



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE ON POLITICAL VIOLENCE

10th April, 2018

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone is concerned about the spate of political violence across the country following the announcement of the results of the March 31st run-off election.

As a statutory body mandated to protect and promote the human rights of all in the country, HRCSL brings to attention the incidents in Kenema, Freetown, Kabala, Falaba, Taiama and Kono.

HRCSL unreservedly condemns any act of violence which will undermine the enjoyment of fundamental human rights and freedoms as enshrined in the 1991 Constitution and International human rights instruments.

The Commission therefore calls on all parties to denounce violence, promote political tolerance and peaceful co-existence during and after the transition period.

HRCSL reminds the government of Sierra Leone of its obligations to maintain peace and security of the State, and calls on the Sierra Leone Police to increase security personnel in affected areas so as to maintain law and order and protect lives and property.

HRCSL calls on all citizens to conduct themselves responsibly within the rule of law, display political tolerance and respect the fundamental human rights of one another.

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone has sent out a fact finding team to Masingbi and Kono to conduct an independent investigation into the reports of violence in these areas.

END

Signed

Rev. Dr. Usman Jesse Fornah (Chairperson)

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone is an independent institution established by the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone Act (No. 9), 2004 with the mandate to protect and promote human rights nationwide.

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