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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Since August 6th this year, the Bio administration has arrested, unlawfully detained, tortured, and imprisoned a cumulative 3421 Sierra Leoneans in relation to exercising their constitutional rights to free speech, association, or peaceful protest. Over 96 people have been killed by President Bio's state house security guards, his ministers, and other associates within the same period. Since his government came into being, a total of 1435 people have been killed, found dead, or buried in mass graves without any single individual being investigated for these crimes. Records from the Freetown mortuary show nearly half of that figure were unidentified and were buried without the knowledge of family members.

We, PPP, have repeatedly sounded the alarm on President Bio's deadly and criminal administration for all Sierra Leoneans to see, and we have remained focused on resolving these problems, which his administration says are sensational reports and scaremongering. Now, in full glare, the administration has thrown in the towel on crime and has held the torch against the citizens who brought them to power. Every citizen would have realized that our mission was not against the SLPP. Still, it became our responsibility to expose President Bio's destruction of life and democracy in the country, particularly targeting a particular section of the population and people of identifiable political associations. Apart from just enriching himself and his cronies, his urge is to shrink the political space, limit freedoms and become the "ruler" that he was in the early '90s. Under this democracy, Bio cannot survive, so he has taken the bold step of going against every critic and political opponent.

As the country sits on a precipice of internal conflict, which Bio himself has identified as an easy route to hold on to power, we call on members of the international community and Sierra Leone's development partners to concentrate on engaging President Bio on his dangerous path to hold on to political power and the suppression of fundamental rights and liberties.

Members of the civil society, the media, and civil right campaigner who have taken the self-destructive side of selling their voices to remain silent in the face of gross human rights abuses must remember that in such a space and the present trend, even they are not safe.

We believe that all citizens have a duty to defend the country's peace, even against their own political interests. We call on Sierra Leoneans to unite in challenging President Bio's abrasive behaviour to self-destruction and putting the country first.

We will give notice to the Sierra Leone police in the coming days regarding our plans which may be inconvenient to the government but will be peaceful and constitutional. We will demand the release of all the bodies of all those killed by the state, for the release of those unlawfully detained, and ask for a change. The public will be duly notified.

END.

DATED THIS 7th DAY OF OCTOBER 2022

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

CHAIRMAN