

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6**CHAPTER 6****REVIEW OF PETITIONS****E. 4TH JUNE, 1979 – 23RD SEPTEMBER 1979
(AFRC REGIME)**

6.0.1 From 1975 to 1977, there were several calls on the military to return the country to constitutional rule. In response, the SMC came up with what they called ‘Union Government’ under which there would be elections without the participation of political parties. However, this was seen by many as a ploy for keeping power in the hands of the military. Before long, General Acheampong’s colleagues in the SMC came to accept that the demand for free elections and for a government responsible to the electorate had become irresistible. On 5th July, 1978, they removed Acheampong from office and stripped him of his rank and military entitlements.

6.0.2 In a rare show of candour, they accused Acheampong and, by necessary implication, themselves, of mismanaging the affairs of the nation. Mentioning Acheampong by name, they said he was guilty of “indiscriminate issue outside the officially recognized machinery of import licenses to favourites and close associates”; of “awarding contracts to incompetent favourites”; “interfering in the normal operations of the Bank of Ghana including causing the overprinting and over-issue of cedi notes”; of “taking dubious foreign loans to the detriment of the State”; and of personally granting undeserved concessions to the favourite business houses in contravention of existing government policy and regulations.” They said that “in furtherance of his inordinate ambition for power”, Acheampong had “manipulated and vested all executive power in his person to his own advantage”; that he “employed at State expense the services of numerous unofficial personal advisers and aides of dubious competence, character and intention who only sought their own good in government to the detriment of the nation”; and that he “adopted the habit of maintaining spurious religious advisers with substantial foreign exchange from the nation’s scarce resources and used their advice as subterfuge for doing wrong to the detriment of the nation”.

6.0.3 Turning to the military, they said that “through a systematic use of cunning and subtle interference he brought the Armed Forces to the brink of disintegration and showered generous favours on certain officers and men known to be closely associated with him to the disadvantage and annoyance of other officers of merit and of the rank and file which acts contributed materially to the breakdown of discipline in the Armed Forces”; that he “appointed into sensitive jobs certain favourite serving and retired officers of questionable competence whose performance badly tarnished the image of the Armed Forces in the eyes of the public”;¹

6.0.4 With the departure of Acheampong, the regime abandoned the pretence that the electorate had endorsed the proposal for a ‘Union Government’ and gave the Constituent Assembly a free hand to draw up a Constitution acceptable to the people.² Furthermore, two decrees, the Political Parties

¹ Armed Forces (Miscellaneous Provisions) Decree 1979 (SMCD 235)

² Constituent Assembly Decree, 1978 (SMCD 203); Constituent Assembly (Commencement of Proceedings) Proclamation, 1978 (SMCD 209); Constituent Assembly (Amendment) Decree, 1979 (SMCD 220) section 1(a)

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

Decree, 1978 (SMCD 208) and the Political Parties Decree, 1979 (SMCD 229), were made to regulate the formation and operations of political parties. The Presidential Elections Decree, 1979 (SMCD 228), the Presidential Elections (Amendment) Decree, 1979 (SMCD 230), amending the Representation of the People Decree, 1968 (NLCD 255), and the Ministers & Deputy Ministers (Qualification & Disqualification) Decree, 1979 (SMCD 231), provided the ground rules for the election of the President and Members of Parliament, and for the appointment of Ministers.

6.0.5 On 15th May, 1979 there was a mutiny among a section of the Armed Forces. The nation heaved a sigh of relief when this was put down. However, things took a dramatic turn when at the trial of the mutinous soldiers George Aikins, Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), went out of his way to defend their conduct. He praised them as young men who seeing the corruption going on in the society tried to do something about it. Overnight, the band of conspirators became heroes. On 4th June, some soldiers released those standing trial. This act developed into a full-scale revolt resulting in the overthrow of the military regime.

6.0.6 The explanation for the extraordinary behaviour of the DPP was that he was angry with the members of the Akuffo-led SMC whom he accused of taking a bribe of US \$2million and a Mercedes Benz car to stifle a prosecution. By that singular act of indiscretion, Aikins unwittingly set in motion a chain of events leading to the deaths, not only of those he accused of corruption, but also of many innocent persons.

6.0.7 This revolt of the rank-and-file of the Armed Forces against their officers was not motivated by any desire to see democracy restored in the country; rather, it was to afford them an opportunity to punish those they held responsible for their own and the country's woes.

6.0.8 What the new regime came to do has been recorded for us in its own words in section 16 of the Transitional Provisions of the 1979 Constitution. The revolt was "an exercise undertaken ... to purge the Armed Forces of corruption and graft and to restore the image of the Military and to deal with the accomplices of the guilty members of the Armed Forces and other persons guilty of malpractices to the detriment of the economy of Ghana or the public interest or both". The means used to achieve these ends were the so-called special courts set up under the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (Special Courts) Decree, 1979 (AFRCD 3), and the tribunal established by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (Special Tribunal & Other Matters) Decree, 1979 (AFRCD 23).

6.0.9 The preamble of the former stated as follows:

WHEREAS the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council is committed to a house-cleaning policy within the Armed Forces:

AND WHEREAS in the said house-cleaning it is necessary to institute criminal proceedings against persons who have committed certain fraudulent acts against the State; and also persons who have generally contributed to economic hardships and disorder in the country:

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to set up special courts to deal expeditiously with any such cases: ...

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.0.10 The latter was to continue the ‘purging exercise’ into the constitutional era. Then there was the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (Special Courts) (Amendment) Decree, 1979 (AFRCDC 19), which introduced into our trial procedure for the first time trial of persons *in absentia*.

6.0.11 The insurrection of 4th June 1979 replaced one military dictatorship with another. At the time it took place, the Constituent Assembly set up under SMCD 203 had completed its work, political parties had been formed and electioneering was well under way. Not only that, the date for electing the President and members of Parliament had been fixed and the entire nation was looking forward to the dawn of a new era on 1st July. But that date was to pass without so much as a whimper.

6.0.12 We disagree with the assertion made by Major Boakye Djan in his evidence before us that the insurrection restored constitutional government. We are satisfied that far from doing so, it impeded its restoration. Its effects were felt throughout the period of office of the Limann Administration until that government was overthrown by the very persons who had handed over power to him.

6.0.13 The AFRC regime which held power from 4th June to 23rd September, 1979 arrested and detained persons without trial, summarily executed others and hounded many more into exile. For those who remained in the country, life became a shadow of its former self. In Hobbesian terms, they lived in a state of “continual fear and danger of violent death” in which the life of man had become “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.”

6.1 KILLING OF THE SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS

6.1.1 Until the 4th June, 1979 insurrection, Ghanaians had prided themselves that they were a peace-loving people. So mild were we that even though the death penalty remained on our statute books, it was very rarely used. It is known that Nkrumah, for example, confirmed only one death sentence imposed by the courts. It had to all intents and purposes fallen into disuse.

6.1.2 During the NLC regime two death sentences were confirmed. Those were the death sentences passed on Lt. Arthur and Lt. Yeboah for their part in the attempted coup of 17th April, 1967 and which had resulted in the killing of General Kotoka. The old pattern of showing clemency in capital cases continued throughout the period of office of Dr. Busia and the NRC/SMC regimes.

6.1.3 The killing of the senior military officers marked a turning point in our history and heralded a long period of blood-letting which stretched into the PNDC era.

6.1.4 At the time of the insurrection, Acheampong was confined to the village of Trabuom in the Ashanti Region. He was apprehended, as were other high officials of the SMC regime. In the early hours of 16th June, 1979, Acheampong and Maj-Gen Utuka were dragged from their places of confinement and shot and killed. There was no pretence of any trial to establish their guilt. Sqn Ldr Dargbe who was Chairman of the People’s Court and Capt Baah Achamfour, member of the AFRC confirmed this. On 26th June, 1979, Gen Akuffo, Lt Gen Afrifa, Air Vice Marshal Boakye, Maj-

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

Gen Kotei, Rear Admiral Amedume and Col Felli were similarly taken out and shot. Joss Aryee, a journalist of the Ghana News Agency was there.

6.1.4.1 He published this account in the *Statesman* of 9th November 2001.

On Monday, June 25th 1979, at about three thirty in the afternoon, I was called by an Army Officer friend and told quietly, "It will happen tomorrow."

Little did I know then that this short, cryptic message was a hint of one of the most blood-curdling and traumatic political events ever to happen in the short history of this peace-loving nation since her birth in 1957.

At the time I was a young reporter with Ghana News Agency and attached to the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) secretariat at Burma Camp. Those were dangerous and giddy times and every morning when the office vehicle came to take me to work, I would say a prayer that I return home safely, for you never knew what the next hour would bring.

Then tension at the military camp was as thick as a two-day old palmtree soup. Sullen-faced soldiers, itchy-fingered, trigger-happy and armed to the teeth, were everywhere, beating up men and women, old and young, so-called nation wreckers, traders, hoarders, 'kalabule' people, foreigners and God knows whom. And they did this without mercy; it was as if we were at war!

The Fifth Battalion parade grounds looked like Heathrow Airport car park, filled to the brim with seized cars. Every now and then one could hear the rat-tat-tat of gunfire from somewhere within the military complex. Life had changed. Fear, anger and loathing were stalking the streets and alleyways. You could smell death in the air. "It will happen tomorrow!"

The moment I got back to the head office I told my News Editor, T.B. Oattie, (of blessed memory), what I had learnt from my friend. Being an experienced newshound he immediately sensed something was afoot and quietly told me that he'd personally come and pick me up from home the next day at dawn!

The next day, Oattie and his driver arrived at my place around quarter to five and within fifteen minutes we were at the Teshie military range. The rationale for being there so early was that ten days before, Gen. Kutu Acheampong and Maj-Gen Utuka had been secretly executed by firing squad. The deed had been over and done with before sunrise. So we surmised that the same routine would be followed again, even though we had absolutely no idea who the victims would be this time.

We parked by the shoulder of the road and scrambled out of the car, pen and notebook ready! Across the range we could see a flag flying in the dim darkness of dawn.

Suddenly a guttural voice barked: "Hey you, stop there! Identify yourselves!" Four soldiers in full jungle camouflage materialized from the darkness, cocked their rifles and took positions around us. "We ...we ...we are fro...fro...from the Press....G..GNA,"

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

stammered my boss, barely able to conceal the fright and fear in his voice. “Ahaa from the press, eh? Okay, you can park inside MATS (Military Academy and Training School).”

Five minutes later I was alone at the sentry post at the MATS entrance. My boss had left me with the hurried admonition to write a good story and to make sure it got to the office on time. Obviously, he had better things to do that morning than to be frightened out of his wits by bloodthirsty soldiers.

I was gripped by a sense of fearful expectancy. It seemed true that something would happen. And I was the only reporter around. My professional instincts were firing on all cylinders. If the execution took place before sunrise, I would get the biggest scoop in my life. I kept my eyes glued to the Labadi road, expecting to see a military convoy, sirens screaming, bringing the condemned men.

Ten minutes flew by, then twenty, thirty; still no show. Had my friend been wrong? Had the venue been changed at the last minute? What was happening? These and other questions raced through my mind as I considered the various possibilities. The times were so fluid and everything in such perpetual flux that you could never be sure of anything. It was only certain when it happened. Other than that you just took things one at a time.

By seven o’clock a huge crowd had gathered on the road. Workers, traders, children of all ages, people bound for Tema and those gone in the opposite direction, residents of La and Teshie, everybody had come to take in the spectacle. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience nobody wanted to miss out. It had become so bad that the police and MPs (Military Police) had blocked traffic in both directions. People had climbed trees, electric and telephone poles, any available thing that could give them a good view, of this pornography of violence.

The more boisterous ones, especially students and unemployed youth, had even begun singing.

“J.J soree Obonsam pe se osee wo mma”
 “If you are a big tree
 We gotta small axe
 Ready to cut you down
 Sharpened to cut you down.”

Meanwhile on the range itself, soldiers and civilians, mostly journalists and cameramen from all the media were milling around. The observant person would notice one thing. There were two types of soldiers: the armed and the unarmed.

The latter were in stiffly starched, well pressed uniforms with spit-shined, gleaming boots, obviously staff men ready to go to work. The former were red eyed and scruffily dressed, with scuffed dirt encrusted boots. But boy, were they armed! They looked like characters in a Vietnam war movie: rifles with double magazines taped together, pistols on both hips, bayonets, bandoliers with 7.62 mm bullets, even RPGs! One could tell just by their looks who were the so-called “revolutionaries” and who were the ordinary men.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

Still, not a sign of the condemned men. Rumours were flying around like moths during the mango season.

There were six stakes, each with a rope dangling about it. Sandbags were piled behind each stake up to the shoulder level. Some twenty-five or so feet in front of the stakes were open ended tents for the firing squad.

By this time my dream of writing an exclusive story had been shot to pieces. Still, I knew one or two things most of the other reporters did not know.

Earlier on, one of the members of the AFRC, whom I knew at Burma Camp, had come down and invited me to go into MATS staff quarters for a shot of gin. Whilst we shared a 'quarter' bottle of 'akpeteshie', he'd told me that the reason for the delay was that nobody wanted to sign the death warrant for the condemned officers, least of all the Chairman. This indecision had infuriated so many Council members that a bitter quarrel had broken out among them. My buddy had left me with the message that he was going back to headquarters to give them, in his own words, "hell." So I knew that sooner or later something had to break.

At approximately 9.15 the piercing wail of sirens could be heard from the directions of the Trade Fair ground. A few minutes later a convoy of military vehicles was seen heading towards the Teshie military range at break-neck speed. It was as if the convoy was being pursued or had to reach its destination before it received a counter command to turn round and return to base.

Leading the convoy was an anti-aircraft gun vehicle with four soldiers on board, followed by two ambulances and, at the rear, a Pinzgauer with presumably the firing squad.

As the vehicles screeched to a halt inside the range, a member of the AFRC, Cpl Tasiri, jumped out of the lead vehicle, followed by four fierce looking soldiers, assault rifles cocked and ready.

Cpl Tasiri immediately barked out an order that there were to be no pictures taken and commanded the numerous cameramen, foreign press included, to leave the range proper and join the crowd. Anybody who dare [sic] take a picture, he said, would be severely dealt with. Reporters, however, could remain and take notes.

The door of the first ambulance was flung open and out stepped F.W.K. Akuffo, the immediate past Head of State. He was followed by Gen Akwasi Amankwa Afrifa a former military ruler, Gen Robert Kotei, Col Roger Felli, Air Vice-Marshal Yaw Boakye and Rear-Admiral Joy Amedume. All of them were blindfolded and led by the soldiers towards the stake.

A sudden hush fell on the teeming spectators.

For me the scene was almost surreal, like a crowd of ancient Romans at an arena who were baying for the blood of a group of unequally matched Christians cornered by well-armed gladiators.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

Yet these were twentieth century Ghanaians, the same people who, thirteen years earlier, had hailed Afrifa as their hero, their saviour from the clutches of the “evil dictator” Dr. Kwame Nkrumah!

The six condemned senior military officers were led to the stakes and the ropes tied across their chest and around their legs. First was Gen Akuffo, then Gen Bob Kotei, Gen Afrifa, Air Vice-Marshal Yaw Boakye, Col Roger Felli and last, towards the sea, Rear-Admiral Joy Amedume.

Hardly anyone saw the firing squad enter the tents, all attention was on the condemned officers. And there was no audible order to fire. Just a sudden: “ko. ko....ko.ko.ko”

From my vantage point just besides the tents, I could see the blood soaking through their dresses where the bullets hit. The ropes holding Col Felli were torn by the bullets and he came crashing down. Then as suddenly as it had started, the firing stopped.

A minute passed. Then Gen. Afrifa started rising up; blood was streaming from his shoulders down his arm. He screamed “I am not dead ... I am not dead ...”

A bearded officer, presumably a commander of the firing squad, took out his pistol and walked towards Gen. Afrifa to deliver the ‘coup de grace’. He had pain and agony written all over his face. The first shot missed and hit the sandbags, the second shot never came as the pistol jammed. The officer stood there, fumbling with his gun, confused.

Another officer snatched an SMG from a nearby soldier and gave it to the first one. “Ko....ko...ko” The shots were aimed at Afrifa’s head. Six shots later, he finally slumped down, dead. A soldier standing beside me was beside himself with anger. “Why dey for punish the man so, eh? Say wetin at all ‘e do?”

Gen Afrifa had foreseen his death! In a secret letter written to Gen Kutu Acheampong about a year before his overthrow in a palace coup, he had expressed his fears succinctly:

I feel greatly disturbed about the future after the government...

In order to discourage the military from staging coups in the future, how about if they line all of us up and shot us one by one? I do not certainly want to be arrested, given some sort of trial and shot. But I would be a stupid General if I sit in the comfort of my farm and await the VENGEANCE that is about to be unleashed on us.... I will pray to take away the fear and confusion weighing on my mind now.

About five minutes after the execution, an Airforce fighter jet swooped low over the military range and wiggled it wings. The dispersing crowd yelled: JJ....JJ....JJ...”

So now I had my story. The next thing was to find a telephone so I could dictate it to the office. My best bet was the sentry post at MATS. I fought my way through the milling crowd till I got there. The soldier on duty was on the line: “Yes Sir....Yes ...” he was saying, “Yes, they have just finished slaughtering the cows.”

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

When he gave evidence before the Commission, Aryee was closely examined to find out whether the lingering death to which Afrifa was subjected was deliberately inflicted upon him. His answer was that it was.

6.2 ABUSE OF THE JUDICIAL PROCESS

6.2.1 Following the 4th June, 1979 coup, a tribunal was set up at Peduase Lodge, Aburi for the trial of senior officers of the Ghana Armed Forces. Prior to being sent to the tribunal, the officers were made to appear before a board known as the Preliminary Investigation Team (PIT) where they were subjected to crude methods of interrogation designed to elicit admissions and confessions from them.

6.2.1.1 In his book, *When Gun Rules*, Col Kofi Abaka Jackson describes the procedure of the PIT. He writes at pages 123 – 127:

As soon as I sat down, one of the Other Ranks, a Corporal, came to stand behind me. The other Other Rank stood behind...The Chairman asked the Pilot Officer to bring out my file...The chairman and the secretary glanced through the folder then started questioning me: "You alone have three houses. Why?" Before I could open my mouth to answer, the soldier who was standing behind me gave me a slap on my right cheek and across my face. ...Another slap landed on my left cheek and a third on my right...I explained: "Out of my reconditioning of vehicles and other machines from 1963, I started to run a family transport business in 1968..."

At this stage, the slaps intensified in both strength and rapidity...

I continued to answer their questions..."My second house..."

The slaps continued...

I was given a few more swift slaps, a clear warning to me to shut up. My interrogators then turned their attention to my cars. With all the hatred he could muster, a member asked: "You, you have a Benz and a BMW car. Why?" Before I could utter a word, two hefty slaps landed on my right cheek and eye, followed by another slap on my right cheek...The questioner asked me how I could afford both a Benz and a BMW car?

The random slaps continued... The chairman gave me a stern look as if he was signaling for me to be given more slaps. Two heavy slaps landed on my right jaw in rapid succession. "Why are you looking so fine?"...The soldier, who was standing behind me, gave me more blows to my head...My answer drew three heavy slaps – first on my right cheek, the second on my left and the third on my right cheek...Why are you still looking so fine? The chairman asked.

I ignored the question this time... "Hey, you corporal, you are not slapping him properly; come this way!" the chairman ordered. Looking into the face of the other corporal who was standing immediately to his left, he shouted at him to change places with his colleague who was not 'performing his duties properly'.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

Just as the chairman was about to ask me a question, the new corporal standing behind me unleashed a sharp, stinging slap across my right eye. This was immediately followed by another slap from his left hand. Then, as if he was clapping, he fired both left and right slaps across my face, obviously demonstrating to his boss that he could hit harder, better, and in style too.

6.2.1.2 The chairman of the PIT was Capt Sammy Michel with Capt Koda and Capt. Okai Kwei as members and Pilot Officer Ebenezer Odoi as Secretary. Odoi was also the prosecutor at the Special Court which sat at Peduase Lodge under the chairmanship of Squadron Leader Dargbe. At a later date Squadron Leader Darko Kumi joined the PIT.

6.2.1.3 At Peduase Lodge, Squadron Leader Dargbe and his panel sat behind a screen. Odoi, as prosecutor, sat in front. After having been ‘softened’ up at the PIT, the mock trial at Peduase Lodge, which often took place at night, lasted no more than a few minutes.

6.2.1.4 The Paymaster-General of the Armed Forces and one-time Commissior for Trade, Col Kobina Quashie gave this graphic account of his appearance before the PIT and the tribunal:

While I was on admission at Military Hospital Flying Officer Odoi came for me and other officers. We were taken to Arakan Barracks where I was taken to the PIT. There I received at least fifty slaps from behind from an NCO who had been placed there as part of the exercise. Capt Sammy Michel was in the chair together with Capt Koda and Capt Okai Kwei. Capt Michel told me when he came to me for an Import Licence to import a Terrazzo-making machine I refused, today he was in power. I replied that he told me he needed a terrazzo machine to do up the floor of his new house so I gave him the particulars of the man who did my house but if he meant importing a machine to set up a Terrazzo-making Company, then he lied to me, hence my refusal. For saying this he signaled to the NCO who gave me at least 6 slaps in the ear. Capt Okai-Kwei asked me for my income and expenditure. I replied that I had submitted a comprehensive one to Capt Nimako, Military Intelligence. Capt Okai Kwei replied, “This is not a School of Accountancy. This is a revolution!” He drove pins into my waist bone and I bled.

Capt Michel asked me to address him “Sir”. I replied that that was not the military tradition. For this I was severely beaten up. Then he asked me to go on Television and denounce the late Gen Acheampong, because people respect me and would believe me. I replied “You have killed him, so as a priest and lawyer I can’t denounce a person who cannot defend himself”. For this I was given the longest serves of slaps and told by Michel “You will face the People’s Court”.

So about three days later, Flying Officer Odoi came for us and we were taken to Peduase Lodge. There, a Staff Sergeant who was smoking a long cigar and drinking Chevas Regal whisky, ordered me to crawl on my hands to face the court. I crawled under armed guard for about 20 yards in a covered passage. I was ordered to stand up when the swimming pool came in sight. When I entered the swimming pool area, I saw a square made up of dark brown cloth. A voice from behind ordered me to sit down. I did. They read my charges to me. I asked to see the 252 Charge Sheet so I could defend myself. A voice replied, “Shut up! This is a Revolution!” I continued to argue until another voice shouted “You are wasting our time. You are sentenced to 25 years imprisonment. Take him away”. So I was

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

taken back to the Lodge from where Flying Officer Odoi conveyed us back to Military Hospital.

6.2.1.5 Among the more than seventy military and police personnel and civilians who appeared before the PIT, or were ‘tried’ by the Special ‘Kangaroo’ tribunal, the following applied to the Commission for relief, or had applications made on their behalf:

- 6.2.1.5.1 Squadron Leader Samuel Sarbeng Abebrese**, Life Imprisonment
- 6.2.1.5.2 Major Mohammed Easah**, Life Imprisonment
- 6.2.1.5.3 Lt Col Gabriel Korku Aमेvor** sentenced to 105 years imprisonment
- 6.2.1.5.4 Squadron Leader George Tagoe** sentenced to 95 years imprisonment,
- 6.2.1.5.5 Joseph Tweneboa Kodua**, a businessman, sentenced to 95 years imprisonment
- 6.2.1.5.6 Col Kofi Abaka Jackson** sentenced to 60 years imprisonment
- 6.2.1.5.7 Benjamin Samuel Kofi Kwakye**, former IGP sentenced to 25 years
- 6.2.1.5.8 Col Kobina Quashie** sentenced to 25 years imprisonment
- 6.2.1.5.9 Col Charles Tachie-Menson** sentenced to 25 years imprisonment.

