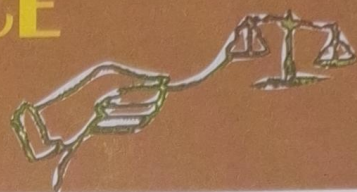


THE LAWYERS CENTRE FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE SIERRA LEONE



ANNUAL REPORT 2006

MISSION STATEMENT

THE LAWYERS CENTRE FOR
LEGAL ASSISTANCE BEING A
PUBLIC INTEREST HUMAN
RIGHTS LAW CENTRE
ENDEAVOURS TO MAKE THE
LAW AND JUSTICE MORE
ACCESSIBLE TO INDIGENT
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
THROUGH LEGAL ADVICE,
IMPACT LITIGATION AND
RESEARCH, WITH THE
ULTIMATE AIM OF PROTECTING
AND PROMOTING HUMAN
RIGHTS THROUGH LAW IN
SIERRA LEONE

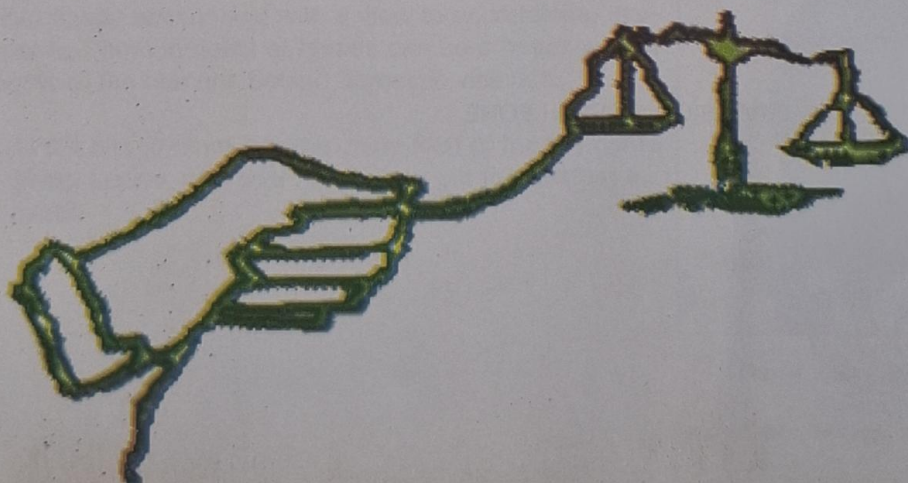


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THE LAWYERS CENTRE FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE IS GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR
FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN 2006:

THE WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY

THE DOEN FOUNDATION

THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION-SIERRA LEONE

FOREWARD

Society tries to hang the petty street-corner thieves, and adore the daylight political armed robbers, and this makes the job of human rights activists and free legal-aid teams controversially difficult!

The Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance Trust has now become a household name in Sierra Leone. Over the last five years, the Centre has been able to involve in training, research while advocating justice for the impoverished as well as demanding legislative changes for the rights of women and children.

To do this, the Centre depends on external and local funding to administer its head office in Freetown, and those in the provinces.

The fight for justice and sane society must be seen as on-going processes which in turn must receive impetus and direction from committed individuals in our society. That commitment is what the staff and board of LAWCLA Trust have offered within the last five years of the Centre.

Every post conflict society attempts to manage its social and human rights situations within the confines of sometimes, bad legislations that may have been part of the causes of the conflict. Sierra Leone, a graduate of ten years of intrinsically dangerous conflict of high human rights proportions, needs Centres like LAWCLA Trust.

Though upholding the rights of persons is one key function of every responsible government, undertaking the responsibility to remind civil and political authorities of their legal and constitutional duties to citizens, is a job, only few are likely to be involved in.

Thus LAWCLA Trust, believing in the sacred duty of working for the marginalized and less influential in society, while at the same time employing international standards of research, training and advocacy to serve locals of post war Sierra Leone, is a cause worth supporting.

In addition to LAWCLA Trust's laudable effort to make justice reachable for the marginalized, I will encourage them to double their effort in fighting to curb domestic violence against women and children in Sierra Leone.

In an impoverished society where extended family system over burdens meager salary earners, violence at homes may assume new proportions, as ways of sieving between unwanted younger family members whereby economy determines rights.

A research into family economies, with a view to ascertaining individual financial and human rights at homes can be a better way of looking for some of the reasons behind domestic violence.

I encourag LAWCLA to venture into this mine-filed of human rights problems in Sierra Leone, and how I wish they get the funding for such worthy cause.



David Tam - Baryoh

Trustee

Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance Trust

OVERVIEW OF REPORT

The Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance celebrated Five Years of its existence in July this year, and was able to look back into a short, but successful history of achievements, in the fulfilment of its mandate.

During the period under review, the Centre published the abridged and simplified versions of the Handbook on Discriminatory Laws against Women in Sierra Leone, and implemented an Advocacy Project for the Reform of Discriminatory Laws. This Project was funded by The Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

The Centre, with a grant from The British High Commission – Sierra Leone published and handed a handbook entitled: "Death Penalty in Sierra Leone – Time for Change."

With funding from The DOEN Foundation in the Netherlands, the Centre undertook Impact Litigation Cases, drafted arguments for Constitutional Test Cases, and held consultations with key stakeholders, for the establishment of a Legal Aid Board, in Sierra Leone.

The Centre also published and launched its Five Year Report- 2001-2006 and produced a documentary entitled: "The Struggle for Human Rights".

In November this year, the Centre started a monitoring project on Children within the Criminal Justice System in Freetown and Makeni, after the approval of a small grant by the Justice Sector Development Project.

After five years of existence, there was a need to do some restructuring, in order to meet the existing challenges and plan better for the future.

The Centre hitherto established as a Company under Chapter 249 of the Laws of Sierra Leone, was voluntarily liquidated, thereby dissolving the Advisory Board and Management Staff.

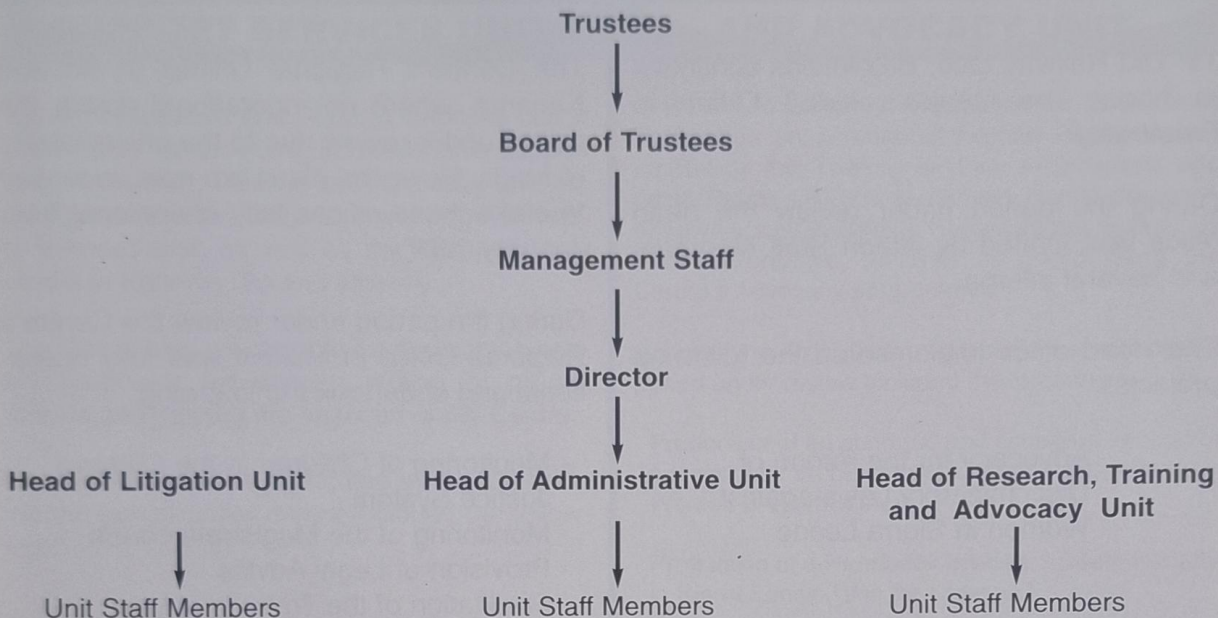
After this dissolution of the Centre, a Trust was established – "The Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance Trust," with the three Trustees, a Board of Trustee and a Management Staff.

The Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance Trust has a Head Office in Freetown and three Regional Offices in Makeni(Northern Province), Kenema (Eastern Province), and Bo (Southern Province).

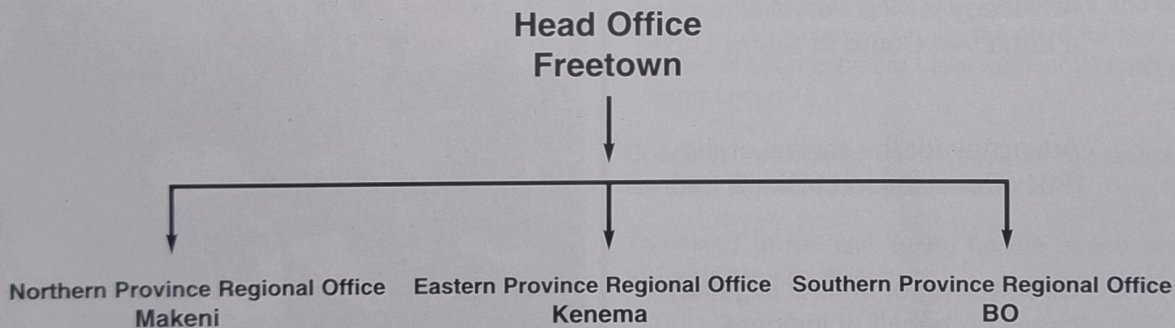
The Head Office in Freetown and the Regional Office in Makeni operated fully during the period under review and plans are now underway to make the Regional offices in Kenema and Bo fully operational, from the start of January 2007.

The Centre now has three major units; a Litigation and Legal Advisory Services Unit, an Administrative and Support Services Unit and a Research, Training and Advocacy Unit. Each Unit has unit head and unit staff members. Below are the New Administrative and Office Structure:

The Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance Trust-Management Structure



The Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance - Office Structure



Melron C. Nicol-Wilson
DIRECTOR

THE FREETOWN OFFICE

15th Old Railway Line, Brookfields continues to house the Centre's Head Office in Freetown.

During the period under review the head office was staffed by fifteen Staff Members and several interns.

The Head office implemented the following projects:

- Advocacy for the reform of Discriminatory Laws against Women in Sierra Leone.
- Monitoring of Children in the Criminal Justice System
- Advocacy for the establishment of a Legal Aid Board in Sierra Leone
- Advocacy for the review of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone
- Undertaking of Impact litigation cases on behalf of indigent.

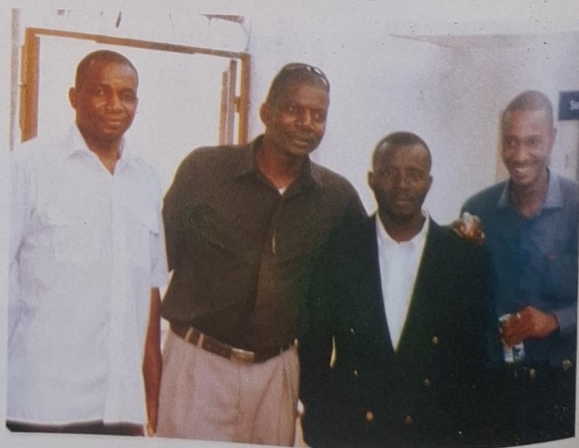
However, the Centre still continues to face a number of constraints. Some of those constraints include: the complete absence of electricity supply, and a freehold property that will effectively accommodate our staff and numerous clients.

THE REGIONAL OFFICES

The Centre's Regional Offices in Bo and Kenema, where not operational during the period under review due to the unavailability of funds. However, plans are now underway to make those offices fully operational from January 2007.

During the period under review the Centre's Regional Office in Makeni was fully operational and undertook the following:

- Monitoring of Children in the Criminal Justice System
- Monitoring of the Magistrate courts
- Provision of Legal Advice
- Facilitation of the Training of Law Enforcement Officials on Juvenile Justice



THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES UNIT

The Administrative and Support Services unit is responsible for providing administrative support to the Research, Training and Advocacy unit; the Directorate and the Litigation, and Legal advisory services unit, as well as the Centre's Field offices in Kenema, Bo and Makeni.

The Unit is also responsible for developing project proposals for donors, writing of project reports and running the finances of the Centre.

Among the activities performed by the Unit during the period under review included the following:

- Development of a Legal Services Project.
- Development of a Building Project.
- Administrative support to the Centre's Head Office and field office in Makeni.
- The Head of the unit during the period under review is Mrs. Salmatta Sandi.



*Salmatta Sandi
Administrator*

THE RESEARCH, TRAINING AND ADVOCACY UNIT

This Unit is primarily responsible for undertaking researches on a range of Human Rights Issues, facilitating the Training of Law enforcement and other Public Officials in Human Rights standard, organising and facilitating Human Rights workshops and conferences, as well as coordinating the Centre's Advocacy programmes.

Some of the activities the Unit performed during the period under review included the following:

- Production of an abridged and simplified version of a Handbook on Discriminatory Laws against Women in Sierra Leone.
- Production of a Handbook entitled: "Death Penalty in Sierra Leone-Time for Change."
- Training of staff members at the Centre, on Monitoring of Children in the Criminal Justice System.
- Conducted consultations with Parliament and the Law Reform Commission, on the need for the reform of Discriminatory Laws against Women in Sierra Leone.

Conducted a seminar on the need for the review of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone

The Head of the unit during the period under review is Mr. Oju Wilson.



*Oju Wilson
Head of Research Training & Advocacy*

REVIEWING AND AMENDING THE 1991 CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE. REFLECTIONS ON SOME LEGAL ISSUES

BY

MELRON C. NICOL-WILSON Esq.

Culled from LAWCLA News 2006 Edition

INTRODUCTION

Before 1991, Sierra Leone did not have a proper constitution. Even though there was a constitution, it did not represent the Supreme Law of the Land. The constitution was like any other Law in terms of its content. In 1991, faced with increased pressure for constitutionalism, the government appointed a Constitutional Review Committee, which drafted the 1991 Constitution; that was approved by Parliament as Act number 6 of 1991. This Constitution ushered a multi party democracy among others; and its effect on the Sierra Leone Legal System has been described as revolutionary, by few scholars. It was welcomed by a number of Sierra Leoneans as a vital step in the protection and promotion of Human Rights in Sierra Leone. The country had hitherto been known for its blatant and flagrant violations of the rights of its people, by despotic Leaders like Siaka Stevens. Against this background, it was the opinion of Human Rights Activists at that time, that the constitution will provide a mechanism for protecting the rights of individuals against violations by the state. The individual is weak and the state strong and powerful. Therefore, the former needs protection from the latter that also controls the instrument of force.

However, the 1991 Constitution seems for the moment, a far cry from responding to the hopes and aspirations of the people it was intended to serve. It contains provisions sanctioning discrimination against women, and clauses restricting the enjoyment of Fundamental Human Rights among others.

The death penalty was retained and tremendous dictatorial powers still lay at the discretion of the executive, to be used in times of emergency. It is glaring that the inefficiency of this document has as its nucleus the fact that the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (A.C.H.P.R) was used as the blueprint in drafting the Human Rights Provisions in the 1991 Constitution. Unfortunately, as would be understood later, this document is not one worth emulating.

The Entrenched Provisions of the Constitution

The 1991 Constitution has ordinary, as well as entrenched provisions. The ordinary provisions of the Constitution can be amended by a two-third majority vote of members of parliament. The entrenched provisions of the Constitution are

those provisions that require special procedures in order to be amended. These provisions can only be amended after approval at a referendum. This is a process whereby the electorates are called upon to vote for or against the amendment of an entrenched provision of the constitution. If this process is not followed, any purported amendment will be invalid.

The entrenched provisions of the 1991 Constitution are Chapter 3- The Recognition and Protection of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms of the Individual. This chapter includes sections 15 to 30.

The other entrenched provisions are sections 46, 56, 72, 73, 74(2), 74(3), 84(2), 85, 87, 105, 108, 110-119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 128, 129, 131, 132, 133, 135, 136, 137, 140, 151, 156, 167.

