

His Excellency President Mr. Julius Maada Bio
President of Sierra Leone
State House, State Avenue, Freetown
Freetown
Republic of Sierra Leone

PETITION
2018/2019

RESTRICTIONS ON PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY IN SIERRA LEONE

Dear President,

The findings of Amnesty International's recent report "A FORCE FOR GOOD? RESTRICTIONS ON PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND IMPUNITY FOR EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE BY THE SIERRA LEONE POLICE" are very concerning. Over the past 10 years, peaceful protests have regularly been refused permission in Sierra Leone, particularly those organized by opposition political parties or critical civil society groups. In some cases, criminal sanctions have been employed against people simply for exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly.

Furthermore, the excessive force used by the police to disperse protests unlawfully killed people, left victims with long lasting injuries and destroyed peoples' properties. During this period...

- ... at least 9 protesters were killed,
- ... more than 80 protesters have been injured,
- ... more than 80 protesters had their properties looted or were arbitrarily arrested.

Amnesty International has no record that any police officer has been held accountable through criminal proceedings for any of the cases documented in the report, despite recommendations from two Commissions of Inquiry and the Independent Police Complaints Board. Impunity continues to fuel the excessive use of force by the police in peaceful assemblies.

It really urge you to address Amnesty International's concerns and to undertake as soon as possible all the reforms needed. It is time for the vibrant civil society and dynamic population to fully use their freedom of peaceful assembly without fear.

Yours sincerely,

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Please send completed lists by 1st March 2019 to the following address:

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