The rest are:

- 6.2.1.5.10 Commander Edward Godwin Osei**
- 6.2.1.5.11 Lt Col Emmanuel Joe Dawuni**
- 6.2.1.5.12 Lt Col Albert Narh Tetteh**
- 6.2.1.5.13 Col Paul Nkegbe**
- 6.2.1.5.14 Capt Joseph Ampaabeng Kyeremeh**
- 6.2.1.5.15 Col Charles Owusu Agyeman**
- 6.2.1.5.16 Col Emmanuel Obeng Nyante**
- 6.2.1.5.17 Emmanuel Kwaku Owusu, businessman**
- 6.2.1.5.18 Benny Ashun, businessman**

6.2.1.5.19 Those who happened to be outside the country, such as **Col Tachie-Menson** and **E. K. Owusu**, or managed to escape arrest, such as B. S. K. Kwakye, were tried in absentia and sentenced. All had their properties confiscated.

6.2.1.6 George Amuah, a retired officer of the Ghana Army and a businessman, was arrested and kept in detention throughout the period of rule of the AFRC. His businesses and assets were confiscated by radio announcement. It was not until 1989 when the Transfer of Shares & other Proprietary Interests (GEA Group of Companies) Law, (PNDCL 214) was made that legal backing was given to this arbitrary measure. After the hand-over of power to the Limann Administration, Amuah was put before the Abban Tribunal, successor to the Special Court, which convicted him of fraud and sentenced him to a term of imprisonment.

6.2.1.7 Francis Kwadwo Donkor, a Sales Manager of the Ghana Household Utilities Manufacturing Co Ltd. at Takoradi, was brought to Accra where he was tried and sentenced to 10 years’ imprisonment by a so-called People’s Court at Burma Camp. In August, 1980 the conviction was set aside by a High Court in Sekondi presided over by Sarkodee J.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6**6.3 OTHER KILLINGS**

6.3.1 On 4th June, 1979 soldiers attacked **Col Joseph Enniful**, President of the Court Martial trying those involved in the 15th May mutiny, at his bungalow in Burma Camp, Accra, and killed him and his wife, **Josephine**.

6.3.2 Eugene Kwame Bosompem of the Police Armoured Car Squadron was shot dead at the Police Headquarters, Accra by insurgents on 4th June, 1979. Even though in 1980 his six children were paid compensation under regulations applicable to the Police Service, his widow, Gladys Attaa Owusuaa, received nothing. This was clearly an oversight as on 11th September, 1979 she had made a statutory declaration that five of the six children were hers by a previous marriage.

6.3.3 On 5th June, 1979, **Paul Mpiani**, a driver at the British Council, Accra went on an errand for his employers. His vehicle was hijacked by a soldier who later shot him dead at Asylum Down, Accra. A post mortem report gives the cause of death as gun shot wound of the abdomen with extensive laceration of the spleen and left kidney, fractured ribs, massive haemoperitoneum.

6.3.4 On 5th May, 1979, **Peter Agyei Barimah**, was shot and killed at the Railway station, Accra by Constable Bedzra of the Police Service. Peter was at the time a student of the University of Ghana, Legon. A report on the shooting incident appeared in the *Daily Graphic* of 15th May, 1979 and *Ghanaian Times* of 20th September, 1979.

6.3.5 Kwame Boafo, secretary of the local Distillers' Association was arrested at Tarkwa by soldiers who had set up camp there. He was taken first to the Tarkwa Police Station and then to the Amalgamated Banket Area mines and shot dead. The body was thrown down one of the disused mine shafts.

6.3.6 Soldiers went to the home of Comfort Debrah's mother, a trader, at North Kaneshie, Accra to search for hoarded goods. While there, they attacked Comfort and other inmates of the premises. One **Selina** who tried to run away was shot dead. Comfort was taken to the barracks where her hair was shaved off. She also received injuries on her shin.

6.3.7 On 22nd June, 1979 soldiers went to Suhum, Eastern Region to enforce price control. One of them went to the house of **Benjamin Obeng** and ordered all the inmates to come out of their rooms. When they came out the soldier fired a shot killing Obeng and one Jasper Amoh Owusu and injuring a lady.

6.3.8 Andrews Sampana Sominomah In June, 1979, Yinzee, a porter at Obuasi, went to Takoradi to visit his brother, Yin. **Yinzee** was accosted by soldiers during curfew hours and they asked him to show them his place of abode. When he took them his brother's lodgings the soldiers shot him dead when the landlady could not identify him as an occupant of the house.

6.3.9 Ama Bema's husband **Kwabena Amoah** was a shop-keeper at Kunso, near Mankranso, Ashanti Region. He sold spirits and cigarettes. On 14th September, 1979 one Kwaku Akowuah went to the shop to buy cigarettes. Akowuah later reported Amoah to the police as having sold the

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

cigarettes to him above the controlled price. Amoah was arrested by the police and then granted bail. The next day, Akowuah returned to the shop in the company of three soldiers. Amoah and one of his suppliers, Yaa Tweneboah, were arrested and taken to the military barracks in Kumasi. Later, Yaa Tweneboah returned to Kunso and informed the petitioner that her husband died after being flogged by the soldiers. The petitioner and her husband's uncle, Kwaku Amoah, went to Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital to inspect the body. They later removed it for burial.

6.3.10 Ernest Acheampong re Kwame Adjei Petitioner's brother was arrested at Bimbila, Northern Region on suspicion of smuggling cigarettes. He was placed in military custody and released three days later. When he arrived home he was bleeding from the ears. He fell ill a month later and died.

6.4 DISAPPEARANCE

6.4.1 Theophilus Opore Obuobisa, a soldier in the Ghana Army based at Takoradi, has not been heard of by his family since the 4th June, 1979 coup.

6.4.2 Soldiers went to the shop of Samuel Yaw Asumadu at the Kumasi Central Market to conduct a forced sale of his goods. When he resisted, he was attacked. His son, **Kofi Peter**, a student who went to his aid was mercilessly beaten up and taken away. Peter has not been seen since.

6.4.3 Ataa Amoah's husband, **Osei Kwame** was a bodyguard of Lt. Gen. Afrifa. He was with Afrifa when following the 4th June insurrection he was arrested at his home at Krobo. He came to live in Accra. While in Accra he was arrested twice and taken to Burma Camp for interrogation. One afternoon at about 2 p.m. Kwame left the house. He was later seen boarding a military vehicle at the Nkrumah Circle, Accra. He has not been seen or heard of since then.

6.4.4 James Agana's brother **Cpl Robert Alhassan Konyibo** was a soldier in the Ghana Army. At the time of the 4th June, 1979 insurrection he was believed to be stationed at the Castle, Osu. Since the events of that day he has not been seen or heard of.

6.4.5 Peter Kelvin Boafo re **Peter Boafo** Peter's father, Peter Snr. owned a shop in Tarkwa. Soldiers went to his house in the middle of the night and seized him and his brother. He was accused of hoarding provisions. Peter Snr. and his brother were taken away and never returned.

6.5 MAIMING

6.5.1 Edward Somuah Adofo a naval rating, was on guard duties at the residence of Rear Admiral Joy Amedume, a member of the SMC on the night of the insurrection on 4th June, 1979. Insurgents sent to arrest the Admiral shot and wounded Adofo in the leg, neck and abdomen. He was discharged from the Navy in October, 1981 on medical grounds.

6.5.2 Joseph Kwadjoe Nuer, a sergeant in the Police Service, petitioned that he was shot at and seriously injured by soldiers on 4th June, 1979 on the pretext that he was one of those involved in the insurrection. Unfortunatley, Sgt Dapaah and Cpl Yeboah who, he said, were with him cannot be

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

traced, and his immediate superior officer, Supt Adenu cannot recollect the incident. In the absence of a medical report from the Police Hospital where Nuer says he received treatment, we are unable to make a finding in his favour.

6.5.3 Frank Okyere, a civilian employee of the Ministry of Defence, was on duty at the residence of Gen Akuffo when the insurrection took place. He took refuge in the premises during the skirmishes. While leaving, he was shot in the right elbow. He received treatment at Korle Bu Hospital.

6.5.4 Ellen Osei, On 4th June, 1979, at about 6:30 pm, Ellen was being driven home to Dansoman, Accra by her brother-in-law and her sister when at Randolph Motors, near Nima Police Station, their vehicle was overtaken by two military vehicles. Soldiers in the second vehicle shot at the vehicle conveying Ellen. The glass in the window was shattered and fragments became embedded in Ellen's head. Drenched with blood, she was taken to the 37 Military Hospital where she was pronounced dead and taken to the mortuary. Her shouts made the attendant aware she was still alive, and she was brought out and taken to the ward. She was in hospital for three months. She now suffers from chronic headache.

6.5.5 Gifty Adom was almost nine months pregnant when a soldier went to her at the market in Mampong, Ashanti and ordered her to sell her fish in smaller portions. As she bent down to comply with the order, the soldier removed his belt and began to beat her with it. The iron hook of the belt hit Gifty on the stomach. Gifty delivered eleven days later. The impact of the belt on her stomach affected the child, **Ibrahim Afrifa**, who was born blind.

6.5.6 Moustapha Kobina Sangari On 4th June, 1979 soldiers went to the East Cantonments, Accra residence of Sangari and demanded to be given one of his cars. He offered them a Mercedes Benz 200. At their request, he drove the vehicle to his gate. As he was leaving the vehicle he was shot in the chest. It was not until the next morning that he received medical attention. Three days later he was flown to London for treatment.

6.5.7 Kwao Kondo, a driver, was driving a company vehicle on 4th June, 1979 at Dzorwulu, Accra, when a soldier fired a shot hitting him in the left thigh.

6.5.8 Joseph Narh was a driver of Col Parker-Yanney. On 4th June, 1979 soldiers sent to arrest the Colonel shot at and wounded Narh in the arm.

6.5.9 Victor Tetteh Laryea, was a civilian employee at Burma Camp. He left home for work on 4th June, 1979 but decided to go back on finding that there was commotion at the Camp. On his way home, he was hit in the left eye by a stray bullet. He is now completely blind in that eye. He was later given a token sum of ₵100,000 by the government.

6.5.10 On 6th June, 1979 **Charlotte Rockson's** mother, Elizabeth Owoo, was taken to the Airforce Base, Takoradi and then to the military barracks at Apremdo for hoarding. Three days later, they went to a nearby house where Charlotte lived to conduct a further search for hoarded goods. The soldiers numbered about 20. As soon as they saw Charlotte they began to beat her with sticks. In

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

the process she suffered an injury to her right eye. In spite of treatment in Ghana and abroad, Charlotte has lost the sight in the eye.

6.5.11 Frank Agyei-Baah was arrested by soldiers on 7th August, 1979 and taken to the Signals Regiment at Burma Camp. While there, a soldier struck him over the right eye with a belt. Later the person upon whose complaint Baah was arrested went to the camp and informed the soldiers that he did not know Baah. Baah was released. He went to Korle Bu Hospital for treatment and found that he had lost the sight in the injured eye.

6.5.12 On 22nd June 1979 an armed soldier went to the house in which **Edward Nicholas Agyei** lived at Suhum Eastern Region and ordered all the inmates to come out of their rooms for a search. He threatened to kill them, and asked them to say their last prayers. He hit Agyei on the head twice with the butt of his rifle. After a few questions to the inmates he seemed to realize that he had gone to the wrong address. He left for the next house. Soon there was a gunshot. On hearing the sound of the shot, Agyei and his co-tenants fled. Agyei underwent surgery at the Suhum Hospital and later at Agogo where it was discovered that the blows to his head had severed some nerves. Agyei's sight became affected and he gradually lost his sight.

6.5.13 On 22nd June, 1979 Cpl Boateng of the Ghana Army who was on an anti-hoarding operation in Suhum, Eastern Region, went to the house of **Grace Yomeley** and ordered all the inmates to come out of their rooms. Some 40 persons came out. Boateng lined them up and shot at them killing two men and injuring Grace. Grace sustained gun shot wounds in the right shoulder and a fracture of the right scapula. After effects include on and off tendovaginitis, tension, headache and occasional inability to flex the right upper limb above the horizontal level.

6.5.14 Amiaku Arku, a trader at Salaga Market in Accra, was on her way home with her daughter on her back when a soldier fired a shot at her. The shot hit the daughter in the leg, passed through it and hit Amiaku in the stomach. She and her daughter were taken to Korle Bu Hospital where they were on admission for a year-and-a-half. She now has difficulty in hearing, has headaches and has pains in the waist. Her daughter's leg is deformed and she has difficulty in walking.

6.5.15 Ruth Aning joined a queue at the GNTC shop at Assin Foso to buy soap. While in the queue, a soldier who was on duty to keep order swung a belt. The belt hit Ruth in the right eye. Ruth was taken to the Saint Francis Xavier Hospital at Assin Foso and later to the Takoradi Hospital for treatment. However, in spite of the efforts of the doctors, Ruth has lost the sight in the right eye.

6.5.16 Comfort Mensah In August 1979, the petitioner, a sugar cane seller resident at Tema was returning home in the company of her eight year-old daughter, Kalibi Quarshie, when a bullet fired by Navy personnel struck Kalibi in the lower abdomen. Kalibi was rushed to the Tema General Hospital where it was found that the bullet had damaged her spine. As a result Kalibi became partially paralysed. She can now hardly walk.

6.5.17 Sammy Sampson Manu, a stenographer, travelled from Gambaga to Bimbila in the Northern Region. On arrival at Bimbila he saw soldiers beating a friend of his. When he

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

intervened to plead for his friend the soldiers set upon him with their belts and fists. He sustained an injury on his left eye which has rendered him blind in the eye.

6.5.18 Davidson Dede Kissi Owusu on 3rd July, 1979 Owusu, shopkeeper at Mpraeso, Eastern Region was arrested at the instance of some citizens of the town who accused him of selling rice in underweight bags. Some soldiers from the military barracks, Kumasi arrived, took him to the lorry station and beat him with their hands and belts. He was then taken to the Nkawkaw Police Station. During further molestation, a soldier hit him on the left eye with the butt of a rifle. He sustained an injury which has left him blind in that eye.

6.5.19 Amissah Nunoo On 20th June, 1979, Nunoo, a businessman of Akim Oda was arrested by about seven soldiers. They seized goods in his shop amounting to over ₵1 million as well as some personal effects. The soldiers took him to the Achiase Jungle Warfare School.

6.5.20 He described what happened as follows:

I was ordered to board their vehicle and taken to the main Oda lorry park. A large crowd had gathered in front of my house. As soon as we reached the lorry park, I was pushed down violently by about 3 soldiers. Sgt. Kwasi Manu gave an order and almost immediately they started to beat me up with sticks. I recall a number of people screaming and crying. I remember that a woman who pleaded on my behalf was slapped by a soldier. I was beaten mercilessly for 40 minutes. In fact I fainted (I later learnt that I was hurled into the truck). Everyone who was present believed I was dead and even went to console my wife.

When I came to I found myself at the barracks at Achiase, near Oda. ...

...On the 3rd day at Achiase Barracks I was drilled and ordered to lift a rock nickname "Pharoah". ...I was constantly beaten. Eventually, I was released after 4 days.

I was never charged or told what I had been detained for. I was sent home and then re-arrested after 2 days on the 26th /27th June, 1979.

I can't remember their names but 2 men came with an army vehicle to re-arrest me; I was taken again to Achiase Barracks and drilled. For eight days I was beaten, asked to roll on the ground for 20 minutes etc. I was badly treated. I was shaved with a broken bottle – I cannot describe the pain which is very vivid in my mind till this day.

6.5.21 Richard Duho Ofori's brother, Samuel Deho was arrested at the instance of Major Gbekor Kore and placed in a guardroom at Burma Camp over a private debt. The petitioner raised the money and went to the barracks in the company of two persons, Kwasi Viglaku and Vovoli, to pay the money. When they got there they were set upon and beaten. The petitioner was slapped and hit on the back of the head with the butt of a gun. Although the petitioner ascribes his current blindness to that one incident he did not provide supporting medical evidence.

6.5.22 Mary Odei Laryea was in her home at James Town, Accra near Ussher Fort when she heard sounds of shooting. She came out to observe what was happening. She found that some soldiers were firing shots at the door of a warehouse in an effort to force the door open. While Mary was

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

watching what was going on she felt a sudden pain in her right shoulder. She realised that she had been shot. She screamed and began to bleed. She was taken to 37 Military Hospital for treatment. She can now hardly use her right arm.

6.5.23 Comfort Akosua Afrah a cloth seller of Takoradi was arrested by naval personnel led by Petty Officer Agyemang and taken to the Naval Base at Takoradi. On arrival she was subjected to beatings. Some used their hands, others their belts and still others, canes. One of her attackers came with a pair of scissors to cut her hair. In the ensuing struggle she received a nasty cut between the thumb and forefinger. She is left with an ugly scar and a permanent deformity of the forefinger.

6.5.24 Emmanuel Kweku Appiah was arrested and taken into custody at the Central Police station, Accra on an allegation of stealing. He was beaten and now suffers from impaired hearing. No charges were preferred against him.

6.5.25 Jones Sarpong was a trader at the Sunyani lorry park. He sold provisions. He and other traders were arrested and taken to the barracks. He was made to pull up elephant grass with his bare hands. While he was doing this a soldier struck him with a belt over the head. The hook of the belt hit Sarpong's right eye completely damaging it. Sarpong was operated upon in 1998 to remove the eyeball and replace it with an artificial one.

6.6 TORTURE

6.6.1 Elizabeth Mensah The experience of Elizabeth, a dealer in beer and provisions at Esikafo Ambantem, Takoradi, illustrates how indisciplined soldiers used the control of prices and decrees on hoarding as a pretext for stealing and perpetrating human rights violations. This is how she described her ordeal:

The soldiers brutally assaulted me, applying their fists, boots and the butt of their guns, they drove me to the Airforce station where I spent three days. There were other people also who had been arrested. We were continuously beaten all the time.

Thereafter I was transferred to the Aprembo Barracks. I spent 5 days there. The beating was worse than what took place at the Airforce station. ...

The soldiers set upon me and brutally assaulted me until I begun bleeding from my private part and even eased myself in their full view. I had totally lost control of everything. ...

On the fifth day the soldiers drove me to my house. They put me on a table and four of their number stretched me out. They then flogged me with belts mercilessly until I collapsed.

6.6.2 On 15th June, 1979 two men approached **Kodzo Fomevor**, a driver, at Ho lorry station and offered to hire his vehicle for a journey to Kpong. When Fomevor refused the offer the two men fell on him and beat him up. They then took him to the barracks of the Ho Mortar Regiment where he was placed in the guardroom. He was later brought out, given 36 strokes of the cane on his back and released. The beating resulted in the loss of some teeth and damage to his hearing.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.6.3 Kofi Antwi and Afua Serwaa a husband and wife, lived in Tamale where Antwi was posted as a police officer. Serwaa kept two shops, one at Tamale, and the other, at Walewale. On 17th June, 1979, Antwi and his wife were arrested by soldiers. Their hair was shaved off. Two days later, they and other traders were taken to the Tamale taxi rank and publicly flogged with a fan belt on their bare backs. At the time, Serwaa was nursing a newly-born baby.

6.6.4 Afriyie Ibrahim and Abena Asantewaa, women traders at Kumasi Central Market, were arrested and taken to the military barracks. They were flogged and then made to weed and later scrub the bathroom of the soldiers. At the time, Afriyie was four months pregnant. As a result of the beating she had a miscarriage a month later.

6.6.5 Elisabeth Aniniwaah, was arrested for hoarding engine oil and brake fluid in her home at Tarkwa Makro, near Kumasi. She was taken to the military barracks where her hair was shaved off. A soldier by name Abass took her to Kejetia where she was publicly flogged.

6.6.6 Yaa Serwaah was arrested in Kumasi while selling her wares. She was taken to the Kejetia Police Station where she was publicly flogged.

6.6.7 Nana Awotwe, a trader of Apowa near Takoradi, sold maize to a kenkey seller. The seller was arrested for selling kenkey at high prices. The soldiers then arrested Nana, took her to Apremde Barracks, shaved off her hair with a sharp object, possibly a broken bottle, and subjected her to public flogging at the Camp and in the Apremde village.

6.6.8 Mary Botwe, a kenkey seller at Nsawam, was arrested by soldiers who claimed that her balls of kenkey were expensive. She was stripped naked and publicly caned. The kenkey was distributed to members of the public free of charge.

6.6.9 On 6th June 1979, **Elizabeth Owoo**, a trader, bought bowls and cooking utensils through an intermediary from a factory in Takoradi. As she was conveying them away in a truck, two soldiers stopped her and instructed the driver to take the goods to the Airforce Base, Takoradi. At the Base, and later at the Military Barracks at Apremde, Elizabeth was subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment. She was beaten with fists, kicked and her hair shaved off. Soldiers formed a circle round her and pushed and kicked her to and fro injuring her in different parts of her body. She was put on a table and flogged.

6.6.10 Samuel Yeboah On 27 June 1979, Samuel was in his father's shop at Dunkwa-on-Offin when soldiers arrived ostensibly to check the prices of goods. Three soldiers entered the shop and slapped Samuel several times. He was then taken with other traders to the market, placed on a table and flogged with canes and rubber strips made from car tyres. Samuel became unconscious and was taken to hospital for treatment. The goods in the shop were all seized.

6.6.11 Nana Yeboah Okoli II was Benkumhene of Denkyira Dominase, Central Region. A supplier of petroleum products took a tanker-full of kerosene to the village for sale. He priced it at ₵1.20 per gallon. One Real Achey insisted that the price should be ₵1 per gallon. Following this disagreement, the driver took the consignment away. Three days later, soldiers went to the village

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

and arrested all those who had been willing to buy the kerosene at ¢1.20 per gallon. Among them was Nana Okoli. They were taken to the market where they were caned. They were then taken to Dunkwa-on-Offin where they were subjected to more caning.

6.6.12 Benjamin Kojoe Amissah Soldiers from the Apremde Barracks in Takoradi went to Amissah's shop at Apowa and sold his goods to the public. They then took Amissah to the Apowa Post Office and publicly flogged him. After this ordeal, the soldiers took him to the harbour where he was made to carry cocoa.

6.6.13 Alice Koomson's 100 cartons beer were seized by soldiers in Takoradi. When she went to the military barracks to try to retrieve them, she was set upon and beaten by the soldiers. She was made to join other women who had been detained at the barracks. She was hit on the head with a boot, made to roll on the ground and with other women detainees they were made to slap one another. If they did not slap one another hard enough, a soldier slapped them to teach them how it should be done.

6.6.14 Efua Adisa sold rice and stew to travellers at the Winneba junction. On three successive days various soldiers, among them, a woman, helped themselves to her food and sold the rest to the public. On the third occasion, when the soldiers had had their fill, they forced her to strip naked, placed her on a table and flogged her with a belt. Efua lost consciousness and was taken to the Winneba Hospital where she received treatment for her injuries.

6.6.15 Salome Owusu a trader at Makola Market who lost her goods on the destruction of the market, was at home when soldiers came to arrest her. They took her to the barracks where she was caned.

6.6.16 Kwaku Yeboah Mensah was one of several persons who had gone with jerry cans to buy petrol. While waiting to be served, soldiers appeared on the scene and told them it was forbidden to buy petrol in jerry cans. They lined up the people, including the petitioner, and publicly flogged them.

6.6.17 Samuel Abboah Asamoah In August, 1979 soldiers led by Lt Tetteh arrested Asamoah, a caretaker of E. K. Owusu, proprietor of KOWUS MOTORS. He was slapped, kicked and beaten as the soldiers demanded to know where Owusu kept his money. He was taken to the Airforce Base and flogged.

