

# CHINA FUJIAN FISHING (GH) LIMITED

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P. O. Box UA59 Akuse

chinafujianghana@hotmail.com



December 2, 2024

Our Ref No.: CFFGL/03/03/12/24

Hon. Minister

Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development

Accra, Ghana.

Dear Madam,

## **REQUESTING YOUR ASSISTANCE IN ADDRESSING THE RAMPANT THEFT AND FISH CAGE CUTTINGS OF TILAPIA AT OUR FARM**

We at China Fujian Fishing Ghana Limited are deeply concerned about the recent wave of theft cases and fish cage cuttings targeting our Tilapia stocks. Over the past months, there has been a significant increase in the unauthorized harvesting of Tilapia from our farm, which is not only impacting our business but also jeopardizing the sustainability of our operations.

However, this series of theft cases which has plagued the farm started from March 2023 and the various alleged suspects are in the nearby communities and across the river. This has posed significant financial constraints on the farm.

We have implemented several security measures to curtail the situation, but to no avail. Some of the measures we have taken are:

1. Installing CCTV cameras at all vantage points, including on the river cages, to monitor activities.
2. Boosting the lighting system around the farm to improve visibility at night and deter intruders.
3. Increasing patrol engagement with the security agencies.
4. Engaging in community education with the help of the DCE and his entourage to raise awareness about the benefits of the farm in the area and the need to protect it, not destroy it.

5. We have arrested some suspects and wanted to use the legal system to bring them to justice in order to deter others, but they maneuvered their way to get bailed, and later the cases were dismissed.

Despite numerous reports, the security agencies have not been able to solve the cases. An official report has been served to the Eastern Regional Police Headquarters and copied to the various stakeholders for strong security support to battle this threatening situation (received copies of the letter and relevant images were attached), but all these measures have not brought the needed solution. On **November 18<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>** and **1<sup>st</sup> December**, about **18 cages, 30 cages, and 13 cages**, respectively, were cut, resulting in a loss of **61 cages** amounting to Fourteen Million, Six Hundred and Forty Thousand Ghana Cedis (**GHC14,640,000.00**) in this recent time. Intelligence and investigations indicated three confirmed suspects whose names are Oduko Joshua Junior, Babaa Lucky, Sekle (see attached images) are repeatedly involved in the theft and fish cage cutting. Also, Oduko Joshua Junior was arrested by the police for involvement in the theft in 2023, taken to court in Tema, but was ultimately granted bail for no apparent reason.

The theft of Tilapia not only results in financial losses for our farm but also disrupts the delicate ecological balance of our Aquaculture System. The illegal removal of fish hinders our ability to maintain optimal population levels, monitor growth rates, and ensure the overall health of our Tilapia stock. Our farm capacity is three thousand (3000) river cages, providing about five hundred (500) jobs to the area with a production capacity of 50,000 metric tons per annum. We are being affected significantly.

Since 2023, our farm has been facing significant financial constraints due to the ongoing theft incidents.

We have experienced:

- Loss of revenue = **GHC50,000,000.00**
- Damage to equipment = **GHC15,000,000.00**
- Increased operational costs = **GHC3,500,000.00**
- Reduced production capacity = **35%**

As a sustainable aquaculture farm dedicated to providing high-quality Tilapia products, we remain steadfast in our commitment to upholding the integrity of our operations and preserving the well-being of our fish.

The fish farm is in urgent need of assistance to address the ongoing theft cases. We wish there could be a higher power to urge the security agencies to take immediate action to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators, and to work with the community to implement measures to prevent future incidents, else it could be difficult for our fish farm to survive such a situation and our confidence to invest in the agriculture sector in Ghana will be severely shaken.

Attached are other supporting documents and images to provide more information on our request.

We kindly appeal for your urgency in this matter to bring a sustainable solution to our farm.

For further inquiries or information, please contact [0541794200, 0558592000 and 0272298688].

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Deng Jun (Duncan)

Dy. General Manager (Commercial)

These are the images of the suspects in the recent cage cuttings:

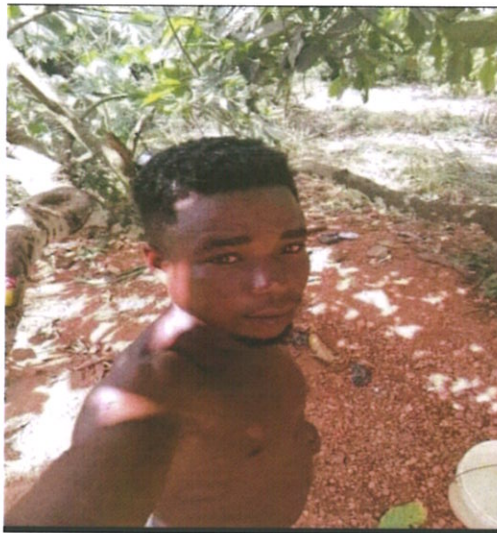


Fig. 1; Oduko Joshua Junior



Fig. 2; Baba Lucky

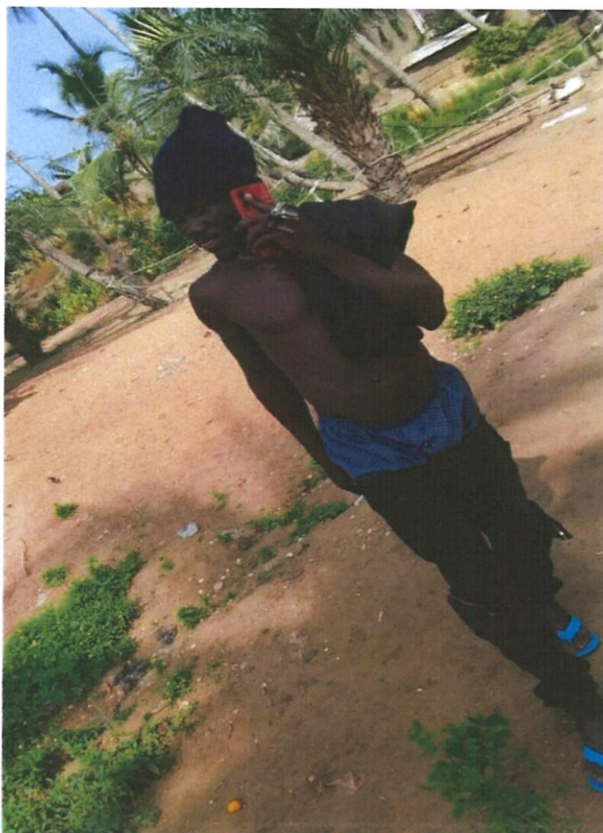


Fig. 3; Sekle

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Regional Commander  
Eastern Regional Police Headquarters  
Kofuridua-Eastern Region



31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Our Ref. No.: CFF/01/31/03/24



*Handwritten signature and date: 2/4/24*

Dear Sir:

## REQUEST FOR SECURITY SUPPORT AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF THE RAMPANT FISH FARM CAGES CUTTING, FISH STEALING, ILLEGAL PROPERTY TRESPASSING CONDUCTED BY THE VILLAGERS AROUND CHINA FUJIAN FISHING GHANA LIMITED

We, CHINA FUJIAN FISHING GHANA LIMITED, as one of the leading fish and aquacultural farms at Asutsuare in the Eastern Region, kindly write to plead with your esteemed office to provide strong and urgent support in respect of the captioned subject, the criminal offence of which have been in existence for a very long period since March 2023.

Our fish farm was registered and established in 2015. The aim of erecting such a fish farm is to provide affordable tilapia fish which can meet the pocket and food demand of more Ghanaian people by reducing the high cost and also to help create more jobs to the local community, more revenue and economic enhancement to government and more technological training to the workers concerning the fishing industries. With years of strong-willed and continuous investment and contribution to the development of the fish farm, China Fujian Fishing has now boasted with 500 numbers of Ghanaian workers employed at the site and enjoyed a whole complete production chain from fish feed factory with annual capacity of 50,000 metric tons, hatchery, lab, ponds for fingerlings and 3000 fish cages in the Volta lake, contributing enormously to the local community and the government of Ghana.

However, back in March 2023, the villagers from overbank came to our fish farm by various means and cut some of the cages (5m\*5m in size) which led the fish to go out of the cages, then the villagers crossed our fence wall or broke the wall to enter the fish farm area to use their tools to catch the fish. Our people at site applied ways to evict them and told them it is criminal offence to do so, but still they will come in groups at the number of 10, 20 or even 30 people to enter our fish farm area and some others will access our fish farm cages by using canoes or swimming from the overbank. All our efforts turned out in vain since the people

*Handwritten initials: 2/P*

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our fishermen and have the expertise of swimming. We reported to the local police station, but no proper action has been taken to clamp down the worse situation, and there were even situations where the villagers robbed the police people's weapons and capsized the boats the police officers used to chase the criminals. All the criminal evidences have been captured and documented by our cameras and CCTVs and evidences are also attached as we reported on many occasions to the police station. Even though we complained vehemently to the police system, district assembly, local chiefs and other organizations about the grief we are having and relevant actions have been taken to reduce and stop those criminal offence, the villagers turn a deaf ear to it and keep cutting and catching the fish at our farm every day and may even retaliate strongly on the fish farm if a force is applied to evict them.