The Lome Peace Act and The Review of The 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone

A peace agreement was signed between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone in Togo, in July 1999. This agreement which is commonly referred to as The Lome Peace Accord was taken to the Sierra Leone Parliament, after it was signed by both parties and the United Nations Representative; and passed into a Law known as The Lome Peace Act of 1999.

Article 10 of this Act is entitled: "Review of The Present Constitution," referring to the 1991 Constitution. It provides:

"In order to ensure that the Constitution of Sierra Leone represents the needs and aspirations of the people of Sierra Leone and that no Constitutional or any other Legal provision prevents the implementation of the present Agreement, the Government of Sierra Leone shall take the necessary steps to establish a Constitutional Review Committee, to review provisions of the present Constitution; and where deemed appropriate recommend revisions and amendments, in accordance with Part 5, Section 108 of the Constitution of 1991."

Section 108 provides:

(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, Parliament may alter this constitution.

The section provides that the ordinary provisions of the Constitution can be amended by a Bill published in at least two editions of the Gazette, and supported in the second and third reading in parliament by votes of not less than two-thirds of members of parliament.

Section 108 however, provides that in order to amend the entrenched provisions of the Constitution, a bill must be passed in parliament, and approved by electorates at a referendum organized by the Electoral Commission.

Section 108 further provides that any suspension, alteration or repeal of the 1991 Constitution other than on the authority of parliament shall be an act of Treason.

The Recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission established by the Government of Sierra Leone, in its report recommended the review of the 1991 Constitution. However, this recommendation like many others has not been acted upon, thus, rendering the work of the Commission an exercise in futility; and the establishment of the Commission itself a waste of resources and time.

What Provisions of the Constitution need to be reviewed?

In my humble opinion, there are a number of provisions of the 1991 Constitution that need to be reviewed.

Generally speaking, the entire Chapter 3 of the 1991 Constitution, dealing with the recognition and protection of fundamental Human Rights, and Freedoms of the individual needs to be reviewed, and the Claw-Back clauses expunged. I will look at specific sections in this chapter that need additional attention.

Section 27 of the Constitution provides that:

"No law shall make any provision which is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect."

However, this provision of the Constitution is seriously weakened by the exceptions contained in it.

Section 27 (4) makes exceptions for adoption, marriage, divorce, burial, sharing and distribution of property on death, or other interests of personal Law and Customary Law. In other words, the Constitution is saying that a Law can discriminate against women if it deals with adoption, marriage, burial, sharing and distribution of property upon death, as well as local traditions.

The Constitution by this provision supports discrimination against Women. This must be urgently reviewed. The irony is that the same Constitution in chapter 2 under the heading Fundamental Principles of State Policy states among others that women would like to ensure that their basic right to equal treatment is respected by the Government; and in Chapter 3, section 27 (4) the Government decided to ensure that women do not enjoy equal treatment.

Sierra Leone is a signatory to several important International Instruments which promotes Human Rights, and do not support discrimination against women. The state however does not honor its obligations under these International Human Rights Instruments such as: the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. As a party to this Convention, Sierra Leone could face International condemnation for failing to implement the Treaty.

Section 16 of the 1991 Constitution deals with the right to life, but ironically, subsection 1 of same categorically provides for the death penalty which has no place in modern Criminal Justice Systems. It is contrary to current trends in democratic societies. This is so because the death penalty is itself inhuman, cruel and degrading; and contrary to section 20 of the same constitution which deals with protection from inhuman treatment. The right to life should be inviolable and kept sacrosanct.

One of the most ironical aspects of the 1991 Constitution is section 29 dealing with Public Emergency. This section, which considerably limits the human rights, is placed under the Human Rights chapter of the said constitution i.e. Chapter III. We strongly believe therefore, that section 29 should have no place in this chapter. Furthermore, section 29 places these rights in the hands of single individual-the President, at least for some time. I.e. subsection (1) says "Whenever in the opinion of the president a state of public emergency is imminent or has commenced, the president may at any time by proclamation, which shall be published in a Gazette declare that:

REVIEWING AND AMENDING THE 1991 CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE...

- a. *A state of public emergency exists either in any part, or in the whole of Sierra Leone, or*
- b. *A situation exists, which if allowed to continue may lead to a state of public emergency in any part of or in the whole of Sierra Leone.*

and ambiguous that they could justify almost any act.

In the light of the above, I would recommend the following:

1. In accordance with the provisions of the Lome Peace Act of 1991 and the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Government of Sierra Leone immediately and urgently appoints a Constitutional Review Committee; to review provisions of the 1991 Constitution. I have highlighted among others that such a committee should consist of individuals competent in the field of Constitutionalism, Human Rights and Civil Society Advocacy; and not men dancing to the tune of those not really in favor of reforms. Such a committee should be headed by an individual competent of giving it the direction it deserves.

2. That in a bid to get a more handsome constitutional protection of these basic rights whose importance can never be overemphasized, we enshrine in our constitution, one like the South African Bill of Rights 1996 which has a single limitation clause with the yardstick clearly spelt out.

Section 36 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act No 108 of 1996 states that the Bill of Rights may be limited only in terms of law of general application, to the extent that the limitation is reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society, based on human dignity, equality and freedom taking into account all the relevant factors including: –

- a. the nature of the right
- b. the importance of the purpose of the limitation
- c. the nature and extent of the limitation
- d. the relation between the limitation and its purpose
- e. less restrictive means to achieve the purpose

1. Except as provided in subsection (1) or in any other provisions of the Constitution, no law may limit any right entrenched in the Bill of Rights. This would have the advantage of letting the people know the specified yardstick by which their rights can be limited rather than vague phrases like, defense, public safety, public morality, public health, etc. which are ambiguous and controversial.

In addition, subsection (3) (a), (b) of the same section empower the president to solely declare a state of public emergency; at least for seven days and at most for twenty-one days. During such period, several human rights violations could have been committed. This would render political opponents and critics of the government vulnerable.

For there to be a proper protection of Human Rights, it is vital that there be fair hearing; and to ensure this, there must be an independent and impartial judiciary. But section 136 (2) of the 1991 Constitution provides for the appointment of judges on contract. This possesses a threat to fair hearing; as it erodes the independence of the judiciary. Since there is no security of tenure in such instances, the judges appointed on contract are very much likely to dance to the tune of the government of the day, on which they depend for renewal of their contracts.

In the case of **ALJEHAD TRUST and OTHERS v. FEDERATION OF PARKISTAN AND OTHERS**, it was opined, "normal permanent vacancies occurring in offices of Chief Justice and Judges should be filled (on a permanent basis) in advance or within 30 days; whereas vacancies occurring for an unforeseen reason should be filled within 90 days. The appointment of acting Supreme Court Judges or Chief Justice under articles 180, 181 and 196 is a temporary measure. It is contrary to the principle of the independence of the judiciary, to appoint acting judges when permanent vacancies exist, since acting judges have no security of tenure."

Section 20 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone at subsection (2) states: "Nothing contained in or done under the authority of any law shall be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of this section, to the extent that the law in question authorizes the infliction of any kind of punishment which was lawful immediately before the entry into force of this constitution". This provision subjects the constitutionally protected rights from inhuman treatment to subordinate legislations which can limit a constitutionally protected right.

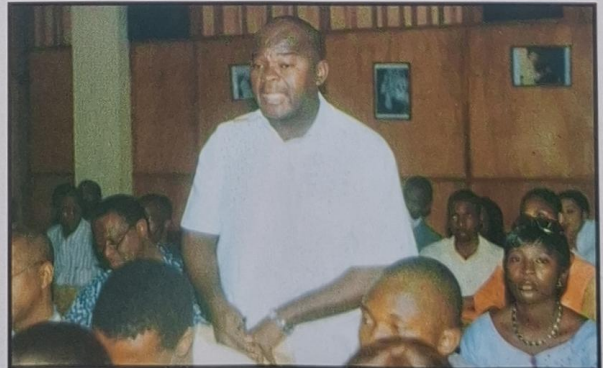
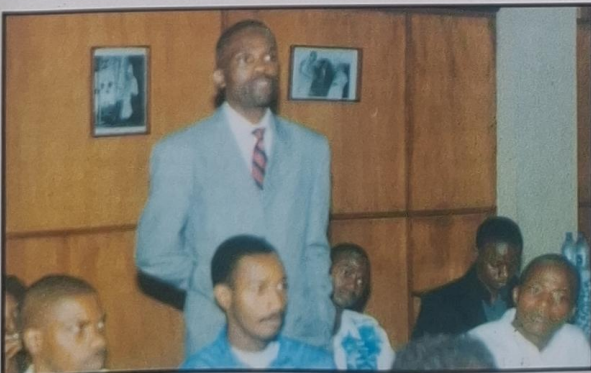
This is wrong both in principle and in practice. Also, the numerous limitation clauses enumerated after every right make the violation of these rights enticing, as the limitation clauses; they are so wide

REVIEWING AND AMENDING THE 1991 CONSTITUTION OF SIERRA LEONE...

