



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **THE ESCALATING POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO: A HUMBLE APPEAL FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION**

Kampala, Nairobi, Accra 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2025 – The African civil society organizations, Justice Access Point (JAP), AMANI Kenya, and Community Focus Foundation Ghana (CFF-Ghana), are saddened by loss of lives and the troubling high levels of violence including alleged state sponsored brutalities and destruction of properties in the Republic of Togo.

Seven people were killed and hundreds injured in June 2025 during a crackdown on protesters who were calling for Togo's leader, Faure Gnassingbé, to step down and release political prisoners. The unrest comes as Togo's long-time leader, Faure Gnassingbe, is positioned to remain in power indefinitely following controversial constitutional reforms.

The protests, organized by the youth, political opposition activists, civil society activists and bloggers, were against a government crackdown on dissent, the high cost of living, and a constitutional amendment that strengthened the power of Gnassingbe and could allow him to remain in power for life.

We strongly condemn the killings and excessive use of force against unarmed civilian protestors. The citizens of Togo have a right to peacefully assemble, protest and express their voices in the Governance of their Country. The frequency of such troubling state led violent incidences resulting from political disagreements casts a shadow of doubt on Togo's commitment to democratic principles.

We are also deeply concerned by the suspension of broadcasts by French public media outlets *RFI* and *France 24* in Togo. The decision, announced on June 16, 2025, by the country's media regulator, represents a serious blow to press freedom and the public's right to access diverse sources of information.

It's worthy to note that the government has a duty and responsibility to protect the fundamental human rights of all protestors and engage all the stakeholders in ensuring the concerns raised by the people are addressed.

#### **We further recommend the following actions:**

- The Togolese authorities to put an end to unnecessary and excessive use of force against the unarmed peaceful protesters
- The cases of excessive use of force by security agencies, forced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture and all other forms of Human Rights abuses to be independently and transparently investigated as a matter of urgency
- The Togolese government should lift suspension of media houses broadcasting on the protests and uphold freedom of press as a fundamental right



- Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS) and African Union (AU) to as a matter of urgency engage relevant stakeholders including the Togolese government, opposition political actors among other stakeholders to broker peace

We urge aggrieved parties to table their concerns through a meaningful national dialogue for peaceful resolution of the impasse with the view of preventing further escalation of the conflict.

Endorsed by

Mohammed Ndifuna  
Executive Director  
Justice Access Point  
+25670338455  
<https://jap.or.ug>

Joy Gitau  
Executive Director  
Amani Communities Africa  
+254705793393  
<https://www.acafrica.or.ke>

Richard Kasu  
Executive Director  
Community Focus Foundation, Ghana  
+233248640364  
<https://cffghana.org>