

**MALEN AFFECTED LAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION
(MALOA)
MALEN CHIEFDOM
PUJEHUN DISTRICT
MOTTO: UNITY IS STRENGTH**

Our Ref.....

Your Ref.....

Date: 01/12/12

**THE CHAIRMAN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
SIERRA LEONE
WELLINGTON STREET
FREETOWN**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**GROSS ABUSE OF OUR FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE
PARAMOUNT CHIEF AND CHIEFDOM AUTHORITIES OF MALEN
CHIEFDOM, PUJEHUN DISTRICT, SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

I hereby write for and on behalf of the land holding families of Malen Chiefdom who are affected by the operations of the Socfin Agricultural Company in the Malen Chiefdom, Pujehun District, Southern Province of the Republic of Sierra Leone to complain to you about the blatant disregard and abuse of our fundamental human rights to wit unlawful occupation of our family land by the Socfin agricultural Company.

It all started in early 2011 when the Paramount Chief of the Malen Chiefdom summoned all the section chiefs and town chiefs and informed them about the Government of Sierra Leone's intention to recultivate the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board Oil palm plantation located in the chiefdom for further agricultural investment by a company. The chiefs were then given sums of money as "shake hand" and further requested to sign documents which were not properly explained to them. Soon afterwards landholding families were informed about the operations of the Socfin Agricultural Company and that a committee had been set up by the Paramount Chief to plot out land upon which the Company was to operate.

Land holding family heads and chiefs who protested against the incursion were molested and harassed by the Paramount Chief, Company personnel and the Police. This led to the arrest of about 40 persons in Kortumahun village, who were brought to Pujehun and later to Bo in October 2011. They were detained for few days and later released after 15 persons were charged to court. Through the intervention of a son of the soil who was the Honourable Member of

Parliament, Hon. Shiaka Sama, we received the help of some human right NGOs and the services of a human right lawyer. The case is still pending in court with little progress made as the prosecution is delaying in closing its case.

The harassment of landholding family members since then has continued and the land had been forcefully taken by the Socfin Agricultural Company for their operations with no regards to the persistence protest from the various landholding family members. Vast farm lands and cash crops of family members in the various villages have been destroyed and continue to be destroyed by the Socfin Agricultural Company in the Malen Chiefdom.

Through the Hon. Sam and with the help of some human right NGOs several meetings were held with the stakeholders including the chiefdom authorities, the Pujehun District Council, the Socfin Management and even the office of the Honourable Vice President which yielded no fruit. The Company has continued its operations with the authority of the Paramount Chief without regard to their protest and demands made for renegotiation on issues relating to the forceful operations of the company on our family land.

Recently, four of our members were arrested at Basaleh and charged to court by the Police for resisting to allow the Company personnel to operate on their land. These four had no trial in court and were summarily sentenced to imprisonment or fine of Le 3,200,000.00. They were imprisoned for 48 days and released only after the Honourable Member of Parliament then paid the fine to the Court.

We are at present under constant harassment from the Paramount chief of the Chiefdom, P.C. Victor Brima Kebbie who threatens that with his APC government in power and Honourable. Shiaka Sama no more in his way as he lost the 2012 election, he can even kill anyone who resists the operations of the company upon any land in the Malen Chiefdom.

It is in this regard that the landholding families affected by the Socfin operations and those to be affected have unanimously resolved to peacefully resist the Socfin Agricultural Company's operation henceforth and not to allow any further operations on any part of their land in the Malen Chiefdom. Attached is the copy of the resolutions.

We are aware of the need to consolidate the hard earned peace we are now enjoying in our beloved country Sierra Leone and further mindful of the need to foster development initiatives in every part of the country

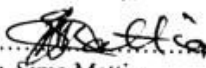
However, the present operations of the Socfin Agricultural Company are against our progress, our livelihood and the economic viability of our families. It is also a blatant disregard to our ownership of our respective family land in the Malen Chiefdom which we can no longer accept.

It is in this regard that we are humbly requesting for your timely intervention so as to forestall any further eventuality. We are now desperate and can no longer tolerate the operations of the Socfin Company on our family land.

We are therefore calling on you for your timely intervention so as not to resort to what happened at Feregbeya in the Tonkolili District, Northern Province of Sierra Leone sometime this year.

