

ELECTORAL JUSTICE AND SECURITY UPDATE FOR WEEK ENDING 11TH MARCH, 2023

Dear readers;

We are pleased to present the 4th weekly update for the week ending 11th March, 2023. These updates are part of the electoral justice and security projects currently implemented by CARL and funded by the Government of Ireland and OSIWA. The projects are aimed at promoting effective administration of electoral justice as well accountability for human rights violations and electoral offences before, during and after the 2023 elections. As part of this initiative, CARL-SL has hired and assigned Monitors across the 16 districts of the country. Their main responsibility is to keep tabs on critical election-related incidents/developments, including petitions, lower level elections and conventions for the election of party executives, politically-motivated violence and human rights abuses, among others. CARL-SL will also use these updates to guide its public engagement and advocacy interventions.

During the week under review, the following developments/incidents were observed/reported:

Freetown/nationwide:

POLITICAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVES SIGN COMMUNIQUE

The Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) on the 6th March, 2023 organized a dialogue session with political parties as part of its efforts to promote moral values and minimize violence in politics. A communiqué condemning violence and emphasizing the need for a healthy political atmosphere was signed by representatives of the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party, the All Peoples Party (APC), Coalition for Change (C4C) and the National Grand Coalition (NGC).

The communiqué also denounces the use of obscenity, vulgarity and hate speech whilst carrying out political party activities.

COALITION FOR CHANGE (C4C) DISSOCIATES ITSELF FROM HON. EMERSON LAMINA'S ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE EU AMBASSADOR

The interim Chairman of the C4C party, Alusine Macfoy, has dissociated the party from the statement of its Member of Parliament, Hon. Emerson Lamina, at the ACP/EU meeting in Brussels. The leadership of the party said that the

allegation made by Hon. Lamina against the EU Ambassador does not represent the position of the C4C. The Interim Chairman also called on the International Community to continue supporting the country in its democratic process.

However, the Secretary General of C4C-UK and Europe, Tamba Gborie, has in a press release dated 4th March 2023, urged the public to discountenance Mr. Macfoy's statement. Mr Gborie claimed that Hon. Lamina was representing the interest of ordinary Sierra Leoneans and the principle on which the party was built - 'Nation First'.

ELECTORAL JUSTICE AND SECURITY UPDATE FOR WEEK ENDING 11TH MARCH, 2023

SAMURA KAMARA'S TRIAL POSTPONED

The trial of Dr. Samura Kamara and his co-accused has been adjourned to the 27th March, 2023. The trial was adjourned because additional time was needed to issue entry visas to lawyers seeking to visit the Sierra Leone Chancery Building site in New York.

AKI-SWAYERR DECLARES INTENTION FOR RE-ELECTION AS MAYOR OF FREETOWN

The outgoing Mayor of the Freetown City Council, Yvonne Aki-Saweyerr, has declared her intention for re-election as Mayor of the Freetown municipality. The declaration was made on International Women's Day

ADMINISTRATORS OF THE KONO DISTRICT COUNCIL REQUEST THE RETURN OF COUNCIL ASSETS

Following a notice issued by administrators of the Kono City and District Councils demanding that the former chairman and councilors in possession of council assets return them not later than the 2nd March, 2023, both the former Chairman and Mayor have returned the council vehicles. Some councilors have reportedly refused or failed to return council assets

in their custody, but efforts are underway to recover them.

ECSL HOLDS A THREE-DAY TRAINING FOR WARD COORDINATORS AND FOCAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PERSONS IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS

The Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL) has conducted a three-day training of trainers for Ward Coordinators and focal IT persons across the country on the distribution process of voter registration cards. The Ward Coordinators are expected to share the knowledge gained from the training with other employees of the Commission.

HON. CHERNOH MAJU BAH (CHERICOCO)'S ALLEGEDLY RESTRICTED ACCESS TO ENTER KOINDU

The convoy of Hon. Chernoh Maju Bah, the Vice Presidential candidate of the opposition APC, was reportedly impeded from entering Koindu by a group of people believed to be supporters of the ruling SLPP. After the reported intervention of some stakeholders, the convoy was eventually allowed to proceed to Koindu where Vice President Juldeh Jalloh and Hon. Chernoh Maju Bah had been invited to formally open a newly rehabilitated mosque.

PPRC CONDUCTS A TWO-DAY TRAINING FOR CHAIRPERSONS, SECRETARIES GENERAL AND WOMEN ASPIRING FOR POLITICAL POSITIONS

The Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC), with support from the National Democratic Institute (NDI), on the 2nd and 3rd March, 2023, organized a two-day training session for women aspiring for political positions, Chairpersons and Secretaries Generals of political parties from various districts across the country. The training was part of efforts to popularize the Public Elections Act, 2022, the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) Act, 2022 and the recently passed Gender Equality and Empowerment Act. It was also aimed at empowering women with the knowledge and tools to seize the opportunity presented by the GEWE ACT.

SECURITY UPDATE

The week under review has been generally peaceful, and our monitors recorded no form of election-related violence in any part of the country.