That "Law of general application" included in the limitation section in the South African Bill of Rights be eliminated, while drafting a new Fundamental Human Rights provision for our constitution. This would have the effect of proving the importance of section 171 (15) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone which, "The constitution shall be the supreme law of Sierra Leone and any other law found to be inconsistent with any provision of this constitution shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be void and of no effect."

1. The supremacy of the constitution would have been guaranteed and there would be not need for any other law if the guidelines mentioned in section 36 of the South African Constitution are strictly abided by.
2. That the death penalty be constitutionally abolished. Just as it would not make sense to rape a rapist or steal from a thief, so it counts for nothing to kill a killer. The most lawful way to punish someone without being inhuman or degrading is to limit his freedom. The death penalty has not been a successful deterrent to the unlawful killing of human beings by others.
3. That the emergency provisions in section 29 be removed from chapter 3. It is very ironical that the emergency provisions which seriously impede our Fundamental Human Rights have to be bedfellows with the fundamental rights themselves which the constitution is supposed to be protecting.

Photo News of Trainings conducted by the Research, Training and Advocacy unit



FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

BY Oju R. Wilson

Culled from LAWCLA News 2006 Edition

The repeal of Act No.12 of 1978, otherwise known as the 1978 Constitution, or better still the One Party Constitution, by a far more democratic constitution, i.e. the 1991 Constitution which albeit its own follies makes room for political tolerance and pluralism, was to meet with the political trend as democracy by then was the vogue. The 1991 Constitution or Peter Tucker's Constitution, as it is fondly called, is of a hybrid nature; with an amalgamation of both the Westminster Parliamentary System and the American Presidential Style.

The significance of this repeal and the intention of the framers within the constituent assembly was to prepare a document that will serve the interest of the masses, not just an ordinary piece of paper that will be interpreted to be dead letters or draftsman's dream; but a document to protect and promote the interest of "All" regardless of tribe, race, sex, origin and the list goes on infinitely.

The 1991 Constitution also known as Act No.6 of 1991 like its predecessor the 1978 Constitution, makes provision *ipsi si ma verba* for the full enjoyment of Human Rights provisions in chapter three of the present document. However, a sharp contrast between the two documents is that whilst the 1978 Constitution only outlined these guarantees in chapter two, with enforcement extremely difficult, if there is or likelihood of violation, the operational constitution which is the 1991 Constitution makes provision for such in section 28(1) of the said constitution. An excerpt of the said section reads thus:

"...If any person alleges that any of the provisions of sections 16 to 27(inclusive)has been, is being or is likely to be contravened in relation to him by any person...may apply by motion to the Supreme Court for redress."

These Human Rights provisions and their guarantees have unquestionably had a profound impact upon the role of the judiciary in other countries; as constitutional test cases have been instituted by individual and groups with the end product being the interpretation of most of these inconsistencies that have plagued their respective constitutions. This dynamic trend is as vital as these decisions reached, had contributed immensely to the jurisprudence of those countries.

Section 24(1) of Act No.6 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone guarantees that freedom of Thought and of Religion is a fundamental right of all Sierra Leoneans. The said section reads thus:

"Except with his own consent, no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of conscience and for the purpose of this section the said freedom includes freedom of thought and of religion, freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom either alone or in community with others and both in public and in private to manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance."

In as much as the 1991 Constitution bequeaths such right to every individual as a necessary element of personal dignity, autonomy and self development, there are certain religious beliefs that can be jettisoned not to taint the full enjoyment of such Human Rights provision. The check on these repugnant practices in the name of religion, is guaranteed in section 24(5a &b).

These rights conferred in sections 16-27 are inalienable. In the case of **R. V. Big M Drug Mart Ltd{1985}** a matter dealing with the constitutionality of The Federal Lord's Day Act prohibiting Sunday shopping. Dickinson J. writing for the majority took the opportunity to interpret such a constitutional right, by giving it a broad interpretation; stating that Freedom of Conscience should not just be restricted to the right to hold religious beliefs, but also the right to express beliefs through observance, teaching and practice. The state and its agent would violate an individual's Freedom of Conscience, if it coerced religious observance. He summed up as follows:

"Freedom means that subject to such limitations as are necessary to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedom of others, no one is to be forced to act in a way contrary to his beliefs or conscience."

This right conferred in section 24, has been so significant in a secular state like Sierra Leone that has been enjoying religious tolerance, from different religious sects; be it Christians, Muslims, Bahai or Rastafarianism; that any attempt to interfere in to any of these religions will seriously jeopardize the smooth enjoyment of this right. Quite recently, a Rastafarian wearing dreadlocks was allegedly denied a Sierra Leonean passport. If such an allegation is true, then the young man's Freedom of Conscience had been violated by the Chief Immigration Officer or whosoever was responsible for such an act.

FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

In the landmark Zimbabwean case of *Re:Chikwewe*: an aggrieved young man sought redress at the supreme court for an interpretation of their freedom of conscience provision, within their constitution. This was after The Law Society in Zimbabwe denied him access to register as a solicitor, on the ground that he was wearing a dreadlock. The Supreme Court in their interpretation ruled that denying the man the opportunity to register was a flagrant violation of his Freedom of Conscience .As an obita, one of the judges averred that the dreadlocks signifies the Rastafarian belief.

The aforementioned case, is a true manifestation that contemporary trend dictates that freedom of conscience, is embedded at the heart of most free and democratic societies. The right is so vital, that the courts often at times had been inclined to interpret this section to protect even the young and vulnerable.

Subsection 2 of section 24 gives responsibility to parent/guardian to shepherd minor in the enjoyment of such right; however, such an enjoyment should not be detrimental to the minor, but to his/her best interest.

In ***B.(R) V Children Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto*1995**:Parents of Jehovah's witnesses refused to allow their infant child to undergo a blood transfusion thought by doctors, to be required to save the child's life. When the Children's Aid intervened by an application, to take the child in to care, to ensure that the child be given the diagnosed treatment, the parent argued that the application by the Christian Aid Society violated their freedom of conscience and religion. The Supreme Court of Canada upheld the court order, placing the child under the protection of the society. Four of the Judges in their summing up argued that freedom of religion should not extend to a conduct endangering the health of the child.

To conclude however, freedom of conscience though a fundamental right should be used reasonably, to the enjoyment of not only the individual or group of individuals but to society at large; as right goes with responsibilities.

