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Accra, Ghana

Human Security and Peace Building

STATEMENT ON GHANA'S EMERGING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING THREAT

The Jatikay Centre for Human Security and Peace Building welcomes the President's decision to convene the country's security, intelligence, narcotics-control, customs, port and other relevant stakeholders following the alarming series of large-scale narcotics consignments linked to Ghana.

The scale and frequency of these cases demand more than arrests and seizures. They raise serious questions about Ghana's intelligence, border-control and port-security architecture, and whether those responsible for anticipating and disrupting such threats have been sufficiently proactive.

The President's direct intervention is necessary, but it also raises the uncomfortable question of how such a serious pattern could develop without earlier, decisive intervention from the national security coordination architecture. The National Security Coordinator, in particular, should have anticipated the threat rather than responding after multiple major international seizures.

As an immediate confidence-building measure, we call on the President to consider changing the key officers responsible for the various stages of the security and cargo-control chain and subjecting the relevant systems to an independent vulnerability assessment. This should not be interpreted as an allegation of wrongdoing against any individual, but as a necessary step to restore public confidence and ensure fresh leadership where serious vulnerabilities may have emerged.

The investigations must also go beyond couriers. Ghana must identify the financiers, facilitators, compromised insiders and international criminal networks behind these consignments.

This is no longer simply a narcotics-control issue. **It is a national security and institutional integrity challenge.** Ghana cannot afford to become a logistics hub for transnational organised crime.

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Adib Saani, Executive Director, Jatikay Centre for Human Security and Peace Building