6.6.18 Donyina Agyei-Kantonn was District Organiser of the Ghana National Reconstruction Corporation at Techiman. Soldiers who had gone to him for foodstuffs took offence on finding that there was no tractor available to cart the foodstuffs from the farms. Donyina was held over a table and flogged with a belt.

6.6.19 Harrison Boniface Ankrah, a businessman of Agotime Afegame, near Kpetoe in the Volta Region, had shops at Ho, Somanya, Aflao and Accra. He and his storekeeper at Aflao were arrested. Their hair was shaved off, after which they were taken to the Civic Centre at Ho and publicly flogged. The goods in the shop, consisting mainly of mattresses, were seized.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.6.20 Afari Agyei was a student of Somanya Technical Commercial School. During the school holidays, soldiers arrested him at his village, Dwerebease, and took him to the Krontihene's house. There he was accused of not taking part in communal labour. His explanation that as a student he was exempted from communal labour was not accepted. The soldiers removed his shirt, four of them then held him over a table by his arms and legs while a fifth caned him severely until he bled. His hair was shaved off, and he was made to roll on the ground and to drink from a dirty, stagnant pool of water.

6.6.21 Victor Hoezame; Prosper Kojo Siabi Soldiers acting as vigilantes intervened in a quarrel between members of a family at Adidome-Atsenfo, Volta Region, over the sale of a tractor. They seized Victor and Siabi, took them to the market place and caned them. Anthony Hoezame who made the complaint to the soldiers was also caned when he refused to participate in caning his brothers.

6.6.22 William Dusu of Kpando intervened and argued with soldiers who were selling his girlfriend's kenkey at a reduced price. Two days later the soldiers led by Simon Adza of the Department of Social Welfare arrested Dusu, beat him up and subjected him to cruel and inhuman treatment. He was made to crawl on his knees up the steps of an old German colonial building at Todzi. While doing so, he would be kicked and made to fall down the steps. He would then be ordered to climb up again on his knees. He did this several times and sustained injuries to his forehead, shin bone and knees. After this gruesome treatment he was brought to the taxi-rank where he was made to do press-ups and to roll on the ground. Finally they made him lie down on the ground and look at the scorching sun.

6.6.23 Andrews Kwame Tre, a trader, owned a radio and electrical shop in Ho, Volta Region. He was arrested and taken to the military barracks. His hair was shaved off and he was beaten. Later he was taken to the market where two soldiers took turns to cane him in full view of the public.

6.6.24 Lucy Abba Affram was a trader at Kpando market dealing in cloth. Her goods were seized by soldiers and her house searched. Thereafter she was taken to the taxi-rank where her hair was shaved off. She was then publicly caned by the soldiers.

6.6.25 Emmanuel Awuku Yirenkyi, a fuel dealer at Cape Coast, was arrested by soldiers for allegedly selling petrol on a Sunday contrary to instructions from the AFRC. He was taken to the Regional Office where he was placed on a table and flogged.

6.6.26 Ellen Ladzekpo, owner of the Melody Inn provision store in Ho, Volta Region, was dragged by soldiers from her shop and taken to the Civic Centre. There, her hair was shaved off and four soldiers put her on a table and took turns to cane her on her back.

6.6.27 Juliana Dogbey, a resident of Accra, was arrested by soldiers for selling garden eggs at an excessive price. She was taken to Gondar Barracks where her hair was shaved with a broken bottle. This has left her with a scar on her head. She was hit with the butts of rifles, beaten with electrical cable and slapped several times leading to the loss of four teeth. Lighted cigarette ends were extinguished on her arm.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.6.28 Albert Kweku Cudjoe was the owner of an electrical appliances shop in Market Circle, Takoradi. On 23rd June, 1979 soldiers went to the shop and carted his goods away to the Air Force Base, Takoradi. They took Cudjoe to the Barracks at Apremdo, shaved off his hair and subjected him to beatings. A few days later, he was brought to the Market Circle and publicly caned. The soldiers then demolished his shop and the adjoining one even though he was not the owner of the building. The incident was reported in the *Ghanaian Times* of 28th June, 1979.

6.6.29 Alhaji Bawa Ayamga On 5th July, 1979 soldiers led by Lt Patrick Donkor arrested Ayamga, now deceased, at Bolgatanga on an allegation that he was hoarding lorry tyres. While singing a profane Hausa song, Lt Donkor hit the Alhaji on the head several times with a hammer and detained. On 3rd September, 1979 the Alhaji was convicted of hoarding by an improvised public tribunal constituted by Lt Pattington, Lt Donkor and other soldiers and sentenced to three years' imprisonment in hard labour. He was made to drink cement mixed with water. He was taken ill and was transferred from Navrongo Prison to Tamale Prison where he died on 17th January, 1980.

6.6.30 Mathias Komla Anku In August, 1979 Anku was detained at the Ho Medium Mortar Regiment on an allegation that he had installed a second petrol tank on his taxi-cab. During the one month he spent in custody at the Barracks, Anku was repeatedly slapped by soldiers, even though an examination of his vehicle had shown that there was no such tank.

6.6.31 Richard Kwabena Abugumzio In September, 1979 Abugumzio came upon some soldiers in Bolga who were beating one Amenasah, now deceased. When he exclaimed 'Oh!' in sympathy with the victim of the attack, the soldiers emptied the contents of a coal pot onto the ground and forced him to sit in the embers of the fire. He sustained burns and blisters on his buttocks.

6.6.32 Robert Akuamoah Boateng A soldier who overheard Boateng and one Abunuwa discussing the killing of Lt Gen Afrifa had them arrested by the police. The next day, they were taken to the army barracks in Kumasi where the two of them were made to fight each other before a large crowd. Boateng sustained injuries which required medical attention.

6.6.33 Mathew Adams and other employees of Hohoe Hospital were arrested on suspicion of stealing drugs. They were handed over by the police to the military authorities at the Ho Mortar Regiment where they were subjected to brutalities such as being made to slap each other. They were then returned to police custody. This is confirmed by Chief Supt George Ohene (Rtd.).

6.6.34 Cobbold, an employee of GNTC motors in Takoradi, owned two buses, two taxis and a saloon car. On 7th September, 1979 he was arrested by soldiers and questioned about his wealth. He was taken to Apremdo Barracks where he was made to lie on the ground and stare at the sun. He was also flogged. His vehicles which were seized were later returned to him but in a dilapidated state.

6.6.35 The attack on Cobbold was wholly unjustified. When he appeared before the Commission, we were impressed by the way he was able to establish by documentary evidence that he came by the vehicles lawfully. Here was a man who by dint of hard work and careful management of

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

resources was able to build up a thriving transport business. He was a victim of high-handedness born of envy.

6.6.36 Mohammed Shaibu, a dealer in yams, was subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment at the Air Force Base, Takoradi. He was made to roll on the ground, lie flat and look at the sun, given 48 lashes, and was shaved with a broken bottle. He was also made to slap his brother, Ango, who in turn was ordered to slap him. This was repeated several times.

6.6.37 Stephen Robert Kwawu, a police constable stationed at Ho, appeared before the Huppenbauer Committee at its sitting in Ho. Before he appeared at the hearing he was drilled, his hair was shaved off with a broken bottle and he was subjected to beatings. After his appearance, he was brought to Accra where he received further ill treatment while in confinement at the MATS guardroom and at the Police Headquarters.

6.6.38 Yakubu Norga petitioned that his late father **Norga Moshie**, a night-watchman at Darko Farms, Akropong, Ashanti was caned by soldiers in 1979 at the instigation of Kwabena Darko, Managing Director of the Company.

6.6.38.1 When he was invited to comment on the petition, Kwabena Darko stated in part:

...like many other industrialists, I was especially targeted for persecution and harassment by the military machinery. Indeed, it was quite a frequent occurrence for loose bands of soldiers to make forays to the farm, issue threats and generally harass management.

It was on one such morning when I was informed that three unnamed soldiers were on the premises. I went downstairs to inquire from them the purpose of their mission, since I had already endured all sort of searches, interrogations, and seizures of some of my assets. There were the usual threats, intimidation and verbal abuse, but I suspected that it was all a ploy for some free chicken.

Therefore, when they headed towards the chicken farm, I accompanied them with the view of at least limiting the number of birds they were bound to forcefully seize for their personal use. As we walked towards the chicken farm, we were met by the farm manager, Mr. Kwesi Kuma, who said I was urgently needed on another part of the farm because three employees had been caught red-handed, having stolen about thirty bags of chicken feed....

As I looked on helplessly, they proceeded to whip them with canes, one after the other.

The soldiers, upon hearing the farm manager's report about a theft, insisted on instant revolutionary justice, especially since the culprits had already confessed..."

6.6.38.2 Since the petitioner was not present when the incident occurred, we prefer the account related by Darko which we find entirely credible. It is hard to imagine any businessman being in a position to use soldiers against his employees. Rather there were countless cases where employees used soldiers to harass their management. Kwasi Kumah, the Farm Manager who reported the theft to Darko and was present throughout confirmed Darko's version of events.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.6.39 Joseph Suglo (now 29 years old) petitioned that in 1982 his grandmother, **Banyeke Gandama**, and another lady, **Bakozie Mwinvi**, pito sellers, were arrested by soldiers who claimed that their pito was too expensive. He claimed that the women were made to roll on the ground and to drink dirty water from a borehole. Their pito was distributed to passersby without payment. The petitioner who must have been only 7 years old when the incident was alleged to have occurred did not have any witness who could support his story. Clearly, he cannot vouch for the truth of the allegation made by him.

6.6.40 Kwabena Badu; Otuo Acheampong; Kwaku Kyei three brothers were running two shops, a provisions shop and a drug store, in Kumasi. On 21st July, 1979 as Badu and Acheampong were about to open the shops a soldier, Cpl Appiah, came up and questioned them as to why they had not opened them earlier for an inspection for hoarded goods. The brothers responded that traders in the area had been instructed to open their shops at 9.00 am, and not earlier. Appiah sought the aid of other soldiers and amid slaps and kicks took the two brothers to the military barracks. Their keys were seized. At the barracks they were questioned.

6.6.40.1 On the third day, as narrated by Badu,

At about 10 o'clock that morning the officer instructed one of the soldiers to give each of us twenty-four lashes on our bare backs. We were made to remove our shirts and singlets.

I was instructed to hold onto a branch of a mango tree nearby with both hands and warned that if I took off my hands from the branch, the lashes I had already received would not be counted as part of the twenty-four. I was to count the number of each strike aloud.

After the first six lashes, the pain at my back was so severe that I took my hands off the mango tree in an attempt to massage my back. I discovered that there was blood all over my back; the back and palm of my hands that I had used to touch my back were smeared with blood. Some of the lashes cut open the skin of my back and blood was oozing out. I could not hold back my tears.

I was made to re-start the counting, while weeping openly, from one to twenty-four. In all I received thirty lashes at my back the majority of which opened parts of the skin at my back.

They did the same thing to my junior brother Otuo Acheampong. Our senior brother Kwaku Kyei was made to remove his shirt but before they could start lashing him the officer said since he was not at the shop when they had come to 'arrest' the two of us, he could be spared.

Our keys were given to us. We could not put on our shirts because of the blood at our backs. We were treated and discharged at the Komfo Anokye Hospital. The scars are still visible at our backs.

6.6.41 Kenneth Assan Dadzie On 12th June 1979, the petitioner, a shop-keeper of Sunyani, Brong Ahafo Region was arrested when his assistant sold two electrical bulbs to a soldier at 75 pesewas each. He was taken to the military barracks where his hair was partially shaved off. He was ordered to undress. He was flogged with a flexible electrical cable.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.6.42 Philip Yeboah a shop-keeper at Adum, Kumasi was arrested by soldiers for selling paint at an excessive price. He was taken to the military barracks where he was slapped and given 24 lashes on his bare back.

6.6.43 Mohammed Issifu's father, **Issifu Sulemana** was arrested by soldiers for selling a bicycle tyre above the controlled price. He was taken to the military barracks and later brought to the Tamale police park where he was publicly flogged.

6.6.44 Francisca Osei After soldiers had seized and auctioned the goods of Francisca, a trader in ladies' and men's wear at the Kumasi Central Market she was taken to the military barracks and kept in a guardroom for a month. During this period she was stripped half naked and caned at the barracks. Later she was brought to Kejetia where she was stripped to her underwear, laid on a table and publicly caned again.

6.6.45 Kramo Osmanu lived at Bohyen, Kumasi with Abossey and Appiah, both of whom are deceased. A group of soldiers went to the house and accused them of dealing in Indian hemp. They arrested them and ordered them to lie on the ground and stare at the sun. They were beaten and hit with the butt of their rifles. They were then taken to the military barracks where they were subjected to further assaults. The next day they were taken to a public toilet and made to carry pans full of faeces through Kejetia in the heart of the city to a public drain where the faeces were discharged. They were made to wash the pans using their bare hands. They were then taken back to Kejetia where they were publicly flogged. They were released after five days.

6.6.46 Habibata Amadu, a baker at Wa, was arrested by soldiers for selling bread at too high a price. She was taken to the soldiers' camp where part of her hair was shaved off, leaving the rest in order to make her an object of public ridicule. She was flogged with a belt, leaving her with bruises on her back. The soldiers then hung a loaf of bread round her neck and paraded her in the streets. At one point she was made to dance for the spectators who had gathered to watch her being humiliated. She was also made to roll on the ground. By the time the soldiers were through with her an amount of money she had in her waistband was missing.

6.6.47 Stephen Opoku Osei In July, 1979 Osei and others were travelling in the hold of a cargo truck along the Bawku-Bolga road, when at Nangode the vehicle was stopped at a road block mounted by soldiers. They questioned them on why they were riding as passengers on a vehicle which was meant to carry only goods. They ordered them out, arranged them in pairs and asked them to fight each other. Osei was reluctant to hit his opponent hard as he appeared old. There and then one of the soldiers struck him from behind, causing him to fall. He was set upon and severely beaten up. The passengers were taken to the Regional Office, Bolgatanga and placed in a guardroom.

6.6.48 Isaac Mensah had a shop near Kejetia, Kumasi. He was arrested by a team of soldiers and policemen for selling above the controlled price. He was taken to the Central Police Station where he was flogged.

6.6.49 Yaa Nyarko, a trader, was flogged at Kejetia by soldiers.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.6.50 Benny Ashun While in detention, Ashun was taken to the Teshie Military Firing Range and subjected to a mock execution.

6.6.51 Abla Negble Following the seizure of her maize at Agomenya, Abla was arrested and detained at Michel Camp for three days. She was then brought to the Agomenya market where she was put on a table and caned. If the age she gave on her petition is correct – 90 years – she must have been 67 years old at the time.

6.6.52 Adwoa Dede carried on the business of buying and selling fish. She bought the fish at Koforidua and sold it at the Begoro Odumase Market. In 1979 a policeman called Atta went to her at Begoro Market and accused her of selling a quantity of fish to his wife at the high price of ₵5.00. Atta beckoned another policeman to join him and together they put Adwoa on a table in the market and caned her.

6.6.53 Kwasi Boafo was a trader at the Central Market, Dunkwa-on-Offin. He was arrested by a soldier who accused him of hoarding goods. The soldiers removed his shirt and singlet and put him on a table. He was flogged with cable wires. After that he and two other persons who had been treated in a similar way were ordered to slap each other several times. Boafo still bears marks of the beating on his body.

6.6.54 Yaa Ntiwaa re Kwabena Mesu Yaa's husband and her father, Mesu, lived at Mbradan near Dunkwa-on-Offin. Following complaints that he and others had refused to take part in communal labour, Mesu was arrested by soldiers who subjected him to beatings. He was taken to the house of the queenmother where one Kofi Mensah was also brought in. Mesu and Mensah were ordered to slap each other several times. They were then taken to the residence of the District Secretary where they were beaten with belts. Mesu sustained injuries to his body. He died after two years.

6.6.55 Yaa Asantewaa was at her home at Denkyira Dominase, near Dunkwa-on-Offin when she was arrested by armed soldiers who accused her of selling kerosene above the controlled price. They ordered her to remove her *kaba*, placed her on a table and caned her. Yaa was then four months pregnant. As a result of the treatment she received, she had a miscarriage.

6.6.56 Johnson Kofi Frimpong lived at Mbradan, near Dunkwa-on-Offin. A Sgt Ewusie who hailed from the area went to the village and arrested Frimpong, **Opanin Kofi Mensah** and Kwabena Mesu, now deceased. He took them to the palace of the queenmother. Armed with a gun he beat them and made them slap each other. He then took them to the residence of the District Secretary, known as Bungalow No. 1 where Airforce personnel had been camped. The three were subjected to further beatings.

6.6.57 Kwadwo Owusu Sekyere On 15th September, 1979 petitioner, a candidate in the Parliamentary elections was arrested by soldiers in Sunyani. He was slapped and beaten and taken to the Police Station. Two other persons, the Regional Prisons Officer and the Superintendent of Police were also arrested. The three of them were taken to the military barracks.

6.6.57.1 What happened there is best told in his own words:

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

I was slapped and kicked on the ground for several times while I wetted myself on the ground being beaten continuously. Consequently, I was thrown like a bag of sand onto that truck. ...

We were asked to give out to the guard our wristwatches, monies and other items on us, which we did. Then came an order that we should sit down on the ground. One of the soldiers came with a piece of broken bottle and shaved off our hair one by one. ...

Well, we were asked to come out and one of the armed soldiers kept asking the rest “who are those to face the firing squad.” They asked us to put our hands above our heads and face the wall as they kept cricking the triggers of their guns.

We lined ourselves up and faced the wall as we had been commanded. Then again, came another command “turn round” which we all did. There were about 30 to 40 detainees. ...

Out of the blue, one soldier with his name on a tag in front of his uniform rushed forward and placed my son next to me on my left and counting from the right hand side of the line, I was fourth and my son was third on the line. The soldier who rushed forward to place my son next to me had the name AMUZU written on the tag.

The AFRC member whose name I’ve forgotten accompanied by local officers started going round and asking each one why he had been brought there followed by the first questioner being asked to slap the one next to him and he too to slap him back and when they reached my son Patrick Owusu-Sekyere he was asked to slap me and for me to return the slap. Quite obviously my son couldn’t deliver it to their satisfaction and as a result the said soldier AMUZU taught him how to do so. I was surely shaken. I was at that time 49 years old and feared that if I did not do it well to satisfy them, I might be given a similar lesson. I reluctantly summoned all my strength and really gave my son a slap on the right cheek. I replied that I did not know why I had been brought there. Then the said AMUZU retorted and said to the officer and I quote “In a Revolution there are some people who have been targeted and he is one of such people.” I must add that I immediately broke down and sobbed uncontrollably but I was shouted down to stop.

I felt instantly that my honour and dignity had been irreparably dented. No sooner had this ugly incident happened than my son Patrick left for Britain where he has been domiciled till to-day. He came to Ghana in July this year i.e. 2002 and sitting down at the living room with him, he told me and I quote “Daddy do you know that I cannot look straight into your eyes”. I asked him to forget and leave the past to history.

Now at the autumn of my life, my son Yaw would have been my best, reliable and constant companion and adviser but for that brutish and inhuman act perpetrated on us he has no desire of living in Ghana again.

6.7 SEXUAL ABUSE

6.7.1 M Soldiers looking for M’s husband placed her under arrest to await his return. When night fell, the soldiers left one of their number to watch over her. During the night the soldier raped her.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.7.2 D On 4th June, 1979 soldiers went to a popular entertainment joint in Accra owned by the petitioner who was known in military circles as the girl-friend of a senior officer. They turned the place inside out and carried away drinks kept there for sale to the public. The soldiers then went to the residence of the petitioner and took away drinks, cash and other goods. Several of the soldiers raped her. After her ordeal she was taken to Gondar Barracks, but her condition saved her from further sexual assault. She was later released, but a few days later three military officers (two Majors and a Captain) came for her and took her to an isolated place and raped her. One of her assailants told her it was for the record. A further attempt, this time at Nsawam where she had been taken by three other soldiers, was foiled when a Capt Owoo came to her aid.

6.7.3 Ekua Bentil, On or about 7th June, 1979 soldiers went to a store at Agona Swedru run by Kodwo Addison and his wife, Ekua Bentil, now deceased, and got hold of Ekua. They put her on a table, face upwards, stripped her naked, opened her legs and beat her with a military belt between her thighs while the public, including young children, looked on and sang in unison “Eye hann, eye kanea” meaning “It is clear, it is light.” Ekua bled from her genitals. She was taken to Cape Coast Regional Administration where the soldiers were based. Addison followed them and got Ekua released. Ekua was treated at hospitals in Ghana and Nigeria without success. She also tried herbal treatment. She continued to bleed from her genitals and was unable to resume sexual relations with her husband up to her death in 1991.

6.7.4 Jacqueline Acquaye alias Ama Akuffo petitioned that when on 17th July, 1979 she was arrested for hoarding flour a soldier mixed gun powder and pepper and used the solution on her as a douche. She later underwent a hysterectomy operation to remove her uterus.

6.8 ILL-TREATMENT

6.8.1 Victoria Lankai Aniagyei, a trader at Makola Market, Accra, was arrested by soldiers for selling hair cream above the controlled price. She was then some three months pregnant. Alleging that she was pretending to be pregnant when she was hiding money, a soldier made a manual examination of her body and in the process squeezed and punched her in the stomach

6.8.2 Mary Adukwei Allotey was arrested in August, 1979 for hoarding. She was taken to Burma Camp, and then to the Border Guards Headquarters. This is how she described her ordeal:

We were marched into a big room where there were two long tables with soldiers of high ranks (she could tell by the stripes on their shoulders) behind them. The soldiers were then interviewing other men and women seated before them. We watched whilst those being interviewed by the soldiers were slapped from time to time by other soldiers who were standing behind them. We were made to sit on the grass in the sun from 12 to 3 pm.

When it got to our turn, it was just like those who we saw being interviewed. Before any words can come out of our mouths we were slapped by the soldiers who were standing behind us. The slaps came from both the left and the right side.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

I was asked what my name was, where I got my goods from, which particular stores I bought them from, how I got the money to buy the good among others. All this while, we were being slapped at the nod of the head from the soldiers interviewing us.

I started bleeding from my left ear and was sent to another room where they cleaned it and was sent back again. This did not stop them from slapping me. We were sent to the “border guard” and were detained for three weeks. Each morning we were beaten before being allowed to go and sweep the compound.

6.8.3 John Kwabena Adom was arrested at Hohoe in July 1979 in place of his father, Daniel Ameyaw, a trader. Adom was taken to the military camp at Ho and subjected to ill-treatment which he described thus:

I was brought to the Volta Barracks and was put into the guardroom. In the night they brought me out of the guardroom and started beating me up. They sent me back into the guardroom until the following morning when I and others were lined up and started interrogating us.

I was told that I was charged for profiteering. After the interrogation, we were sent to be drilled. We were whipped with electric cables at our backs.

6.8.4 During the run-off of the Presidential elections in 1979 **Seidu Prince Mahama PFP** Constituency Secretary for East Gonja was subjected to ill-treatment at the Kamina Barracks, Tamale by Sgt. Odum and other soldiers for 29 days.

On the way to the guardroom, the soldiers started beating me and hitting me with the butt of their guns. The butt of their guns hit my eye-brows and my eyes were filled with blood so I could not see my way to the entrance of the guardroom. Until the guard officer Sgt Owusu led me in.

In the guardroom were, a police M.T.U officer Inspector Antwi of Tamale, Alhaji Sumani Bukari popularly known as “Suffer to Gain”, some three Dagomba women, Mr. Abu Wemah, a magistrate at Wa and Alhaji Nuhu from Kadelso.

We were in the guardroom for 29 days and each of the 29 days were brought out and depending on the number of soldiers each one of us received a slap in the face from the soldiers. Thus if there were 10 soldiers each of us received 10 slaps in the face from them. In the process my eye sight became blurred and blood was oozing from my ears.

