



PEOPLE'S POWER IN POLITICS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

We People's Power in Politics (PPP) have followed with rapt attention the stories developing from Sierra Leone since the People's Protest of 8th, 9th & 10th August 2022.

We note particularly that the government of Julius Maada Bio has since August 10th taken violence against defenceless citizens all over the country in an attempt to kill, maim, unlawfully arrest and detain as a tactic to scare the people, mainly opposition leaders, from mobilizing their members to register for upcoming elections.

Our independent investigation has confirmed that over 320 civilians, who are mostly senior All People's Congress (APC), Alliance Democratic Party (ADP), and National Grand Coalition (NGC) members and or sympathizers, have been arrested since August 10th. The authorities have refused to release the names of all detained persons, most of whom have no contact with their family members and are most likely being tortured in detention.

Members of the public will recall that by public notice dated 15th August 2022, we informed the public that we are the organizers of the People's Protest, which was a peaceful and harmless protest of ordinary citizens who came to vent out their frustrations over corruption in government, lousy governance, Human Rights abuses, acute hunger, rising inflation and deprivation of freedom of speech in the country.

The president and his administration have refused to speak about the ongoing state-sponsored extra-judicial killings, the unlawful arrests and detention of harmless civilians, and the creation of a hit-man squad to execute these plans. They have carved for themselves a narrative that is a calculated attempt to deceive members of the public and the international community not to focus on the corruption of the regime and the violence they are perpetuating against citizens.

Our findings, contrary to government misinformation, have revealed that 167 civilians were shot by members of the hit-man squad, with 34 of them fatally in their homes. This armed militia operates with full approval from Julius Maada Bio and the security forces. None of these militia-style hit squad members have been arrested.

We call on members of the International Community and Sierra Leone's development partners to hold Julius Maada Bio and his administration responsible for the ongoing extra Judicial killings of defenceless citizens in the country. We call for a prompt investigation into the nefarious activities of this government-sponsored hit-man squad and the police detention Centres such as Bengazi. Sierra Leoneans will not remain silent in the face of brazen violation of the rights of citizens and a corrupt regime that has bought overall vocal Human Rights groups and the media. We PPP will stand up for the people.

We hereby give notice to the Sierra Leone Police that we PPP desire to hold another peaceful protest against the government of Julius Maada Bio for financial and political corruption, extra-judicial killings of defenceless citizens, and the unlawful arrest of peaceful citizens without an investigation. We will do so unless immediate steps are taken to address the Human rights and corruption situation in the country.

DATED THIS 19th DAY OF AUGUST 2022

END.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. M. Bio', written in a cursive style.

CHAIRMAN