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OUR REF: CSDS/CHI/2/GDO050920

May 8, 2020

H.E. Mr. Shi Ting Wang
Chinese Ambassador to Ghana
6 Agostino Neto Road
Airport Residential Area
Accra, Ghana
P.O. Box: GP3356 Accra

Your Excellency,

IN-HUMANE TREATMENT OF AFRICANS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The Center for Strategic and Defence Studies Africa (CSDS Africa) presents its compliments to the Chinese Embassy in Ghana and has the honor to draw attention to recent occurrences in the Chinese city of Guangzhou.

2. It has come to our attention that Ghanaians and other Africans, who reside in Guangzhou, are being mistreated, abused and racially attacked in the wake of surveillance and mandatory testing for imported cases during a 14-day quarantine of all African nationals in the city (regardless of whether they reported positive for COVID-19 or not).

CSDS AFRICA

Advancing Cyber, Maritime, Border Security, CBRN, Defense and Electoral Integrity in Africa

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3. These measures have had little regard for the travel history of these individuals. As a result, many Africans, including Nigerians, Ugandans and Ghanaians, have been subject to unfair treatment. Some have been evicted by landlords or rejected by hotels, shopkeepers and restaurants. Some have even been left homeless. Bars and restaurants have been ordered not to serve clients who appear to be of African origin. Africans in China have long complained of racism, in the form of Chinese people holding their noses as they walk past, racially offensive adverts on television, and Chinese actors performing in blackface in a nationwide gala. Such RACIAL discrimination have created the false impression that the virus is being spread by Africans.

4. Your Excellency, on Thursday 9th April 2020, the spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry Zhao Lijian stated that "Since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, China and African countries have always supported each other and have always fought against the virus jointly. I would like to emphasize that the Chinese government treats all foreigners in China equally, opposes any differentiated practices targeted at specific groups of people, and has zero tolerance for discriminatory words and actions. African friends can count on getting fair, just, cordial and friendly reception in China." He added that the foreign ministry will stay in close communication with Guangdong authorities and address the "African side's reasonable concerns and legitimate appeal. On 14th April 2020, the Chinese Embassy Spokesperson released a statement on the concerns of the mistreatment of Africans. He further stated that "The Chinese people always see in the African people partners and brothers through thick and thin. Our friendship is forged on the basis of joint efforts to seek national independence, liberation, economic development and better livelihood in the past decades. Such time-tested friendship is a treasure for both Chinese and African people. Recently, some African countries, including Ghana, expressed their concern about the situation in Guangdong Province. The Chinese side attaches great importance and quickly began the investigation. It is important to note that China has been upholding the position and policy that all foreigners are treated equally."

5. Your Excellency, in spite of the assurances that have been made by the Chinese Foreign Ministry, many Africans continue to face racially motivated discrimination and ill-treatment. On the human rights front, it completely violates china's obligations under international law and so is not acceptable. Interrelations between the Chinese government and African states are being gravely tested. The level of trust that has been built over the years with the Chinese government can and will be severely undermined, should nothing concrete be done about this issue. Your Excellency, we need stronger, more active measures to be

implemented. Measures that should urgently be put in place to deter offenders from continuing these heinous acts as well as punish them under municipal law. We believe that your office can drive or spearhead the implementation of measures to an end to the unacceptable treatment being given to the Africans in Guangzhou.

6. CSDS Africa is a non-profit regional security organization based in Accra, Ghana that is concerned with regional and international security and peace. A translation of this letter in Chinese is hereto attached.

7. CSDS Africa avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Chinese Embassy in Ghana the assurances of its highest consideration.

Respectfully yours,



Dr. Angela Lamptey
Ag. Executive Director



COPY:

THE HON. MINISTER
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & REGIONAL INTEGRATION
ACCRA

THE SECRETARY GENERAL
AFRICA UNION COMMISSION
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

H.E. AMB STEPHANIE SULLIVAN
UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO GHANA
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
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