6.8.5 John William Opoku A few days after 4th June, 1979 soldiers went to Opoku’s big general merchandise shop at Bawku and over some days sold most of the goods in it. Later they alleged that Opoku had sold a pair of shoes at an excessive price. One Lt Patrick Donkor came to Bawku and ordered Opoku to open his wholesale. On seeing the goods in the wholesale Donkor exclaimed, ‘Hoarding!’ and fired a shot in the direction of Opoku. Donkor poured petrol on the goods and in the building and set them ablaze. He placed Opoku in police cells at Bawku and later collected him for a trip to Bolgatanga.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.8.5.1 On the way, Donkor slapped Opoku several times and ordered soldiers to throw him into the White Volta from a bridge. The soldiers refused. Opoku was taken to Bolgatanga and then to Tamale and kept in a guardroom for four months during which he was made to undergo physical exercises as punishment. Donkor then took Opoku and Alhaji Bawa Ayamga (BLG 3) to the BNI office at Bolgatanga. After that Opoku spent three weeks at Navrongo Prisons and then he was brought back to Bolgatanga where a Peoples' Court comprising Lt Pattington, Lt Donkor and other soldiers tried Opoku and sentenced him to nine months imprisonment.

6.8.6 Susana Koomson On 4th June, 1979, after several bales of cloth had been seized from her shop in the Market Circle, Takoradi, Susana and other traders whose goods had similarly been seized were taken to the barracks at Apremdo where they were made to sit on the ground and stare at the sun for hours.

6.8.7 Omink Mensah Asigbe On 15th June, 1979 soldiers led by L/Cpl. Peter Tasiri went to the Accra Kotobabi branch of the Meat Marketing Board. Tasiri mistook petitioner for lawyer Mensah, the Managing Director, and questioned him as to why meat was being distributed to the workers. Tasiri ordered soldiers with him to punish the petitioner. Asigbe was made to do physical exercises and to lie on the ground and stare at the sun for over an hour. The vision in his left eye is now blurred and that in the right is fast deteriorating.

6.8.8 William Thomas Bruce-Tagoe On 29th July, 1979, four soldiers went to the Coconut Grove Restaurant on Derby Link, Accra for a meal of banku and okro soup. After eating, they complained that the bill of ₵40.00 for double helpings was exorbitant. They arrested petitioner who owned the restaurant, took him to Burma Camp and subjected him to cruel and inhuman treatment.

6.6.8.1 This is his account of what was done to him:

On 20th July, 1979, around 9 a.m. soldiers came to my restaurant to eat. They ordered for a plate of banku and okro stew and asked for extra plates later. They were served and after they had each finished eating their second servings, they asked for the bill. A plate was then ₵5 (five cedis) so the bill was ₵40.00. One of the waitresses who served them was Doris Adjei, then my wife.

I wasn't then in the restaurant. I was outside. I was there when they came out with Doris and she told me that the soldiers had complained that the food was too expensive and that they did not understand why a plate of banku and okro stew should be sold for ₵5. They were therefore arresting her as I wasn't around so when they saw me, she was released and I was arrested. The soldiers were from the Red Berets section and they took me to 5Bn. They did not beat me on the way and neither did they ask me any questions.

As soon as we got to the 5Bn compound, the 4 soldiers (I don't know their names) and other soldiers on the compound started saying "Fresh Fish, Fresh Fish". The four soldiers took me to a small room and they poured salt (Ada Salt) into my cupped two palms and asked me to chew. They stood for a while to watch me chew the salt and left after some time. ...

After this, the same four soldiers came to the room which was like a bathroom with a toilet facility and showered me. After this, they took me to the compound and asked me to remove

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

the T-shirt. They placed a chair there and asked me to hold it with my two hands as if leaning on it. Other soldiers joined them and they formed a horseshoe pattern. Without my T-shirt and bare backed, the soldiers started beating me with electric wires. The 4 soldiers plus two others beat me up with electric wires simultaneously until they were tired. I was bleeding all over my back and also from some parts of my chest where the electric wire had cut me.

...after the soldiers had finished beating me and asked me to chop big firewood there, I did it quickly. The soldiers gave me an axe to cut up the firewood and after I finished they remarked that I was a strong man.

Then I was asked to roll on the ground and whilst doing this, the soldiers stamped on my abdomen, neck, chest etc. After this, I was asked to crawl with my elbows and knees for a distance of about 100 metres and back – 100 metres in, 100 metres out. This was not the end, they told me I was going to face the firing squad. They took me to another compound...

I was blindfolded and asked to jump, sing and say recitation at the same, time. All this while, one of them used his bayonet to hit my chest repeatedly. I had a deep cut on my chest because of this. ...

I was so tired and weak and could no longer jump... The soldiers then pushed me out of the gate.

6.8.8.2 Tagoe was released the same day. On 7th August, 1979, he was again arrested by soldiers and taken to Burma Camp. This time, too, he suffered ill-treatment.

6.8.9 Soldiers who went to **Emma Anin's** shop at the Kumasi Central Market to seize her goods for alleged hoarding subjected her to beatings which included slapping. She now suffers from a hearing defect.

6.8.10 Kate Abbam, In the wake of the 4th June, 1979 coup, petitioner was arrested and taken to Burma Camp for questioning about profiteering by an association of market women of which she was the head. She was slapped under questioning.

6.8.11 Nana Boakye Tromu III; Kwame Boateng, Nana is the chief of Duayaw Nkwanta, Brong Ahafo and Boateng was Secretary to the Town Development Committee. On 6th August, 1979 a group of soldiers led by Lt Sabun arrested Nana and Boateng for allegedly failing to organize communal labour in obedience to a directive of the AFRC. They beat them up and forced Nana to drink dirty water from a gutter. They took them to the military barracks at Sunyani and released them the following day.

6.8.12 Rose Dompseh, a bread baker at Adoagyiri, Nsawam, was attacked by a soldier for selling a loaf of bread for 50 pesewas. He hit her with his belt, boots and hands. When she was taken to the hospital other soldiers came for her and took her to Nsawam Prisons. She was released the same day.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.8.13 Kwame Ofori-Yentumi was a Commander of the Ghana Navy and lecturer at the Staff College. On 4th June 1979 his house at Burma Camp was raided by three soldiers who collected all his personal belongings and those of his wife. His car was also seized. When the wife resisted she was badly beaten up in front of her 11 year-old son. The soldiers took the personal effects away in the wife's car. Yentumi's wife developed a mental problem which persists to this day. His son still suffers from the effects of the trauma.

6.8.14 Joseph Mensah Asante, a trader, was arrested and taken to Burma Camp where he and other traders were forced to sing a song in which they referred to themselves as 'kalabule', that is, profiteer.

6.8.15 Stephen Anin Acheampong A soldier hijacked Acheampong's car and forced him to take him to various locations where he robbed persons of their money. The soldier also looted goods from a shop said to belong to one Kofi Amoakohene in Accra.

6.8.16 Charity Nuerkie Noi, a trader was returning to Ghana from Nigeria on 15th June, 1979 when soldiers stopped the vehicle on the Motorway, Accra. The soldiers assaulted her and the driver and seized the goods. Charity lost two teeth in the confrontation.

6.8.17 Daniel Ohene Adjei, a yam seller of Accra, was brutally assaulted by soldiers who claimed that his prices were too high. He was slapped, kicked and struck with belts and the butts of rifles.

6.8.18 Comfort Akonobe, a trader, was assaulted at Tutu, Akwapim when soldiers went to her house to seize a quantity of cigarettes.

6.8.19 Doris Dodua Quartey, Chairman of the Bakers' Association at Chorkor, Accra was arrested with other bakers and taken to Burma Camp. They were accused of reducing the size of the bread they baked as a way of making more profit. At the camp they were abused verbally and physically. Petitioner was slapped and struck with sticks. A soldier attempted to rape her.

6.8.20 Yaw Sarfo On 19th June, 1979, soldiers who had gone to Sarfo's shop at Suame Magazine to seize engine oil, brake fluid and welding rods hit him on the head with a belt hook resulting in a deep cut.

6.8.21 Faith Esi Amegah, a trader at Ho market, was arrested and taken to the military barracks at Ho where her hair was shaved off. She was also beaten.

6.8.22 Addy Augustine Kwasi Ketorwoko was arrested at Mafi Akyenfo, Volta Region for alleged misappropriation of funds of the North Tongu Rural Bank. He was taken to Gondar Barracks, Accra. While in custody at the Barracks, a soldier struck him on the side of the head with the butt of a rifle.

6.8.23 Victoria Lankai Aniagyei, a trader at Makola Market, Accra, was arrested for selling hair cream above the controlled price. On the way to the military's operational base, she was slapped several times. After the demolition of the market she was arrested for selling in the street. She was

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

made to scoop filth from a gutter with her bare hands. She was slapped and hit on the hand and on her back.

6.8.24 Elizabeth Buabeng, a trader at Makola Market, Accra was arrested for refusing to sell and taken to a place near 37 Military Hospital which was being used by soldiers as a base for their price control operations. Her hair was shaved, she was slapped leading to the loss of two teeth and was hit with sticks and belts.

6.8.25 Fred Kwame Baah a shop owner of Hohoe, Volta Region was in his shop with a friend listening to music when one of a group of soldiers led by Lt Kwami, who were searching a hotel opposite the shop for hoarded mattresses, claimed that they were laughing at them. Lt Kwami ordered that they be taken through drills. They were made to hold their ears and leap frog, to carry a large signboard and to roll on the ground. One of the soldiers kicked Baah in the groin, inflicting injury to his testicles. They were beaten when they could no longer continue with the drills.

6.8.26 Emmanuel Korku Adelayita; Emmanuel Besa Agbedzofe; Gabriel Kwami Adjei, Petitioners were all porters at the Ho lorry park. Following a ban on the activities of porters at lorry parks, they were arrested by soldiers and taken to the military barracks in Ho. They were slapped, made to hold their ears and leap frog, to roll on the ground and to lie supine looking at the afternoon sun.

6.8.27 Comfort Quayson, was a trader at Makola No. 1 Market, Accra. After soldiers had raided her shop and seized her goods she was taken to Nima Police Station. Although she was five months pregnant, she was subjected to beatings with belts and canes. At a place of detention opposite the 37 Military Hospital she was hit on the head with the butt of a gun and cut with what appeared to be a bayonet. She was later taken to hospital where she had a miscarriage.

6.8.28 Isidore Kwame Gyamfi now lives at Dunkwa-on-Offin. In 1979, while working as a welder at the lorry park in Bolgatanga, soldiers arrived to effect the arrest of Alhaji Bawa Ayamga, a tyre and cement dealer. In the course of effecting the arrest, one of the soldiers, Lt Donkor, hit Gyamfi several times on the ribs with a hammer, ostensibly for obstructing them. In response to this allegation, Lt (now Captain) Donkor admitted that he arrested Alhaji Bawa Ayamga, but said he did not remember the encounter with Gyamfi.

6.8.29 Joseph Esmond Polley, a bar keeper of Axim, was arrested by soldiers. His crime was that he had demanded that customers who bought drinks without bottles deposit a sum to be refunded when the bottles were returned. The soldiers forced him to lie down and roll on the ground a distance of 30 metres to the Police Station. They hit him with the butts of their rifles. While in custody over a period of seventeen days he was regularly beaten.

6.8.30 Beatrice Bentil, a Nursing Officer working at the Military Hospital at Appremdo Barracks, Takoradi was arrested with her maidservant for selling provisions at her Sekondi home. She was taken to the Airforce Station where she was assaulted by new recruits with their fists, belts and canes. She bled from wounds inflicted upon her back. She was rescued by the doctor with whom she worked at the Barracks.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.8.31 Patrick Moffat Kassar On 29th July, 1977 Kassar was driving his car in Accra with his pregnant wife beside him when two soldiers following them in a military vehicle took exception to his manner of driving. Kassar was then near his workshop, Safari Motors. When he reached the garage, the two soldiers came out of their vehicle and attacked him and his wife. While one hit him with his fist, the other kicked his wife causing her to fall on the ground.

6.8.32 Richard Effah, a welder's apprentice at Akim Swedru, Eastern Region was attacked with gun butts and fists by soldiers who had gone to the town in search of one Rockson. The senseless attack took place after the soldiers, who had driven to the town in an armoured vehicle, had asked for directions to Rockson's house and Effah had said he did not know him. Apparently, they thought Effah was being obstructive.

6.8.33 Davidson Kissi Owusu On 3rd July, 1979 Owusu, a trader at Mpraeso, Eastern Region, was arrested by the police for allegedly reducing the quantity of rice which he sold in 4 kilo bags. While at the Police Station, soldiers who had arrived at the station from Kumasi took him away. They slapped him and hit him with their belts. The soldiers took him to Nkawkaw Police Station where, in the course of further ill-treatment, he was hit on the side of the head with the butt of a gun. This has affected his sight.

6.8.34 Kate Ocran After raiding Kate's drinking bar at Takoradi, military personnel poured hot water on the ground and asked her to roll in it. She was slapped and hit with the butts of rifles, belts and canes. She was then taken to the Airforce Base where her hair was shaved off with a broken bottle.

6.8.35 Esi Tawiah and Grace Enyan, widows of **Clement Kwame Mensah**, petitioned that one Esi Alice, a trader at Mankessim, took her flour to the premises of Mensah at Enyan Maim to keep them from the prying eyes of soldiers. The soldiers got wind of it, went to the house and seized the flour. They lay in wait for Mensah for five days. When he did not show up, they left, but warned that if he did not report himself and was caught he would be killed. Mensah decided to go to Cape Coast to report. According to the petitioners, he was baldy beaten up by the soldiers. He later showed signs of mental instability, which persisted, till his death a few years later.

6.8.36 Awuley Quame After soldiers had seized her goods at Tarkwa and sold them to the public they set upon her and beat her up. She was then seven months pregnant. As a result of the beating she received, she had a miscarriage.

6.8.37 Mary Kwarteng After they had seized rubber mats and other goods being sold at the Kintampo Market, the soldier who had gone there from Sunyani flogged the traders, including Mary with their belts. Each trader was given 18 lashes.

6.8.38 Samuel Addo Yeboah a shopkeeper at Adum, Kumasi was paraded through the streets with the inscription "I deserve to die" pinned to his chest. Two other persons with him had the inscriptions "I am a cheat" and "I am chief of Kalabule". Their goods had been seized by soldiers who told them they were to be shot.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.8.39 Helena Poku In 1979, while she was riding in a taxicab from Bantama to Kejetia in Kumasi, Helena remonstrated with the driver of a military vehicle which nearly ran into the taxicab. The soldiers in the military vehicle came out and used the butts of a rifle to hit Helena in the eye and in the mouth. Helena was taken to a private clinic for treatment. Her right eye was permanently damaged and five of her teeth had to be pulled out.

6.8.40 Kofi Oti a trader used to go to the Atebubu market to sell his goods. He gives this account of what happened to him on one of such days:

One Tuesday in 1979, barely three weeks after Gen. Afrifa was killed, I was at the Atebubu market, when a young man approached me. He told me he wanted a tin of milk to buy. After selling to him, this young man said I had sold above controlled price and that I was under arrest. I pleaded with him but the man would not listen to me. He asked me to pack my items and follow him to the Atebubu Police Station. I did as he said. While getting closer to the police station, I saw a table standing in front of the office. There, I remembered the incident of some people who were laid on tables and beaten at Ejura. I then attempted to run away but the young man pulled out a pistol, which made me follow him. When we entered the office of the Station, there I saw about ten men, who happened to be soldiers. Some were in their uniforms and armed. Others were in mufti. These soldiers had come from the Sunyani Military Barracks. The young man reported to them that I wanted to run away. There and then, I received a hefty slap on my face, which affected my left eye for quite a long time. I met some men and women numbering about fifteen who had been arrested under similar conditions. We were layed on the table that stood in front of the station and given twenty-four lashes on the bare back one after the other. After the beating, our hairs were shaven with a broken bottle. All our items were seized and we were asked to go. I sustained some cuts at my back which were very painful.

6.8.41 Ernest Acheampong's brother Kwame Adjei was arrested near Bimbilla, Northern Region on suspicion of smuggling cigarettes. When on his release he went home after days he showed signs of having been beaten up. He was bleeding from the ears. After a month he fell ill and was taken to the Komfo Anokye Hospital for treatment for suspected fracture of the skull. Not long thereafter he died.

6.8.42 Ama Bosuo a trader of Diaba, near Dormaa Ahenkro was attacked by three soldiers, Klutse, Adamnyo and Marfo who accused her of doing 'kalabule' business. They slapped her. Adamnyo snatched the baby on her back and threw it away. They flogged her and Marfo attempted to kick her in the abdomen.

6.8.43 Micah Osei was among a crowd watching while some shop keepers were being flogged at the Police Station at Konongo-Odumasi, Ashanti Akim. Upon a report that he was making critical remarks about the event he was pounced upon by the soldiers and given a severe beating. The petitioner claimed that the beating affected his eyes.

6.8.44 Elizabeth Kankam was accosted by soldiers in Kumasi who ordered her to open her handbag for inspection. When they found skin pomade in it they asked her to take them to the person who sold them to her. As she was unable to do so, they arrested her to the military barracks and shaved off her hair with a broken bottle.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.8.45 Paul Amoabeng was sitting in front of his home in Kumasi when he saw two policemen questioning two boys as to how they came by a sheep they had in their possession. As the policemen seemed not to be satisfied with the explanation that they had fetched it at their father's request from the village, the petitioner intervened to suggest that the policeman take the boys to their father to find out the truth. The policeman became offended and with the assistance of some soldiers arrested the petitioner and the boys and took them to the military barracks. The petitioner was slapped and beaten. In the process, he lost his wallet and wristwatch.

6.8.46 Nana Baffour Asare was travelling in the hold of an articulated truck when on reaching the UST police barrier the vehicle was stopped by soldiers. Those riding in the hold were made to come down. They were then lined up and slapped. Even though Asare and the other passengers were breaking traffic rules, it was not permissible for the soldiers to assault them.

6.8.47 Nana Baffour Asare Following a government directive that all persons should surrender their ₵50 notes, Asare went to the Bank to surrender his. While there he was assaulted by a soldier on duty for not joining a queue which had been formed for the purpose.

6.8.48 Gladys Oteng Soldiers who arrested the petitioner at her shop in Tamale made her lie in a pool of dirty water and roll on the ground, she was also beaten.

6.8.49 Peter Alex Kwasi Oppon proprietor of Pakos Restaurant and manager of Carousel Agogo Nite Club, Takoradi was arrested and taken to Apremdo Barracks where he was questioned about how he disposed of beer received by him from the breweries. His hair was shaved off, he was slapped and badly beaten up by the soldiers who insisted he gave them to women traders to hoard.

6.8.50 Charles 'Kid' Odumasi was in his youth a boxer and champion in the Featherweight Division. In 1955 he went to the UK to seek his fortune there. He later returned to Ghana and became a farmer and soap manufacturer. His poultry farm was at Adumaanu, near Adoato. He carried on the soap-making business at his house at Dichemso, Kumasi. In August 1979 his wife sold a fowl to a soldier at ₵28.00, a price the soldier said was excessive. As a result the farm and his house were invaded by soldiers.

6.8.50.1 He gave this account of what followed:

I had a message that about fifty soldiers had surrounded my house and firing gun shots into it. I had drums of 400kg oil and caustic soda. I feared there might be fire outbreak. This prompted me to go to the 4Bn Barracks at once. I reported the case to one Commanding Officer. He, the Commanding Officer asked two other soldiers to accompany me to the house, where the factory was located and to stop the soldiers from what they were doing. We got to the house around 6.30 pm where the soldiers chanted that I had come. As soon as I got out of the car all these numbers of soldiers started beating me from angles. They put me in a car after the severe beating and sent me to the 2Brigade. By that time, blood was oozing out of my ears and my eyes were closed. I could not see for about three months. When we reached the 2Brigade Barracks, I was sent to a room (guardroom) with some others. The soldiers had poured water on the ground – we could neither sleep nor sit. After three days in the guardroom, I was marched to my house. The soldiers had earlier on broken

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

into the house, all the locks destroyed and all my personal belongings and that of my wife were picked. ...The following day, I was marched to the farm which was just about a ¼ of a mile from the barracks. All the fowls and eggs had already been sold under control price.

6.8.51 Kwasi Amankwah and his wife were arrested when his wife sold cigarettes above the controlled price. Both of them were taken to Bungalow No. 1 Dunkwa-on-Offin. His wife who was pregnant was spared but Amankwah was slapped and beaten. He petitioned that his eye-sight was adversely affected.

6.8.52 Afua Fofie a vegetables seller at Bantama, Kumasi was arrested by soldiers and taken to the barracks where she was beaten, slapped and kicked. This was supposed to be in retaliation for a similar attack on a market queen, Nana Ama Serwaah, who had been brutalized by other soldiers on a complaint by some market women that she had caused the temporary structures from which they carried on their trade to be demolished.

6.8.53 Victoria Aso Bamfo After a team of soldiers and policemen led by Inspector Nyame had searched the home of the petitioner, a GNTC storekeeper at Nkawkaw, she was taken to the Nkawkaw Police Station where she was maltreated. She was made to hold her ears and hop; to crawl on her hands and knees and to roll on the ground. She was also made to fight with a woman detainee. All this took place in the full view of the public.

6.8.54 Samuel Kwesi Manu The petitioner was attacked when a team of soldiers and policemen seized car spare parts he was conveying from Accra to Koforidua for sale. He was hit with hands and the butt of rifles and kicked with their boots.

6.8.55 Kwame Nkrumah a musician was arrested at Nsawam by soldiers. His instruments were seized and he was subjected to beatings. He lost some teeth and received a cut on the ear. It appears that the vendor from whom he bought the instruments was suspected to have stolen them.

6.8.56 Francis Kojo Ackom-Daafu Soldiers went to the home of the petitioner at Darkuman, Accra and insisted on searching the premises for hoarded goods. When he protested, they attacked him. He lost two of his front teeth. The search revealed nothing except a single-barrelled gun and 30 cartridges. These were seized and the petitioner was taken to the Airforce Base where he was detained for three days.

6.8.57 Martin Mutuo Bugu Some students at Tumu reported the petitioner to the police for selling beer above the controlled price. The police arrested the petitioner and handed him over to the military authorities at Bolgatanga. There he was brutally assaulted by several soldiers. His hair was shaved off with a broken bottle and he was made to lie down in a drain while dirty water was poured on him. He was given gari and hot pepper to eat.

6.8.58 Abdul-Samed Musah was on his way to Janga Market in West Mamprusi District to sell bicycle spares when he was stopped by two soldiers and taken back to his shop in Tamale. When he pleaded to be allowed to go to Janga, one of the soldiers kicked him. He sustained a fracture of the leg.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.8.59 Tong Zagskopoya, a trader, was on his way from Accra to Tongo, near Bolgatanga with 23 barrels of akpeteshie when at Yapei the gin was seized by a team of soldiers and policemen. He was forced to drink a cupful of the gin. He became unconscious. When he recovered he found himself at the Bolgatanga Hospital. He was a teetotaler.

6.8.60 Agnes Amori After seizing her akpeteshie and beer for selling above the control price, the soldiers arrested Agnes and subjected her to brutalities. She was made to hold her ears and hop while children were encouraged to hoot at her and chant that she was a 'kalabule' ie a profiteer. A broken bottle was used to shave off her hair leaving her with numerous cuts. A soldier tried to shoot her in the leg but missed. She was also slapped.

6.8.61 Kingsley Amoah was a Treasury Administrator at the Kumasi City Council. He and other employees were attacked at the office and beaten up by soldiers. They were paraded through the streets and taken to the military barracks where they were subjected to further beatings.

