

Julius Maada Bio
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
State House, State Avenue, Tower Hill
Freetown
Sierra Leone

Groningen, 2023

Your excellency,

I am writing to you regarding the alleged excessive use of force by security forces that took place in Sierra Leone in August last year.

Multiple witnesses explained how police started to shoot randomly into the crowd, killing several protestors and bystanders. Even while facing violent protestors, law enforcement officials should only use force proportionate to the situation they face.

Furthermore, more than 500 people were detained in relation to the protests. Some of them were not able to see their lawyer until their trial and were condemned on the ground of the sole testimony of the arresting officer without further evidence.

I urge you, as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone to:

- Ensure that the Special Committee, set up by you government to investigate the events on 10 August 2022, carry out an independent and thorough investigation into the use of force by police that resulted in injury and death. Please make the findings of this investigation available for the public to see.
- Ensure that all arrested protestors have fair trials.
- Ensure that the relatives of the people killed can bury the bodies of their loved ones where and how they want.

Yours sincerely,