



PRESS RELEASE

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HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION HOLDS ASSESSMENT SEMINAR IN LUNSAR

Freetown, Sierra Leone – The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) Human Rights Section in ongoing efforts to ensure national capacity on human rights monitoring, reporting and promotion mechanisms, over the weekend, held a one-day assessment seminar at the Magistrates Court in Lunsar in the northern part of the country.

More than 70 Sierra Leoneans participated and representatives of traditional leaders, religious leaders, members from the Sierra Leone Police (SLP), UNAMSIL Military Observers (MILOBs) were also present.

Topics presented and discussed were the convention on the rights of the child, basic principles and categories of rights, human rights violations - state obligations and individual responsibility, economic, social and cultural rights-implementing mechanisms, complaint procedures on arbitrary arrest and detention and individual complaint mechanisms. Each presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

During the past two years, the Section established a coalition of human rights NGOs in Lunsar, United for the Protection of Human Rights (UPHR-Lunsar), which has benefited from training initiatives. A human rights reference library was also established in the area.

Addressing participants and the audience, Officer-in-Charge of UNAMSIL Human Rights Section, Ahowanou Agbessi, said wherever there was peace and development people around would be monitoring human rights issues.

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