Photo News of Trainings conducted by the Research, Training and Advocacy unit

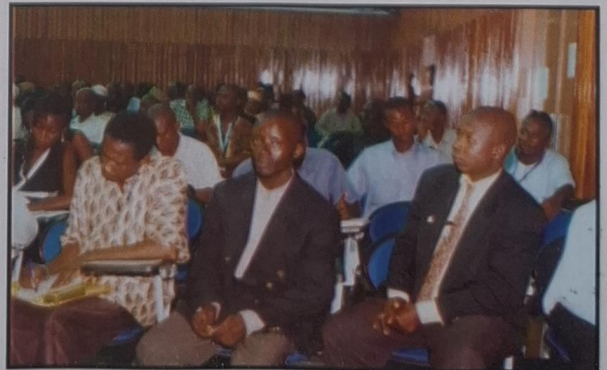
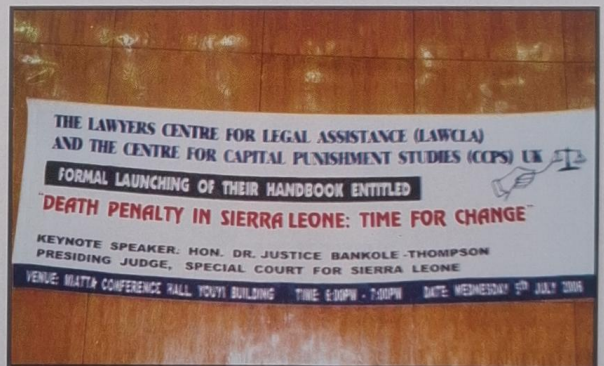
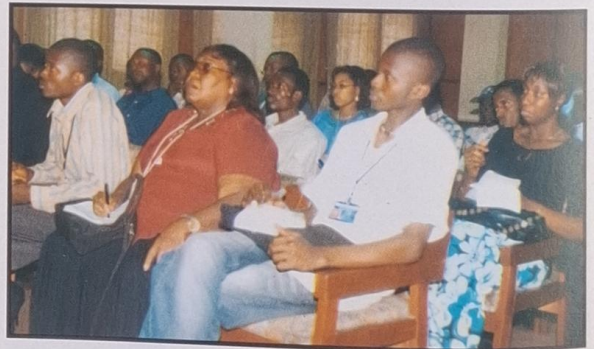
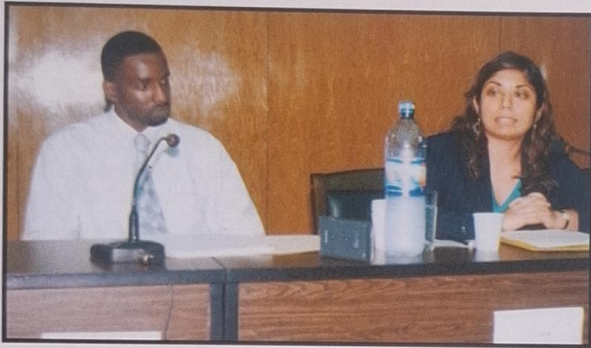
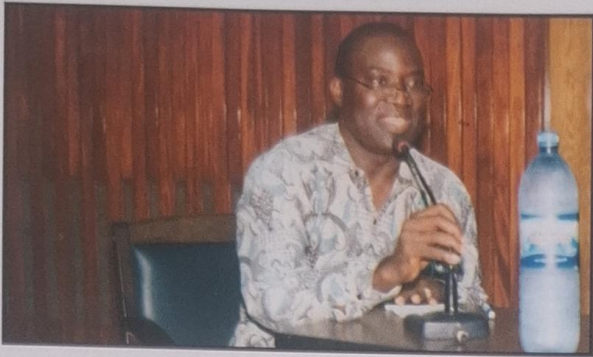


Photo News of Trainings conducted by the Research, Training and Advocacy unit



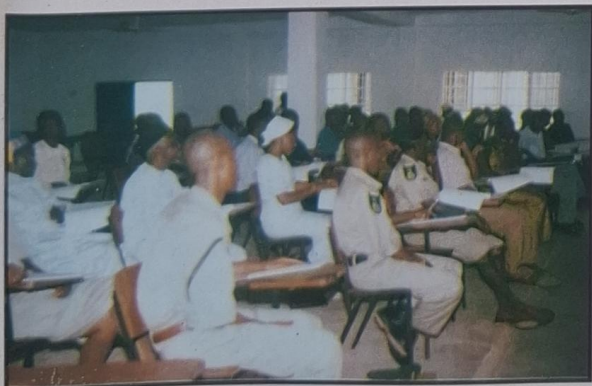
THE LITIGATION AND LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES UNIT

This Unit is mainly responsible for undertaking impact litigation on behalf of indigent individuals; undertaking of Constitutional Test cases and provision of legal advices to the general populace.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNIT

- The Unit during the reporting period completed the case of the Westside Boys and former members of the Revolutionary United Front, who prior to their acquittal were being incarcerated for five years without Trial, at the Pademba Road Central Prisons. With the Centre's intervention, their cases were expedited and over ninety percent of them were acquitted for the prosecution failing to prove its case.
- The unit has also completed the drafting of papers for three Constitutional Test cases
- The unit providing over 1000 individual legal advice and about 200 advices to groups in Freetown, Makeni and Kono
- During the period under review, LAWCLA started work on three major constitutional test cases. The most important of these is the Seditious Libel Provision of the Public Order Act of 1965, which is in contravention of section 25 of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone protecting Freedom of Expression.

The Unit also worked with the Centre for Capital Punishment Studies; University of Westminster-UK, in the drafting and filing of a motion to challenge the mandatory aspect of the death penalty before the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone.



FREE AFTER 19 MONTHS IN DETENTION

24-Year- Old Saidu Dumbuya of 5 Hill Court Road Upper Allen Town, a murder suspect has been discharged on 8th November 2006, at the Freetown Magistrate Court no. 1 presided over by Magistrate Sam Margai.

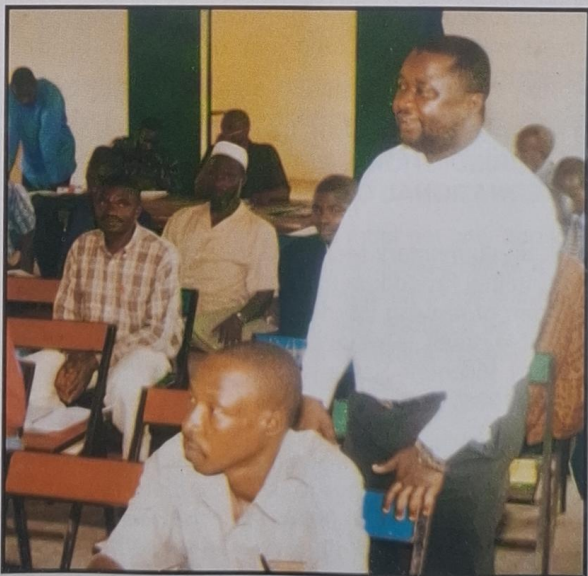
Dumbuya was arrested on 10th April 2005, and charged with conspiracy to commit felony and murder contrary to law.

The Lawyer Centre for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA) was intimated about the matter and provided him a notable Lawyer and Head of our Litigation Unit Mr Ansumana Ivan Sesay, for his defence.

Defence counsel Sesay presented sound legal argument for his clients, after the prosecution failed to present sufficient evidence.

After the drawn legal battle, the Magistrate gave a sound judgement and the second accused person Saidu Dumbuya was discharged of all counts charged.

Dumbuya in an emotional charged atmosphere after his release ran to LAWCLA's Head Office asking for Melron Nicol-Wilson, Director of LAWCLA, to register his gratitude for the representation the institution gave to him.



THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE WITHIN A CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

By MELRON NICOL-WILSON

INTRODUCTION

When it is said that an accused person is presumed to be innocent, all that is meant is that the prosecution is obliged to prove the Case against him beyond reasonable doubt. This is the primary significance of the Presumption of Innocence.

Presumption of Innocence is a fundamental right that suspected persons are entitled to during investigation; and accused persons are entitled to during a Criminal Trial. The accused must always be presumed to be innocent, until declared to be guilty by a court of law, at the end of a trial.

The Presumption of Innocence is currently a basic rule of both Criminal and Constitutional Law. Reference to the sources from which the Presumption of Innocence emerged is often characterized by axiomatic assumptions that are not always supported by historical facts. The Presumption of Innocence was recognized in ancient Hebrew Law. Some scholars traced the presumption's roots to Roman law. Others see it as a development of medieval twelfth-century Italian Law.

Narrowly formulated, the Presumption of Innocence means that the prosecutor bears the burden of persuasion in relation to the material elements of the offence.

Broadly formulated, the presumption of innocence deals with how a burden may or may not be discharged.

THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE IN NATIONAL JURISDICTIONS, REGIONAL SYSTEMS, AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS.

It is an elementary feature of the English adversarial Criminal Procedure that the Prosecution bears the burden of proving the defendant's guilt beyond reasonable doubt. Perhaps best known is the declaration of Viscount Sankey L. C. in Woolmington V DPP (1935) that

"Throughout the web of English Criminal Law one golden thread is always to be seen, that it is the duty of the Prosecution to prove the Prisoners guilt subject to what I have already said as to the defence of insanity and subject also to any statutory exception... No matter what the charge or where the trial, the principle that the prosecution must prove the

guilt of the prisoner is part of the common law of England and no attempt to whittle it down can be entertained...It is not the law of England to say, as was said in the summing up in the present case..."

