



# Sierra Leone Association of Journalists

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## PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 14th December, 2021

### **SLAJ Condemns Police Assault of AYV Cameraman**

The **Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ)** acknowledges a report by **Africa Young Voices Media Empire** regarding the alleged physical assault of their cameraman by the **Sierra Leone Police (SLP)- Central Division**, which unfortunate event happened on Monday 13th December, 2021.

According to the report, the AYV staff (**Ransford Wright**) went to the Central Police Station to get the other side of a story he had filmed earlier on the same day of an accident involving an SLP motorcycle, a commercial motorbike (Okada), and a child victim when the police officers physically assaulted and detained him in a police cell.

SLAJ condemns the alleged attack and urges the leadership of the SLP to take appropriate action against the alleged perpetrators.

SLAJ President, **Ahmed Sahid Nasralla**, said: *“It’s unfortunate that such an attack on a journalist in the line of duty comes after SLAJ and the national security sector, including the SLP, had signed an undertaking to respect each other’s role in our democracy. Granted, this culture of assault on journalists doing their work will not change overnight even with the signing of an MoU but we urge the SLP to be professional at all times, and this includes ensuring the safety and security of journalists in the line of duty.”*

Meanwhile, in the spirit of the MoU with the security sector, SLAJ will engage the leadership of the SLP to ensure appropriate steps are taken to address the situation.

Signed:

**Alhaji Manika Kamara**

Acting National Secretary General