6.8.62 Elisabeth Karikari was arrested and taken to 4Bn, Kumasi and ill-treated.

6.8.63 Veronica Mensah Sqn Ldr E. C. Dargbe, Chairman of the AFRC Peoples' Court at Peduase was a frequent visitor to a lady who lived with her brother, one Yartey, as tenants in Veronica's house. The lady made a report to Dargbe about domestic quarrels she had had with Veronica. Dargbe accompanied by Lt Kusi and another soldier went to the house in uniform and told Veronica they were arresting her. When she resisted, they used force on her and her three sisters who came to her aid and took them to the Border Guards Headquarters, Accra. In the guardroom the soldiers used their belts to beat them. Veronica sustained several cuts on her body. She and her sisters were also made to crawl on the ground and to hop. In all she spent about eight days in custody.

6.8.64 Joseph Gampson was a Field Assistant of the Cocoa Services Division of the CMB based at Duayaw Nkwanta in the Brong Ahafo Region. On 22nd July, 1979 soldiers led by Lt Dan Coffie went to question him about reports from his co-workers that he was using the resources of the CMB for his private benefit. Gampson was slapped several times. Gampson now has difficulty in seeing with the left eye.

6.8.65 Nana Boakye Agyemang was Branch Manager of Lenards Shoes (Ghana) Limited. On 11th June, 1979 he was arrested and taken to the Kamina Barracks, Tamale. He and other persons he met there were made to take off their clothes. They were beaten and ordered to crawl on their knees on gravel. Water was poured on them.

6.8.66 Mark Yaw Gyamfi On 4th June, 1979, Gyamfi, a shop owner of Berekum was arrested while unloading a large consignment of goods he had brought from Kumasi. He was taken to the military barracks in Kumasi where his hair was shaved off. After he had spent three days in the guardroom he was released. The goods in his wholesale and shop were sold. When he later went to the Barracks to ask for the proceeds of sale, he was made to hold his ears and hop like a rabbit. He was ordered to crawl on his knees and elbows and he was beaten with sticks and kicked with their boots.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.8.67 Adwoa Sanoa lived at Denkyira Dominase with her parents. Her father dealt in kerosene which he sold to persons in Dominase and the surrounding villages. She was in the house when four armed soldiers came in and accused them of selling kerosene above the controlled price. She and her mother were beaten up by the soldiers. Adwoa claimed that she was then three months pregnant and that following the beating she had a miscarriage.

6.8.68 Benjamin Kwabena Oppong was secretary of the Asuotiano Town Development Committee. In September, 1979 he was summoned before the Brong Ahafo Region Investigation Committee where he was accused of misappropriating ₵6000. He was subjected to beatings and ordered to refund the amount. His protestation that he was innocent of the charge was not heeded.

6.8.69 Yaa Agyapomaa; Kwaku Gyeke Petitioner was being driven in her car from Kumasi in the direction of the University of Science and Technology when their vehicle was overtaken by another. Petitioner's driver, Gyeke remonstrated with the other driver over his manner of driving. When the two cars arrived at the police barrier along the road the occupants of the other vehicle who were soldiers came out and assaulted petitioner and Gyeke. Petitioner was slapped but managed to escape. Gyeke was beaten up.

6.8.70 Theresa Nkansah On discovering that goods displayed by her for sale had been sold by soldiers and policemen to the public at reduced prices, petitioner followed up to the Zongo Police Station, Kumasi to ask for the proceeds. On seeing her, the soldiers set upon her and beat her up. She bled from the nose. Later she was released and she went to KATH for medical attention. The proceeds of sale were not given to her.

6.8.71 Francis Kwadwo Awuku went to Quartey Junction, Old Edubiase to buy plantain. While there he was assaulted by two soldiers. He was made to do physical exercises and hit with the butt of a rifle.

6.8.72 Elliot Nsia Kwadwo Twumasi On 8th June, 1979 the petitioner who was the Manager of Boateng & Darko Trading Company in Kumasi was arrested and taken to the barracks. There he was made to engage in physical exercise and hold his ears and hop. On other occasions he was made to crawl on his knees and elbows. Later, word went round that he and other businessmen who were in custody would be released if they paid ₵30,000 each. The petitioner raised the money, paid it to the soldiers and was released.

6.9 HOSTAGE TAKING

6.9.0 A disturbing feature of the atrocities committed during military regimes was the practice of taking hostages. Soldiers sent to effect arrest quite often arrested wives, children, relatives, friends and even complete strangers either with or without the person to be arrested. Such cases include:

6.9.1 John Kwabena Adom Soldiers sent to Hohoe to effect the arrest of Daniel Kwaku Addae Ameyaw took his son John instead when he told them his father was old and infirm.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.9.2 Margaret Soldiers went to Margaret's house to arrest her husband. When he could not be found, they confined Margaret to her home till the next day when she was taken to Gondar Barracks and then to Nima Police Station. She fell ill, was taken to the Police Hospital and was subsequently discharged.

6.9.3 David Kofi Buahin Soldiers looking for Nana Anim Bedwai, who was alleged to have defaulted in making travel arrangements for the brother of Darko Kumi, a Naval Officer, arrested his friend Buahin and took him to Gondar Barracks. There, he was slapped, kicked and caned. A lighted cigarette was put in his ear. He was released the next day.

6.9.4 Emmanuel Kwaku Atuahene: When the petitioner, a driver and salesman of the Pioneer Tobacco Company in Kumasi heard that some soldiers were looking for him to arrest him, he went into hiding. The soldiers arrested his cousin **Kwaku Asante**, his wife, **Abena Aso** who was then pregnant and his sister **Akua Serwaah** and detained them for one week. The petitioner later surrendered to the soldiers.

6.9.5 Stephen Yaw Asiedu worked as a cook in the household of the Managing Director of Irani Brothers Limited, manufactures of flour at Tema. On 4th June, 1979 he was seized by soldiers who forced him to take them round in search of his employer. He was slapped and hit with the butt of the rifle.

6.10 DETENTION

6.10.1 Seidu Prince Mahama, Popular Front Party (PFP) Constituency Secretary for East Gonja, was arrested by soldiers in the run-off to the 1979 Presidential elections and detained at the Kamina Barracks, Tamale for 29 days.

6.10.2 Mathias Komla Anku, a taxi driver based at Ho, was arrested on 2nd August, 1979 and detained at the Mortar Regiment Barracks on an allegation that he had installed a second petrol tank on his vehicle. An examination of his vehicle showed that the allegation was false. In spite of this, he remained in the guardroom for one month before being released.

6.10.3 Samuel Sarpong-Myles In July, 1979, Miles and his brother, Kwame Kuma, were arrested and charged with hoarding before a Magistrate's Court at Saltpond. Soldiers went to the court to ask that the two be handed over to them. The Magistrate refused and, instead remanded them in custody at Anomabo Prisons where they remained for three months.

6.10.4 John Nii Nmashi Adjetey, Director of Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture, was arrested and detained at the Airforce Station, Accra guardroom for one month.

6.11.5 Edmund Ocansey, Managing Director of the State Fishing Corporation, was arrested with some of his staff and kept in custody for twelve days at the Signal Regiment, Accra.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.10.6 Kofi Antwi a police inspector based at Tamale, was arrested along with his wife Serwaa, a trader, for hoarding. Antwi was kept in custody at Kaladan Barracks, Tamale for 47 days.

6.10.7 Juliet Serwaah's husband, **Dwomoh**, who was also married to General Afrifa's sister, was arrested and detained in various prisons for one year nine months.

6.10.8 Ellison Owusu Fordwour, Director of the Special Branch, was arrested and detained for eight months.

6.10.9 Ibrahim Sefa Soldiers led by Chris Atim arrested Sefa at Wa and took him to Navrongo where he was detained for one year nine months.

6.10.10 George Kojo Addai, a businessman was arrested and detained at the Aprembo Barracks, Takoradi for two months.

6.10.11 Anthony Kwabena Appiah, a driver of the Ministry of Health, Koforidua, was arrested in August, 1979 and detained at Nsawam Prisons until early 1984. He appeared to have been mistaken for one Kwaku Appiah who was alleged to have been convicted by the AFRC Special Court.

6.10.12 Joseph Kornor Aziabor, an Internal Auditor of the Ghana Food Distribution Corporation (GFDC), was taken to Gondar Barracks to answer questions about the Corporation's stock of food items. He was made to spend the night in the guardroom against his wishes as the Commanding Officer was not immediately available. He was released the next day after meeting the Commanding Officer and explaining the Corporation's policy with regard to stocks.

6.10.13. Michael Ayawo Kubunya, was an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in charge of Audit at the Regional Police Headquarters, Kumasi. On 9th June, 1979, he was arrested when a carton of whisky was found in one of the cars in his outfit. He was placed in a guardroom at the military camp and detained for one month.

6.10.14 William Dusu After he had been subjected to torture and other brutalities for confronting soldiers who were selling his girl friend's kenkey at a reduced price, Dusu, a trader of Kpando, was taken to the military barracks at Ho and detained for two weeks.

6.10.15 Faith Esi Amegah, a trader at Ho market, was detained at the military barracks, Ho for two days and at Ho Prisons for one month.

6.10.16 Mary Tweneboa Kodua's husband, Joseph, was the Executive Director of the Prices and Incomes Board. In July 1979, Joseph was arrested in Kumasi and detained at the military barracks. Mary was arrested in Accra and taken to Kumasi where she was detained at the Central Police Station. Later, she was brought to Accra and detained at the Special Branch. Mary and Joseph were questioned as to how Joseph came by his properties. Mary was in detention for three weeks. Joseph was made to appear before the 'Kangaroo' court at Peduase Lodge.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.10.17 Kenneth Assan Dadzie a shopkeeper of Sunyani was arrested on 12th June, 1979 when his assistant sold two bulbs to a soldier at 75 pesewas each. After having been flogged with a flexible electrical cable and released he was arrested again two days later and detained at the military barracks for six weeks.

6.10.18 Kofi Agyire Kwakye Managing Director of the Ghana Federation of Farmers Associations Limited former buying agents of the CMB was arrested and detained for three months on account of its unpaid debts to the CMB.

6.10.19 Stephen Opoku Osei was arrested by soldiers at Nangodi, along the Bawku-Bolgatanga road. He was taken to the Regional Office, Bolgatanga and placed in a guardroom where he remained for a month until he managed to escape.

6.10.20 Joseph Gampson, a Field Assistant of the Cocoa Services Division of the CMB was arrested at Duayaw Nkwanta in the Brong Ahafo Region by soldiers led by Lt. Dan Coffie and detained at the military barracks, Sunyani for 53 days.

6.11 PRICE CONTROL

During the AFRC period, price control measures were intensified: traders were arrested and placed in guardrooms, shops raided and goods sold. More often than not, the proceeds of these forced sales, which were attended by acts of cruelty perpetrated on the shop-owners, their spouses, and even their children, were taken away by the soldiers. Sometimes lives were lost. The Commission received petitions from the following:

6.11.1 Abena Atoaba and **Adwoa Okyerewa** earned a modest living selling ‘khebabs’ or roasted bush meat by the roadside at Winneba junction. Abena was two months pregnant, and Adwoa was nursing an eight-month old baby whom she carried on her back. About two to three weeks after the 4th June, 1979 insurrection, some soldiers in a car stopped by the roadside. They seized the ‘khebabs’ being sold by the two women and auctioned them off to passersby. After that they put the women on a table and flogged them. Shortly thereafter Abena had a miscarriage, and Adwoa’s baby, who was on her mothers back during her ordeal, fell ill and died.

6.11.2 Joseph Esmond Polley owned a drinking bar in Axim, Western Region. On three successive days soldiers went to his house and searched him. On the third occasion, the soldiers were accompanied by local inhabitants who had bought drinks and had been required by Polley to deposit various sums to ensure that the bottles were returned. The soldiers sold out all the drinks in the bar and made away with the money.

6.11.3 Alice Koomson operated a drinking bar called Frinco Café in Takoradi. When she received a supply of 100 cartons beer from the brewery, it was seized by armed soldiers who took them away to the barracks. Alice received neither the proceeds of the sale, nor the bottles which were then in short supply.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.11.4 Kwesi Ocran was the owner of Havana bar in Takoradi. On or about 12th June 1979, soldiers arrested him at his home and took him to the bar where they seized 2 crates minerals, 4 crates beer, 4 crates Guinness Stout and spirits. Three days later the soldiers went back to the shop and destroyed the furniture. They also removed some building materials kept there.

6.11.5 Zenabubila Saaka, Hajia Safia Adam, Salima Musah and Abibata Abdulai, were traders living in Walewale. They dealt in a variety of goods including soap, powder, wax prints, saltpetre and Vaseline. They were arrested by soldiers who accused them of profiteering. Their goods were seized, sold and the proceeds kept by the soldiers. Besides they were subjected to brutalities such as having their hair shaved off, being slapped and forced to roll on the ground in muddy water.

6.11.6 Abdulai Abdulai, and his friend **Sirazu Mahama**, now deceased, were conveying 23 bags of seed rice to their farm when they were stopped at a barrier in Tamale manned by soldiers who said they suspected that they were going to hoard the rice. The soldiers seized the rice. After this Abdulai went to Wa and bought 45 bags of sheanuts for sale in Tamale. Soldiers seized the entire consignment.

6.11.7 Stephen Bekoe Agyeman On 4th June, 1979 soldiers went to the Texaco Filling Station at James Town, Accra and filled their vehicles with petroleum products without paying for them. When the stock got finished other soldiers who went to the station in the expectation of getting free fuel but were disappointed, they pounced on him and beat him up. In all Agyeman lost 320 gallons of super and 150 gallons of regular petrol.

6.11.8 Soldiers led by Sgt Quarshie arrested James Abass Japat at Daboya and forced him to go with them to Lingbinsi to show them the shop of his brother **Malam Saka Tika**. There they seized the goods comprising soap of different kinds, cigarettes, towels, men's and women's underwear, toothpaste and exercise books, took them to Tamale and sold them at ridiculously low prices. The soldiers took the proceeds away.

6.11.9 Augustus Owusu Gyimah In August, 1979, soldiers led by Lt Kwayisie, Lt Ribeiro and Flying Officer Tackie of the Airforce Station, Accra raided Gyimah's shop and made away with 175 empty crates of coca cola and fanta bottles, children's foot-wear, Wellington boots and jungle boots.

6.11.10 George Kojo Addai, owned a shop in Takoradi called 'Pennywise'. Sometime after 4th June, 1979, he was summoned before the Citizen's Vetting Committee. Thereafter his house and shop were searched and goods, mainly foam, seized and sold by auction. Later, soldiers from Apremdo Barracks dynamited his four-storey block causing considerable damage to the property.

6.11.11 Emmanuel Awuku Yirenkyi, A day after he had been arrested and tortured for selling fuel on a Sunday, soldiers based at the Regional Office, Cape Coast, went to the filling station operated by Yirenkyi at Bakano, Cape Coast and sold out his stock of fuel. The soldiers took the proceeds away. When Yirenkyi followed up to the Regional Office, he was told the soldiers had gone back to Takoradi.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.11.12 Theresa Adomaa of Accra sold cloth which she kept at her house. In July 1979 three men in civilian clothing accompanied by an armed soldier in uniform went to search her house. They accused her of hoarding. The men seized 15 full pieces of cloth, some personal clothing of her own and suiting material belonging to her husband. She was taken to the Border Guards Headquarters where she was detained for a week.

6.11.13 Rebecca Aryee, a trader of Takoradi, sold 10 refrigerators to the Effia Nkwanta Hospital, Sekondi. Two days later, the refrigerators were seized by personnel from the Airforce Base, Takoradi who claimed that the prices were too high. They raided Rebecca's shop and seized various goods, including refrigerators, florescent tubes, carpets and suiting materials.

6.11.14 Elizabeth Arthur, a trader at the Kotokuraba Market, Cape Coast had her milk powder and tinned tomatoes seized.

6.11.15 Alhaji Abdulai Abu-Jajah In June 1979 soldiers seized 18 cows and two bulls from Jajah's kraal at Kasoa and took them to Gondar Barracks. He never recovered the cattle.

6.11.16 James Mustapha Kwablah Boateng, a petrol dealer at Golokwati, Volta Region he claimed that while he was away from his work-site soldiers from the military barracks, Ho went and carted away 3000 gallons petrol, 500 gallons diesel and 500 gallons kerosene. He was unable to bring a single eye-witness to testify to the facts. In the circumstances we are unable to accept his claims.

6.11.17 Elizabeth Agbaku, claimed that her husband who is now deceased, paid for 180 bags of cement to be supplied by the Volta Region Development Corporation but that these were not supplied. Petitioner did not produce any documentary evidence in support of her claim.

6.11.18 Gabriel Kofi Amegbor's brother, John Kobla Amegbor, owned a shop at Asadame, Volta Region where he sold medicines and beverages. Soldiers went to the shop and under the pretext that he was hoarding the goods seized them and carried them away to the military barracks at Ho. The goods were never returned

6.11.19 Esther Frimpong, Soldiers led by Capt Adam Mensah and one Iddrissu Mahama went to Esther's shop at Tema and carried away all the items including ladies shoes, dresses, hats and pants to the Community Centre where they were auctioned off.

6.11.20 Sarah Nartey, a trader at the Makola Market, Accra – Cloths.

6.11.21 Comfort Akonobea, who sold provisions from a kiosk at Tutu in Akwapim - Cigarettes

6.11.22 Jacqueline Acquaye alias Ama Akuffo of Akropong-Akwapim - 260 bags of flour.

6.11.23 Valisa Yawa of Dodo Papase Market - Cloths.

6.11.24 Ricky Nelson Atianah of Ho - Drinks.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.11.25 Juliana Yawa Bobi , a trader at the Makola Market, Accra - ladies blouses.

6.11.26 Grace Nii Moi , also a trader at Makola Market, Accra - men's and children's shoes.

6.11.27 Gladys Abla Dogbatse of Ho - Rice, sugar, milk, sardines and soft drinks.

6.11.28 Juliana Agyekumwaa Dompok a trader at Makola Market, Accra - African print fabrics.

6.11.29 John Kwabena Adom and his father, **Daniel Kwaku Addae Ameyaw**, lost electrical goods when soldiers from the Medium Mortar Regiment, Ho raided their shop at Hohoe.

6.11.30 Mary Botwe of Nsawam had her kenkey seized.

6.11.31 Sirikatu Dogbe Ajani On an allegation of hoarding, soldiers went to the Accra workshop of Issifu Ajani, petitioner's now deceased husband, who was then away in Nigeria, and seized vehicle spare parts.

6.11.32 Samuel Boamah Denkyi, a shoe-maker of Kumasi Central Market – Leather and shoe-making materials. They were taken to the Kejetia Police Post where they were left at the mercy of the weather.

6.11.33 Afia Serwaa of Tamale – General goods.

6.11.34 Samuel Yaw Asumadu a trader at the Kumasi Central Market – General goods.

6.11.35 Emma Anin & Francisca Osei, traders of Kumasi Central Market - Rice and ladies' and men's wear.

6.11.36 Kwame Osei, Petitioner alleged that in 1979 he was a cement dealer, that soldiers seized his stock of 500 bags and carted them away together with his VW car. On the Statement Form, petitioner gave his date of birth as 9/1/64 and his age as 38 years. By the petitioner's own story, he was 15 years at the time. He failed to appear to substantiate the claim.

6.11.37 Kojo Agorna, a trader at the Old Bolga Central Market – General goods.

6.11.38 Mercy Larbi and her husband, **Tonto**, traders at Kojokrom, near Sekondi - 300 bags flour, car batteries, mats, wax prints, trouser materials and shirts.

6.11.39 Albert Kweku Cudjoe a trader at the Market Circle, Takoradi - Electrical goods.

6.11.40 Elizabeth Pedu was intercepted on her way from Jaway Wharf, near Half Assini. Her 10 bags of rice and two baskets of crabs meant for sale in Takoradi were seized.

6.11.41 Susana Koomson a trader at the Market Circle, Takoradi - Bales of cloth.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.11.42 Faustina Dadzie, a trader at the Market Circle, Takoradi - Cloths.

6.11.43 Robert Dadson Adams, a store-keeper of CFAO Sekondi - 96 bags cement and 68 pieces of iron rods.

6.11.44 Mohammed Shaibu, a trader of Takoradi - Yam.

6.11.45 Samuel Kwabena Boateng a trader at the Market Circle, Takoradi - 500 pieces of foam cushions.

6.11.46 Benjamin Kojoe Amissah, a trader of Apowa, near Takoradi - Provisions.

6.11.47 Janet Akua Yeboah, a trader at Makola Market, Accra – Cloth

6.11.48 Afua Serwaa, a trader of Tamale - Wax prints, and bales of school uniform material.

6.11.49 Comfort Aku Dedzo-Dzokoto, a trader of Ho - Flour, sugar, rice, drinks and soap.

6.11.50 Beatrice Korkor Doku and her husband, **Daniel Adama Solomon**, traders at Tarkwa - Provisions and building materials.

6.11.51 Emma Anin, a trader at the Kumasi Central Market - 5 bags of rice and 70 dozen ladies panties.

6.11.52 Akosua Serwaa Sarkodee and her husband, Kwadwo Sarkodee, traders of Sunyani - Cloths, saucepans and lanterns.

6.11.53 Joseph Yaw Mensah, an ex-policeman, owned a shop and a 'Rest House' in Sunyani. Police raided his shop and sold all the goods at reduced prices. His 'Rest House' was also ransacked by soldiers and closed down.

6.11.54 Emmanuel Mensah Tabiri owner a pharmacy shop in Sunyani – Drugs.

6.11.55 Elisabeth Aniniwaah, a trader of Tarkwa Makro, near Kumasi - Engine oils and brake fluid. They were enough to fill two Bedford trucks.

6.11.56 James Osei, a trader at the Sunyani Central Market - Bicycle spare parts.

6.11.57 Margaret Nketsiaba Cobbinah, a trader at the Market Circle, Takoradi – General merchandise.

6.11.58 Joseph Mensah Asante a trader in Accra - 100 cartons lamp globes, 27 cartons toffees and over 400 crates of tricycle spare parts.

6.11.59 Rose Dompseh, a bread baker of Adoagyiri, Nsawam - Bread and the day's takings.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.11.60 Henry Gyebi, a trader of Nkawkaw – Electrical goods.

6.11.61 Juliana Agyekumwaa Dompseh a trader of Accra – Cloths.

6.11.62 Jacob Belba Smith was Personnel Manager at GIHOC and owner of a shop at Accra New Town. While at work he received a message to go the shop. On arrival he found that soldiers and police were loading goods from his shop into a vehicle. They also sold some to the public.

6.11.62 Yaa Serwaah, a trader of Kumasi - 6 bales of Used Clothing.

6.11.63 Larkyne Mary Tawiah, trader at the Makola Market, Accra - Used Clothing.

6.11.64 Juliet Serwaah, a trader of Ashanti-Mampong - Suiting materials and school uniforms.

6.11.65 Charity Nuerkie Noi, a trader, was returning to Ghana from Nigeria when she was stopped by soldiers on the Accra Motorway. Her consignment of 370 bundles of trouser materials were seized.

6.11.66 Benjamin Ntiamoah, a trader of Adeemra, near Donkorkrom in the Afram Plains - Lanterns, machetes and galvanized buckets.

6.11.67 Beatrice Boakye, a trader of Ho - Rice, sugar, milk, cooking oil, soft drinks and ‘ice’ kenkey.

6.11.68 Elizabeth Agbozo a trader at Aflao market - 30 kente cloths.

6.11.69 Andrews Kwame Tre, a trader of Ho, - Radios and electrical goods.

6.11.70 Lucy Abla Affram, a trader at Kpando market - 70 pieces of cloth.

6.11.71 Rebecca Ama Buor Nsana, who carried on her business as a trader at Bonakye, Sibi and Nkwanta, all in the Volta Region – Cloths.

