



**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS**



Assistance to Sierra Leone in the field of human rights

Commission on Human Rights Resolution: 2004/86

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on African Human and Peoples' Rights,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the situation of human rights in Sierra Leone as well as relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and taking note of Council resolution 1537 (2004) of 30 March 2004,

Welcoming the official closure of the initial programme for the reintegration of ex-combatants and the successful demobilization and reintegration of child combatants,

Welcoming also the essential work being carried out by the Special Court for Sierra Leone in addressing justice and impunity and the conclusion of the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and looking forward to the publication of the Commission's report and its recommendations aimed at promoting reconciliation and national healing,

Expressing concern that ex-combatants who were involved in fighting in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire and are now returning home to Sierra Leone could threaten the progress achieved in Sierra Leone,

Recognizing the importance of good governance and transparency,

Recognizing also the importance of technical cooperation, advisory services and capacity-building for the promotion and protection of human rights which will contribute to peace, stability and sustainable development in Sierra Leone,

1. *Welcomes:*

(a) The report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2004/106), including his conclusion that considerable progress has been made in the field of human rights in Sierra Leone since his last report to the Commission (E/CN.4/2003/35), the report of the High Commissioner to the General Assembly (see A/58/379) and the twenty-first report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (S/2004/228) including the work of its Human Rights Section;

(b) The indictments by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and its ongoing work to bring to justice those persons who bear the greatest responsibility for the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, as well as crimes under relevant Sierra Leonean law committed within the territory of Sierra Leone since 30 November 1996;

(c) The presentation to Parliament of a bill for the establishment of a human rights commission of Sierra Leone;

(d) The activities undertaken by United Nations agencies, the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations and other organizations to facilitate transition from relief to reconciliation, rehabilitation and sustainable development;

(e) The launching of new projects by the National Commission for Social Action, aimed at reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development and thereby helping to reduce the risk of renewed conflict, and welcomes the decision of the Government of Sierra Leone to undertake consultations with the private sector and the National Association of Farmers of Sierra Leone on a comprehensive evaluation of its food security goals aimed at ensuring that no Sierra Leonean goes to bed hungry by 2007;

2. *Urges* the Government of Sierra Leone:

(a) To continue to promote and protect human rights in Sierra Leone, inter alia through the establishment of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, further strengthening of its judicial system as well as continued efforts to promote good governance and transparency, and to continue to work closely with and strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(b) To continue to give priority attention, in cooperation with the international community, to the special needs of all mutilated victims and of women and children in its care, in particular those sexually abused, gravely traumatized and displaced as a result of the conflict, and taking into consideration also the needs of female ex-combatants and female camp followers who did not benefit from the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme;

(c) To continue to facilitate the effective functioning of the National Commission for War-Affected Children;

(d) To reconsider the issue of resettlement and reintegration of Sierra Leonean combatants who are being demobilized and repatriated from Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia;

3. *Decides*:

(a) To request the international community to continue its support and provide technical assistance to the judicial system in Sierra Leone, including the juvenile justice system, and to assist in the establishment of the human rights commission of Sierra Leone;

(b) To request the High Commissioner and the international community to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in strengthening its capacity to continue to undertake, as a matter of urgency, the reform and updating of national legislation, in particular those areas of legislation that affect women, children and other vulnerable segments of society;

(c) To request the High Commissioner and the international community to continue to work closely with national institutions, including the National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights and the National Forum on Human Rights, in monitoring the promotion and protection of human rights;

(d) To request the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to give full consideration to the maintenance of a United Nations human rights field presence when the

activities of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone are completed;

(e) To urge all States to submit their outstanding pledged funds to meet the budget of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and to support the Secretary-General's request to the General Assembly to consider a further financial contribution to the functioning of the Special Court from the regular budget of the United Nations, and urges all States to cooperate fully with the Special Court;

(f) To request the High Commissioner to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session and to the Commission at its sixty-first session on assistance to Sierra Leone in the field of human rights, including with reference to the Human Rights Section of the Mission;

(g) To consider this question at its sixty-first session.

*58th meeting
21 April 2004*

[Adopted without a vote. See chap. XIX.- E/2004/23 – E/CN.4/2004/127]