Prisons and Detention Monitoring Report.
Supported with funds by the Democracy Human Rights Funds (DHRF) –
United States Embassy in Sierra Leone
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WHAT ACTUALLY LIE BEYOND THE PRISON GATES?

Beyond the Prison Gates are held thousands of young people the majority of whom are on remand who are yet to receive their indictments.

Beyond the prison gate, lie thousands of young people who are between the ages of 16 – 40. Who are have the energy to contribute to national development but yet are wasted.

Beyond the prison gate are held people whose long detention has led to serious health complications and who are suffering from mental disorders.

Beyond the prison gate are held people who are blind.

Beyond the prison gate are held children between the ages of few weeks old to two years who are victims of circumstance.

Beyond the prison gate are held pregnant women imprisoned for very minor crimes.

Beyond the prison gate are held young girls charged with loitering and convicted to 9 months in prison with maximum security.

Beyond the Prison Gate is the Prison Officers whose condition is no different than the prisoner.

Beyond the Prison Gate lies youths who do not have any means of livelihood or employability skills who will eventually will turn to crime as means of survival even when eventually released.
Beyond the prison gate is the Prison Watch monitor who seems the only hope and link between the prisoner and the outside world.
PART 1 – INTRODUCTION.

This report catalogues the findings of the monitoring report on prisons and police cells nationwide. The prisons, Prison Officers, police cells and Police Officers specifically formed the focus of our monitoring exercise. The time line of this report is from September 2007 - September 2008.

Due to the late mobilization of resources from the DHRF both the first and second phase the initial implementation was pre-funded by PW-SL.

A total of 13 Prisons and 20 police stations were monitored. As a norm, permission for visitation for both the prisons and the police cells was obtained from The Director of Prisons and The Inspector General of Police respectively without let or hindrance. The Prison and Police Officers were of much assistance and cooperated with detention monitors.

Staff and monitoring team of Prison Watch Sierra Leone continues to enjoy the active support and cooperation from the Director of Prisons, Deputy Director of Prisons Staff Officers 1 and 2.

Staff Officer 1, Mr. Mohamed Turay has been very instrumental and of much assistance in our operations and monitoring activities.

The Officers-in-charge of the District Prisons were all very collaborative. Monitors were given immediate access to all detention facilities and in some instances; Prison Officers were very helpful in helping out with data collection on individual prisoners.

Monitoring exercise were conducted in all state prisons located in Freetown (Western), Makeni, Port Loko, Kambia, Magburaka, Kabala (Northern
Province), Kenema, Kono, Kailahun (Eastern Province) and Bo, Bonthe, Moyamba and Pujehun (Southern Province).

The findings of our monitoring visits have been discussed and presented in part four of this report.

Even though the prisoners/detainees remain to be the focus of our monitoring, yet issues affecting the Prison Officers also form part of our report.
PART 2 – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.

The overriding aim of our monitoring exercise is to ensure that people held in prisons or under any form of detention are held and treated in compliance with minimum standards of detention rules.

The following are the objectives of our monitoring exercise:

1. To investigate human rights abuses and violations in the prison and police cells.
2. To ensure that the processes and procedures leading to arrest and deprivation of liberty is followed.
3. To document and report on prison conditions in Sierra Leone.
PART 3 – METHODOLOGY.

In pursuance of our aims and objectives, the following methodologies were employed:

**Monitoring Visits.**

Detention monitors visited prison and detention institutions monthly in the case of Prison and fortnightly as in the case of police cells.

Monitors on visit from Pademba Road Prison.

Monitors on visit to Magburaka Prisons.

Monitors on visit at the Kambia Prison.

After exhaustion from monitoring trip to Kabala prison, monitors feeling tired.
Female Campaigner Ann – Marie Bangura on monitoring visit to Pujehun Prison.

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Data collection.
Data was collected on every prisoner that was in detention at the time of visit. Data included: name of prisoner or detainee, status, crime/charge, Date of Detention, Date of Release, Religion, Nationality, Ethnicity, and Occupation before Arrest or Detention.

Specific case monitoring
This is a monitoring tool designed for the documentation of human rights abuse and violations reported by inmates. It included information on the Name of victim, Age, Nationality, Description of violation and violator, and witness to violation.

