

THE BLACK TUESDAY MOVEMENT MOURNS THE DEATH OF WUYATTA KONNEH

The Black Tuesday Movement regrets to announce the death of Wuyatta Konneh, aged 9 years. This sad event took place on Sunday January 23rd, 2022.

Wuyatta was a brave fighter. In November 2018, founder of the movement, Asmaa James met Wuyatta at the Aberdeen Women's Centre where she had been admitted and was undergoing treatment after her 28-year-old uncle had allegedly brutally raped her, damaging her spine and leaving her paralysed.

In December 2018, Wuyatta's story sparked a spontaneous outpouring of grief and rage in Sierra Leone. Her story resonated with too many of us. The pain she experienced shared by so many of us. In her name and the names of all those survivors of sexual violence who's stories are told out loud, are whispered and those that are still hidden from view, the Black Tuesday Movement was born.

A people powered platform, Black Tuesday shines light on the horrific incidences of rape and sexual penetration in Sierra Leone, provides a space for healing and collective action for survivors, and pushes for tangible policy and legislative changes towards a world where all girls and women can live lives of dignity and free from violence.

In August 2019 with support from H.E. President Bio, and the Government of Sierra Leone and through the Sick Pikin project, Wuyatta was flown to India for further medical treatment. She came back in 2021 in a much-improved condition. Wuyatta had been living with her mother in Bo for some time now, and it was there she fell ill and ultimately succumbed to death.

The Black Tuesday Movement will continue to demand justice in Wuyatta's name. We will continue to stand by the many - too many - survivors in towns and villages across Sierra Leone. We will continue to implore the prosecutors' office to do all it can to ensure her alleged perpetrator's case is brought swiftly to conclusion, while fighting for the broad brush legal reforms to ensure justice for all survivors.

Wuyatta's life was short, but her strength and courage left a lasting impression on many people. May she rest in peace and in power.

In solidarity
#BlackTuesdaySL

