African Public Affairs Committee
www.afripac.org
MEDIA CONTACT
info@afripac.org

PRESS RELEASE

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African Public Affairs Committee Mourns Javits Frimpong and Calls for Answers and Accountability

HOUSTON, TX: The African Public Affairs Committee (AfriPAC) is heartbroken by the killing of 15-year-old Javits Frimpong, who was shot and killed on his way to school in the Bronx, New York, on the morning of October 29.

We grieve with his family, the Ghanaian community, and African families across the diaspora who are carrying this loss. Javits came to the United States from Ghana just one year ago to join his father, Mr. Thomas Frimpong, who wanted a better life and a good education for his son. His mother remained in Ghana. Javits was a student at DreamYard Preparatory School, and his father remembers him as a precious and very bright boy.

We did not know Javits personally, but we know his story. It is the story of so many of our families: a parent who goes ahead to build a foundation, years of sacrifice and separation, and the joy of finally being together again. Javits should have had a lifetime to grow into the promise his family saw in him. Instead, a father is mourning his son, and a mother has had to receive the worst news of her life from thousands of miles away.

"As immigrants, many of us know what it means to leave home believing our children will have a chance at a better future," said Nneka Achapu, founder of AfriPAC. "Javits deserved that chance. No parent should ever have to bury their child, and no mother should have to grieve her son from across an ocean. To Mr. Frimpong and to Javits's mother, please know that you are not alone. We are holding you in our hearts, and we will stand beside you long after the headlines fade."

We are grateful to President Donald J. Trump for his compassion in granting Javits's mother a visa to travel to the United States, and to New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani for championing her case. Because of this act of kindness, a grieving mother will be able to hold her family close and say goodbye to her son in person. We appreciate the President's swift and decisive response, and we pray it brings this family some measure of comfort in their darkest hour.

The circumstances surrounding Javits's death are still being established, including reports that he had been bullied at school before he was killed. AfriPAC calls on the New York Police Department to conduct a thorough and timely investigation, to hold those responsible accountable, and to keep the Frimpong family clearly informed at every stage. We also urge school and city officials to examine what was known about the bullying Javits experienced and what more can be done to protect students who report it.

Every child deserves to grow up safe, and every family deserves to be heard and treated with dignity when tragedy strikes. Our solidarity with the Frimpong family will not end with this moment of mourning. From Houston, across Texas, and all over the United States, our AfriPAC family sends love and support to our brothers and sisters in New York and to the Ghanaian community there. Though miles apart, we are one family, and their grief is our grief.

We ask our community to surround this family with love: support the family's official fundraiser at https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-javits-frimpongs-family where you are able, and respect their privacy as they grieve. May Javits rest in perfect peace, and may his family find strength in the love that surrounds them.

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ABOUT AFRIPAC

The African Public Affairs Committee (AfriPAC) is an immigrant-led, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) civic organization dedicated to strengthening the civic voice and engagement of the African diaspora in the United States.