Personal Observations and Interviews.
Detention monitors were able to interview prisoners and to observe the physical condition of the police cells and the prisons and the existing detention facilities. In some instances, monitors tasted prisoners diet to be able to corroborate complains about the poor dietary nature.
PART 4 – DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

This section discusses the findings of our monitoring exercise. This has been presented in the following order.

First Phase.
- Section A – Issues affecting the Prisoners
- Section B – Issues affecting the Detainees in Police custody
- Section C – Issues affecting the Prison Officers.

Second Phase.
- Progress Report affecting prisoners/detainees.
- Analysis of prisoner population.

SECTION A – ISSUES AFFECTING THE PRISONERS.

Life in prison
Life in prisons continues to be a daily struggle for survival and a bitter experience for the bulk of the inmates. A significant proportion of prisoners happen to be poor and lack professional/basic livelihood employability skills. They could not stop from venting out their anger and frustration of the deprivation of basic supply of bathing soap, tooth brush and paste for over 7 months.

Overcrowding.
This is a very serious problem at the Pademba Road Maximum Prison which continues to hold prisoners beyond the critical level of overcrowding (20% above the maximum capacity). This seriously undermines the security of prison and has further complication for healthy living.
We view the current population capacity as inhuman and degrading to the dignity of all inmates. This violates article 10 of the ICCPR which states that "all persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with dignity and respect for the inherent dignity of human persons”

Pre-Trial detention.
Prison Watch Sierra Leone continues to report on lengthy pre-trial suspects who are sometimes held for longer period than necessary. One of the contributing factors is the fact that, in places like Kabala and Pujehun, there are no Resident Magistrates. Resident Magistrates in Makeni and Bo, are expected to cover these places. These Magistrates takes weeks sometimes even months to convene court sittings. When asked what was responsible, the Magistrates responded that this was due to logistical support. One Magistrate remark that sometimes they use their own money to buy fuel. When requisited for refunds, they are told that there is no money.

Detainees on trial.
Significant proportion of prisoners who are on trial reported that, they are usually loaded in the prison vehicles every morning with the pretext to attend court sittings but they actually spend the whole day locked up in the cell in the court room without hearing or making court appearances at all. Prison watch believes that the right to be heard and the right to prompt trial within a relative short period of time is a fundamental one. If detainees/suspects are denied the right to be heard or to appear before a magistrate or a judge, this constitutes a serious human rights concern and violation.
Feeding and food supply

Detainees at Pademba Road Prison complained about poor and inadequate dietary system. They complained that they are fed once a day and six (6) bags of rice is supplied per day. To corroborate evidence, when asked, prison authorities stated that 11 or 12 bags of rice are supplied per day for the feeding of prisoners.

On the question of the quantum of food per prisoner, the officers reported that 20 ounce of food is due each prisoner per day. But the absence of a measuring instrument puts this to a very serious question.

There is serious irregularity in food supply. Sometimes it takes more than 5 months, prisoners diet is not supplied. In Moyamba for example, Officer Commanding was left indebted for over eleven million (Le 11,000,000) to private business people in other to provide food for the prisons to avoid a possible due to the long delay of food supply by government contractors.
This situation holds true for Bonthe and other prisons.

In Bonthe, Officer-in-charge has to collect prison supply in Bo. This is done at great personal expenses to the Commanding Officer who sometime has to divert some of the food items to offset transportation cost.

Water shortage.

This continues to be a perennial problem for Pademba road, Moyamba and Pujehun Prisons. In Pujehun, prisoners walk for more than half a mile especially during the dry season to fetch water.

Even though a hand pump has been constructed within the Prison yard, yet this problem is still far from been solved because the hand well is does not functioning well.
Water crisis more acute at the Pademba Road Maximum Prisons. On countless occasion water shortage has presented a very ugly situation even beyond the critical level of control. This situation has been sometimes mitigated by UNIOSIL.

Prison Watch Sierra Leone wishes to draw government’s attention to this very serious problem. This situation if it continues holds a very serious potential threat for prisoners and prison officers.

We are however aware of the intervention of the Human Rights Commission to find a permanent solution to this problem. We however call for commitment on the part of Government in this direction.

