

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

POSITION OF CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENDERS ON THE DEATH OF ARMLESS CITIZENS IN MAKENI CITY ON FRIDAY 17th July 2020.

Civil Rights Defenders (CRD) is a non Governmental registered Organization in Sierra Leone. It's principal objective is advocating for citizens in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Rule of Law, the 1991 Constitution and International treaties ratified. Where fundamental rights have been disregarded, it is our duty to bring it to light and ensure steps are taken to uphold these rights.

The civil rights of the citizens of Makeni must be taken into consideration by the State when actions are taken to address the issue. Our investigations have observed the following:

- (1) That no proper consultations were done with the stakeholders for the relocation of their generator to Lungi.
- (2) That the use of the military was premeditated and should not have been used in the first place for a situation of this nature.
- (3) There were shots fired with an intention to kill. The civilians involved were unarmed therefore such acts were highly preposterous and unreasonable use of forces. This reckless display caused the loss of innocent lives which is unacceptable.

Few months back we witnessed a similar incident in the Pademba Road Correctional Center riot where innocent unarmed civilians were killed.

The rate of human rights violations in Sierra Leone is rapidly increasing. The CRD is hereby requesting that the Government of Sierra Leone set up an independent body to investigate the death of these citizens. Further, we remind the Government of Sierra Leone that the Judiciary must be an independent adjudicator and be permitted to prosecute accordingly.



Allan S. Tuboku Metzger
Chairman

Freetown, Sierra Leone
22nd July, 2020