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INDEPENDENT MEDIA COMMISSION

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Press Statement

Temporal Closure of the Justice Radio Station in Freetown

Thursday, 28 April 2022, Freetown. The Independent Media Commission, operating within the scope of its mandate, today activated key provisions in the IMC Act of 2020, and temporarily shut down the operations of the Justice Radio Station in the East End of Freetown.

The IMC was responding to numerous reports from the public and concerned citizens with respect to the (un) professional conduct of the radio station. One report said that Justice Radio was merely responding to provocation from other radio stations. During the IMC visit, this morning, **we ensured that everything was done peacefully and, no one was arrested, as alleged.**

The Complaints Committee of the IMC held an emergency meeting this afternoon to swiftly respond to the allegations. Tentatively, three clear issues emerged: a) professional conduct, b) proprietorship and, c) management of the station. Because 'management of the station' was critical (involving the other two), it was addressed, and professional conduct was partially discussed.

Hence the IMC would like to unreservedly assure radio listeners and other community people, in the East End of Freetown, that the matter is being vigorously investigated, in line with provisions in the 2020 Act, while the temporal ban, instituted this morning, on the Station, to stabilize the situation, has been lifted.