The incapability of the security circumstance directly resulted in huge loss to our fish farm ever since the incident first took place and seriously damaged and discouraged our confidence to input further investment into the fish farm. As at now, more than 70 plus fish cages (at the size of 5m\*5m) have been cut by the villagers. We normally have 4 tons of fish in each cage and each ton is worth of 30,000 Ghana cedis at the market rate and we can have a rough calculation of the loss at  $70 \times 4 \times 30,000 = 8,400,000.00$  Ghana cedis, which is an incredibly huge and unacceptable loss to the fish farm.

Based on the intelligence we are obtaining, insider workers from our fish farm inform the villagers from the overbank about the cages which have grown-up and mature fish for them to enter to cut. With what these people are doing, it means all the mature fish in our cages can be cut for them catch within our fish farm, sounding so ridiculous and terrible which implicate all the yearlong hard-won investment will be stolen and destroyed by the local villagers. It is worth mentioning that the over spillages conducted by the Akosombo and Akuse dams in 2023 have damaged around 400 fish cages and caused a big loss to our fish farm already. The current organized crime of fish cages cutting, fish stealing and illegal trespassing has made the situation even worse.

In view of the above, we plead with your office to help us with security environment and the investigation of the criminal offence so our investment can be protected and our confidence be consolidated. We reply on your end to enable us to rebuild the confidence of investment.

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Attached you will see the relevant images indicating the scenes where the villagers are inside our fish farm cutting the cages and catching the fish. More videos and CCTV camera footages could be provided in case of need.

Kindly contact Mr. Duncan (0541 794 200), Ms. Olivia (055 859 2000) and Mr. Albert (027 219 8388, 024 581 5599) for further clarification and information.

Your understanding and immediate support on the above will be highly anticipated.

Faithfully Yours:



Mr. Duncan

Deputy General Manager (Commercial)

Cc:

Hon. Minister, Ministry of Interior

Hon. Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development

Hon. Minister, Greater Accra Region

Hon. Inspector-General of Police, Ghana Police Service

Hon. Chief Executive, Shai-Osudoku District Assembly



IMAGE 1: VILLIAGERS TRESPASSED OUR FISH FARM TO SET THEIR FISHING TOOLS AT THE PLACE AROUND OUR FISH CAGES (THE BACK IS OUR FENCE WALL)



IMAGE 2: THE STONES THE VILLAGERS THREW ON THE MARINE POLICE IN THE SPEED BOAT AND THE HOOK SEIZED BY THE MARINE POLICE



IMAGE 3: THE VILLAGERS ARE SWIMMING AND CATCHING THE FISH WITHIN OUR FISH FARM





IMAGE 8 : THE VILLAGERS ARE GESTICULATING TO OUR FISH FARM PEOPLE THEIR THREATENING AND ARROGANCE.



IMAGE 9 : THE VILLAGERS ARE FISHING INSIDE OUR FISH FARM.

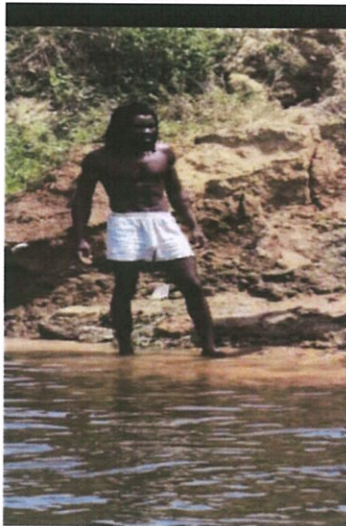


IMAGE 10 : ONE VILLAGER & SUSPECT CAPTURE BY CCTV CAMERA

**(NOTE: WE HAVE FULL FOOTAGES OF ALL THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AT OUR FISH FARM)**



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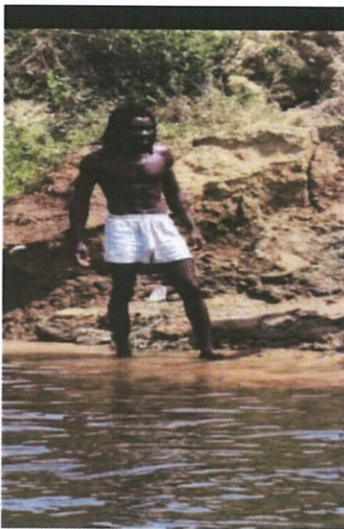


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**(NOTE: WE HAVE FULL FOOTAGES OF ALL THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AT OUR FISH FARM)**

1. NAME

TUSIF. Boutemaa

CONTACT

0299209213

PLACE

GPS

DATE

2/07/24

SIGN



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27