

Sierra Leone Advocacy Movement (SLAM-Global)

Motto: Trust, Unity and Social Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

Members of **the Sierra Leone Advocacy Movement (SLAM)**, an advocacy movement of like-minded Sierra Leoneans, yearning for the socio-economic and political development of our beloved nation where justice, the rule of law, democracy and respect for the fundamental human rights of our compatriots prevail, would like to thank the **International Community, Development Partners and Friends of Sierra Leone**, especially those that have championed the cause of resolving the political impasse following the rigged multitier elections of **June 24, 2023**, which Local and International Observers widely described as **"lacking transparency and accountability"**.

We are most grateful for your collective efforts towards sending the many International Observers to oversee the referred elections of **June 24, 2023**, as well as your invaluable assistance/support and role in ending the **11-year** brutal civil war in Sierra Leone that claimed over **50,000** lives, including foreign troops that fought alongside our local forces. Sadly however, most of the principal perpetrators of that brutal war, including the **"de facto president", Mr Julius Maada Bio**, are illegally wielding political power in our beloved nation, to the painful dissatisfaction of majority of our compatriots.

As you are aware, the work of the **Tripartite Committee**, established by the **October 18, 2023 Communiqué**, signed by the De Facto Government of Sierra Leone and the opposition All Peoples Congress Party, witnessed by the International Community (the Commonwealth, African Union and ECOWAS), with a mandate, amongst others, to investigate the **June 24, 2023** elections in Sierra Leone, was originally scheduled to complete its work and submit a comprehensive report on **June 19, 2024**. That deadline has painfully, but understandably, been extended to **June 29, 2024**.

As provided for in the signed communiqué, the expected recommendations of the Tripartite Committee **"SHALL BE IMPLEMENTABLE AND ACTIONABLE"**. Learning from the difficult history in restoring and maintaining democracy, peace and stability in Sierra Leone and the sub-region, we believe that you, as **MORAL GUARANTORS**, must be on Standby to ensure **FORCEFUL COMPLIANCE**, if required.

Drawing from recent developments in the sub-region, the former President of Ivory Coast, **Koudou Laurent Gbagbo**, had to be removed from power by an International Force after he lost elections in **2011**. This was to prevent a further humanitarian disaster after an estimated number of over **1500** people had been killed and over a million displaced in Abidjan alone. Former President of The Gambia, **Yahya Jammeh**, only left power in **January 2017** when he lost elections after realising that an internationally backed **ECOMOG** standby force was ready to remove him should he fail to hand over power peacefully, thus securing the peace and security of The Gambia and the sub-region at that time.

We are certain that the citizens of Sierra Leone and, by extension, West Africa will be put off from voting in the future should we have anything short of **"ELECTORAL JUSTICE"** and the restoration of true democracy in Sierra Leone. We therefore trust that you will ensure that one of their fundamental human rights, expressed in their votes on **June 24, 2023**, is protected and would be something meaningful to them.

What is worth noting at this juncture is the level of patience that the Presidential Candidate of the APC Party, **Dr Samura Mathew Wilson Kamara**, has displayed, even at the expense of his personal dignity/respect and threat to his own life as well as those of his party members and compatriots, coupled

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with the unshaken confidence/trust that he, his political party and majority of the people of Sierra Leone placed on the International Community. In view of that, anything less than the **"ELECTORAL JUSTICE"** that we are genuinely expecting and rightfully advocating for will be a disservice to our nation and a blatant betrayal of confidence and deception by the International Community.

With the escalating economic crises, relentless incarceration of political opponents and human rights abuses by the "De Facto Government" of **Mr Julius Maada Bio**, and with ex-combatants amassed across the borders of Sierra Leone, we fear a return to civil war, if appropriate action is not taken.

In our view therefore, it will be cheaper in monetary terms, as well as the potential cost to human life and suffering to have a standby force to ensure, as per the signed communiqué and the Terms of Reference of the Tripartite Committee, that the recommendations be fully actioned and implemented.

Please note, with serious concern, the worrisome pronouncements and inciteful messages trending in our motherland and its borders. Whilst **Dr Samura M W Kamara** is advocating for **"ELECTORAL JUSTICE"**, citing provisions of the **TRUTH & RECONCILIATION COMMISSION**, established after the brutal 11 years civil war in Sierra Leone, as a guiding principle, **Mr Julius Maada Bio** is threatening **"BULLET FOR BULLET"**, boldly/publicly emphasising his determination to annihilate anyone that has left the country and attempting to return, contrary to **"CLAUSE 4c"** of the signed Communiqué that made provision for **"supporting the resettlement of any political party supporters internally and externally displaced due to political intimidation, attacks and harassment..."**

In light of the above, we call on the **International Community, Development Partners** and **Friends of Sierra Leone** to ensure **"ELECTORAL JUSTICE"** in our beloved nation, and to be proactive in fully supporting a contingency plan by way of a standby force to secure the peace, as well as ensuring that the freedom of expression and the rights of citizens to protest are upheld, should the need arises. This will guarantee stability and prevent any potential humanitarian disaster and civil conflict in Sierra Leone that would have a ripple effect in the sub-region.

A stitch in time...

For and on behalf of SLAM-Global Members

SIGNED

Dr. Alfred A Veenod Fullah
CHAIRMAN

CC:

- The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland, Commonwealth Secretary-General
- Richard YOUNG, Chief de Division, Afrique de l'Ouest
- Ms Ursula Von Der Lyen, European Commissioner

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- The United Nations Representative in Sierra Leone
- H.E Bola Tinubu, President of Nigeria & Chairman of ECOWAS
- H.E Oumar Touray, President of ECOWAS Commission
- Madam Fatoumata Jallow-Tambajang, former VP of The Gambia
- Nana Akufo Addo, President of Ghana
- H.E Bassiru Faye, President of Senegal
- H.E Mamadi Doumbouya, President of Guinea
- H.E Joseph Boakai, President of Liberia
- David W D Cameron, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth & Dev Affairs, UK
- Ms Ursula Von Der Lyen, European Commissioner
- The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell, British Minister responsible for Africa
- Lynn Brown, Shadow Minister for Africa, UK
- Neil Alan John Coyle, MP for Bermondsey & Old Southwark, UK
- Ambassador Aly Diallo, Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea to the UK&I
- H.E Cyprian Terseer Heen, Acting Ambassador of the Nigeria High Comm. in the UK&I
- Ambassador of the USA to Sierra Leone
- British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone
- Head of the European Union Delegation in Sierra Leone
- General Consul of Canada in Sierra Leone
- Ambassador of China to Sierra Leone
- Ambassador of Germany to Sierra Leone
- Ambassador of Lebanon to Sierra Leone
- Ambassador of Iran to Sierra Leone
- Ambassador of Brazil to Sierra Leone
- Ambassador of Sweden to Sierra Leone
- Ambassador of Iran to Sierra Leone
- Ambassador of Cuba to Sierra Leone
- Ambassador of Libya to Sierra Leone
- Ambassador of Egypt to Sierra Leone
- Ambassador of Cuba to Sierra Leone
- Ambassador of Guinea to Sierra Leone
- Ambassador of Liberia to Sierra Leone
- High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Sierra Leone
- High Commissioner of Ghana to Sierra Leone
- General Consul of Italy in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul-General of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul-General of Ireland in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul-General of India to Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul of Senegal to Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul of Syria in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul of Turkey in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul of Mali in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul of Ukraine in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul of Romania in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul of Norway in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul of Hungary in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul of France in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul of Belgium in Sierra Leone
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- Honorary Consul of Denmark in Sierra Leone
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- Honorary Consul of Malaysia in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul of South Africa in Sierra Leone
- Honorary Consul of Guinea-Bissau in Sierra Leone
- Vice Consul of Greece in Sierra Leone