Lord Sankey however mentioned three exceptions to this rule. They are:

- (i) The Defence of Insanity.
- (ii) Expressed Statutory Provisions Imposing burden on the Accused.
- (iii) Implied Statutory Provisions Imposing burden on the Accused.

Thus, generally speaking, in a Criminal Trial, once the accused pleads "not guilty", it is the duty of the prosecution to prove his guilt; unless the accused raises the defence of Insanity or the offence is one for which a statute expressly or by implication imposes a burden on the accused to establish his innocence. This is the position within the English Criminal Justice System, albeit a number of criticisms. Thus, the presumption is not absolute.

In McIntosh v Lord Advocate, Lord Bingham of Cornhill referred to the judgment of Sachs J. in State V Coetzee, where the significance of this presumption was explained. The learned Judge said:

'...the more serious the crime and the greater the public interest in securing convictions of the guilty, the more important do constitutional protections of the accused become. The starting point of any balancing inquiry where constitutional rights are concerned must be that the public interest in ensuring that innocent people are not convicted and subjected to ignominy and heavy sentences massively outweighs the public interest in ensuring that a particular criminal is brought to book...

Hence the presumption of innocence, which serves not only to protect a particular individual on trial, but to maintain public confidence in the enduring integrity and security of the legal system.'

The Presumption of Innocence is also recognized by a number of national legal systems and regional and universal conventions.

Within the French Legal System, "every man is supposed innocent until having been declared guilty."

Within the American Legal System, the Presumption of Innocence is not stated explicitly, but is generally held to follow from the 5th, 6th and 14th amendments of the Constitution of the United States of America.

THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE WITHIN A CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

'Every person accused of a criminal offence has the right to be presumed innocent so long as his guilt has not been proven according to law'.

The American Declaration on the rights and duties of man provides that:

'Every accused person is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty.'

Within the European Regional System for the Protection of Human Rights, "Everyone charged with a Criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to Law."

This provision reinforces the Presumption of Innocence as enunciated by Viscount Sankey L.C.

The European Court of Human Rights stated in the Leading Case of **Selabiaku V. France**

"Presumptions of fact or law operate in every Legal System. Clearly, the Convention does not prohibit such presumptions in principle. It, does however, require the contracting states to remain within certain limits in this respect as regards Criminal Law..." The African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights of 1981 provides that:

'Every individual shall have the right to have his case heard. This comprises (b) the right to be presumed innocent until Proven guilty by a competent court or tribunal'

The Arab Charter on Human Rights provides that:

'The Accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a lawful trial where defence rights are guaranteed.'

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights also states that:

"Everyone charged with a Penal Offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to Law in a Public Trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence."

The Convention on the Rights of the child of 1990 provides that:

'Every child alleged as or accused of having infringed the penal law has at least the following guarantees: (1) to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law.'

There are provisions in the Statutes of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia; and the International Criminal Court, stipulating that the accused has a right "not to have imposed on him or her any reversal of the burden of proof or any onus of rebuttal."

Thus, the Presumption of Innocence is not only recognized by National Legal Systems, but also by Regional Systems and International Criminal Tribunals.

The recognition of the Presumption can therefore be said to be universal.

SCOPE, CONTENT AND APPLICABILITY OF THE PRESUMPTION

Although the Presumption of Innocence is an indisputable constitutional principle that is accepted by the legal systems of most states, there is a lack of clarity and even controversy regarding its scope and content.

The ambit of the Presumption has been limited in some jurisdictions such as, the United States of America, to the trial stage only.

In *Bell V Wolfish*, the majority of Judges of the United States Supreme Court held that the presumption of innocence has no bearing on the determination of pre-trial detainee's rights during confinement. This thus means that the presumption applies only when a person is accused.

The minority in the Supreme Court considered the majority decision as unjustified and a serious limitation of the presumption on innocence.

According to the writer, William Twining, the narrow view of the presumption taken in **Bell V Wolfish** by the majority of Judges does 'a disservice to an important principle of our political morality.'

The Presumption of Innocence must not only apply at the trial stage, but also at the investigative stage. If this right is granted to an accused against which the state may have a prima facie case, why should it be denied to a suspect that the state is investigating and does not have a prima facie case against?

The Presumption of Innocence must apply throughout the Criminal Process because it is a cardinal principle of law.

Immunity has most often been interpreted by educated, as well as lay people to mean something quite contrary to what its simple and ordinary meaning implies. This confusion is so grave that even those who are supposed to benefit and enjoy from all the niceties attached to this syllable have been adding salt to injury by distorting the sacredness of this word. Immunity has been given to Heads of States, High Commissioners and members of the Diplomatic Corps, Judges and even Parliamentarians.

Why is it necessary to have immunity? Immunity basically is a show of respect to the offices of the Presidents, Diplomats in the execution of their diplomatic functions, Judges in the process of dispensing justice and Parliamentarians in the execution of their legislative duties. Hence, it guarantees the sanctity of all the aforementioned offices, though the power conferred on these institutions and individuals should not be misused, as there are limitations in the enjoyment of such safeguards.

Immunity as stated *inter alia* has been accorded to various personalities and offices to effectively run their offices, but how reasonable have people been using this privilege without transgressing on the rights of others? Now and again, sitting heads of states have been doing things not in the interest of their subjects relying on immunity. Parliamentarians have been committing heinous crimes invading the Justice System through parliamentary immunity.

Diplomatic corps have not been excluded in this misuse of privilege, as they too have been wreck less in their dealings with the ordinary man, by overstressing the immunity bestowed upon them. Even judicial officers have been relying on immunity to hide their dirty linens. Ironically, educated folks have accepted the status quo of these people. Whenever they acted *ultra vires*, their powers without having an iota of knowledge, that immunity is not an absolute concept.

PRESIDENTIAL IMMUNITY: As stated *inter alia*, Immunity applies in different shades and forms, and the President of Sierra Leone enjoys such right confers on him by virtue of **Section 48 (4) of Act No. 6 of the 1991 Constitution:**

"While any person holds or performs the functions of the office of the President no Civil or Criminal proceeding shall be instituted or continued against him in respect of anything done or omitted to be done, by him either in his official or private capacity."

Applying the literal rule in interpretation indicates that the privilege is not an absolute one, as it can be contested at the most appropriate time, by the individual or group of individuals, who have suffered in the hands of the President if he/she had acted in a despotic and oppressive manner while in office.

The rationale for immunity is to show reverence to the office of the presidency, as it would be *infra dignitatem* for the President to be attending Court sessions when he/she has important state functions to attend to.

Interestingly, under International law, a sitting head of state enjoys no such immunity. Nothing would bar the International tribunal to execute a warrant, if there is one to execute. That is why in 2003 Charles Taylor was indicted even though he was the substantive President of Liberia. The Special Court Statute like other regulating statutes in other international courts precludes no one from its prosecutorial power.

In the case of High Commissioners, Ambassadors and other diplomats, they enjoy immunity within the **Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act No. 35 of 1961**. Within this act immunities are conferred on foreign envoys and Consular Officers including their family members and domestic staff members. However, this privilege is not absolute within the statute, as immunities conferred on these offices may be waived. Section 7 (1) gives the Chief representative of a Commonwealth country the power to waive any immunity conferred by this act on himself, or on a member of his official or domestic staff. Quite apart from Chief Representatives of Commonwealth countries, subsection (2) of section 7 gives power to other diplomatic officers to do same.

Parliament also enjoys immunity, and this privilege is conferred on its personnel. With parliament having multifarious functions to perform, the speaker, clerk and other members have immunity under section 100 of the Constitution of 1991, from performing any judicial functions while they are on their way or returning from any proceedings of parliament. Section 101 of the 1991 Constitution also gives them protection from witness summons, while sections 102 and 103 protect them against serving as a juryman and publication of proceedings respectively.

However, if there is a proof that such publication tendered in parliament was done maliciously, or otherwise; or in want of good faith, then such a privilege will be lost.

Judges while performing or exercising their judicial functions also enjoy such immunity. Section 120 (9) states that:

"A Judge of the Superior Court of judicature shall not be liable in any action or suit for any matter or action done by him in the performance of his judicial function."

