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COI QUERY RESPONSE

GHANA- INFORMATION ON POLICE CORRUPTION

The *Stanford University* in May 2025 reported that: “Associate Professor Danila Serra at Texas A&M University and her collaborators decided to investigate whether a training program could incentivize traffic officers to behave more ethically. Their study, presented by Serra at a recent CDDRL seminar, was conducted in Ghana, where almost 60% of people perceive the police as corrupt.”¹

In April 2025 *ENACT* notes that: “While migrant smuggling is the main focus, Addo acknowledges that all human smuggling gangs also smuggle drugs and arms, particularly in the coastal regions of Tema, Sekondi, Elmina, Takoradi and Cape Coast. Corruption underpins these operations, with bribes to officials facilitating forged documents, bypassing inspections and ensuring unhindered movement across borders and ports.”²

The *UK Home Office* in March 2025 mentioned that: “The police are reportedly dissatisfied with their pay, although sources suggest even low-ranking officers receive more than the average Ghanaian income. Corruption and bribery are commonplace, and the GPS is perceived as corrupt by the majority of the population.”³

The Conversation in March 2025 points out that: “Afrobarometer research surveys provide a more comprehensive view. In 2019, for example, Afrobarometer interviewers asked Ghanaians whether corruption had worsened over the previous year. Some 67% of those living in greater poverty said it had, while only 47% of the better off thought so. And although poor respondents also cited misdeeds by high officials, they often stressed more tangible aspects in their daily lives, such as having to pay bribes to local police or to obtain health or education services.”⁴

¹ Stanford University (12 May 2025) Impacts of Ethics Training on Police Officers in Ghana

² ENACT (7 April 2025) The price of passage: inside Ghana's migrant smuggling underworld

³ UK Home Office (31 March 2025) Country Policy and Information Note - Ghana: Actors of protection (March 2025)

⁴ The Conversation (16 March 2025) Ghana's poor are the ones who suffer most from corruption: history offers some ideas about fighting back

The *Ghana News Agency (GNA)* in March 2025 commented that: “President Mahama charged the new IGP to root out corruption from the Ghana Police Service. “We thank him for his service, and we wish him well in his future endeavors.”⁵

The *Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)* in March 2025 reported that: “The police are the first, and often the only, point of contact Ghanaians have with the criminal justice system. Unfortunately, these interactions are marred by widespread corruption, illegal arrest and detention, excessive use of force, and a failure to respond to complaints, which are hallmarks of a regime-style police force unaccountable for its actions.”⁶

The *US Congressional Research Service* in November 2024 states that: “Extortion and bribe-taking by police and other justice sector officials is reportedly pervasive; according to public opinion surveys, nearly three in five Ghanaians believe “most” or “all” police are corrupt.”⁷

The *US Department of State Trafficking in Persons* report in June 2024 notes that: “Traffickers reportedly bribed law enforcement officials and government-appointed monitors in charge of inspecting Ghanaian flagged fishing vessels for illegal practices, including forced labor. During previous reporting periods, some law enforcement officers reportedly solicited bribes from suspects and sought payment from victims or civil society for transportation or operating expenses to initiate investigations; in past years, some senior police officers reportedly attempted to intimidate civil society from reporting trafficking cases.”⁸

The *Organised Crime: West African Response to Trafficking (OCWAR-T)* in January 2024 points out that: “Members of the judiciary, drawing on their experience of adjudicating cases since Act 1019 was enacted, commented that police reportedly lean towards charging offenders with possession for supply, sometimes as a punishment when arrested individuals refuse to pay the solicited bribe.”⁹

The *Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Germany)* in January 2024 mentioned that: “According to media reports, on 14.08.23 the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration denounced the deep-rooted corruption in the passport procurement system. After an unannounced visit to the passport office, corrupt activities by passport officers in collaboration with employees of the police service, immigration, national security and outside middlemen, so-called “Goro Boys”, had been uncovered.”¹⁰

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⁵ Ghana News Agency (GNA) (14 March 2025) President expresses gratitude to Ex-IGP

⁶ Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) (5 March 2025) *Ghana: Facing Internal and External Threats Without Citizen Support*

⁷ US Congressional Research Service (22 November 2024) *Ghana: Current Issues and U.S. Relations* (November 2024)

⁸ US Department of State (24 June 2024) *Trafficking in Persons Report 2024: Ghana*, p.3

⁹ *Organised Crime: West African Response to Trafficking (OCWAR-T)* (31 January 2024) *New approaches to regulating drugs in West Africa: Exploring the impact of Ghana's drug policy reform*, p.16

¹⁰ Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Germany) (17 January 2024) *Briefing Notes Summary - Ghana II/2023* (July to December 2023)

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