



PATRIOTIC ADVOCACY NETWORK, SIERRA LEONE (PAN SL)

www.pansalone.org

patrioticadvocacynetwork@gmail.com

+23277459773/+23231059629/+23275029745

PRESS STATEMENT
Thursday, 11th August, 2022

PAN SL CONDEMNS THE BRUTAL EXECUTIONS OF SECURITY PERSONNEL AND
PROTESTERS AND THE ACT OF VIOLENCE DISPLAYED IN SIERRA LEONE

The Patriotic Advocacy Network, Sierra Leone (PAN) vehemently condemns the brutal killings of security personnel and protesters during the tempestuous demonstrations in major parts of the country on Wednesday, 10th August, 2022. With great dismay, we also condemn all acts of violence that transpired before, during and after the said demonstrations which include: **the sending of inciting audios on social media, using of invectives and words of incitement on public places, firing of tear gas and live bullets, pelting of stones, burning of police stations, burning of tires in the streets, looting of properties and destruction of places and properties.**

Fellow compatriots, let us be reminded that our country had once tasted the bitterness of war and we are still romancing with its predicaments. As a nation, it is clear that violence leads to perpetual pain, suffering and above all, does trek a nation from progress. Therefore, violence in all forms and shape is unwelcomed, unaccepted and unreasonable. Violence has no room in our society and violence is not the answer.

In respect of our ground norm law, PAN wants to remind the government and people of this nation that we all have our moral obligations and patriotic responsibilities to upkeep sanity, peace, serenity and development of this country. Thus, section 13 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone positioned our duties as citizens of this great nation. Section 13 (b) states:

“Every citizen shall cultivate a sense of nationalism and patriotism so that loyalty to the State shall override sectional, ethnic tribal or other loyalties”

Let us be reminded that our country is modeled on the principles of **FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY** by virtue of section 5 (1) of Act No. 6 of 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone. Section 5 (2) of the Constitution recognizes the fact that power belongs in the hands of the people from whom government through the constitution derives its powers, authorities, and legitimacy. And Chapter 4 of the constitution is modeled on the representation of the people. Thus, the legitimacy of a government is rooted in the democratic processes of the state and the processes have to be sustained through periodic elections for which all sierra Leoneans that have reached the legal age of maturity shall have the sole rights to exercise their franchise. It is against this backdrop that, we implore all and sundry to respect and abide the laws of the land and respect the democratic ideals of this nation, more so when the elections are knocking on our doors.

As an institution representing the interest of the masses, we cannot evade the fact that **the cost of living in the country is appalling, prices of goods and commodities are on sky rocketing, huge unemployment of young people and continuous suffering of the masses**. Thus, during these trying times, we have realized that there is a huge communication gap, misinformation and miscommunication mainly between the government and the people; there is also disrespect and disregard of public outcries; this to a very large extent, have fueled the anger of most unsuspected youths who are very much disgruntled and now seek remedy to other sources. Therefore, we want to use this opportunity to call on **the President of The Republic of Sierra Leone, H.E Julius Maada Bio to call off his trip, return home and quickly address the nation**. In his address, we implore him to frankly talk on the issues at hand, communicate with the masses on possible solutions, and displayed the utmost sense of leadership and humility to the people of this nation. **Mr President, we also implore you to declare a day of mourning for all the souls lost during the crisis.**

As our motto says, TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE, FIDELITY TO ALL, We are calling on all politicians, political parties, political groups and political leaders including religious groups, mosques, churches, youth organizations and community based organizations to join hands with the government to preach peace and campaign for a peaceful nation, peaceful coexistence

To the strong youth of this country, we are the greatest treasures of this nation, so let no one confuse us to perpetuate any forms of violence. Our role to nation growth is unparalleled and our services to this nation are unmatched. Within our hands lie the peace, growth and development that we all so much desire. We have the manpower and will to make and unmake this country. We are the leaders of this great nation. Be reminded that during the demonstration, the politicians' sons and daughters were not part of us; most of them are in overseas, acquiring education. Let us wake up, wise up and denounce all forms of violence. PAN as a youth-led institution is calling on all youth to embrace patriotism and denounce all forms of violence.

Our institution commends the swift intervention of the MAC-P in calming down the ugly situation. We therefore, implore them to respect the fundamental human rights of each and every citizen and act within the ambit of the law.

In conclusion, PAN, hitherto, as body that prides itself to instill the spirit of patriotism in the minds of sierra Leoneans, shall embark on a massive online peace and patriotism sensitization. We therefore call on you to join us in this drive. Thus, the sensitization shall kick start on the 12th August, 2022 marking the International Youth Day.

Finally, on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone, we send our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families; we pray that their souls rest in perfect peace.

May the Almighty grant us growth and peace. GOD BLESS SIERRA LEONE

Viva PAN

Viva Salone

Signed



Ansumana Keita,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - PAN SL.

keitaansumana1@gmail.com

WhatsApp: +23277459773