



# **A WOMAN BANISHED FOR WITCHCRAFT REINTEGRATES INTO HER COMMUNITY**

**Freetown- May 2021**

Theresa Koroma and her family were banished from Kargbaneh village in the Biriwa Chiefdom, Northern Sierra Leone from 2019 to May, 2021 when she was reintegrated by the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, District Security Committee (DiSEC) and other partners.

She was banished from her community on allegations of witchcraft, after the death of her deceased brother's son within three days of his visit to the community to mourn the father.

According to findings of the Commission, Madam Koroma was beaten, stripped naked, water poured on her, mocked, forced to sleep outside and to confess that she was guilty of the act.

This act denied her the right to belong, assembly and association as she was the Mama Queen (and member of various women's groups), loss of economic activities and treated in an inhuman and degrading manner contrary to national, regional and international human rights provisions to which Sierra Leone is a state party.

This is the 5th reintegration done by the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone on allegations of witchcraft.