**Hygiene and Sanitation**

Prisoners still continue to live in extremely squalid and unsanitary condition. This is more acute at Pademba Road Prisons, Kenema, Kono and Pujehun. At Pademba road prisons, sanitary buckets used for urination and toileting are still in use and are kept in the same cells with detainees. This has very serious health implication.

The sewage system in Moyamba is very poor. The toilet overflows creating a very unhealthy living condition and poses serious health risk to the prisoners.
Medical facilities/services.
There is a general lack of medical services and facilities in our prisons. Pademba Road is the only exception to this. Even there, prisoners and medical staff complained about insufficient drug supply.

Officers however complained that in most cases, health bills for prisoners are bourne at great personal cost by generous prison officers or the Officer Commanding. Even though the Officers maintained that impress is supposed to be given for prisoners medication but the question is that whether it is given at all to the Officers Commanding by the Prison Administration or Government is yet to be determined.

Violence
Detainees complained of violence perpetrated by the older and physically stronger prisoners. Monitors were able to observe fresh wounds and scars on the body of some prisoners who reported that it was inflicted on them by other prisoners.

Torture and Executions.
Even though execution and physical torture was hardly reported, yet 23 inmates continue to be on death roll at Pademba Road Prison. What is most excruciating is the fact that they are housed in the same block that also house the gallows thereby creating a psychological torture on the detainees who are constantly reminded of their death sentence by the close proximity between them and the Gallows.

Other inmates complained that they are usually locked up in a special cell and made to sleep on the bear floor for days as a means of punishment. Monitors were able to observe on countless occasion prisoners locked up in separate cell sleeping on the bear floor.
**ISSUES AFFECTING SUSPECTS IN POLICE CUSTODY.**

**Torture.**
In Central Police Station, two suspects reported to monitors that they were physically manhandled and beaten by the police patrol team during the course of their arrest. Monitors were able to observe fresh wound scars on their bodies.

Two suspects found in Kissy Mess Mess Police Station, also reported that they were beaten by police officers at the Black hall road police post before detention in the Kissy Mess Mess Police Station.

When taken up with the LUC, he expressed grave concern over the allegation and promised to look into the matter even though the alleged beating took place at Black Hall Road police post.

**Record on Detainees.**
Even though record of detainee profile was kept at every station, yet monitors discovered that there were some problems with record on detainees detained form CID. In almost all cases, detainees detained from CID, were released without properly filling out the release column indicating whether they have been released, remanded or charged to court. When taken up with detention officers, the detention officers in turn attributed the blame to the CID officers.

**Feeding.**
This remains to be a very serious problem in most police stations. By law police suspects are fed from the prisons. Prisons have complained that most police station do not send in their request for food supply. The police officers have in turn lay the blame at the door step of the Prisoner Officers accusing them that they have failed in their responsibility in making routine checks at all police stations every morning to take statistics of all suspects that slept in their custody.

This situation remains a huge problem especially in areas where police detention are established but without prison institution.

**Sanitation and Hygiene**
Detainees continue to live in very poor sanitary and unhygienic conditions. This situation is worse in Central Police station especially the female section. In one of our monitoring visits, monitors discovered that the floor of the female cell is littered with human faeces at the time of visit at the same time holding suspects in custody.
Another very acute problem at the Central Police Station is water shortage. This was reported to monitors by detention officers. This problem is a persistent problem and has existed for a very long time. Even though several reports have been made, it is yet to receive attention. This holds a potential threat for unforeseen circumstances.

**Arrest Procedures.**

It was observed through interview of detainees, that all arrests were made without warrant. Even though monitors are aware of that fact that arrest can be made without warrant but when a large number of people are detained without warrant then one is forced to ask whether this has become a norm.
ISSUES AFFECTING THE PRISON OFFICERS.

Conditions of Service.
The conditions of service of Prisons Officers are very abysmal and laughable. Their salary is very meagre. The basic salary of a recruit prison officer is Le 47,000 an equivalent of $15.00. Prison officers complained about the frustrating nature of the job. Prison Officers continue to express serious job frustration and neglect by both Government and their Administration.

Recruitment and Training of New Recruit Prison Officers
About 200 prison officers complained that since recruitment, they have just been handed uniforms to wear and nothing else. They complained that they have not been giving any formal training in detention management and basic human rights approach to prison management.

