



Sierra Leone - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 23 April 2010

Information on the All People's Congress (APC) party

Published in 2009 the *DJ Sagar* edited 'Political Parties of the World' the entry for the APC party states: "Established in 1960 by Siaka Stevens...the leftist APC was the dominant part from 1968 and the sole authorized political formation between 1978 and 1991." (DJ Sagar (2009) *Political Parties of the World*, John Harper Publishing, London,p.514)

The *UN News Centre* in May 2009 states: "A senior United Nations official today said that Sierra Leone's political leadership deserves praise for signing an agreement that brought an end to the "spiral of violence" in the West African nation" (UN News Centre (8 June 2009) *UN envoy praises political leadership in Sierra Leone*). The publication also states: "The governing All People's Congress (APC) and the opposition Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) signed that agreement on 2 April, ending violence between the two parties that erupted in early March. Sierra Leone's 11-year civil war ended in 2002." (ibid)

The *UN Security Council* in May 2009 commenting on 2009 states: "From 9 to 12 March, and in the run-up to a local council by-election in Pujehun District, there were violent altercations between SLPP and APC sympathizers, resulting in serious injuries and a subsequent postponement of the election." (UN Security Council (22 May 2009) *Second report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone*,p.1)

The *United States Department of State* in March 2010 reports that:

"In peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections held in August and 2007, the opposition APC won a majority in parliament, with party leader Ernest Bai Koroma elected president. There were multiple reports of harassment and intimidation of members of opposition parties. There were also reports of voter coercion by party bosses and traditional leaders. Domestic and international observers characterized the elections as generally free and fair, noting that irregularities did not affect the outcome." (United States Department of State (11 March 2010) *2009 Human Rights Report: Sierra Leone*, Section 3 Respect for Political Rights: The Right of Citizens to Change Their Government, Elections and Political Participation)

This report also states: "The Mende traditionally supported the SLPP and the Temne the APC. Other than ethnic Limbas, the third most populous ethnic group who traditionally have supported the APC, the country's other ethnic minority groups had no strong political party affiliations." (Ibid)

The APC party's own information is available at <http://www.apcparty.org/>

References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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