

## **INTERNATIONAL PRESS STATEMENT**

### **Condemnation of Police Brutality Against Ibrahim Mahama and Call for Immediate Accountability**

We, all the members of the international arts community, cultural institutions, civil society organizations, and concerned global citizens, express our strongest condemnation of the violent assault perpetrated against the Ghanaian artist Ibrahim Mahama by officers of the Ghana Police Service in Tamale on March 21, 2026.

Ibrahim Mahama is a globally respected contemporary artist whose work has significantly shaped critical discourse within the international art world. His recognition as the number one figure on Art Review's Power 100 list in 2025 underscores his profound contribution to global culture and intellectual exchange. Beyond his artistic achievements, Mahama is a cultural leader and institution builder, founding key initiatives including the Savannah Center for Contemporary Art, Tamale (SCCA Tamale), Red Clay Studio, and Nkrumah Voli-ni - spaces that have become vital platforms for artistic research, education, and community engagement across West Africa.

The reported actions of the Ghana Police Service - who allegedly forced entry into Mahama's vehicle and physically assaulted him and members of his family following a traffic incident - constitute a deeply troubling abuse of power and a serious violation of fundamental human rights. That such violence was directed at a civilian, a respected cultural figure, and an individual holding diplomatic status raises urgent concerns about the conduct, discipline, and accountability mechanisms within law enforcement structures in Ghana.

While we acknowledge the public statements made by regional and national authorities indicating that an investigation will be conducted, we emphasize that expressions of concern are insufficient without transparent, timely, and decisive action.

We therefore call on the Government of Ghana to:

1. Initiate an immediate, independent, and transparent investigation into the assault on Ibrahim Mahama and all affected individuals.
2. Publicly identify and hold accountable all officers involved, ensuring that due legal process is followed without interference.
3. Provide full medical, legal, and institutional support to the victims of this attack.

We stand in solidarity with Ibrahim Mahama, his family, and all individuals who have suffered from similar abuses. We further call upon international cultural institutions, human rights organizations, and public figures to join us in endorsing this statement and demanding justice.

Accountability is not optional. It is essential.

Joint Statement by:

**Apalazzo gallery**

**White Cube**

**Savannah Center for Contemporary Art, Tamale (SCCA Tamale)**

**Red Clay**

**Nkrumah Voli-ni**

**blaxTARLINES KUMASI**

**Foundation for Contemporary Art - Ghana**

**Compound House Gallery**