

## PRESS RELEASE

THE SIERRA LEONE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> AND 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012 RESPECTIVELY DURING AND AFTER THE BYE-ELECTION IN WARD 369 CONSTITUTENCY 104 IN FOURAH BAY, EAST END OF FREETOWN.

THE INSTITUTE'S NOTES THE LEADING AND PIVOTAL ROLE SIERRA LEONE PLAYED IN THE RECENT PAST, IN THE ADVANCEMENT AND PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RULE OF LAW AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. THE INSTITUTE ALSO NOTES THE UNBOUNDED EFFORTS MADE IN THE RECENT PAST TO ADVANCE AND INCULCATE THE CULTURE OF THE RULE OF LAW IN SIERRA LEONE.

THE INSTITUTE VIEW WITH CONCERN THE CONTINUOUS ERRUPTION OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN KONO, BO, KENEMA, TONGO AND NOW IN FOURAH BAY. THE INSTITUTE WANTS TO REMIND ALL THOSE WITH THE PROPENSITY TO COMMIT VIOLENCE CONNECTED WITH ELECTIONS ESPECIALLY THOSE POLITICIANS AND SUPPORTER OF POLITICAL PARTIES THAT THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT HAS THE MANDATE TO PROSECUTE AND PUNISH THOSE WHO PERPETRATE VIOLENCE DURING ELECTIONS.

IN THIS REGARD, THE INSTITUTE WELCOMES THE EFFORTS OF THE SIERRA LEONE POLICE IN CONTROLLING THE INCIDENTS ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> AND 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012 IN FOURAH BAY. HOWEVER, THE INSTITUTE NOTES WITH GRAVE CONCERN THE ACTION OF THE POLICE IN USING LIVE AMMUNITION IN THE COURSE OF EXECUTING THEIR DUTIES.

CONSIDERING THE INDELIABLE BLOT THAT POLITICAL VIOLENCE PUTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE AND NATIONAL CHARACTER OF OUR BELOVED SIERRA LEONE CALLS ON:

1. THE GOVERNMENT TOGETHER WITH THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE BUILDING OFFICE IN SIERRA LEONE TO INSTITUTE AN INDEPENDENT, IMPARTIAL AND TRANSPARENT INQUIRY TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE/S OF THE VIOLENCE
2. TO IDENTIFY THE PERPETRATORS AND REFER THEM TO THE POLICE AUTHORITIES FOR NECESSARY ACTION
3. TO LOOK INTO THE ROLE OF THE POLICE DURING THE INCIDENTS OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> AND 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012 RESPECTIVELY, ESPECIALLY THE USE OF LIVE BULLETS
4. IN THE CASE WHERE THE SIERRA LEONEAN AUTHORITIES ARE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION AGAINST PERPETRATORS, TO REFER THE OUTCOME OF THE INVESTIGATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT.

SIGNED:

ALLIEU B. SESAY

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER