

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT
(NaCFoHRD)



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NaCFoHRD CONDEMN THE 8th OCTOBER 2020 STANDOFF IN MAKENI BETWEEN ANTI CORRUPTION COMMISSION AND SUPPORTERS OF FORMER PRESIDENT DR.ERNEST BAI KOROMAL AND CALL FOR CALM IN THE COUNTRY.

The National Centre for Human Rights and Development (NaCFoHRD) strongly condemn the standoff between the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) and the supporters of ex- president Dr.Ernest Bai Koroma in Makeni on 8th October, 2020.We want to commend the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) for the professional way and manner in which they handled the entire situation.

As a human rights and development organization, NaCFoHRD particularly condemn the use of inflammatory rhetoric of some organizations especially political actors and members of some Civil Society Organizations leading to growing ethnic tension and divide among the people of Sierra Leone. **NaCFoHRD call for calm and restrain from all political actors especially supporters of the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples party (SLPP) and main opposition All Peoples Congress Party (APC).**

We wish to profoundly repeat this important message that: *anyone who commits, orders, incites, encourage or contribute to the violation of human rights of the citizenry of Sierra Leone is liable to be prosecuted either by the local courts in Sierra Leone or the International Criminal Court (ICC).*

We also wish to draw the attention of the Anti Corruption Commission to take into cognizance or account section 48 especially (4) of the 1991 constitution of Sierra Leone in their quest to investigate the former president Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma.

NaCfoHRD welcome the commitment made by the former President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma to cooperate fully with the investigation process.

Against that background NaCfoHRD is strongly recommending to the Anti Corruption Commission(ACC) to take into account chapter three(3) of the 1991 which make provision for the protection of the fundamental human rights of citizens of the state irrespective of their race, tribe, religion, political opinion, colour, creed or sex.

We want to encourage the Sierra Leone Police and other security sectors to continue the display of professionalism, respect for human rights and maintaining ethical values in carrying out their duties as law enforcement officers in the country.

We are also calling on citizens to stop making inciting and frivolous statement(s) about the persons of interest whose names were mentioned in the COI Report and leave the process of investigation in the hand of the Anti Corruption Commission.

Finally NaCfoHRD want to commend the Anti Corruption Commission for their relentless effort in fighting corruption in Sierra Leone. But at the same time we want to encourage the ACC NOT to be selective in their stride to minimize corruption in the country and to also distance and disassociate themselves from politics in executing their duties.

As a brief background, NaCfoHRD is a national non-political, non-profit and non-partisan human rights and development organization whose strategic focus is geared towards the promotion and protection of human rights in Sierra Leone. We are the coordinating body of the Sierra Leone Coalition for the International Criminal Court (SLICC). We work closely with the Human rights Commission of Sierra Leone, the Anti-Corruption Commission and Legal Aid Board to improve on the state of human rights and justice in Sierra Leone.

Signed

James Matthew, PhD (Honorary)

Founding Executive Director
NaCfoHRD

CC: The Commissioner ACC
CC: The Inspector General of Police
CC: Office of the Former President of Sierra Leone
Cc: Media/CSOs