpetrators conducted the violence in public, and spoke about it on television and on the radio, but... their actions were not stopped by police. [A]ccording to the perpetrators, the police gave them consent to conduct these attacks.”

“[T]he Western Region government has called for the arrest of homosexual people and told a health services NGO to provide them with the names of all men who have sex with men (MSM) who use their services, or face the consequence of closing their HIV services. Sources report on a climate of fear of accessing outreach and health services. [T]here are ‘far fewer’ MSM accessing sexual education and support programs offered by the organization since the call. [The] organization had to close down their health services because neighbors were not comfortable with the people accessing the services.”

"[M]any LGBT people have been evicted, live on the street, and are not in school. [I]t is 'very difficult' for an LGBT person to receive education, and said that even if students do not disclose their sexual orientation, they still may be teased and beaten in school."

"[F]ormer President John Evans Atta Mills publicly condemned homosexuality, including a vow to combat homosexuality. Ministers of States have also condemned, and a Member of Parliament reportedly called for the 'public lynching of homosexuals'. [T]he head of the Ghana's Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice [said] that her organization would not fight for gay rights because homosexuality is illegal."

"Sources report on police extortion . . . and harassment of LGBT people. [P]olice in Ghana are unlikely to assist a homosexual victim of assault as they are generally unresponsive to claims of assault on homosexuals."

"[T]he Supreme Court is hearing a case filed by a retired Supreme Court judge to establish that gay rights are not considered to be human rights. [T]he retired judge has asked the court to state that homosexuality is an 'abomination' under customary law."

Vigilante Gang in James Town Mass Gay Assault, JOY NEWS, Aug. 13, 2012.

<http://edition.myjoyonline.com/pages/news/201203/83022.php>

"A birthday party turned bloody in James Town because the celebrant and well wishers were gays and lesbians."

"Rampaging youth stormed the event at night over the weekend and launched a mass assault on all on sight."

"The attack is believed to have been masterminded by a gang in the area."

"The group has since, allegedly, returned to attack homes in the community believed to house gays and lesbians."

2011 Country Report on Human Rights Practices – Ghana, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, May 24, 2012.

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/186412.pdf>

"According to the criminal code, 'unnatural carnal knowledge' is defined as 'sexual intercourse with a person in an unnatural manner or with an animal.' It states that individuals who have unnatural carnal knowledge 'of any person of sixteen years or over with his consent' is guilty of a misdemeanor."

"LGBT persons faced widespread discrimination, as well as police harassment and extortion attempts. Gay men in prison were often subjected to sexual and other physical abuse."

“In June 2010 more than 1,000 protesters in Takoradi, Western Region, participated in a peaceful rally against reports of gay and lesbian activities in their city.”

“In May 2010 an HIV/AIDS training workshop was held in Takoradi for health-care workers. . . . After the workshop there was significant negative reporting in the media about homosexuality.”

“In a June 2010 interview with The Daily Graphic, the Western Region minister called on the government to take steps to combat homosexuality. He included the possibility of police raids on locales frequented by gay men and lesbians, efforts by community leaders to ‘wean young people’ away from homosexuality, and a public condemnation by the government.”

Amnesty International Annual Report 2012 – Ghana, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, May 24, 2012.

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,AMNESTY,,GHA,456d621e2,4fbe393ac,0.html>

“Human rights abuses against individuals suspected of same-sex relations continued. On 20 July, the Western Region Minister, ordered security forces to arrest all gay men and lesbians in the west of the country, and called on landlords and tenants to report anyone they suspected of being gay or lesbian.”

Ghana: Country of Origin Information (COI) Report, UNITED KINGDOM: HOME OFFICE, May 11, 2012.

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/coi/ghana/>

‘The existence and enforcement of the law [criminalizing homosexuality] create an environment of impunity in which the rights of men who have sex with men (MSM) and women who have sex with women (WSW) are widely and routinely violated. In this environment, homosexuals are regularly subject to harassment, gay bashing, physical violence, and extortion. Often, these crimes occur at the hands of, or with the collusion of, the police or other agents of the state.’”