6.11.72 Kate Ocran, manager of a drinking bar in Takoradi - Schnapps, gin and brandy.

6.11.73 Comfort Quayson, a trader who owned three stalls at the Makola No. 1 market, Accra - Canned beer, cosmetics and provisions. She became virtually bankrupt.

6.11.74 Amos Rockson Yeboah, owner of a block-making factory at Madina, Accra - 400 bags of cement and a quantity of sandcrete blocks.

6.11.75 Joshua Yaw Oduro a shop-owner of Assin Fosu - General merchandise.

6.11.76 Ernest Okai Osei, was selling cigarettes in front of Orion Cinema, Accra when soldiers seized them, claiming they would sell them to the public.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.11.77 Yaw Sarfo, a mechanic at Suame Magazine, Kumasi - Engine oil, brake fluid, welding rods and cash.

6.11.78 Beatrice Darkwa Boatemaa, a seamstress - Bed Sheets.

6.11.79 Victoria Torkonu a trader, wax prints and tye and dye materials.

6.11.80 Agnes Ofori was the owner of a shop in Kumasi Central Market. She sold provisions. In June 1979 soldiers went to the market and auctioned her goods. The soldiers took the proceeds away.

6.11.81 Badu Osei went to the Volta Region and bought 25 cartons cigarettes to sell in Kumasi. At the police check-point at Tafo, the cigarettes were seized. Osei was accused of smuggling.

6.11.82 Comfort Agyeman bought 120 cartons of tinned fish in Togo and brought them for sale in her shop at the Kumasi Central Market. Soldiers arrived and auctioned off the fish. The small amount of money realized from the sale was given to her.

6.11.83 Issah Boateng was conveying a quantity of used clothing from Togo to Ghana for sale when at a point near the Adidome Bridge the goods were seized by soldiers.

6.11.84 David Dankwah had a shop at Kotokrom in Ashanti Region (Atwima District). Soldiers went to the shop and auctioned the goods. They gave Dankwah ₵6000 out of the proceeds.

6.11.85 Nana Essankwa Baah had four shops in Obuasi. In 1979 soldiers raided the shops and auctioned the goods.

6.11.86 John Ben Bekoe, Bekoe operated a drinking bar at his home at Gomoa Ekroful, Central Region. On 30th June 1979, four soldiers came to the village to conduct a search of his premises. They seized a quantity of akpeteshie found there, sold part and took the rest away.

6.11.87 Efia Bonsu: a policeman in civilian cloths went to Efia's shop in Kumasi and asked for the price of Vaseline pomade. When Efia offered him a small sized bottle for ₵4, the man claimed the price was too high. He then proceeded to auction the goods in Efia's shop. The policeman kept the money and asked Efia to accompany him to the police station. While on their way, Efia escaped.

6.11.88 James Kofi Karikari had a shop at the Central Market, Kumasi where he sold men's and women's underwear and other goods. In 1979, soldiers went to the shop and auctioned the goods.

6.11.89 Georgina Appiah had a wholesale in Accra in which she stocked building materials. Among her customers were the PWD, A Lang Limited, State Housing Corporation and the State Construction Corporation. In 1979 soldiers surrounded her premises and carted her stock away. It was enough to fill 17 articulated vehicles. After investigations she was cleared of hoarding and promised that she would be paid. She was eventually given ₵20 million as compensation in 1990.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.11.90 Akua Afriyie petitioned about the seizure of goods she had brought into the country from Nigeria. The goods mainly shoes, tye and dye, textile materials were seized at the Airport and auctioned. The proceeds of sale were not given to her.

6.11.91 Kwesi Amiaku owned a shop at Tarkwa where he sold various items, including bowls, roofing sheets, sugar, flour and rice. Soldiers raided the shop and auctioned off the goods.

6.11.92 Awuley Quame wife of Kwesi Amiaku, had wind that soldiers would be going to Tarkwa to auction goods in the shops. She collected her own goods and tried to escape with them. She was intercepted and the goods were sold to the public. She was not given the proceeds.

6.11.93 Mary Kwarteng a trader, dealt in rubber mats which she sold at the Kintampo Market. Soldiers from Sunyani went to the market and seized the goods of several traders, including her own.

6.11.94 Kwabena Dapaah was a trader at the Kumasi Central Market where he sold trunks. He petitioned that in 1979, soldiers sold his stock of 53 trunks by auction resulting in severe financial loss to him.

6.11.95 Osei Tutu's late father **Kwabena Agyeman** had a shop in the Kumasi Central Market. In 1979 the shop was broken into and ransacked by soldiers. Official complicity in this is shown by the fact that not long thereafter the shop was allocated to another person.

6.11.96 Nana Yaa Achiaa, now deceased, had a shop at Asafo Market where she sold clothing materials. In 1979 soldiers went to the shop and made away with African prints, trouser material and other goods. On another occasion the soldiers went to her shop, auctioned off her stock of goods and gave her a fraction of the money.

6.11.97 Elisabeth Boateng was a trader who sold clothing materials at Kejetia, Kumasi. Her suppliers were UAC, UTC, S. D. Karam and GNTC. On 14th September, 1979, six soldiers went to her shop and carried away to the Kejetia Police Post suiting and other materials she had in stock. By her count, they took away 30 bundles of suiting materials, 10 bundles of crimpliin and 30 yards of shirting materials. As a result of these seizures the petitioner's business collapsed.

6.11.98 Yaw Kwarteng who dealt in secondhand clothes in Kumasi petitioned that soldiers seized his stock of 20 bales and took them to the Kejetia Police Post. This was in spite of the fact that he produced documents showing that he was engaged in lawful business.

6.11.99 Ama Bosua In July 1979 three soldiers Klutse, Adamnyo and Marfo went to Diaba, near Dormaa Ahenkro to search the home of the petitioner for hoarded goods. They seized her personal clothing and sold them to the public. Cooked rice which she was offering for sale was sold to school children below cost. Her stock of uncooked rice was carted away.

6.11.100 Akua Akyaa who hails from Mampong, Ashanti Region kept a shop at Agona Swedru in the Central Region. From time to time she stocked her shop with Kente, adinkra, tye and dye

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

cloths which she bought in Kumasi. In 1979 soldiers went to her shop and auctioned off the goods. In the course of the sale, a soldier hit her in the elbow with the butt of a gun, injuring her. The soldiers took the proceeds of sale away.

6.11.101 Grace Ama Abartey owned a shop in Bolgatanga. Among her suppliers were Akosombo Textiles, GTP, Pioneer Aluminum Factory and Danafco. In July 1979 soldiers raided her shop and carried away all the goods. The petitioner became indebted to her bankers and had to sell two of her vehicles to pay off her debt.

6.11.102 Abena Dwomoh was a trader at the Kumasi Central Market. She sold saucepans, spoons and other products. Soldiers went to her shop and sold the goods, destroyed others and took the rest away. They gave her part of the proceeds.

6.11.103 Adwoa Gyaama was a trader at the Kumasi Central Market. She sold children clothing. On the orders of the military she and other traders collected all their wares and sent them to the Kejetia Police Post. The soldiers later conveyed the goods to their barracks.

6.11.104 Gladys Oteng had a shop near the Tamale Market. She sold saucepans. One day during the AFRC period she was about to open the shop when some soldiers came to her and demanded that she surrenders the keys. Gladys did so. She was taken away but later released. When she came back to the shop, it had been emptied.

6.11.105 Kwasi Bio had a shop at the Central Market, Kumasi where he sold traveling bags. After soldiers had arrested Bio's wife, Badu, for alleged hoarding of cigarettes they seized the handbags which had been put up for sale. They were never returned, leading to substantial loss for Bio.

6.11.106 Samuel Kodzo Zogli was a shopkeeper at Wodze, near Hohoe, Volta Region. Soldiers from the Ho Motar Regiment raided his shop and auctioned off all the goods, among them, hurricane lamps, corned beef, pilchards, sugar and buckets. He was given part of the proceeds.

6.11.107 Edith Tee Bubu was a cloth seller at Kpando Market. Soldiers went to her stall at the market and seized 150 pieces of cloth and trouser material. They sold some of the goods and took the rest away.

6.11.108 Godfrey Yaafi Kodjoe was a shopkeeper at Asankragwa, Western Region. Two soldiers and a policeman went to his home and asked him to accompany them to his shop. When he got to the shop he found that it was under guard by four armed soldiers. The team sold all the goods in the shop and gave Kodjoe ₵4,850 as the proceeds of the sale.

6.11.109 Samuel Sarpong-Myles was a businessman dealing in bicycle tyres, lantern globes, glasses and plates which he imported from China. He had a wholesale at Darkuman, Accra. Following the 4th June, 1979 insurrection, he was ordered to send all the goods in the wholesale to Kaneshie Police Station where they were sold under the supervision of the military. It took about two weeks to complete the sale.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.11.110 Francisca Osei was trading in ladies' and men's wear at the Central Market, Kumasi. Soldiers went to the market and auctioned her goods.

6.11.111 Isaac Bediako Poku was a shop keeper at Akim Oda, Eastern Region. A group of heavily armed soldiers went to his shop where he sold building materials and cosmetics. The soldiers auctioned the goods for a fraction of their prices, gave him ₵9000 out of the proceeds and took the rest away.

6.11.112 Ama Korankyewaa's father, Daniel Kwarteng, who is now blind, had a shop at the Kumasi Central Market where he sold kente cloths. Soldiers raided the shop and carried away all the goods.

6.11.113 Victoria Aso Bamfo was a GNTC storekeeper at Nkawkaw. Following the 4th June, 1979 insurrection, a team of soldiers and policemen led by Inspector Nyame searched her home and seized 11 half pieces of cloth and some jewelry. They also took a large amount of money being the proceeds she realised from sales over a two-day period.

6.11.114 Samuel Kwesi Manu a car spare parts dealer was sending a consignment of goods from Accra to Koforidua when at the Dodowa junction it was seized by a combined team of soldiers and policemen.

6.11.115 Samuel Kofi Osei Owusu a shop-owner sold blankets, drugs and shoe polishes in Accra. Soldiers went to the shop and seized all the goods.

6.11.116 Tutu Osei was a trader in clothing materials at Adum, Kumasi. For several days running soldiers would go to his shop and seize quantities of goods. After a while, he moved to the Central Market in Kumasi but here too the soldiers followed him and seized the goods until the entire stock got finished.

6.11.117 Comfort Akosua Afrah On the day the building of "Pennywise" was dynamited by soldiers in Takoradi, four naval personnel led by Petty Officer Agyemang went to the home of the petitioner, a cloth seller and conducted a search for hoarded goods. She told them all the cloth she had were seized in March 1979 during the latter days of the SMC regime. After conducting the search, the naval personnel seized the petitioner's clothes, tied them up in a cloth and took them to the Takoradi Naval Base. The petitioner's efforts to recover them came to nothing.

6.11.118 Charles Badu Ansong proprietor of C B Ansong Agencies hired a vehicle to convey a consignment of goods to his house which he used as a wholesale. He was intercepted by soldiers who accused him of hoarding. The entire load of merchandise was seized.

6.11.119 Salifu Imoro was the owner of a shop in Tamale where he sold plywood and boards. Sometime after the 4th June 1979 insurrection armed men dressed in military uniform went to the shop in the middle of the night and set it alight burning a large quantity of plywood and boards.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.11.120 Moro Alhassan a trader in Tamale got together 27 bags rice, 10 bags beans and 12 bags maize ready for transportation to Techiman market for sale. Just then soldiers seized the consignment and auctioned the goods to the public. Alhassan was not given the proceeds of the sale.

6.11.121 Abdul Kadr Saibu had a shop at the Walewale lorry station. Soldiers led by the police inspector at Walewale went to the shop, seized 20 bags maize kept there and auctioned them to the public.

6.11.122 Jacob Anane-Adjei On 7th June, 1979 Adjei sold trouser-length material to a young man. After the young man had paid for it he told the petitioner he was under arrest for selling the material to him above the controlled price. All the goods in the shop were seized and taken to the Bolgatanga Police Station. They were later sold to the public. Adjei was given only part of the proceeds.

6.11.123 Ashetu Saibu Soldiers who said they were on anti-hoarding operations went to the village of Wungu, near Walewale and searched Ashetu's mother's room. Personal effects bought for the wedding of her sister were seized and sold to the public. The items included cloths, footwear, pomade and soap. At about the same time, foodstuffs which Ashetu and other traders had loaded into an articulated vehicle for sale at Techiman market were seized and taken to Sunyani, where they were sold to the public.

6.11.124 Talhatu Saibu a trader at Walewale had 100 bags of sheanuts which he was selling at a price of ₵1.00 per bag. The sheanuts were seized and sold to the CMB which paid him 70 pesewas per bag. This ruined his business.

6.11.125 Memunatu Saibu a trader of Nalerigu was conveying her cigarettes to Tamale for sale when she was intercepted by soldiers. The cigarettes were seized. In all she had 3 boxes of King Size Rothmans cigarettes on her.

6.11.126 Musa Yakubu was proprietor of Narannia Company. In May 1979, he purchased a 36-seater Neoplan bus with a loan from the Social Security Bank Limited. Shortly after the 4th June 1979 insurrection the vehicle was seized by soldiers. The petitioner never recovered it.

6.11.127 Mohamadu Kaleem was a cement distributor in Tamale. Soldiers in an army truck went to his depot and carted away 600 bags cement.

6.11.128 Charles Kwame Bediako's father, Benjamin Kwame Bediako, deceased, was a shop owner at Adeiso, Easter Region. A few days after the 4th June, 1979 insurrection soldiers in about 10 vehicles went to Adieso, arrested Bediako and took him to the shop. Amid the firing of guns, they ordered him to open the shop after which the goods were all sold over a number of days. The soldiers took the proceeds away. The soldiers also took money from Bediako. Sgt. Abrokwa who took part in this incident confirmed the evidence of the petitioner, Charles Bediako.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.11.129 Baavi In July 1979, soldiers from Tamale barracks went to Jirapa market ostensibly to enforce price control. They went to the shop of the petitioner, invited members of the public to form a queue and sold the goods to them at reduced prices. The soldiers took the proceeds of sale away with them. As a result the petitioner's business collapsed.

6.11.130 Mahama Yahaya was a storekeeper at the Wa market. In August 1979 when soldiers entered the shop in a threatening manner, the petitioner ran away leaving his wares behind. When he returned, the shop had been cleared of the goods.

6.11.131 Tong Zagskopoya a trader bought 23 barrels akpeteshie in Accra and was conveying them to Tongu near Bolgatanga for sale when they were seized by a policeman. Neither the price nor the gin was ever recovered.

6.11.132 Agnes Amori In July, 1979 soldiers went to Agnes' bar in Bolgatanga and seized 10 drums of akpeteshie and 50 cartons beer. This was after a customer had bought some gin and complained of the price. The drinks were taken to the Residency where the soldiers were based. A few days later the empty drums were returned to her. The bottles were not returned. Agnes became indebted to her creditors and was reduced to poverty.

6.11.133 Gilbert Atanga petitioned on behalf of his late father **Atanga Akanzabe**, a cattle dealer of Navrongo. Early one morning, Sgt Agana and two Border Guardsmen went to his home, ransacked the place and brought out millet, groundnuts and timber boards. They sold them to the public and kept the proceeds. They also seized money he had in his home.

6.11.134 Asampambilla Gandina had a shop in the Bolgatanga market where he sold shoes, sandals, blankets and towels. Following an announcement that all shop keepers should open their shops for an inspection, he went to the shop only to find that soldiers had already forced the door open. They accused him of hoarding goods and took them away. This included roofing sheets he had bought to roof a house which was under construction.

6.11.135 Dasaa Bakyee was a shopkeeper and tailor. Soldiers went to his shop, asked members of the public to form a queue and sold out everything from soap and pomade to shirts at reduced prices to them. The soldiers gave him the meager amount realised from the sale.

6.11.136 Martha Teronwee was managing a shop at the Jirapa Old Market for her husband when soldiers from Tamale surrounded the shop. The soldiers invited members of the public to line up and buy the goods at reduced prices. They sold cloths, towels, soap, bowls and basins. At the end of the sale, the soldiers took the proceeds away.

6.11.137 Ignatius Arizi Blay owned a shop at Ahobre, near Half Assini, Western Region. Soldiers from Apremdo Barracks, Takoradi went to the village and auctioned off all the goods, including drinks, buckets and cooking utensils. They damaged a sewing machine in the shop and took the proceeds of the sale away.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.11.138 Abla Negble did business buying and selling maize. She bought the maize at Agomenya and sold it at Obenyaame Nkwanta. After 4th June, 1979, soldiers seized seven and half bags of maize from her.

6.11.139 Ama Asantewaa traded in rice which she bought at Dominase near Dunkwa-on-Offin and sold at Agona Nkwanta in the Ahanta District, Western Region. While conveying a consignment and other goods from Dominase armed soldiers stopped the vehicle at Tarkwa and sold the rice to the public. Out of fear Ama mingled with the crowd and ran away. She had been told she would be taken to the Apremdo Barracks at Takoradi when the sale was over.

6.11.140 Sophia Krofuah carried on her trading activities on a table at Mankesim market. After 31st December, 1981 coup soldiers went to the market seized her goods which consisted mainly of clothes and carried them away.

6.11.141 Catherine Kojo was a trader at Tarkwa. She obtained her supplies of wax prints from reputable firms such as UAC, GB Ollivant, UTC and GNTC. She also had a drinking bar attached to her house. Soldiers went to her shop and sold out all the wax prints. They took the proceeds away with them. The soldiers also went to her house and seized the drinks in the bar. In all Catherine lost 70 cartons beer, 5 cartons stout and 6 cartons soft drinks.

6.11.142 Elizabeth Sekyi's husband, **Emmanuel Tannor**, was a trader in Takoradi. Soldiers went to his shop, forced the door open and sold all the goods. Fearing for his safety, Tannor did not make any claim for the proceeds of sale. The soldiers took the money away.

6.11.143 Ekua Sekyiwa was a trader at Ajumako market in the Central Region. While in the market a soldier in civilian clothes who offered to buy cloth from her accused her of selling above the controlled price. He brought other soldiers to the shop and seized 30 pieces of cloth which had been displayed for sale. Fearing that she might be maltreated, Ekua left the scene.

6.11.144 Ekua Kakraba, a trader at Mankesim market in the Central Region had displayed cloth for sale. Soldiers shouting "control" entered the market and auctioned her 26 pieces of cloth. The soldiers took the proceeds of the sale away.

6.11.145 Moro Nuuri was a trader in Sunyani. He sold sewing machines and clothing materials for both men and women. A group of armed soldiers went to his shop and sold out most of the goods. The rest they took away to their camp. They also took the proceeds of the sale away.

6.11.146 Simon Ohene Peprah During the rule of the NRC, Peprah, a Sunyani trader who was popularly known as Big Bosun, was arrested and ill-treated for selling a bottle of guinness stout above the controlled price. When the 4th June, 1979 insurrection occurred he decided to leave town for fear of molestation. While he was away, soldiers forced the door of his shop open and auctioned the goods.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.11.147 James Osei was a trader who dealt in bicycle spare-parts. His shop was in Sunyani. A week after 4th June, 1979 soldiers went to the shops and auctioned all the goods. The soldiers took the proceeds away.

6.11.148 Amoh Bediako Acheampong was proprietor of Modern Shoe Store in Sunyani. On 22nd June, 1979 soldiers went to the store and sold the shoes, boots sandals and slippers at low prices to the public. Shoes worth ₵45 were sold at ₵5. After the sale the soldiers carried away what was left over.

6.11.149 Yaw Anning Boateng was a wholesaler dealing in suiting materials. Soldiers went to the wholesale sold the materials at reduced prices and gave him the proceeds.

6.11.150 Joseph Yaw Mensah retired from the Police Service in 1973. He established himself in Sunyani where he kept a shop managed by his wife, Mary Kumi. Soldiers went to the shop and sold all the goods at reduced prices.

6.11.151 Mark Yaw Gyamfi on 4th June, 1979 Gyamfi a shop owner of Berekum arrived from Kumasi with a lorry load of goods. As he was unloading the goods at his wholesale, soldiers from the military barracks in Sunyani arrived at the scene, arrested him and took him, his two assistants and the goods to the barracks. The next day the soldiers sold all the goods in the wholesale and in his shop at reduced prices. The proceeds were confiscated.

6.11.152 Ansah Offei's uncle J. K. Manu was the proprietor of Ashanti Food Supply, Kumasi. He owned a bookshop and was in the process of establishing a hotel. He kept books and mattresses for the hotel in a warehouse. After 4th June, 1979 soldiers went to the warehouse and seized the books and mattresses on the ground that he was engaged in hoarding. Efforts made by Offei and his uncle to retrieve the goods from the military came to nothing.

6.11.153 Theresa Nkansah Petitioner was engaged in petty trading with capital supplied by her grandmother. She had displayed on a table at her selling point in Kumasi polyester materials. While she was away visiting a friend at the hospital soldiers arrived at her stand and sold all the goods at reduced prices.

6.11.154 Ama Bosuo Petitioner lived at Diaba, near Dormaa Ahenkro. Three soldiers, Klube, Adamyo and Marfo searched her house and seized cloth she had there on the ground that they were being hoarded. They sold her bags of rice and cooked rice.

6.11.155 Akua Akyaa, a trader at Swedru, soldiers went to her shop and sold the goods.

6.11.156 Akosua Saa Her consignment of eggs was seized and sold. She was hit on the eye with a belt.

6.11.157 Nana Kwame was a trader in men's and ladies watches in Accra. His stock was taken over by soldiers in June 1979 and sold to the public. The soldiers took the proceeds away.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6**6.12 INVASION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Apart from the harassment of shop-owners, there were also seizures/confiscation of property. Petitions were received from the following:

6.12.1 Ellison Owusu-Fordwouh on 7th September, 1977 Ghana Commercial Bank granted petitioner a loan of ₵95,000 for the purpose of building a house on a plot of land at Kwadaso, Kumasi. Following the 4th June, 1979 coup, the petitioner, then Director of the Special Branch, was arrested and taken into custody. While in custody, he was put before a kangaroo court at Peduase Lodge which ordered the confiscation of his house as having been unlawfully acquired. Since it is not unlawful to take a bank loan the decision to confiscate the house was clearly wrong.

6.12.2 Prof. Agyeman Badu Akosa's brother, James Charles Akosa, was a businessman of Accra. After 4th June, 1979, he went into exile for fear of persecution. Security personnel raided his establishments and carried away 17 vehicles of various makes, among them were two Land Rovers and six Toyota pick-ups. None of these have since been recovered.

6.12.3 Alhaji Abubakari Suley In May, 1979, Suley bought a Datsun car from a Yugoslav diplomat for US \$3,000. The vehicle was seized from him on the instructions of the military authorities. When he went to Burma Camp to enquire of the vehicle, the Peugeot car he was driving was also seized.

6.12.4 Joseph Apeadu is the executor of the late **Joshua Kwabena Siaw**, majority shareholder of Tata Brewery Limited. Following allegations that the company had evaded tax, the Government of Ghana in 1978 took certain measures against the company. One was the making of the Assets & Bank Accounts (Schedule) (Amendment) (No. 20) Instrument, 1978 (LI 1188) freezing the assets and bank accounts of Tata Brewery Limited, two other companies in which Siaw had an interest and the personal assets and bank accounts of Siaw, his wives and other specified relatives. Another was the Taxation (Amendment) Decree, 1979 (SMCD 222) canceling duty and tax concessions granted to the company. When the AFRC came to power, it enacted the Transfer of Shares & Other Proprietary Interests (Tata Brewery Limited) Decree, 1979 (AFRCD 9) transferring all the shares of the company to the State.