Payment Salaries and Allowances.
Prison Officers continue to complain about short falls in their salaries. One very serious persistent complaint from Prison Officers is that, Prison Officers transferred from one duty station to another continue to collect their salary from their former duty station. This they complained that it places serious financial constraints on their meagre salary.

Uniform Supply.
This continues to be a perennial problem. Prison Officers continue to complain that uniform supply is irregular and inadequate. Officers have complained that they are forced to wear one uniform for more than two or more years.

But recent interviews shows that the situation is improving. To this, they credited the their new Administration now headed by their former number 2 Mr. Moses Showers, who in their belief has turned the vicious circle around.
Accommodation.

Prison watch continues to acclaim the effort of Government and the Justice Sector Development Programme (JSDP) for their response to our clarion call with respect to makeshift quarters for prison officers which have been reported in our reports.

Previous prison staff quarters.

Prison Officers living quarters under construction in Kambia

Bricks ready for construction of Staff quarters for Prison Officers in Magburaka

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From September 2007 to September 2008.
SECOND PHASE MONITORING PROGRESS REPORT.

This phase catalogue events, findings and data collected from April 08 – September 08. It focuses and highlights specific issues that had not been raised in the first phase report. It also highlights persistent issues of concern that have been reported previously.

Even though the investigation of human rights abuse and violation remains to be the cornerstone of this project, yet this project also captured beyond this to include setting up a data base of prisoners and focused on specific issues affecting prisoners and detainees.

During this period, 13 prisons and 20 police cells in the major district headquarter towns were monitored. We were also able to establish a working relationship with the Judiciary and the Human Rights Commission, the Human Rights Committee of the Sierra Leone Bar Association, International and local volunteers and other Human Rights institutions on prison and detention issues.

PROGRESS UPDATE ON ISSUES AFFECTING PRISONERS.

Prisoners without Indictments.
The Office of the Director of Public Prosecution continues to keep prisoners in prison without Indictment. This situation is more acute at the Pademba road Maximum Prison which hosts the largest prison population in the country. At the time of visit, 116 prisoners were held still awaiting indictments.

Cases of Missing Files.
Cases of missing files seems to be a new phenomenon. Many reports of cases of missing files were made. One particular case is the Case of Michael Josiah Hindowa, Mustapha Bojan and four others Vs the State. They reported to monitors that their files could not be traced. They further complained that were convicted on murder charges and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and death by hanging respectively. They were sentenced in 2003. What is most ridiculous is the fact that their files have got missing under miraculous circumstances and could not be traced. According to them (Hindowa and Bojon), they alleged that the missing of their files was part of a
huge conspiracy by some of the junior workers in the Office of the Master and Registrar who were paid money to remove their files.

Another notable case of missing files is that of Jalloh Jamboria who had been in detained since 1998. What is of importance to note is that this suspect has seems to be mentally deranged. This is as a result of his long incarceration.

Another case of concern is the mysterious resurfacing of files previously reported missing. One of such case is the Chris Davis Vs the State. This case file was reportedly missing but upon intervention by Prison Watch staff and the mother, the files resurfaced. Chris Davis has been since released. This has also been hinted as a new strategy to make money employed by the clerks in the Office of the Master and Registrar.

**Computation of Prisoners Sentences.**

According to the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA), section 230(3) which states that

"Any length of any term of imprisonment imposed by the sentence of any court shall be treated as reduced by any period during which the offender was in custody before sentence by reason only of having been committed for trial or remanded, after arraignment".

In violation of the above, some prisoners were sentenced contrary to this said provision. One notable case is that WESTSIDE BOYS Vs THE STATE. The Westside boys were:

1. Remanded in 2000
2. Indicted in 2003
3. Sentenced in 2006

In passing his Judgement, the Presiding Judge, Judge Hamilton said the sentence of the Westside boys should start on the day of pronunciation of his verdict i.e. 2006.
**Lengthy Appeal Cases.**

Quite a number of appeal cases still remain to given attention. Appeal cases dating back to 2003 still awaits decision. With the permission of the two below, is published an example of such cases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Date of appeal</th>
<th>Date of response &amp; Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Michael Josiah Hindowa and Mustapha Bojon and four others Vs The State.</td>
<td>August 2003</td>
<td>Not yet. Four of their colleagues died in prison whilst awaiting their appeals. They are the two survivors. Their original files could not be traced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Capt Hindolo Tyre and Others Vs The State</td>
<td>January 2006</td>
<td>23 January 2008. They still await the ruling of the court.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note.**
Prisoners sentenced on the charge of felonious offences and imprisoned in the provincial prisons, encountered very serious problems in appealing against their sentence due to the fact that they do not have legal representation and they are far removed from the appeal courts.

**GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.**

**Hygiene and Health.**

- There is a serious outbreak of skin diseases. This was evident in Kono, Kenema, Makeni and Pujehun. It was observed that almost all the prisoners had boil on their body. In Kenema, two prisoners were seriously ill. One with swollen foot and stomach and the other unable to walk. There was a general sign of malnutrition. This was common in all the prison but more acute in Pademba, Bo, Kenema, Kono prisons.
- In some polices, it was observed that detainees urinate on the bear floor in the cells where they sleep.
- **Prisoners and suspects complained about extreme cold especially at night during the rainy season. This they attributed to the unavailability of beddings and insufficient supply of blankets.**
- The sewage system in prisons like Pademba Road and Makeni needs serious attention. This has created a very stinking stench within the precinct of the prison environment. This also posed very serious health risk.
**Beds/beddings.**
- With exception of Moyamba, Kenema and Pademba Road prison, there are no separate Female prison sections, there are no beddings and beds in the prisons. Suspects in police cells sleep on the bear floor. In prisons, prisoners had to make use of old cartoons and torn blankets as sleeping beds. This poses very serious health implication.

**Clothing.**
- Almost all prisoners wear their own clothes. In instances were clothes are provided, they are very demeaning and very dirty. However much improvement has been made with regards female prisoners in Pademba Road and Kenema Female Prisons.

**SEPARATION.**

**Category.**
- Generally there is no separation between convicted and the convicted. One cannot discern between those remand prisoners awaiting trail, remand prisoners on trial and convicted prisoners.

**Age.**
- Juveniles continued to be imprisoned and detained with adult and hardened criminals in both prisons and police cell.
- This was evident at the Motema, Kambia, Moyamba, Congo Cross, Central, East End, Kissy, Kabala, Police stations. Juveniles were also imprisoned at Pademba Road, Kailahun, Kenema, and Pujehun Prisons.
- In some instances, Prison Officers rejected juveniles on the basis that they should be sent to the juvenile home.
- In most instances, juvenile who were detained as juveniles have outgrown into adults.
- In some instances, monitors discovered that adult inmates claimed to be juveniles but their physical and other appearances prove other wise.

- The lack of birth certificates and an agreed age determination method presented quite and issues to determine the ages of juveniles. In some instances monitors discovered that the ages of juveniles were inflated by the police preparing them on document fit for imprisonment. **This is clearly contravenes the Beijing rules on the Administration of Juvenile justice and the Convention on the rights of the child.**
Physical Separation.

- There is no physical separation between male and female prisoners in Kono and Pujehun especially during the day. Even though they sleep in separate cells yet they share a common living yard. This situation holds potential danger for dire consequences.

Accommodation.

- Leakages were observed in prison cells. This was evident in Kono, Kambia Pujehun, and Magburaka. In Magburaka two cells are out of use because during the rains, rain water soak the cells making it uninhabitable for prisoners. In Pujehun, the cells are often soaked during the raining thus making it inhabitable for detention.
- In almost all the prisons, prison cells some prison cells were not in use due to damaged cell door. This in most cases had serious implication for cell congestion.

Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers.

- Four pregnant women were imprisoned in the Pademba road prisons. Ten babies are imprisoned with their mothers in Pademba Road Prison the oldest of them been bellow two years and the youngest 3 weeks old. In Kenema, four lactating mothers were imprisoned the oldest aged 1 year six months and the youngest 1 week old at the time of visit.
- The presence of lactating children between the ages of few weeks old to two (2) years imprisoned with their mothers remains to be of very serious concerns to Prison Watch Sierra Leone.

Feeding.

- Monitors in most cases had the opportunity to taste prisoners’ diet.
- In the provincial prisons, prisoners attested that the food is ok both in quantity and quality.
- At the Pademba Road Prisons, quality of food is very poor. Prisoners had to re-cook their food or had to spice it with Maggie or pepper or butter sent for them by their relatives to make it more tasty and nutritious.