“Recent condemnation of homosexuality by religious and political leaders in Ghana has led to a climate of fear preventing men who have sex with men (MSM) from accessing vital health services.”

‘In a new burst of African homophobia, a government minister in Ghana has drawn support after calling on the country’s intelligence services to track down and arrest all gays and lesbians.’”

“[T]here is a lot of prejudice against homosexuals in Ghana. . . . The laws of Ghana do not accept homosexuality. These laws have generated general dislike among the

citizens concerning homosexuals who are considered repugnant in the society. ... [T]here are many gays in Ghana who are caught in a feeling of loneliness, shame and desperation."

"[A]ttacks and death threats are typical, especially against homosexual males. The media has written sensational articles that are flawed with inaccuracies on the influence, size, nature and desires of homosexual individuals. Black mail, violence, hate crimes, sensationalist and homophobic articles on homosexuality occur virtually every day. People have refused to attend outreach programs for fear of being tagged a homosexual."

"[A] Ghanaian anti-gay lobbyist ... [said] that his mission is not to persecute homosexuals but to establish laws that prohibit gay sex. [The] uncompromising group...has recently been in the news conducting a campaign against Ghana's LGBTI community [and] claims to have been founded in 2007 'to campaign against homosexuality in Ghana and beyond.' [It] uses the platform of electronic and print media to carry its education. Members of the association constitute; journalists, medical doctors, lawyers, clergy, teachers and people from all spheres of life. We visit schools, churches, mosques and public places to hold public lectures."

"The Presbyterian Church of Ghana is establishing therapy centers designed to 'rehabilitate' and 'cure' gays and lesbians."

"A Freedom House article of 8 August 2011, 'LGBT Population in Ghana Under Threat', noted that '... there are no registered LGBT organizations in Ghana, and in 2006, the government banned an LGBT rights conference that was supposed to be held. Gays and lesbians have frequently been the victim of blackmail, with blackmailers threatening to 'disclose' their status; they have faced extortion, direct threats, assault, rape and murder.'"

Clash Over Gay Rights. Legal, Religious, Moral Reasons, THE DAILY GUIDE, March 31, 2012.

<http://www.dailyguideghana.com/?p=43822>

"Hillary [a 27-year-old Ghanaian gay resident in Accra] and members of his homosexual fraternity were recently attacked and chased out of a party by the Ga-Mashie Youth for Change in Accra."

"They beat some of our lady friends who were not able to run, took their phones and money and stripped them naked," he says. "They chased us with canes, cutlasses, stones, and bottles."

"The Ga-Mashie Youth for Change claims the activities of the gay people are eating into the moral fiber of the community and therefore must do something to stop the progression of the act in the community."

"The group went to the homes of the gay people and threatened them to either leave the community or face the consequences."

"I had to run and leave James Town because I was scared," Hillary says. "We have all left our homes."

"Last November, President John Evans Atta Mills . . . said, 'I as the president, I will never initiate or support any attempt to legalize homosexuality in Ghana.'"

"Religious groups have been at the forefront of the fight against homosexuality. . . . According to them, homosexuality is 'detestable and abominable act' and opined that if passed into law, in Ghana the country shall incur the wrath of God 'and the consequences will be unbearable'."

"The National Chief Imam . . . on behalf of the Muslim community also bemoaned the act, stressing that homosexuality and lesbianism was detestable in the sight of Allah."

Woman marries Woman in Ghana, VIBE GHANA, March 19, 2012.

<http://vibeghana.com/2012/03/19/woman-marries-woman-in-ghana/>

"For the second time in three months, two lesbian marriages have reportedly taken place at James Town in the heart of Accra, provoking youth in the area to declare war on all suspected gays and lesbians in the neighbourhood."

"The second marriage ceremony was raided and every suspected lesbian stripped naked and chased out of town with sticks and whips."

"Homosexuals in the neighbourhood have since become victims of mass assault, with some fleeing to seek refuge in other parts of town."

Three Homosexuals Arrested, Razak Mardorgyz & Vincent Kubi, GHANA WEB, October 27, 2011.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/crime/artikel.php?ID=222410>

"The Sakumono District Police station on Friday witnessed the Ghanaian version of the famous American TV programme 'The Jerry Springer Show', where guests openly fight others in the name of reclaiming their loved ones from snatchers, when three young men suspected to be gay openly expressed jealousy by castigating each other for partner-snatching."

"The police, who were shocked at what transpired, quickly apprehended the three suspects without hesitation, as their several pleas to the senior police officers for pardon after their quarrels landed them in trouble."

"The suspects were Inusah Issifu, 27, pork dealer, Samuel Lartey, a 19-year old student and Kingsley Quansah, a 25-year-old caterer. Two other persons also

believed to be gay and connected to the arrested persons were currently on the run."

Because of You: Blackmail and Extortion of Gay and Bisexual Men in Ghana, Mac-Darling Cobbinah, June 6, 2011.

http://www.iglhrc.org/sites/default/files/519-1_0.pdf

"Section 104 of Ghana's Criminal Code allows blackmailers to operate in this way by essentially placing the victim beyond the protection of the law. Blackmailers often threaten to call the police and turn in their victims for being homosexual and victims know that they are likely to be treated badly whether or not the allegations can be proven. In many areas, police are widely believed to work with the blackmailers for a small fee. Police appear as soon as the blackmailer has trapped the victim in a compromising situation, then extort money from the victim by threatening to prosecute them if they are not paid. Blackmailers may also pay police to accompany them as they collect their payment, which places considerable pressure on victims to pay the blackmailer's 'fee.'"

"It has also been well-demonstrated that it is likely that the police will fail to help gay and bisexual men when they do report being blackmailed. According to K.K., blackmailers and extortionists also know that the police themselves are committing these offenses, and will help their perpetrators evade justice."

Christian Youth Group Attacks Homosexuality, MODERN GHANA, July 6, 2011.

<http://www.modernghana.com/news/338405/1/christian-youth-group-attacks-homosexuality.html>

"Youth in Action for Christ (YAC), a Christian youth group in Kintampo, has joined the crusade against homosexuality, saying parliamentarians in Ghana should enact laws to ban the practice in Ghana."

"Youth in Action for Christ, therefore, called on all religious bodies to begin to implement measures in their places of worship that talk about the risks involved in homosexuality, for the youth to have an idea about it."

Country of Origin Information Report – Ghana, UNITED KINGDOM: HOME OFFICE, September 30, 2010.

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,UKHO,,GHA,456d621e2,4cad926d2,0.html>

"Ghana's government has banned a conference for gay men and lesbians due to take place there later this month."

'[Ghana's] Information Minister [stated that] 'Government does not condone any such activity which violently offends the culture, morality and heritage of the entire people of Ghana' ... 'Government would like to make it absolutely clear that it shall not permit the proposed conference anywhere in Ghana.' ... 'Unnatural carnal

knowledge is illegal under our criminal code. Homosexuality, lesbianism and bestiality are therefore offences under the laws of Ghana.’”

“In deeply religious Ghana, homosexuality is seen as an imported foreign lifestyle choice and a moral aberration.”

“In the first place, I do not know if I want to promote homosexuality in Ghana,” said [the] deputy commissioner of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, the country’s leading human rights organization. ... ‘As a Ghanaian, I don’t think I can openly go out and promote it in the country,’ he said.’”

“Newspapers and broadcasting companies are competing to make money and so shy away from challenging their consumers. Instead of presenting balanced and critical assessments of homosexuality, there is sensationalism and reconfirmation of stereotypes.”