



**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE  
MOSCOW RUSSIA**

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## **Press Release: Sierra Leoneans in Ukraine**

Moscow 25th February 2022 - The Republic of Sierra Leone Embassy in Moscow, Russian Federation wishes to inform the general public both home and abroad that the mission is aware of the current situation and is in contact with Sierra Leoneans in Ukraine.

His Excellency Ambassador Mohamed Yongawo and diplomatic staff are in regular communication with the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Sierra Leone in Ukraine, Madam Liudmyla Rusalina.

In an earlier zoom meeting held on 15-02-22 we agreed contingencies in support of Sierra Leoneans in the event of the situation escalating to all out armed conflict.

Madam Rusalina advised that her home will be available to host Sierra Leoneans to succour whilst waiting for evacuation. Her residence, she informed is on the outskirts of Kyiv which is safe and well-guarded with armed security. Madam Rusalina is supported by the Sierra Leone community organization, which she helps set up and sponsoring. And with the help of the latter, they've been able to register 97 Sierra Leoneans of which 40 are private students.

The Embassy would like to assure all and sundry that at the time of going to press we had not received any information of harm to any of our citizens.

The Government of President Julius Maada Bio has appealed to countries neighboring Ukraine - Moldova, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Belarus through the Mission in Moscow to offer temporary sanctuary if and when our citizens show up in their territories whilst the government considers other options including evacuation.

Meanwhile, the Sierra Leone Moscow mission also held zoom meetings with the Sierra Leonean community and students residing in Ukraine where information was shared in regards the ongoing conflict, risk, and safety measures to be adopted by Sierra Leoneans.

The general public will be kept updated with further developments as the situations unfolds in Ukraine.

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