

ALL PEOPLES CONGRESS (APC) MOTTO: ACTION PROGRESS COMMITMENT

Headquarters & Western Region Eastern Region We Yone House 11A Old Railway Line, Freetown. Tel 076-611-726 Our Ref:

R.T.I. - Kenema Tel: 076-744870 Your Ref:

Northern Region Victor Brima Street 12, Field Road Makeni. Tel: 076-731-170

1 Falaba Road Port Loko Tel: C76731170

North/West Region Southern Region 7 Bailma Lane Off Bailma Road Bo Tel: 076-616-448 24th October 2021

PRESS STATEMENT

The public would recall that on 2nd October 2021, the National Electoral Commission (hereinafter referred to as NEC) conducted by-elections for the vacant seats for Chairman of Koinadugu District Council and that of Councillor for Ward 155, Koinadugu District. On the eve of polling and immediately after polling closed on the day, elements of the Sierra Leone People's Party (hereinafter referred to as the "SLPP") carried out viclent attacks against members of the All Peoples Congress (hereinaster referred to as the APCI and their properties, causing serious injuries to their persons and malicious damage estimated in excess of one hundred million Leones. One of the prominent APC sons of Koinadugu District whose person and property were the target of this wanton violence is Dr. S.S. Marrah. His house at Chief Compound, Denka Street, Kabala Town was pelted with stones and Molotov cocktail bombs, causing extensive damage.

The Sierra Leone Police, whose duty it is to protect lives and properties, investigate and bring the culprits of violent conduct to book ironically arrested three youths, Mustapha Daramy, Farrah Yapie Marrah and Abu Bakarr D. Mansaray who were the victims of the reported viclence and who are Dr. S.S. Marrah's wards and living with him at his residence which was attacked. The arrests took place on 4th of October 2021, and subsequently charged to Kabala Magistrate Court and denied bail. After lawyers for the three accused persons made an application for them to be discharged on Monday 11th October 2021, the Magistrate on receiving a phone call in the middle of the hearing announced to the court that having had "orders from above" he was remitting the Court file together with the three-accused persons to the CID HQ for further investigations, a practice which is a novelty and most unusual. The three accused persons were taken to Freetown on 11th October 2021 and have been kept in police custody without bail or charged again to court.

The detained youths; Mustapha Daramy, Farrah Yapie Marrah and Abu Bakarr D. Mansaray have since been in police and court custody continuously for eighteen (18) days now without bail, a breach of their constitutional right as guaranteed under section 17(3) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. The APC is calling on the Sierra Leone Police to immediately release the detained young persons on bail and carry out investigation to bring to book the culprits responsible for the carnage meted on Kabala town on the eve and day of polling.

The APC draws the public's attention to the continuous trampling by the security and justice sectors of the civil liberties and human rights of law abiding citizens as guaranteed under the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. The APC further recalls the findings and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in regards the causes of the eleven years brutal civil war that afflicted Sierra Leone in the recent past, and unfortunately the party observed that those conflict red flags identified in our law enforcement and justice system are getting visible again by the day under the Bio SLPP administration.

Accordingly, the APC calls for the release of its members arrested in Kabala and brought down to Freetown. The security and justice sectors are reminded that fairness is the bedrock of any stable democracy which they are duty bound to serve and protect.

Signed

Amb. Dr. Alhaji Osman Foday Yansaneh

National Secretary General - APC