We shall be very grateful for your kind timely intervention. Looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,


.....
Mr. Sima Mattia
Secretary, MALOA


.....
Mr. Brima Lappia
Chairman, MALOA

COPY:

The Paramount Chief, Malen Chiefdom, Sahn Malen Town
The District Officer, Pujehun District, Pujehun
The District Council Chairman, Pujehun District
The Provincial Secretary, Sothern Province, Bo
The AIG Southern Province, Bo
The LUC, Pujehun
The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Freetown.
The General Manager, Socfin Agricultural Enterprise, Sierra Leone
The Civil Society Focal Person, UNDP, Freetown
The Head of Section, Human Rights Section, UNDP, Freetown
The Executive Director, Green Scenery Sierra Leone, Freetown
The Head of Office, ONS Sothern Province
The Head of Office, ONS, Pujehun
The Chairman, Coalition of Civil Society Organizations, Pujehun District
The Chairman, Coalition of Civil Society, Southern Region
The UNDP Civil Society Network
The Chairman/Coordinator, National Forum for Human Rights, Freetown
The Program Coordinator, Namati- Sierra Leone office, Freetown
The Legal Adviser, MALOA

MALEN CHIEFDOM LAND HOLDING FAMILIES

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS we the under mentioned landholding family members are natives and indigenes of Malen Chiefdom in the Pujehun District, Southern Province of the Republic of Sierra Leone;

WHEREAS we own portions of land with demarcated boundaries in our towns and villages in the Malen chiefdom;

WHEREAS these portions of land inherited from our parents, relations and forefathers of the land are cultivated for subsistence farming and cash crop production for crops such as Oil Palm, Cola nut, Coffee, pineapples, etc which have been the major sources of income and livelihood for our families;

AND WHEREAS the Paramount Chief and chiefdom authorities of the Malen Chiefdom have leased large portions of land including ours to Government of Sierra Leone who in turn have sub-leased the said land to the Socfin Agricultural Company without our informed consent;

REALISING that the activities of the Socfin Agricultural Company has now deprived and continues to deprive us of our land and all the cash crops on it without adequate compensation;

FURTHER REALISING that our members who have refused to give up their land for the company's operation are under constant threat from the Paramount Chief and the chiefdom authorities;

MINDFUL of the fact that some of our members have been arrested, charged to court and imprisoned and some are still before the Magistrate Court in Pujehun on charges relating to their lawful resistance to give up their land for the company's operations;

WE THE UNDERMENTIONED HEADS OF FAMILIES WITH THE CONSENT OF OUR RESPECTIVE FAMILY MEMBERS AT A MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2012 IN PUJEHUN TOWN, PUJEHUN DISTRICT, SOUTHERN SIERRA LEONE HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOW:

1. That we entirely disassociate ourselves from any lease agreement signed by the Paramount Chief and the chiefdom authorities of Malen Chiefdom, Pujehun District, Southern Sierra Leone with the government of Sierra Leone in respect of our land.
2. That we shall no longer allow the Socfin Agricultural Company personnel and or their machines to enter upon and operate on our land
3. That we are open for discussion on the issues relating to the unlawful acquisition of our land by the Socfin Agricultural Company.

WE ARE THEREFORE CALLING ON ALL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR THEIR TIMELY INTERVENTION IN THIS MATTER.

SIGNED:

	<u>VILLAGE/TOWN</u>	<u>FAMILY HEAD</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1.	Ngandorkhun	Musa Morika		01-12-12
2.	Ngandorkhun	Senesie Myana		01-12-12
3.	Ngandorkhun	Aku Mansang		01-12-12
4.	Ngandorkhun	Abdul Fullei		01-12-12
5.	Ngandorkhun	Contel Kpang		01-12-12
6.	Bomuvulahun	Shiaka Musa Sama		01-12-12
7.	Bomuvulahun	Musa Lamin		01-12-12
8.	Bomuvulahun	Mohamed Jaward		01-12-12
9.	Tissana	Mohamed Koroma		01-12-12
10.	Tissana	Muhsin Motwah		01-12-12
11.	Tissana	Mustapha Sei		01-12-12
12.	Tissana	Mohamed Bunde		01-12-12
13.	Tissana	Saïde Bunde		01-12-12
14.	Tissana	Morie Nabie		01-12-12
15.	Tissana	Sheku Ansumana		01-12-12
16.	Gbayama	Mornay Magbie		01-12-12
17.	Jao	Lahai Karimu		01-12-12
18.	Jao	Brima Landa		01-12-12
19.	Jao	Muhsin Vannah		01-12-12
20.	Jao	Samba Manay		01-12-12

SIGNED:

	<u>VILLAGE/TOWN</u>	<u>FAMILY HEAD</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
21.	BASSALEH	Alhaji A. Sidike		01-12-12
22.	BASSALEH	Mohamed Mansaray		01-12-12
23.	BASSALEH	Lahai Musa		01-12-12
24.	BASSALEH	Saffa Lahai		01-12-12
25.	BASSALEH	Brima Momoh		01-12-12
26.	NGIEMA	Abraham Kallan		01-12-12
27.	NGIEMA	Kelkula Anna		01-12-12
28.	NGIEMA	Sima Aliou		01-12-12
29.	NGIEMA	Amara Jabrie		01-12-12
30.	NICHEMA	Sannoh Banya		01-12-12
31.	BORBORBU	Daniel Sillah		01-12-12
32.	FONIKOR	Koroma Keltie		01-12-12
33.	BAMBA	Aruna Koroma		01-12-12
34.	BAMBA	Kamoh Sengoh		01-12-12
35.	HONGAI	Joe Jimmy		01-12-12
36.	HONGAI	MOLWA SIDI		01-12-12
37.	NGANGAMA	Bockarie Keifala		01-12-12
38.	DAMAWO	Amor Charles		01-12-12
39.	SEMBETHUN	Momoh Kowa		01-12-12
40.	SEMARU	Brima Lahai		01-12-12

