



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE (HRCSL)

PRESS RELEASE

HRCSL CONCERNED OVER THE KILLINGS OF A MAN AT THE LUMLEY BEACH BY THE SIERRA LEONE POLICE

(Freetown 29th May 2013) The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone is concerned over the killing of a man believed to be a deportee from the United States of America and named Donald by the Sierra Leone Police (SLP). It was reported, that he was in possession of a weapon at the Lumley beach in Freetown, which created panic amongst residents in that vicinity.

HRCSL acknowledges the fact that the SLP was courageous to inform the general public that the killing was done by them on the allegation that the Man was armed. HRCSL is equally concerned that the deceased possessed a gun and encourages the SLP to investigate this situation. The resulting loss of life which is guaranteed by section 15 (a) of the 1991 constitution of Sierra Leone and article 6(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in such circumstances is a violation of the right to life and needs to be investigated..

HRCSL therefore calls on the government to immediately establish an independent body to fully investigate the circumstances leading to the killing of Donald. HRCSL is of the view that any death in the hands of the police which is a statutory institution must be investigated.

The Commission also urges family members and the general public to come forward and identify the deceased and provide relevant information that resulted to this unfortunate situation.

HRCSL wish to assure the general public of its commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of all in Sierra Leone.

Signed

Commissioner Rev. Moses Khanu

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone is an independent institution established by the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone Act (No. 9), 2004 with the mandate to protect and promote human rights nationwide.

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