



**STATEMENT BY HON. URSULA OWUSU, MP FOR ABLEKUMA WEST
CONSTITUENCY, ON THE RECENT SPATE OF GRUESOME
MURDERS IN GHANA**

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity given me to make a statement on the recent spate of gruesome murders in Ghana.

Mr. Speaker, Ghana has gained prominence in the Sub-region as a peaceful country where democracy and the rule of law thrives. We have provided refuge for our neighbours who have suffered civil unrest and conflict and take pride in being an oasis of peace in a troubled region. However, over the last few months, the country has witnessed a series of gruesome murders which occurred under bizarre circumstances that are mind boggling. This is a threat to our internal security.

In March 2014 alone, three (3) major murder cases were reported in the media including that of an enterprising young man, Fennec Okyere who was stabbed to death by unknown assailant(s) in his bedroom as he lay asleep, on 13th March, 2014. Fennec worked for the Jospong group of Companies and was also the Manager for Kwaw Kesse, a famous musician. Fennec was my adopted son. He was just 30 years old, hard working, caring and generous to a fault.

Three days earlier, on 10th March 2014, the Chief of Joma, a village near Ablekuma in Accra, Nii Ayitey Noyaatse 1, was shot dead in his bedroom. He was 40 years old and happened to be a promising hip life musician as well.

Mr. Speaker, last week, there was also another gruesome murder in Tema of a 55 year old businessman who was shot dead in his car at home. Other gruesome murders include that of the 34 year old Akosombo Branch Manager of Zenith

Mr. Speaker, I therefore call on the law enforcement agencies to conduct thorough investigations, arrest and successfully prosecute the killers as well as the instigators and organizers of these crimes

Mr. Speaker, the police should also expand their night patrol coverage and intensify public education on how these criminals operate and what the public should do when faced with dangerous situations. Police hotlines and emergency numbers should be publicized more and prompt action should be taken on incidents reported to them. They should also be equipped with the requisite technology and resources to combat crimes, as most criminals have become more sophisticated. Neighbourhood watch dog committees should be encouraged in all communities. They should be well trained by the police and their activities backed by law.

Mr. Speaker, we should find a lasting solution to the current power outages as some of these murder cases happen when there is power outage.

My Speaker, I wish to conclude by reiterating the need for all members of Parliament to be provided with personal security detail just as the Executive and Judiciary are. Our work exposes us to danger from disgruntled opponents, constituents and the general public and we need the assurance of our personal safety to enable us to continue serving the nation with peace of mind. Let us not wait till one of us falls victim to these marauding 'criminals for hire' before we act. The work of the Legislature is just as important as that of the other arms of government and we need to be provided with similar conditions of service not as a favour but as of right.

I thank you very much Mr. Speaker, once again for the opportunity given me.