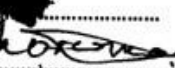
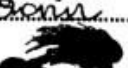
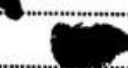
SIGNED:

	<u>VILLAGE/TOWN</u>	<u>FAMILY HEAD</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
41.	SEATABU	Munda Jinnah		01-12-12
42.	SEATABU	Bima Lappa		01-12-12
43.	KORTUMATHUN	Junisa Daula		01-12-12
44.	KORTUMATHUN	Alien Ori		01-12-12
45.	KORTUMATHUN	Poday Saha		01-12-12
46.	KORTUMATHUN	Bockarie Swaray		01-12-12
47.	KORTUMATHUN	Sidi Swaray		01-12-12
48.	KORTUMATHUN	Samu Juana		01-12-12
49.	SENEATHUN TAKATHUN	Poday M. Jumbi		01-12-12
50.	SENEATHUN	Hannah Vandi		01-12-12
51.	SENEATHUN	Poday Keltic		01-12-12
52.	JOLATHUN	Ibrahim Korku		01-12-12
53.	KPANGBA	Tommy Borne		01-12-12
54.	KPANGBA	Thomas Lamin		01-12-12
55.	KASSAY	Sima Mattia		01-12-2012
56.	FAKABA	Mohameel K. Keltic		01-12-12
57.	FAKABA	Abass B. Keltic		01-12-12
58.	FAKABA	Musa N. Keltic		01-12-12
59.	FAKABA	Mustapha Lahai		01-12-12
60.	JUMBIA	Moses Kamba		01-12-12

SIGNED:

	<u>VILLAGE/TOWN</u>	<u>FAMILY HEAD</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
61.	Sengema	Vandy Kenoh	<i>[Signature]</i>	01-12-12
62.	Sengema	Tejan Rogers	<i>[Signature]</i>	01-12-12
63.	Sengema	Gassim Kenoh	<i>[Signature]</i>	01-12-12
64.	Kpanguma	Amara Senesie	<i>[Signature]</i>	01-12-12
65.	Kpanguma	Foday Sallu	<i>[Signature]</i>	01-12-12
66.	Kpanguma	Alpha Koroma	<i>[Signature]</i>	01-12-12
67.	Kpanguma	Anna Magbie	<i>[Signature]</i>	
68.	Manowulo	Selly Mewal	<i>[Signature]</i>	
69.	Manowulo	Joseph Massagui	<i>[Signature]</i>	
70.	Taninalum	Morie Kannel	<i>[Signature]</i>	
71.	Taninalum	John Amara	<i>[Signature]</i>	
72.	Taninalum	Alpha Bockarie	<i>[Signature]</i>	
73.	Taninalum	Foday French	<i>[Signature]</i>	
74.	Libbie	Brima Mambu	<i>[Signature]</i>	
75.	Libbie	Ibrahim Kenstai	<i>[Signature]</i>	
76.	Libbie	Mohamed Samba	<i>[Signature]</i>	
77.	Libbie	Ibrahim Mohai	<i>[Signature]</i>	
78.	Bendu	Sao Lahai	<i>[Signature]</i>	
79.	Bendu	Mohamed Gbondo	<i>[Signature]</i>	
80.	Bendu	Senesie French	<i>[Signature]</i>	

SIGNED:

	VILLAGE/TOWN	FAMILY HEAD	SIGNATURE	DATE
81.	Bendu	Brima Lahai		01-12-12
82.	Bendu	Patrick A. Soko		01-12-12
3.	Bendu	Aruma Sesay		01-12-12
4.	Nyandehun	Mohamed Kebbie		01-12-12
5.	Nyandehun	Abdulai Massagui		01-12-12
6.	Talia	Ibrahim Majke		01-12-12
7.	Blamawulo	Amadu Ellie		01-12-12
8.	Nianyahun	Kamara Bunduta		01-12-12
9.	Nianyahun	Brima Kenuh		01-12-12
10.	Nianyahun	Soko Koroma		01-12-12
11.	Nianyahun	Ibrahim Bundu		01-12-12
12.	Nianyahun	Victor Sonnie		01-12-12
13.	Nyandehun	Alusine Tommy		01-12-12
14.	Baraleh	Ibrahim Mustapha		01-12-12
15.	Baraleh	Sandy Lahai		01-12-12
16.	Henei	Tanu Moigwah		01-12-12
17.	Senabutu	Amor Charles		01-12-12
18.	Massao	Samuel Momoh		01-12-12
19.	Hongai	Mohamed M. Karim		01-12-12
20.	Kaaleh	Kennie Lebbie		01-12-12

SIGNED:

	<u>VILLAGE/TOWN</u>	<u>FAMILY HEAD</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
21.	Kpangbar	Joan Lavalie	Shamie	01-12-12
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