

CIVIL SOCIETY MOVEMENT-SIERRA LEONE (CSM-SL)



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Motto: The voice of the people is the voice of God

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PRESS RELEASE

CSM-SL CONDEMNS POLICE BRUTALITY... AND CALLS FOR SPEEDY INVESTIGATIONS

Civil Society Movement Sierra Leone (CSM-SL) condemns the recent alleged police brutality involving harmless, defenseless and peaceful civilians and calls on the leadership of the Sierra Leone Police to speedily investigate these egregious incidents make their findings public and prosecute all those found responsible either by omission or commission.

It's disheartening to note that within seven days in the last two weeks, the country watched in utter horror the savage beating of a female student of the Institute of Public Administration and Management (IPAM) in Freetown allegedly by armed police officers of the Sierra Leone Police who left her partially naked. This was followed immediately by another horrendous incident at Hastings, near Freetown, where a police officer allegedly gunned to death another armless civilian.

In the recent past, police brutality on defenseless citizens has become a hallmark of the behaviour of some officers of the Sierra Leone Police and this has largely affected our collective national life, including personal safety and community stability. Most often, these incidents are either not investigated and appropriate and adequate actions taken to serve as deterrents, or the public is not properly informed about the outcomes of the ensuing investigations. This has resulted in nurturing a culture of impunity within the Sierra Leone Police.

Now, the two savagery incidents at IPAM in Freetown and Hastings have shaken our country's foundation of core human rights values, and they have also demonstrated clearly the everyday danger that harmless Sierra Leoneans face at the hands of the police. This violence has eroded trust of the police within peaceful Sierra Leoneans who are consistently victims of police brutalization.

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CSM-SL believes the police took oath to protect lives and properties of citizens, and they should not be seeing doing the direct opposite of their constitutional responsibilities. It is in this regard that CSM-SL is calling on the leadership of the Sierra Leone Police to take the necessary actions to curb police violence and brutality on harmless citizens who are, in fact, looking forward to the very police for protection, security and safety.

End

Long live Civil Society Movement

Sign



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