Immunity from this subsection implies that it is a privilege that should be used judiciously and not as cloak to protect corrupt Judges. Other provisions that confer immunity are wary about its reasonable use. There are precedents to show that immunity should not be misused as Sloboyan Melosovic, Charles Taylor and General Augusto Pinochet had realized that immunity is a sacred syllable that should be used wisely.

COLLABORATION AND LINKAGES

The Centre during the reporting period continued to collaborate with its former allies and made new friends. Some of these institutions that the Centre collaborated with helped a great deal in the successful implementation of major projects like: the Juvenile Justice Workshop, the Unequal Rights Project and broad based Human Rights issues.

Forum of African Women Educationalists (FAWE)

LAWCLA and FAWE also collaborated in implementing the Women's Rights Project funded by the Westminster Foundation in the U.K. The National Coordinator and her staff members were instrumental in organising seminars on the need to review the 1991 Constitution; launching of the handbook that outlined all the laws that discriminate against women in Sierra Leone and held consultations with Law Reform Commission, Parliamentarians and the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs.

50 / 50 Group

The Centre, with support from the Westminster Foundation- U.K., sets up a consortium alongside the 50/50 Group and FAWE to implement the Women's Rights Project. During the implementation phase, the Centre worked with vibrant members of this group in organising launching programmes, consultation with parliamentarians and other stakeholders; in ensuring that laws that discriminate against women are expunged from our statute books.

National Accountability Group (NAG)

The Centre during the period under review received correspondence from NAG, a Civil Society Institution that works wholly on corruption, accountability and transparency issues; requesting collaboration with LAWCLA on work surrounding the Anti-Corruption Act (2000) of Sierra Leone. Since then, the Centre has been working with this institution.

The National Forum for Human Rights

As an umbrella organisation consisting of about thirty-two Human Rights and peace groups, the relationship between this institution and LAWCLA continued to grow during the period under review; in promoting and protecting the rights of all, regardless of race, origin and sex. The relationship which could be traced back to 2002 was further consolidated; when in March, 2006 the Executive Director of that institution- Frederick Carew was nominated to evaluate the just concluded Women's Rights Project.

CONTINUATION OF COLLABORATION AND LINKAGES

Office of the Ombudsman

Being a creature of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, the Centre during the period under review worked closely with the office of the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman, who is also the chairman of the Board of Trustees cooperated with LAWCLA, in serving as chairperson in functions organised by the Centre; and making referrals on matters that are not within the purview of his operations.

United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL)

The Centre also hosted personnel from the UNIOSIL; more especially from the Human Rights and Rule of Law Section, who called in regularly for updates about the Human Rights situation in the country; and for members from the Centre to participate in radio talk shows organised by the Human Rights Section geared towards promoting the rights of the underprivileged.

The Sierra Leone Police Force

The Centre continues to work very closely with this institution. During the reporting period, the Centre worked in conjunction with the Family Support Unit within the Force on issues pertaining to gender-based violence; and the effective prosecution of sexual offenders. The Centre's Juvenile Justice Unit also worked with Superintendent Fenella Kellah during the review of the "Children in the Criminal Justice System" manual.

Centre for Capital Punishment Studies (CCPS); University of Westminster- United Kingdom

LAWCLA collaborated with the Centre for Capital Punishment Studies, by hosting two interns, to form this institution during the period under review. During their internship period, the two interns contributed in editing research materials, attending daily court sessions at both the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Law Court. At the launching of the handbook on the Death Penalty in Sierra Leone: Time for change, they contributed greatly in making the occasion an impressive one.

Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies; Fourah Bay College- University of Sierra Leone

The Centre continues to support the University of Sierra Leone through lectureship at the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies Department. LAWCLA's Director has been extending pro-bono services to students of that Department, by lecturing International law and Peace, free of cost.

The Law Officers Department

LAWCLA has a close working relationship with the Law Officers Department, particularly in prosecuting sexual offence cases. This is to ensure the punishment of those perpetuating acts of Indecent Assault and Unlawful Carnal Knowledge that are now on the increase.

The Prisons Service

As an institution that housed the highest amount of detainees and prisoners in the entire country, relationship with such an entity is unending. Early this year, the Centre trained Prisons' Officers on Juvenile Justice in Bo, Kenema and Makeni. The Centre's paralegals have been visiting prisons facilities countrywide; to have an update of the status of prisoners in their respective detention facilities.

Prisons Watch

The Centre during the reporting period also collaborated with this monitoring group, as they have been concentrating solely on monitoring. A lot of referral matters were sent to LAWCLA to act upon. After the compilation of their survey on the prisons condition in the country, a copy of the report was also posted to the Centre to have an insight on the prevailing conditions of prisoners.

Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs

During the reporting period, LAWCLA collaborated strongly with this government ministry. Representatives from the Centre attended series of meetings organized by the ministry, to discuss the proposed Child Rights Bill and other pertinent issues geared towards promoting juvenile justice generally in the country. At the launching of the Women's Rights Project funded by Westminster Foundation for Democracy in the UK, the Minister and her deputy, together with other senior personnel of her ministry graced the occasion. LAWCLA is also a member of the Ministerial Task Force mandated to write a report on the Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which Sierra Leone signed and ratified.

Defence for Children International

During the reporting period, the Centre worked with this child friendly institution on issues pertaining to the welfare of children. The Centre also participated in workshops organised by this institution aimed at improving the juvenile justice situation in the country.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The Centre also worked with UNICEF during the period under review. In January this year, the Centre received a grant from UNICEF for the production of a manual on Children in the Criminal Justice System; and for the training of Law Enforcement and other public officials on Juvenile Justice in Bo, Kenema, Makeni and Freetown; as well as the production of posters on Pre-Trial, Trial and Post-Trial Rights of Juveniles. Police Officers, Probation Officers, Court Clerks and Justices of the Peace benefited from this training; whiles these posters could be seen in conspicuous positions in police stations and posts, schools and even courtrooms countrywide.

INTERNSHIP AT THE CENTRE

The Centre during the reporting period hosted Interns from within and out of the country. Early in 2006, the Centre hosted four students from the Departments of Peace and International Relations of the Milton Margi College of Education and Technology. The four Interns were Emmanuel Toe and George Caulker from the Department of International Relations and Yusufu Kondeh and Alusine Dumbuya from Peace Studies Department- Milton Margai College of Education and Technology Goodrich campus. They started their internship in February and ended in April this year.

During the period of their internship, they worked with almost all the units and were instrumental in implementing key projects. They were trained during the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Project and assisted in posting posters that were meant to protect juveniles at the Pre-Trial, Trial and Post-Trial stages.

They wrote articles for publications at the Centre's bi-annual Newsletter; and attended court sittings at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

The Centre for Capital Punishment Studies; University of Westminster- United Kingdom, this year also assigned two Interns to LAWCLA for a period of three months.



Milton Margai Interns

The Interns were Isabella Sankey and Sylvester Suarray. These interns undertook specific tasks relating to LAWCLA's advocacy for the Abolition of the Death Penalty from our statute books and the constitution.

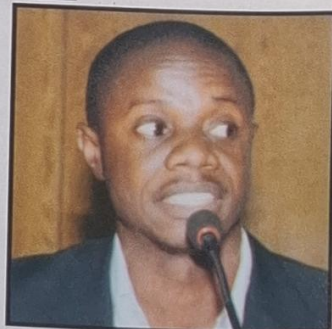
They also played a very important role during the launching of the handbook entitled: "Death Penalty in Sierra Leone: Time for Change," at the Miatta Conference Hall- Youyi Building in Freetown.

The Centre also hosted an Australian Lawyer Andrew Marriot, who served as an Intern for three months, commencing on the 28th of November 2006 to 20th February 2007. The Australian born who has a wealth of experience in Civil and Criminal Practice worked with the Research, Training and Advocacy Unit; with special emphasis on Transitional Justice issues in Sierra Leone.

The Centre has been receiving Interns from other parts of the World, but this is the first time that LAWCLA has an Intern from Australia.



Miss. Isabella Sankey



Mr. Sylvester Swarray

RECOGNITION BY THE MEDIA

During the period under review, the print and electronics media recognised the work of LAWCLA, by giving it a wide coverage in their respective media houses. The electronics media on several occasions invited the Centre, to deliberate on topical issues like: the need to review the 1991 Constitution, the Biriwa Chieftaincy elections, and the intensive media campaign on Women's Rights. The Women's Rights programme was first aired at Radio Democracy F.M 98.1 and subsequently in all radio stations countrywide. The print media for the year 2006 was also a key partner in implementing major projects undertaken by the Centre. The last edition of the LAWCLA News produced in December, 2005 was reproduced by most of these newspapers.