Medical Services/Facilities.

- Even though health units has been established and medical staff attached in almost all prisons, yet there is a general lack of basic drug supply for even the most minor ailment.
- Prison officers in most cases had to undertake the medical bills at great personal expenses.
In cases prisoners are referred to the government hospitals, they are rejected. The government hospital in Makeni proved the exception as attested by the Officer Commanding.

**COMPLAINTS.**

**Food.**
- In Kambia police station one transferred suspect reported not given for two days. It was also observed that the suspect in question was very week.
- Suspects detained after 2PM do not get food until the next day at 2 PM.
- In Bonthe, prisoner and prison officers reported that the cooking pot is very small. This they further complained that places serious strains on cooking especially when prison had to cater for more additional numbers of transferred prisoners.

**Prison Regalia.**
- Officers complained that the lack of supply of prison clothes “Jumpers” is one of the factors responsible for prisoners not classified according to their status.

**Rehab Facilities.**
- Prisoners complained about a general absence of rehab and other correctional opportunities. In almost all the prisons in the country, there is a general absence of rehab programme for prisoners.
- In port Loko, there is a rehab programme which has been introduced by Prison Watch Sierra Leone supported by courtesy of the Youth To Youth Community in the World Bank.
- The Port Loko Rehab model is now gaining multiplier effect in other prisons.

**Security.**
- Prison Officers complained that conveying prisoners from prison to court and hospital is quite a situation on their hands. This they say becomes more than an issue especially at nights when a prison needs urgent medical attention.
- In Kono the distance from the prison to the hospital is three miles, lack of mobility facilities places serious constraints on the shoulders of the Prison managers especially when there is urgent need for sick prisoners to be taken for medical attention at odd hours.
In some prisons, the courts are located very close to the prison institution. But in others court sitting usually take place in areas far removed from the town that host the prison. Like in Port Loko and Kailahun due to non availability of mobility, to convey prisoners to court especially where courts sittings are mile away from prison institution, many prisoners do not normally attend courts.

In Kambia, it was reported and observed that the perimeter fence is too low thus has serious security implications.

There is no perimeter fence around Pujehun and Kenema prisons. This poses serious security concerns.

In Magburaka, the close proximity of the prison wall to the perimeter fence presents easy escape access.

Escorts provided for prisoners on out door duties is grossly insufficient. One officer allocated to more than 10 prisoners is a high security risk. Most prisoner escape has occurred as a result of this.

**Violence, Discipline and Punishment.**

In Pujehun, it was observed that a prisoner was locked up in a separate cell *with hand cuffs as a disciplinary measure.*

In Pademba road, monitors found inmates locked up in separate cells on bear floor.

In Pademba road prison, one inmate reported seriously beaten. Monitors observed that the prisoner in question in his cell and was unable to move.

One prisoner beat up a Prison Officer and violently attacked the Officer in Charge with stones damaging the windows extensively.
**Death Occurrence.**

- Due to data obtained from the prison doctor, 23 prisoners were reported to have died in the Pademba Road Prisons custody from September 2007 to August 2008. Reports of death in provincial prison was hardly reported.

**Over detention**

- In Kono at the Motema Police Station, monitors discovered three suspects over stayed in detention. Beyond the stipulated period provided by law of 72 hrs and 10 days respectively. They were detained for eleven (11) days.

- In Makeni Mena Police Station, suspects were in detention for over twelve days.

**Youth Population in Prisons.**

- 90% of prison inmates are poor youths between the ages of 16 - 40 who cannot afford the extortionate legal fees to be adequately represented by lawyers of their choice.

**INSTITUTIONAL PERSONNEL.**

**Prison Management.**

- **PW-SL** observed more openness on the part of the new prison administration and pro-activeness on matters relating to prisoners welfare. The Ag. Director of prison Mr Moses Showers was able to respond and take actions on issues raised with him. His timely intervention in investigating certain matters relating to violence between detainees and staff proved very valuable.

- Collaboration and support to Prison Watch Sierra Leone Staff and Management in our monitoring exercise was a remarkable demonstration of his (Ag. Director) respect for Human Rights values that was not enjoyed under his predecessor and signalled a sure sign of hope for the future.