6.12.4.1 Even if as a temporary measure, the freezing of the assets and bank accounts of Tata Brewery under LI 1188 was justified, it was wrong to extend its reach to other companies and the personal assets and accounts of Siaw, his wives and relatives. Further while fines and other penalties may be imposed on companies for failing to honour their tax obligations or for other infringements of the law, in a democracy expropriation is not an option. The Commission therefore finds the expropriation of the company to be a breach of the right to own property, and therefore, illegal.

6.12.5 D, Goods, cash and vehicles said to be worth over £100,000 were seized by soldiers from the business premises and home of the petitioner. After 1981 coup soldiers again went to the Theatre and carried away drinks and other goods.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.12.6 Emmanuel Kwaku Osei was the owner of three Bedford trucks bearing the registration numbers GK 210, GK 6856 and GF 9141. He sold them and deposited the purchase price in his accounts at Barclays Bank, Nkawkaw. Later he went to withdraw the money which he claimed amounted to ₵6 million. As he left the Bank three soldiers seized the money, arrested him and took him to Gondar Barracks, Accra. He was later released but did not get back his money.

6.12.7 Grace Tetteh and her diplomat husband returned to Ghana from the United States on re-posting. They lived in Accra in a flat above some shops. Soldiers who raided the shops for hoarded goods went to their flat and carried away all their personal effects, including furniture, cooking utensils and their children's clothes.

6.12.8 Alhaji Mahama Abudulai, a contractor based at Wa, he traveled to Bolgatanga in July 1979. He was stopped by soldiers who seized his pick-up. When he finally recovered it, it was a total wreck.

6.12.9 Soldiers went to the house of **Apea Bempong** alias Nana Twum Ampofo II at Agona Nsaba and seized six vehicles, including a Mercedes 230, an Audi 80 LS and a Nissan Patrol 4WD. They used them for so-called operations and later returned them in a run-down state. Bempong was obliged to sell them as scrap.

6.12.10 On 20th September, 1979, armed soldiers went to **Samuel Emmanuel Percival Oddoye's** petrol filling station at Labadi T- junction, Accra and helped themselves to kerosene. A few among them paid him. The soldiers also carried away drinks he had on sale.

6.12.11 Yaw Koranteng was the owner of a Toyota Hiace bus. His vehicle was seized by soldiers in 1979 while his driver was on his way to Nigeria. Cash of ₵190 was also taken.

6.12.12 Victoria Amartey, Soldiers went to petitioner's house in Accra, ordered all the inmates out of their rooms and seized their properties. The soldiers accused the inmates of profiteering.

6.12.13 Rose Obiri-Kumi Owusu In 1972, Rose applied to buy a State Housing Corporation (SHC) house at Koforidua on hire-purchase. She was required to fill a form and indicate, among other things, whether she or her husband owned an SHC house or any other house. Her answer was "No". These questions were put because it has always been the policy of the government that no person should be permitted to acquire more than one house built with public funds. By a private arrangement Rose was permitted to acquire two semi-detached houses as one, ostensibly because a two bed-roomed house, which she desired, was not available. In 1979 the SHC abrogated the lease on one of the houses and allocated it to one Akagbor who was occupying it with Rose's consent.

6.12.13.1 The policy decision to abrogate the lease was a sound one. However, since the original allocation was made with the connivance of officers of the Corporation, Rose ought to be compensated for the loss incurred.

6.12.14 Christian Kwaku Owusu was a tenant in a SHC low cost house at Ahinsan, Kumasi. In 1979 he left the premises and put two women in occupation. A committee of the AFRC called the

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

Housing Rent Review Committee set up to check on sub-letting of SHC houses summoned him to appear before it. They did not believe his story that he left the premises to seek treatment for an ailment and that the two women paid no rent to him.

6.12.14.1 The Committee was entitled to disbelieve Owusu even though the women denied paying him any rent. The Committee seized the property and allocated it to someone else.

6.12.15 Akwasi Ntiamoah, Following the 4th June, 1979 coup, all members of Parliament were ordered to return Peugeot Saloon cars purchased for them by the State. Ntiamoah who had custody of the vehicle allocated to one Akuoko, Member of Parliament for Mampong (Ashanti) North surrendered the vehicle to the military authorities. His petition is for the return of the vehicle.

6.12.15.1 The proper person to make such a claim is Akuoko himself.

6.12.16 John Kofi Asante claimed that he was the owner of a plot of land at Roman Ridge, Accra. On 9th August, 1979, a house he had built on the land was demolished on the orders of the Lands Commission. A search at the Lands Department reveals that the house was in fact built on land acquired by the Government of Ghana under Certificate of Title No. 94/48 dated 31st December, 1947 for Military Signals Area.

6.12.16.1 If, as Asante claims, the land was originally acquired by his father, Henry Forson Asiedu, in 1939, this may be a ground for seeking compensation for any structures thereon. However, his own document of title was made in 1976 and his building was completed in or about May, 1979.

6.12.17 On 23rd June, 1962 Martin Agyei Okyere's father, **Emmanuel Adjei**, acquired a plot of building land at Dzorwulu, Accra from the Osu Stool. He put up a building on the land. Unfortunately the land had previously been acquired by the government of Ghana. In 1979, bulldozers were moved in to demolish several houses on the land, including that belonging to Adjei. Although Adjei had a document of title from the Osu stool it was not registered, nor did it have a proper site plan.

6.12.18 Rosa Mills, a former Army-Nursing officer, was the wife of **Charles Osah Mills**, a licensed moneylender of Accra with a reputation of being wealthy. Following the 4th June, 1979 insurrection soldiers went to his house, took the entire family hostage and demanded money. After giving them all the cash he and his wife had, they insisted on taking a cheque from him warning him that if it was not honoured by his bankers he and his family would pay dearly for it. Mills issued a cheque and gave it to the soldiers. The family vacated the house shortly after they had left.

6.12.19 Baiden Amissah, returned to Ghana after a long sojourn in Germany. He brought with him household effects and equipment for farming. On arrival he cleared his goods at Takoradi Harbour and was proceeding to the town when he was stopped by soldiers. They took him to his home for a search and then seized the goods he had cleared. These included electric cookers, television sets, sound systems and clothing. The soldiers later came for his bulldozer, tipper truck and tractor. They used these in carting cocoa and forest products until they broke down. The items were abandoned at Samreboi.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.12.20 Jonathan Robert Owiredu On 28th March, 1977, Owiredu was appointed Deputy General Manager of Kowus Motors Limited and Kowus Motor Assembly Industries Limited. On 14th July 1978, he was promoted to the position of Managing Director. On each occasion a lengthy letter setting out the terms of his engagement was written to him. In neither was there any mention of his entitlement to an allocation of shares. On 18th July 1978, an emergency meeting of the Board of Directors was held in the absence of E.K. Owusu, the proprietor of the Company.

6.12.120.1 An extract from the minutes reads: “Mr. Owiredu informed the other Board members that Mr. Owusu had directed that 10% shares in the company be given to the workers, 30% to other persons listed below and the rest to his family”. Owiredu was one of five beneficiaries of the 30% shares. His 6% was valued at ₵7,763. Neither Owiredu nor any of the other beneficiaries gave consideration for their shares. All shares of the two companies were confiscated and appropriated by the State under AFRCD 60. By his petition, Owiredu is asking that the shares for which he paid nothing be returned to him.

6.12.120.2 Owiredu’s status as a shareholder is not different from that of other beneficiaries of Owusu’s largesse. It is an issue to be resolved between them and the company. What ought to engage the attention of this Commission is the larger question of whether the seizure of the company was justified.

6.12.121 Sylvester Adzroey, now deceased, was the owner of a Toyota Hiace 15 seater bus which plied on the Ho-Hordze road in the Volta Region. On 16th June, 1979 his driver and his mate were arrested by soldiers when Indian hemp was alleged to have been found on the vehicle. The driver and the mate were brought with the vehicle to the Ho Civic Centre where they were publicly flogged. After that the soldiers poured petrol on the bus and burnt it down.

6.12.122 Benny Ashun Following the 4th June, 1979 coup Ashun was taken into custody. While in detention he was made to sign cheques on his local and foreign bank accounts in favour of the AFRC. The foreign cheques were given into the custody of Commander Apaloo and were subsequently cashed.

6.12.123 Patrick Moffat Kassar Following an encounter with two soldiers in the street in Accra on 29th July 1977 resulting in an assault on Kassar and his wife, the soldiers went to the barracks and brought a truck load of soldiers to destroy property and ransack Kassar’s Safari Motors workshop. The damage caused amounted to ₵23,796.

6.12.124 Sophia Boamah paid the SHC ₵2000 in 1979 and ₵32,000 in 1980 for the purchase of a house. The SHC failed to build an estate house for her. She is entitled to recover her money with interest.

6.12.125 Agibasse Anabila In 1976, the petitioner bought a tractor No. GF 1449 from the Ministry of Food & Agriculture. On 12th July, 1979 he was arrested by soldiers at Karemenga and made to drive the tractor to the Residency at Bolgatanga. The petitioner has not seen the tractor since.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.12.126 Benjamin Kuffour Oppong was Secretary of the Asuotiano Town Development Committee in the Brong Ahafo Region. In September, 1979 he and members of the executive of the Committee were summoned to appear before the Brong Ahafo Investigation Committee. When they attended Oppong was accused of misappropriating ₵6,000 and told to refund the money. When Oppong went into hiding at Techiman, his brother Kyeremeh was arrested and forced to pay the amount.

6.12.127 Charles Yeboah In 1979, Yeboah, who was then 28 years old, was accosted at a petrol filling station by two soldiers who questioned him as to how a young man of his age came by such a fine sports car. They attacked him and took the car with registration No. GG 1085 away. A second car, No. GL 536 was seized from his house by Sgt. Yankey, a soldier.

6.12.128 Charles ‘Kid’ Odumasi In August 1979 after the petitioner’s wife had sold a fowl to a soldier for ₵28 the petitioner’s poultry farm at Adumanu was invaded by soldiers who auctioned off all the birds and eggs at the farm. The petitioner claimed that there were 6,550 layers, 1,400 broilers and 12,000 eggs at the farm. At his home the soldiers looted his properties which included cloths, wax prints sardines, mackerel, milk and milo. He also stated that his cash amounting to ₵236,000 was stolen.

6.12.129 Lawrence Kwame Blay Acting Managing Director of the GNTC petitioned that after the 4th June, 1979 insurrection he and other senior officers of the GNTC were summoned to the Immigration Office, Accra and asked to declare their properties. Having done so, he was made to write to the AFRC that he was surrendering his plot No. 227 East Legon to the State. On 19th November, 1982 the Lands Commission wrote No. Scr/LCS.55/44 acknowledging receipt of his letter dated 20th September, 1979 and informing him that plot No. 227 had been re-allocated. He was informed that the development charge paid by him would be refunded on demand. The AFRC left office on 24th September, 1979. Between then and 31st December, 1981 when the military seized power again, the petitioner could have gone to court for an order that the property was surrendered by him under duress. That he did not do so indicated that he had resigned himself to the loss of the property.

6.12.130 Joseph Agyeman In 1976 the petitioner applied for and was allocated an estate house No. D. 20 Type HC.35A built by the State Housing Corporation at Koforidua. He made a cash payment of ₵2,950 for the house. The petitioner complains that in 1979 the SHAPIC confiscated the house on the ground that he acquired it under the colour of his office.

6.12.130.1 The function of the SHAPIC was to deprive those who had managed to acquire more than one house built with public funds of the surplus. It had nothing to do with how the property was acquired.

6.12.131 Emmanuel Kwaku Osei sold three Bedford trucks Nos. GK 210, GK 6856 and GF 9141 and deposited the proceeds which he claimed amounted to ₵6 million in the bank. He later went to withdraw the money to enable him replace the vehicle with two cargo trucks. As he was leaving the bank he was arrested by soldiers one of whom had the nickname “Sasabonsam” or Devil. The

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

money was seized and he was taken to Gondar Barracks where he was questioned about his sources of wealth. He was later released without being given back his money.

6.12.132 Wanye Domo On 18th May, 1979 the petitioner bought a Nissan Pick-up from one Agyekum. On 21st June, 1979 while driving the vehicle in the direction of the Airport, Accra the petitioner was stopped by three soldiers who claimed that the vehicle had been confiscated by the State. The soldiers seized the vehicle and took it to Burma Camp where one Lt. Dedeji took charge of it. After going to and fro in an unsuccessful endeavour to recover the vehicle, the petitioner finally gave up. It was not until three years later that the vehicle was then returned to him. He sold it as scrap.

6.12.133 Stephen Opoku Osei an employee of the P & T Corporation at Bolgatanga, was also managing a kiosk from which he sold provisions. He went to Sankasi in Burkina Faso to buy goods to re-stock his shop. On the way back, the vehicle he was traveling on was stopped at a road block mounted by soldiers. Osei and the other passengers were arrested for riding in the hold of a goods vehicle. The commodities Osei had bought at Sankasi were seized.

6.12.134 Isaac Mensah operated a grinding mill at Manso Akropong, near Bekwai. Soldiers went to the village and seized 12 bags milled rice and 20 bags unmilled rice.

6.12.135 Dulugu Adams A group of soldiers led by Corporal Lawson searched the Tamale home of the petitioner and found 200 bags cement and eight packets roofing sheets. They arrested him and carried away the cement and the roofing sheets he was released the next day. A few days later soldiers went to the house and using explosives destroyed part of the house.

6.12.136 Samuel Simple Ocran was a cigarette dealer at Tarkwa, Western Region. When driving his Datsun 1200 car No. GN 7725 C in Tarkwa he was stopped by soldiers at a Railway crossing. The soldiers took the car from him. It has not been seen since.

6.12.137 Alhaji Ibrahim's Toyota car No. GK 4434 and Bedford Truck No. UR 3605 were seized in Kumasi by soldiers. The car is believed to have been taken to Sankore in the Brong Ahafo Region and the truck to Nandom in Upper West Region. They were never returned to him.

6.12.138 Tutu Osei's father Kwabena Agyeman was ejected from his store at Central Market, Kumasi by soldiers. The store was allocated to another person, Osei Kofi.

6.12.139 Elisabeth Boateng Goods seized by soldiers.

6.12.140 Nana Yaa Achiaa Seizure of goods.

6.12.141 Charles Yeboah Seizure of cars.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6**6.13 INTERFERENCE WITH THE RIGHT TO WORK**

6.13.0.1 Under the Police Service Act, 1970 (Act 350) disciplinary proceedings may be taken against a pensionable officer for misconduct or unsatisfactory service. Penalties are of two kinds: major and minor. Dismissal or removal from office and reduction in rank are major penalties. Section 20(2) provides that, “No major penalty shall be imposed on a pensionable officer in summary proceedings not arising out of a conviction.” In formal proceedings, written charges are preferred and the defendant may be represented by Counsel and call witnesses. Proceedings are conducted in accordance with the Police Force (Disciplinary Proceedings) Regulations, 1974 (LI 993) and there is a right of appeal to the Police Council.

6.13.0.2 On 12th July, 1979 the AFRC made the Committee of Inquiry (Recent Disturbances in the Police Force) Instrument (EI 38) setting up what became known as the Huppenbauer Committee. Several police officers were summoned to appear before the Committee for brief hearings which consisted for the most part of establishing their identity. No written charges were preferred against any of them, nor were they informed of their right to be represented by Counsel or to call witnesses. Each ‘hearing’ was concluded in a matter of minutes. Thereafter, the AFRC made the Police Force (Implementation of Findings) Decree 1979 (AFRCD 12) to give effect to the recommendations of the Committee and, by section 1(2) and (3), barred the affected officers from challenging the decisions by way of an appeal or in proceedings for prerogative orders.

6.13.1 Among the police officers who were either dismissed or retired from the Service on the strength of the Committee’s findings were:

6.13.1.1 (a) ACP Michael Kojo Adusah

6.13.1.2. (b) G/Cpl Edward Yeboah Abrokwa

6.13.1.3 (c) DSP Lawrence Kwaku Zikpi

6.13.1.4 (d) CSP Stephen Maxwell Kofi Donkor

6.13.1.5 On appeal to the Court of Appeal, it was found that Donkor’s name did not appear in the report of the Committee and that no findings, whether favourable or adverse, had been made with regard to him. The Court allowed the appeal, saying “The facts of this case cry aloud for redress.” Adusah also appealed to the Court of Appeal. The findings were set aside, as was the decision to retire him from the Service. Adusah was, however, not re-instated.

6.13.2 Stephen Robert Kwawu, a Police Constable stationed at Ho, Volta Region, was dismissed on the basis of the findings of the Huppenbauer Committee. He lodged an appeal with the Court of Appeal but failed to pursue it.

6.13.3 Beatrice Acheampong’s husband, **Hanson Owusu Acheampong** was a Chief Superintendent of Police. On 23rd September, 1979 he was dismissed by the AFRC from the Service on the strength of the recommendations of the Huppenbauer Committee. He appealed to the Court of Appeal, but the appeal was never heard. He died in 1997 without having received either gratuity or pension.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.13.4 Jerome Apenu-Doh, an Assistant Superintendent of Police was arrested in early September 1979 on an allegation of accepting bribe. He was detained in the Military Intelligence guardroom and later sent to Nsawam Prisons. He was granted bail by the High Court but absconded. He was dismissed by the Police. At the time Doh absconded, constitutional rule had been restored and the Limann Administration had taken office. Doh ought to have allowed the law to take its course.

6.13.5 Mark Anthony Koomson On 13th October, 1979 the *Daily Graphic* published a report which said that on 20th July, 1979 the AFRC Special Court had sentenced Constable Koomson and other policemen to various terms of imprisonment. On the strength of the report, the Police Administration by letter No. SO.24003/50 of 30th January, 1980 dismissed Koomson from the Service. Before then Koomson had appeared before the Huppenbauer Committee to answer questions relating to a bribery allegation against his superior officer.

6.13.6 Edward Mensah-Bonsu, a Deputy Superintendent of Police at Asokwa, Kumasi, vacated his post and went into hiding when policemen rioted against their officers in the wake of the 4th June, 1979 uprising. On 29th June, 1979 he was ordered to vacate his bungalow and proceed on his earned leave of 283 days. He was subsequently retired from the Service. As the officer in charge of the station, petitioner ought to have exhibited greater courage in the face of indiscipline. Going into hiding for 17 days was inexcusable.

6.13.7 Michael Ayawo Kubunyah, an Assistant Superintendent of Police in charge of Audit and stationed in Kumasi, was arrested on 9th June, 1979 when a carton of whisky was found on one of the vehicles in his outfit. He was taken to the military barracks and detained in the guardroom for a month after which he was given a letter of dismissal from the Service, signed by the Inspector General of Police. No formal enquiry was held to determine responsibility for the presence of the whisky in the vehicle.

6.13.8 Ebenezer Abaka Parker, a police constable based at Axim, Western Region, went to Nigeria during his leave in April – August 1979. When he sought to extend his stay, he was told in plain language that an extension would not be granted. He defied an order to return. He remained in Nigeria for some years and now asks to rejoin the Police Service. It is clear that Parker vacated his post and is not entitled to be re-instated in the Service.

6.13.9 Robert Kofi Kwakye, On 15th September, 1979 the *Daily Graphic* published an announcement issued by the AFRC to the effect that Robert Kofi Kwakye, Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, but then seconded to the Ghana Highway Authority, had been dismissed and was to be put on trial for alleged financial malpractices while he was on secondment at the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development. Kwakye says that for fear that his life was in danger he went into hiding. He re-surfaced after three months. He has petitioned the Commission over his removal from office.

6.13.9.1 Kwakye can justifiably complain about being dismissed by radio and television announcements and by publication in the press. However, it is a matter of record that the AFRC handed over power on 24th September 1979, that is, nine days after his purported dismissal. It was

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

for him to have come forward after that date to confront his accusers and to clear his name. It is too late for him to try to re-open the matter.

6.13.10 Isaac Opare-Addo Following the 4th June, 1979 uprising, there was agitation in the Ghana Fire Service for the removal of Opare Addo, now deceased, who was then the Chief Fire Officer. This was done and letter number FS. 3.12/466TJ/10 of 9th August, 1979 was written to him asking to retire from the Service with effect from 14th August, 1979. For unexplained reasons, his terminal benefits were not been paid.

6.13.11 Robert Kwamiga Attipoe an Assistant Commissioner of Police was dismissed on 23rd September, 1979 on the basis of adverse findings made against him by the Huppenbauer Committee.

6.13.12 Kwaku Boakye's uncle, Aboagye Acheampong, was an Assistant Commissioner of Police. On 23rd September 1979, he was dismissed on the recommendation of the Huppenbauer Committee by a letter signed by the Chairman of the AFRC.

6.13.13 Kingsley Amoah After Amoah, a Treasury Administrator and other employees of the Kumasi City Council had been brutalised by soldiers, Amoah spent one week in hospital. When he returned to work, he was told to go home and that he would be called back later. He was never permitted to resume work. At the time he had been in the employment of the Council for 18 months.

6.13.14 DESTRUCTION OF MAKOLA MARKET

6.13.15 This wanton act of destruction took place on 18th August, 1979. In an article published in the *Chronicle* of 16th September, 2003 Joss Aryee, a journalist gave a graphic eye-witness account of the event. Aryee wrote:

The suddenness and the timing of the announcement sent shivers down the spine. And it was short and terse: "All traders at Makola No.II Market are advised to remove their goods before tomorrow morning 7 o'clock am prompt. Those who cannot do so will have themselves to blame."

This was after the GBC radio news highlights at 7 pm on Friday evening. They literally had just twelve hours to do so. And this was when a 10pm to 6am curfew was in place. Meanwhile, the market gates were always locked after 6pm.

Besides, how many could dare go back to central Accra to, as it were, rescue their goods from what appeared to be imminent trouble, especially when heavily armed soldiers had been sent to "protect" the premises that very night.

By 5am the next morning that august, 1979, Saturday, a contingent of soldiers surrounded the market, all access roads leading there were blocked. A state construction company bulldozer, painted a malevolent, jaundice yellow, stood by, like some hungry predator, ready to pounce on its hapless prey.

When I got to the office that morning at the Ghana News Agency, I had been assigned to cover the Makola market saga. Not being far, I decided to stroll down the road from the Ministries to Tema Station and onwards to the market.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

On the way, I saw a cluster of people, some obviously affected traders and Makola mummies. They looked grief-stricken. Some moaned and cried softly, some fumed at the injustice of it all and still others were simply shocked and dumbfounded, unable to utter a word, just a deep pain in their eyes. My impression was that they would be ruined for life if they lost their goods; many were just working from hand to mouth and traded from a commission on goods they did not own. Meanwhile, the armed and mean-looking soldiers allowed nobody to even come near them much less for them to take out the little they could. The time for that had expired the previous night!

By 9 o'clock, the military contingent charged to carry out the operation arrived, led by a Captain Kpani Addy with Lt. Blood Dzraku, a mate at the Institute of Journalism, as his second-in-command. The commander, wasting no time, issued verbal instructions to his men and retired to the grassy knoll at the Makola roundabout, where the statue of King Tackie Tawiah now sits.

Apart from the soldiers detailed for the operation, groups of "machomen" and touts from surrounding communities like Okaishie, Tudu, Swalaba and others stood by. Armed with iron rod bars, clubs and sledgehammers, they would help break into the shops and stalls. For them, it was like Christmas time!

They started from the entrance near the Central Mosque, which abutted the market. The padlocks fell apart with some well-placed shots from an AK 47 rifle. They surged inside, shooting doors open, smashing chop-boxes open with axes, pick-axes, sledgehammers, and what have you.

Bales of materials, thousand of prices of textiles, Dutch wax prints, GTP cloth, fridges, TV sets, indeed all the sundry goods one expect to be sold at a leading market of Makola's type were gradually brought out and piled on the grassy knoll outside.

