



Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone Takes its Services to Remote Communities

Residents in Joru Gaura Kenema District, Bonthe Island, and Sinkunia, Falaba District have for the first time had access to the Mobile Complaints Hearing Services of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) with support from UNDP and Irish Aid.



The Mobile Complaints Hearing started in 2017 with the aim of taking the Commission to hard-to-reach communities, where people normally will not have access to its services. Since then, the Commission has visited approximately fourteen (14) communities across the country and documented over 100 complaints.

A total of five complaints were recorded in Joru Gaura, while at the Bonthe Municipal Council Hall, six (6) complaints were documented. None was recorded at Sinkunia at the time of the hearing. Some of the complaints received bordered on land disputes, unfair hearing/pervasion of justice, and non-payment of salaries.



After making his complaint at the Bonthe Municipal Council Hall, Jusu Joseph said: “I feel happy today I wish we had had such an opportunity in the past, there are many human rights concerns in our local communities.” He added that he was hopeful that his complaint to the Commission will be resolved.



The Deputy Mayor of Bonthe Municipal Council, Mohamed M. Robinson commended HRCSL for taking the complaints hearing to their doorstep and requested the Commission to have an office on the Island to help address some of the human rights issues affecting residents.

In each community, the Mobile Complaints Hearing commences with community engagement where the Commission explains its mandate as stated in the HRCSL Act of 2004. The Commission also uses the opportunity to undertake other key functions including monitoring detention and health facilities and public education.

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