- Some Prison Officers overreacted and acted outside instruction given them by senior authorities using heavy handedness and acting outside their scope of instruction much to the dislike of their superiors. This sometime created a very ugly scenario.
Other Observations.

- In Makeni prisons, an Epileptic was detained and reported she suffered several attacks in prison.

- In Port Loko, Kailahun and Pademba road prisons, it was observed that some detainees were behaving strangely. Given their strange behaviour, is a sure sign that they have mental complication.

- In Pademba road prisons, some of the detainees dwelling in the hospital premises were not sick nor reported any illness to monitors.

- Foreign detainees and none foreign detainees were provided the same.

- A blind bind man was detained on corruption and embezzlement charge at the Pademba road prison.

- A man on remand for murder charged since 1988/9-2008 has become paralyzed and is still continued to be held on remand.

- Some inmates in the hospitals are held in critical condition.
### Analysis of prison population at the time of visit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prison</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sentence Term</th>
<th>Remand Term</th>
<th>Trial Term</th>
<th>Foreign National</th>
<th>Death Row</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Long Term</td>
<td>Short Term</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>M  F</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bo</td>
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<td>28 01</td>
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**Total**

AC – Actual Capacity.

Bon – Bonthe Prison.

Kab – Kabala Prison.

Kai – Kailahun Prison.

Kam – Kambia Prison.

Mak – Makeni Prison.

Mag – Magburaka Prison.

Moy – Moyamba Prison.

Pad – Pademba Road Prison.

Port – Port Loko Prison.

Puj – Pujehun Prison.

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**Prisons and Detention Monitoring Report.**

Supported with funds by the Democracy Human Rights Funds (DHRF) – United States Embassy in Sierra Leone

From September 2007 to September 2008.
INTERVENTIONS.

By courtesy of volunteer generosity, Prison Watch Sierra Leone under our Humanitarian Support Programme (HUSP) accomplished the following:

i. Donated 40 foam mattresses, 40 blankets and four dozen slippers to the female prisoners at the Pademba road prisons.

ii. Distributed bathing soap, Laundry soap to female prisoners in Makeni, Port Loko, Kenema and Bo Prisons.

iii. Distributed used clothing and baby toys to female prisoners in the Pademba road prisons.

iv. Provides on monthly basis, milk for lactating mothers and soap for female prisoners in the Pademba road prison.

v. Organised trainings in Human Rights Approach in Detention Management for 120 detention managers nationwide.

We want to extend our thanks and appreciation to people like Mrs. Memunatu Pratt, who has been of immense support and help to our HUSP.

CHALLENGES.

❖ One of our biggest challenges is funds. The continuation of our work requires funding support.
❖ To this end, The United States Embassy in Sierra Leone through its DHRF has been very helpful.
❖ DHRF provided us with project funds for the three years.
❖ Human Rights situation in prisons and detention centres, is a challenge and remains to be the biggest challenge. However, our monitoring has produced very serious impact. This ranging from protection of the rights of prisoners/detainees, improvement in the physical infrastructure of staff quarters, public awareness on the role of the prisons and drastic reduction in Human Rights violation and Abuse of prisoners and detainees rights.

Prisons and Detention Monitoring Report.
Supported with funds by the Democracy Human Rights Funds (DHRF) – United States Embassy in Sierra Leone
From September 2007 to September 2008.
We believe that the application and adoption of best practice of human rights principle can only be sustained through constant monitoring of our prisons and police cells. But to do this, we need donor support.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Government.

i. Government should professionalise the Sierra Leone Prison Services and review the salary and conditions of service of our National Prison services.
ii. Government to provide more opportunities for youths so as to enable them realise their potentials so as to prevent them from re-offending.
iii. Government to provide more funds for prison management and administration so as to make it a correctional rather than a place for more criminal adventure.
iv. We call on Government to adopt a community service approach as in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso and other countries so as to decongest our prisons.
v. We call on government to ensure speedy and prompt trails of suspects with relatively short time as provided by the law.

Donors
We believe that best practice and human rights standards can only be achieved through sustained monitoring. Effective sustained monitoring requires resources to make it effective. To this end, we hereby appeal for more funds from donors.

Public
We want to remind the public that the Sierra Leone Prisons Service is a state owned institution. The prisons also have a critical role to play in the socio-economic development of the country. We hereby call for public investment and support of our nation prisons services.