



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Sierra Leone - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 22 August 2013

Information on police protection against street gangs/gun killers/organised crime

A report issued in September 2012 by *Freedom House* points out that:

“The low capacity of Sierra Leone’s justice system forces many citizens to rely upon vigilante groups and officially sanctioned customary (“traditional”) forms of adjudication to prevent crime and to seek redress when victimized. Vigilante justice is tolerated, particularly against theft in urban areas” (Freedom House (20 September 2012) *Countries at the Crossroads 2012 - Sierra Leone*, p.5).

In April 2013 a publication released by the *United States Overseas Security Advisory Council* points out that:

“...overall, the SLP continues to have only moderate success in containing the criminal element in the country” (United States Overseas Security Advisory Council (2 April 2013) *Sierra Leone 2013 Crime and Safety Report*).

SLP is an acronym for Sierra Leone Police.

In February 2013 a document issued by the *United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone* points out that:

“Significant achievements have been made, leading to the growing capacity of national institutions in the areas of internal security and criminal justice” (United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (27 February 2013) *Tenth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone*, point 57).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

References

Freedom House (20 September 2012) *Countries at the Crossroads 2012 - Sierra Leone*

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/Sierra%20Leone%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

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United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (27 February 2013) *Tenth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/tenth-report-secretary-general-united-nations-integrated-peacebuilding-office>

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United States Overseas Security Advisory Council (2 April 2013) *Sierra Leone 2013 Crime and Safety Report*

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International
BBC News
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
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