The Independent Observer in their Friday 27th January, 2006 edition published stories culled from LAWCLA News in a column titled: "**Behind Legal Scene.**"

The Spectator Newspaper on Monday 27th February, 2006 also did a profile on their newspaper about the Director of the Centre within a column titled: "**Personality.**" In that edition, the author, Alex T. Paila quoted the Director saying "I will remain a Human Rights Activist for the rest of my life".

On Tuesday 28th February, 2006 **The New Storm Newspaper** published an article titled: "**A vehicle without an engine... can the Anti-Corruption be effective in the absence of Prosecution Powers?**" This article highlighted some of the flaws within the Anti-Corruption Act 2000; and concluded by stating that if the fight for corruption is to achieve significant ground in Sierra Leone, the Anti-Corruption must be given the authority to prosecute and not only to investigate.

When the Centre trained Service Providers on Juvenile Justice, the print media published a lot of articles. **The News Newspaper** on Wednesday February 1st 2006 published an article titled: "**Juvenile Justice in Sierra Leone.**" This article highlights all the stages that juveniles should go through when standing trial.

The New Vision concluded by producing an inside story titled: "**LAWCLA's Workshop on Juvenile Ends.**"

After the launching of the handbook on "Unequal Rights: Discriminatory Laws against Women in Sierra Leone" and the distribution of the handbook, most newspapers published stories on it. The satirical newspaper **Peep! Magazine** published an inside story titled: "**LAWCLA report says cultural values no excuses for violence against women.**"

CONTINUATION OF RECOGNITION BY THE MEDIA

The **Pool Newspaper** also published the recommendations from the handbook in their Monday 29th May, 2006 edition within a column **Legal Perspectives; "Needed; Reform of Salone Laws Relating to Women."**

When the first edition of LAWCLA News for the year 2006 was published and circulated, most of the Newspaper culled topical articles for their respective newspapers. **The New Vision** on their Tuesday June, 6 edition published an article: **"To Repeal or Amend Public Order Act of 1965 under scrutiny."**

The Independent Observer in their Friday 23rd June, 2006 also published another article titled: **"The presumption of innocence within the Criminal Justice System"**; an article examining who bears the burden in prosecuting cases.

Barely a month after the article on the Presumption of Innocence, The **New Storm** published a story captioned: **"ROTTEN JUDICIARY...LAWCLA intervenes to free accused."** This was a story about a taxi driver who was remanded for seven months. With the Centre's intervention, the accused was set free.

The **For Di People Newspaper** also published a story on the launching of the handbook titled: **"Death Penalty in Sierra Leone: Time for change"**, which attracted eminent personalities from all walks of life with a headline story; **"HOW LONG SHOULD WE KEEP THE DEATH PENALTY?"** This was an article referring to a statement made by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, who was one of the speakers at the launching ceremony.

ROTTEN JUDICIARY... LAWCLA intervenes to free accused



Council Chairman undresses APC

Kingdom remand is a death trap for children

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chairman George Gai has called for a "rotten judiciary" in a scathing attack on the Los Angeles County Probation Department. Gai, who is also the Chairman of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, said that the Probation Department is "a death trap for children" and that it is "rotten" because it is "not doing its job."

Gai's attack came in the wake of a recent report by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors that the Probation Department had failed to provide adequate supervision for a group of children who had been placed in the custody of the Probation Department. The report said that the Probation Department had failed to provide adequate supervision for the children, and that the children had been placed in the custody of the Probation Department without any proper supervision.

Gai said that the Probation Department is "rotten" because it is "not doing its job." He said that the Probation Department is "not doing its job" because it is "not providing adequate supervision for the children who are in its custody." He said that the Probation Department is "not doing its job" because it is "not providing adequate supervision for the children who are in its custody."

FDP

HOW LONG SHOULD WE KEEP DEATH PENALTY?

Dr. Ahsane Fafanah Queries

Sierra Leoneans Must Stop Telling Lies!

The Lost Of Cain-A Review By Oumarr Farouk Sesay

Dr. Ahsane Fafanah, a Sierra Leonean physician and writer, has written a book titled "The Lost Of Cain" which is a review of the Sierra Leonean death penalty. The book is a collection of essays and articles that discuss the death penalty in Sierra Leone and the role of the judiciary in the country.

The book is a collection of essays and articles that discuss the death penalty in Sierra Leone and the role of the judiciary in the country. The book is a collection of essays and articles that discuss the death penalty in Sierra Leone and the role of the judiciary in the country.

LAWCLA launches Death Penalty Hand Book

It's New And It's News!

TO-RO GUEST HOUSE

Manager - Kenneth Lahn

The Los Angeles County Law Center for the Advancement of the Rule of Law (LAWCLA) has launched a new book titled "The Death Penalty Hand Book." The book is a collection of essays and articles that discuss the death penalty in the United States and the role of the judiciary in the country.

The book is a collection of essays and articles that discuss the death penalty in the United States and the role of the judiciary in the country. The book is a collection of essays and articles that discuss the death penalty in the United States and the role of the judiciary in the country.

Legal Corner

Scope, Current and Applicability of the Presumption

Immunity: The Misused Privilege

The presumption of immunity is a legal principle that has been used by the courts to protect public officials from civil liability. The presumption is based on the idea that public officials are entitled to a certain level of immunity from civil liability for actions taken in the course of their official duties.

The presumption of immunity is a legal principle that has been used by the courts to protect public officials from civil liability. The presumption is based on the idea that public officials are entitled to a certain level of immunity from civil liability for actions taken in the course of their official duties.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The Presumption of Innocence within the Criminal Justice System

There are Presumptions in the Statutes of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and the International Criminal Court, stipulating that the Accused has a right "not to be convicted on the basis of a presumption of guilt or any other of similar nature."

The presumption of innocence is a legal principle that is fundamental to the criminal justice system. It is the principle that a person is innocent until proven guilty. The presumption of innocence is a legal principle that is fundamental to the criminal justice system.

Legal Perspectives

Needed: Reform Of Salome Laws Relating To Women (II)

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Cambridge International College is a leading provider of professional training and education. The college offers a wide range of courses and programs that are designed to help students improve their career prospects and achieve their goals.

Cambridge International College is a leading provider of professional training and education. The college offers a wide range of courses and programs that are designed to help students improve their career prospects and achieve their goals.

Support The Lawyers Centre For Legal Assistance

The Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance – Sierra Leone is presently one hundred percent dependent on Donors for its operational and staffing costs. We believe that this dependence threatens the existence of the Centre in the absence of funding from Donors. In order to complement funds received by donors and to ensure the Centre's financial sustainability, the Centre undertakes the undermentioned tasks for modest costs:

1. Human Rights Trainings.
2. Human Rights and Legal Research.
3. Consultancies and Retainerships
4. Commercial adverts in our Newsletters and Reports
5. Solicitors work including Conveyances and Agreements

Our ability to continue and expand the work of the Centre depends on your support.

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ABOUT THE LAWYERS CENTRE FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE (LAWCLA)

The Lawyers Centre for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA) is one of Sierra Leone's newest but promising Human Rights Institution. LAWCLA was established in March 2001 partly due to a concern by the founders about the deplorable human rights situation in the country and the limited access to justice and the Law by the majority of victims of Human Rights abuses and violations especially indigent members of the society.

LAWCLA is an independent, non-Political, non-Profit making, Public Interest Human Rights Law Centre, which among other things provides free Legal services to poor members of the public.

LAWCLA's mission is "to make the Law and Justice more accessible to indigent members of the Public through Legal Advice, impact Litigation and Research".

LAWCLA's human rights work is unique in one respect, that it is Sierra Leone's first and only organization to date involved in Public Interest Litigation and providing Pro Bono Legal Aid. This is appreciated against the fact that human rights work by the vast majority of Local groups in the country is limited to monitoring, reporting and community Education and Sensitization.

As a non-Profit Making Institution, the Centre is dependent upon donation and grants from a wide variety of sources.

The Centre welcomes your Technical, Financial and Moral Support.

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