As the goods increased, soldiers would commandeer passing cars and trucks, load them to the brim and take off – with armed guards hanging on. Where they ended up, nobody seemed to know. After a while, some of the journalists covering the operation plucked up the courage to ask from the soldiers where the goods were being taken to.

We got various vague answers: The Trade Fair Site, Burma Camp, University of Legon, etc. as the newsmen kept pressing, the soldiers got belligerent. "Wetin concern you, eh? Na you go guard am?" The journalists shut up. The soldiers were getting too excitable for comfort.

Some people lost their lives. Groups of men lurking around looked for opportunities to loot and whenever soldiers' backs were turned, a fast move would be made to snatch anything valuable and take off with it. Some unfortunate ones were short at by the excited, hot and sweaty soldiers when they failed to stop when ordered to. They were the collateral damage.

By 2 pm in the afternoon, much of the market had been stripped of good and nothing really worthwhile remained inside. Suddenly the silent bulldozer roared to life, its engines growling like some pre-historic dinosaur that had seen its lunch meal close by. As it trundled towards the market walls with the iron chain wheels clanging on the road, the walls fell down in a heap of blocks and dust flying about.

The famous Makola No1 market crumbled down. The wooden stalls snapped and cracked. A golden of dye burst open and the blood-red liquid gushed out. A nearby soldier, watching the liquid course through the debris, remarked with sarcasm: "Makola dey die, see the blood ...ha ha ha!"

By the time I returned to the office to file my story, the news had already spread like wildfire. Some people said it had been destroyed because it was symbolically the heart of "Kalabule." Good riddance, they opined. Others were as angry as could be, saying it all was nothing but petty revenge by vengeful soldiers who wanted to punish the Makola women who had in the past, allegedly insulted soldiers who insisted on buying things at the controlled prices.

It was alleged that some women had even poured stored urine on some soldiers. But no matter what, to me, as an observer, it seemed to be nothing but "booty for the boys" after the June 4 Uprising. Nothing more, nothing less, period! If not, where exactly did the goods costing millions of cedis even at that time, all end up? Who benefited from them? Who was accountable for all the money

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

taken from the hundreds of shops and stalls in the market. I saw with my own two eyes the money seized by the second-in-command of that operation?

Even more saddening is the trauma many of the affected traders underwent. Some were broken for life. Many are they who could never pick up the pieces after their ignoble and treacherous act. Some even lost their sanity. Others died from the shock. After all these years I still get a strong sense of “deja vu” anytime I pass by the place. It is now called “Rawlings Park.” How ironic!

One wonders whether the National Reconciliation Commission will make any recommendations for the relief of victims of the rape and destruction of the market, if any have petitioned for redress

Whatever happens, let it be on record that what happened that august Saturday in 1979 benefited a few selfish people at the expense of thousands: The traders, businessmen and ordinary law-abiding citizens and their dependants, who made their living from the market.

They deserve our sympathy.

6.13.16 **Fofu Sasraku** was one of the women affected by the destruction of the market. In her statement to the Commission she said:

I was a trader and had a very big shop at Makola where things like plates, men towels, napkins, tumblers, and other items were sold. I also sold already-made dresses and school uniforms.

One morning as usual I set off to the market and just as I was about to enter I heard people crying and wailing over the place. I tried to enquire what was going on but my effort was in vain. The place was very busy and rough than the ordinary day and no one seemed to think about the other. My co-traders were actually crying uncontrollably.

After fruitless effort I entered the market to find out what was going on myself. As I lifted my eyes all I could see was broken structures. I hurriedly went to see what had happened to mine and lo and behold the story was not different. This led me to cry too. I tried checking from my aunt whose shop was near to mine to see what had happened to her and this misfortune had no mercy on her. Everything of hers was taken away.Soldiers had come to destroy our structures and stolen everything we had toiled for. Our input throughout our lives vanished into thin air on that day.

6.13.17 **Ofofuaah Komeng**, a single mother with seven children, made a modest living selling cloth at the Makola Market. All her wares were seized and taken away or destroyed in the fire.

6.13.18 **Cecilia Agyapong** When she heard of the destruction of Makola Market, Cecilia, a cloth seller, went there in an effort to retrieve her goods. She was driven away by soldiers.

6.13.19 Like many of the traders, Fofu, Ofofuaah and Cecilia lost everything. The wares were looted by the soldiers who prevented the women from entering the market to retrieve their goods. It was a wanton, senseless attack on the citizens which deprived many of their livelihood. Overnight they had become poor and wretched. As Joss Aryee told the Commission in his evidence, some died, others went mad and many more became paupers. It was, indeed a traumatic experience unparalleled in the history of this nation.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6**F. 24TH SEPTEMBER, 1979 – 30TH DECEMBER, 1981
(LIMANN'S ADMINISTRATION)**

6.14.1 By the time the AFRC left office, it was deeply divided between those who, having enjoyed the trappings of office, wished to cling to power, and those who desired to see constitutionalism and democracy restored. With their civilian collaborators the former group began to plot the overthrow of the Limann Administration even before it had settled down to govern the country. The Commission received evidence from Major Boakye Djan, a leading member of the AFRC, that it was William Adumua-Bossman, a lawyer and confidant of Flt Lt Rawlings, who inserted in the speech delivered by Rawlings at the handing over ceremony the now infamous threat to the incoming Administration that the military were ready to resume power if things were not done the way they wished.

6.14.2 Unfortunately, President Limann lacked the political will and courage to take on those who would subvert the democratic order. He was all too trusting of Flt Lt Rawlings to whom he looked for support against members of his own party who, he feared, were determined to undermine his position and replace him at the next general elections. He spent his short term of office grappling ineffectively with the problems created by the AFRC's three-and-a-half month 'reign of terror'.

6.15 MAIMING

6.15.1 Kwaku Tawiah On 26th January, 1981, Tawiah, a commercial driver plying his trade along the Adukrom-Awukugua road in the Eastern Region was involved in an accident with a VW Golf car. The Golf car turned round and caught up with him. One of three soldiers who were in the VW car hit Tawiah on the right eye with his belt. As a result of the attack, Tawiah lost the sight in the eye and was obliged to give up driving.

6.15.2 Isaac Tetteh Quarcoo was Organising Secretary of the People's National Party (PNP) in Okaikwei Constituency, Accra. On 21st February, 1981 he and others were arrested by the police. While they were being conveyed to the Police Station in a vehicle, a policeman fired a shot at one of arrested persons. The shot hit petitioner in the leg seriously injuring him.

6.15.3 Felix Ofosu Oduro On 20th December, 1979, Oduro was driving a taxicab in the evening along High Street, Accra when he was hailed by two ladies. He agreed to take them to Labadi. Along the route a soldier stopped him and asked to be taken to Arakan Barracks. Oduro refused but the soldier joined the two ladies on the understanding that he would be dropped at Labadi. When the ladies arrived at their destination and alighted, the soldier told Oduro he was under arrest for overcharging the ladies. He ordered Oduro to drive to Arakan Barracks. Oduro refused and came out of the taxicab. The soldier then brought out his rifle and fired at Oduro hitting him in the shoulder. The soldier fled and was never found. Oduro received medical attention at Korle Bu Hospital.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6**6.16 TORTURE**

6.16.1 Emmanuel Asante, a trader of Chindari, near Kete Krachi was arrested by soldiers along the Red Volta while conveying 200 cartons of cigarettes to Chindari for sale. He was taken to Esukawkaw where he was beaten up and subjected to ill-treatment. He was then taken to Jasikan where again he was subjected to ill-treatment. He gives this account of his ordeal:

I am a trader and in 1980 during Liman's administration I came to Accra to buy 4 boxes of 555 cigarettes, that is 200 cartons of cigarettes. ...After boarding a bus the previous evening from Accra, I got to the Red Volta waiting for the ferry to ferry us across the river the following day. At that time there was no bridge and around 7.30 am, a group of soldiers numbering around 9 came to where I was waiting with others for the ferry.

They asked each one of us what we were carrying in our luggage and went around searching each luggage. When it got to my turn, they asked me where I got the cigarettes from and I informed them that I bought them from Accra. ...I was made to carry the things/goods into the vehicle they came with and we were ferried across, when the ferry started operating for the day.

I was driven to 'Esukawka' market and my things were placed beside me. Without asking any more questions, these soldiers started beating me. They kicked and stamped me all over. They also used the soles of their boots to step on top of my shin and drag it down. This was very painful. Apart from this they used the butts of their rifles to hit me repeatedly just below my right shoulder and my back until I went onto my knees and they used their belts on me as well. On lookers had circled us and after some time, a young teacher was also brought there and beaten alongside me.

One of the soldiers used his bayonet on me and this gave me a deep cut on my left wrist. I still have that scar and other scars on my head, face, back arms etc. I was bleeding all over and around that time, my girlfriend Akos, was about 2 months pregnant. She heard that someone was being beaten at the market place and so she came to see who the person was. I was later informed that when she saw that it was me, she collapsed and miscarried.

They then led me to a collapsed house there and in a position of a crucifixion, they asked me to tell them the truth. Before being led to the collapsed wall, I was stripped totally naked and when I told them that the goods were from Accra, they started firing indiscriminately into the air for some time. This continued for a long time and when I kept on insisting that I bought them from Accra, the firing stopped and they started with the beatings again.

After this I was made to carry my things back into the truck and my briefs was given to me to wear. They then asked me not to board the vehicle but walk behind it. We took the ferry and we went to Jasikan. I was sent to their camp there and they sent my goods into a room there. As they were then going to eat, I was asked to lie on the ground and watch the sun. I was told that if I turn, they would beat me. I was in this position for over one hour. ...

I was beaten again and asked to board their vehicle later. They brought my things on board and we set off. ...they took me to...Menuso near the border with Togo.

I was sent to a sort of barracks there as there were soldiers and border guards.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.16.2 Mohammed Ali was a sailor and father of nine children. He lived with his wife and children in Takoradi. In March, 1982, military personnel from the Airforce Base went to his house and conducted a search. They seized various items including a television, a refrigerator and a wall clock. Later, another set of military personnel went to the house. Ali told them of the earlier search and seizure. Seeing his children, the soldiers enquired who the fathers were. When Ali told them they were all his children, they asked him to undress. One of them hit Ali's penis several times with a stick. Ali bled from the penis which became swollen. He was taken to the Effia Nkwanta Hospital for treatment. Ali said he had become impotent as a result of the attack.

6.17 ILL-TREATMENT

6.17.1 Faustina Ardua Aryee was arrested by soldiers in Accra while she was conveying home cloth she had bought through a third party from PZ Company Ltd. Her supplier, one Doris Fofu Addo, was also arrested. They were paraded through the streets amid beatings and slaps. They were subjected to public ridicule when, fully clothed, Faustina was compelled to lie on the ground while Doris lay on top of her simulating sex. A report on the arrest of the petitioner appeared in the *Ghanaian Times* of 17th October, 1979 and the *Daily Graphic* of 18th October, 1979. Faustina's face shows obvious signs of the assault.

6.17.2 Ayanga Tindana and Lamisa **Busanga**, watchmen, and **Charles Aidoo**, a driver, now deceased, were arrested on charges of being implicated in the theft of a motor vehicle belonging to the Town & Country Planning Department, Cape Coast. They were ill-treated while in custody. Tindana sustained a fracture of the arm; Busanga was hit on the head with a truncheon; Aidoo had his testicles squeezed.

6.17.3 Samuel Kwesi Mensah owned a Datsun pick-up. In 1981, while he was travelling from Accra to Swedru, three soldiers stopped him and enquired how he got money to purchase the vehicle. They kicked him, slapped him and hit him with their belts.

6.17.4 Samuel Emmanuel Percival Oddoye, a petrol dealer at Labadi T-junction, Accra was frog-marched to the Military Barracks at Teshie by armed soldiers who accused him of profiteering.

6.17.5 Yaw Barimah In 1981 the petitioner was arrested by four soldiers accompanied by a policeman from the Adoe Nkwanta Police Station. They accused him of dealing in fake currency and took him to the guardroom at the Military Barracks, Kumasi. His hair was shaved off and he was beaten.

6.18 DETENTION

6.18.1 Wisdom Adika was remanded in custody on 31st December, 1979 by a Magistrates' Court Grade II at Dunkwa-on-Offin to await trial on a charge of murder. He was released on 12th September, 1987 after eight years in custody without being tried.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.18.2 Yaw Barimah In 1981 after the petitioner had been arrested by soldiers and a policeman at Adoe Nkwanta on suspicion of dealing in fake currency, he was taken to the Military Barracks in Kumasi where he was detained for two weeks.

6.18.3 Joseph Wodzidzro Van-Sagodo a Senior Accountant of the Volta Region Development Corporation petitioned that on 25th November, 1981 he was arrested and taken into custody pending an enquiry into the affairs of the Corporation. In all he spent 10 months in custody at the Ho Prisons and Ussher Fort Prison.

6.19 INVASION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS

6.19.1 Joseph Kenneth Addoh In October, 1980 soldiers mounted what they called 'Operation Fair Deal' against shop owners. They were led by DSP Cartey and Capt Nsiah. During the operation soldiers went to Akosmar Enterprises at Tudu, Accra owned by Addoh and his sister Mary Osei. The team seized and sold 21 dozen ladies panties to the public for ₵25.20. They took the money away.

6.19.2 Joseph Nyarko, a baker who had dealings with the army and several educational institutions in Kumasi, had 600 bags of flour in his wholesale. In October/November 1979 soldiers accused him of hoarding and seized the flour as well as his building materials, mainly iron rods, paints, roofing sheets and floor and wall tiles.

6.19.3 Samuel Kofi Osei Owusu On 19th January, 1963 the Ghana Housing Corporation allocated an estate house in Kumasi to the petitioner. The terms and conditions were set in a letter addressed to him. It stated as follows:

Dear Sir,

ALLOCATION OF UNIT NO I.1
HC.B5^B (FLAT) KWAME NKRUMAH ESTATE:

The above-mentioned property has been allocated to you and we wish to make it quite clear that we shall not under any circumstance allow you to sub-let it or part with possession for any reason. The house is allocated to you for your personal occupation ONLY.

2. This is an essential condition of the allocation and before you are allowed to take up occupation of the property you should acknowledge the fact that you fully understand and agree to the condition and the implication involved.
3. If you agree you should sign this notice in the space provided below, for retention by the Corporation.
4. The keys of the property will be released to you when this document has been signed.
5. If at any time you cease to occupy this property yourself the allocation will be cancelled and the occupier will be ejected.

Yours faithfully,

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

GHANA HOUSING CORPORATION

.....
HOUSING OFFICER

(Sgd).....

TENANT OF UNIT NO. I.1

KWAME NKRUMAH ESTATE

6.19.3.1 In 1972 the petitioner rented out the house to one Aheto. During the AFRC regime Aheto had the premises re-allocated to him. The petitioner chose to flout the terms on which he was permitted to occupy the premises. No injustice was done to him in re-allocating the property to Aheto.

6.19.4 Dickson Jeremiah Acheampong was the owner of a vehicle bearing a foreign number plate. On 31st December, 1979 the vehicle was seized by militiamen at Koforidua. When Acheampong's driver, Frank Sarpong, protested, WO I Nkwantabisa, the leader of the militiamen, fired shots at the petrol tank and set the vehicle ablaze.

6.19.5 Ibrahim Sefa On 16th December, 1979, soldiers led by Chris Atim seized Sefa's tipper truck and handed it over to the CDR. When he recovered it, it had become a total wreck. The CDR also seized 230 bags cement, 300 wawa boards, 45 emulsion paints and 50 oil paints from Sefa's worksite at Wellebelly.

6.19.6 Malam Issifu Musa On 23 September, 1981 soldiers raided the village of Adeiso Domeabra, Eastern Region and seized 123 bags dried cocoa beans, a double barrelled gun, a gold wrist watch and ₵234 cash belonging to Musa. A report in the *Ghanaian Times* of 22nd October, 1981 shows that several farmers in the Adeiso area were attacked that day. Even though Musa went to court and got judgment for the recovery of the price of his cocoa, he was unable to enforce it.

6.19.7 Adi Korsah Amponsah was Works Manager of the GNTC Estate Department. In 1975 he entered into an agreement with the TDC for a 90-year lease of House Nos. C8/T. 62 & 64 Community 8, Tema. He combined the names of his two under age sons, Affum and Yeboah and entered into the agreement as Affum Yeboah Addison. He signed the document in that name as lessee and also signed as witness in the name Korsah Adi Amponsah. When he was found out by the SHAPIC he was called upon to surrender one of the houses. In a letter dated 18th September, 1980 he wrote that he was "the legal owner/purchaser of the houses which were genuinely acquired from the TDC to house myself and my dependants." He offered to surrender House No. C8/T. 62. The SHAPIC accordingly allocated the house to another person. Amponsah has no grounds for complaint.

6.19.7.1 The policy of barring all persons from owning more than one house built by the SHC or the TDC is a sound one and in the public interest.

6.19.8 Patrick Akoetey, a Sergeant in the Ghana Army, paid ₵2,900 to the Volta Region Development Corporation for 100 bags cement. As at the time the Corporation was liquidated, Akoetey had not received his supply of cement. In spite of efforts to retrieve his money he has not been paid.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

6.19.9 John Albert Elephant Ansah, On 16th September, 1981 Ansah, a sailor, arrived at Tema Harbour on board M.V. Tano River. He brought with him his personal effects which included a deep freezer and a bicycle. He paid the required duty. As he was leaving the Harbour with his goods, he was stopped by soldiers who had been placed at vantage points at the Harbour to re-check goods for the payment of duty. He was taken to a guardroom where he remained for some eight hours. On his release his effects were seized.

6.19.10 Emmanuel Kofi Frimpong Soldiers went to Frimpong's shop at Tudu, Accra and carried away vehicle tyres he had put on sale. Later, they took him to his home for a search and seized cash and a sounds system.

6.19.11 Latif Abdul In 1962, petitioner's father, Alhaji Seidi Moshie acquired a plot of land at Dzorwulu, Accra from the Osu Mantse. The conveyance was never registered. When in 1981 he started to put up a building on the land he was informed that the land was government land. Petitioner's remedy lies against the Osu Stool.

6.19.12 Yaw Barimah In 1981 four soldiers accompanied by a policeman of the Adoe Nkwanta Police Station went to the home of the petitioner and arrested him alleging that he was dealing in fake currency. They packed his personal effects in his brother's Peugeot 504 taxicab and took him to the military barracks in Kumasi. He was released after two weeks without the taxicab or his personal effects.

6.19.13 Ama Owusu In July 1981 soldiers seized 500 bags flour belonging to the petitioner at Kwadaso, Kumasi. They carried them away to a military-run bakery at Kwamo. The petitioner complained to the Ashanti Regional Minister, but he was unable to grant her any relief.

6.19.14 Witty Heartwill Quao's late mother, **Agnes Amegashie Quao**, was a trader at Keta market. In 1980 she was arrested by the police who took her goods mainly clothing away and sold to the public. They searched her home and took other items which were also sold. The Police told Agnes that the proceeds of sale would be paid into government chest.

6.19.15 Ayambilla Akologo: In 1980 there were disturbances in Bolgatanga involving the civil population and personnel of the Border Guards. Several properties were damaged or destroyed, among them the house of **Akolgo Akaba**, father of the petitioner. It was recommended that Akaba and other victims be compensated. His name appeared as number 43 at paragraph 87 on the list of persons to be compensated. His damage was assessed at ₵3000 as at 1980. Money was released by the Ministry of Finance for the payments to be made. A total of ₵257 million was disbursed. According to letter No. SCR 004/SF.62/34 dated 31st January, 1987 signed by Mrs Asie Allotey, Principal State Attorney, Akaba's name was inadvertently left out of the list of beneficiaries and was never paid. The petitioner asked that his late father's compensation be now paid. Akaba's compensation should be calculated at current value.

6.19.16 Issifu Musah was a cocoa Purchsing Clerk at Domeabra near Adeiso, Eastern Region. He petitioned that on 23rd September, 1981 his home was raided by soldiers who claimed that he was a

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6

cocoa smuggler. They seized 123 bags of cocoa, a double-barelled gun, a gold wristwatch and some cash. They took him along with them to Gondar Barracks but was released soon afterwards. According to the petitioner he took action at the High Court in Koforidua and got judgment. The petitioner stated that he was asked to go to Gondar Barracks for his money but when he got there he found a pool of blood at the entrance and was advised to flee. The petitioner was unable to supply the Commission with a copy of the High Court judgment or to give sufficient particulars to enable the Commission trace it.

6.20 INTERFERENCE WITH THE RIGHT TO WORK

6.20.1 Shawcross Kenneth Gyebi, an Inspector of Police, was dismissed from the Service on 14th April, 1980 on the recommendation of the Huppenbauer Committee. Since he was not invited to appear before the Committee, the Committee could not lawfully make any recommendations with regard to him.

6.20.2 Edward Asuming Adu, a L/Cpl in the Ghana Army, was dismissed for involvement in a plot to overthrow the government of President Limann. The punishment was well-deserved.

6.20.3 Quessie Daniel Agyei After working for the Cocoa Marketing Board for seven years as Chief Accountant, Agyei was ordered to be re-deployed. However, attempts to get Agyei employed by African Plywood (Ghana) Limited and Ghamot Motors were unsuccessful as neither needed his services. There is no evidence to suggest that the re-deployment was intended to be punitive. It is known that as many as 10,000 employees of the Board were affected.

6.20.4 John Alex Kofie was an employee of the State Gold Mining Corporation at Prestea. In October, 1981 he went on leave. He failed to report for duty on the date he was expected to resume work. He turned up three weeks later with the excuse that he had been ill. His explanation was not accepted and he was dismissed. The general rule is that where an employee absents himself from work without permission for more than 10 days he is deemed to have vacated his post. In this case, Kofie neither sought nor was granted permission to absent himself from duty.

6.20.5 Laurence Bruce Kyei Following the submission of the Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the operations of GEA & Associates, the appointment of Kyei as a Principal Commercial Officer in the Ministry of Trade was terminated. On 12th January, 1980 Kyei applied to the Abban Tribunal for relief but his petition was dismissed. An extract from the report submitted to the Committee showed that there was no malfeasance on the part of Kyei. What he was accused of was negligence in the supervision of a subordinate staff, Margaret Voyie, who was apparently responsible for the processing of the customs entries which resulted in the loss of ₵692,779.23. For a senior officer to lose his job and pension rights for the misdeeds of his subordinates is an extreme measure which the facts of his case do not support. Demotion in rank or at worst termination would have been enough punishment.

VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 6**6.21 ABUSE OF THE JUDICIAL PROCESS**

6.21.1 Alhaji Abubakari Suley, a citizen of Niger, was admitted into prison custody in March, 1981 for an unspecified offence but with a sentence of 25 years in hard labour. He was released from prison on 12th April, 1984 on the orders of the Director of Prisons.

6.22 KILLING

6.22.1 Zakari Salifu On 24th November, 1979, the petitioner's brother, **Ishahaku Halida**, was traveling by road from Adwira to Ahiao in the Ashanti Region when at Adwumakona he came upon some soldiers who were molesting a lady he knew. Halida intervened on behalf of the lady. One of the soldiers threatened to shoot Halida if he went any nearer to them. Just as Halida took another step towards them the soldier fired several shots at him. The soldiers left the scene. Halida died on the way to Mampong Hospital.

6.23 DISAPPEARANCE

6.23.1 Azurg Alapelum's brother **John Atanga** was a police constable stationed at Savelugu. He had a history of mental illness. On 31st March, 1981 he took his annual leave. He was to report for duty on 11th May, 1981. When he did not report he was declared to have vacated his post and was formally dismissed from the Service with effect from 12th May, 1981. To date his relatives have not found him. However there is no evidence of foul play.