

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE¹⁷

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Sierra Leone: Government Must Clarify Charges Against Detainees

(Freetown) Amnesty International today called on the government of Sierra

Leone, which on June 8, 2000 released a list of at least 120 people detained under

emergency regulations, to promptly clarify the charges against the detainees and permit them access to lawyers and medical attention.

Amnesty

International has called for all those responsible for human rights abuses to be brought to justice in line with international fair trial standards and without imposition of the death penalty.

"Human rights abuses in Sierra Leone will not end until there is an end to

impunity," Amnesty International said. "However, the government must bring

all perpetrators of human rights abuses to justice in line with international fair trial standards."

An Amnesty International mission currently in Sierra Leone has continued to

compile testimony documenting human rights abuses which occurred both prior

to and since the July 1999 Lomé agreement. The human rights abuses since

July 1999, including killings, rape and abductions, are not covered by the

amnesty.

Amnesty International has called on the UN Security Council to support the establishment of an international commission of inquiry that would investigate human rights abuses during Sierra Leone's internal conflict and to provide all possible assistance to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

Amnesty International has condemned human rights abuses committed by all fighting forces in Sierra Leone, including the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), formerly allied to the RUF but now fighting with government-allied forces, and the Civil Defence Forces (CDF), the civilian militia which supports the government.
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