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In view of the 24th Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council, The Advocates for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, and its member organization based in Sierra Leone, Mano River Union Youth Parliament, would like to communicate several points concerning the situation of the death penalty in Sierra Leone.

1. Sierra Leone is an abolitionist country in practice. The last execution in Sierra Leone took place in 1998 when 24 military officers were executed after being found guilty by a martial court for allegedly overthrowing a legitimate civilian led government.
2. The offences carrying the Death Penalty in Sierra Leone are the following: Murder-common law offence, Treason and other related offences under the Treason and state Offences Act 1963, Mutiny under the Sierra Leone Military Forces Act 1961, Robbery with aggravation- Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act 1973. Pursuant to section 121 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1965, every sentence of death shall be direct that the person condemned shall be hanged by the neck until he/she is dead, but shall not state the place of execution, and in case of the court martial, execution is by firing squad.
3. Based on findings on the ground, no court has sentenced to death any person since 27 April 2011, which was Sierra Leone Golden Jubilee, 50 years of Independence (1961- 2011). On that day, all those sentenced to death had their sentence commuted to life imprisonments. Since then, no one has been on death row in Sierra Leone.
4. In 2012, President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma announced that "it is now government policy that the death penalty now operates as life imprisonment." After this announcement, Hands Off Cain delivered the 'abolitionist of the year 2012' prize to President Koroma on 10th October 2012, the World Day against the Death Penalty in Sierra Leone.

5. Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Hon. Franklyn Bai Kargbo told the United Nations Committee against Torture on 2nd May 2014 that Sierra Leone will shortly abolish the death penalty. Addressing a public hearing session of the Committee in Geneva, Mr. Kargbo said that his office has received firm instructions from President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma on the issue.
6. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission found that the Sierra Leonean civil war "resulted in the demeaning of human life and dignity," and that "the State must now set the example by demonstrating that it places the highest value on all human life." These conclusions lead the Commission to recommend that the Sierra Leonean government abolish the death penalty "without delay." The Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) began its operation in July 2013 and had just started its work when the Ebola epidemic started. The ongoing disease outbreak has limited the activities of the Committee. The constitutional reform is intended to outlaw the death penalty in Sierra Leone and bring the country more in sync with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendation.
7. Sierra Leone accepted the 13 recommendations to abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR during its UPR in 2011. Sierra Leone further demonstrated its commitment as regards abolition of the death penalty by voting in favor of the UN General Assembly resolution for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in 2012 and 2014 for the first time.
8. However, as of 1st June 2015, the Constitutional Review Committee is still organising public consultations and Sierra Leone has yet to abolish the death penalty. Mano River Union Youth Parliament, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and the Advocates for Human Rights thus urge Sierra Leone to abolish the death penalty in its legislation and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR as soon as possible.

The Advocates for Human Rights is a volunteer-based non- governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publications. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a Death Penalty Project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

The Mano River Union (MRU) Youth Parliament purpose is for peace & development and its activities are based on Sub Regional Peace Consolidations, Peace Promotion & Peace Maintenance across Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea & Ivory Coast by the Youngsters/ Youth Leaders themselves that agitates for regional reintegration, regional peace & security, regional cooperation, political and economic stability in the sub region- it has worked with the

UN backed Special Court for Sierra Leone that its mandate did not permit any death penalty on all convicts.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty gathers over 150 members: human rights organizations, professional associations and local authorities on the five continents who have united to campaign for the universal abolition of the death penalty. It was founded in 2002 in Rome. Its actions include the World Day Against the Death Penalty, a ratification campaign of the United Nations Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and a campaign for the implementation of the UNGA moratorium resolution.