



## **MEDIA FREEDOM REVIEW- AUGUST 2021**

The monthly 'Media Freedom Review' is a publication of the Media Reform Coordinating Group (MRCG) produced from the monitoring and reporting on freedom of expression, media freedom, internet, digital and online rights and safety and security of journalists in Sierra Leone.

In August 2021, the MRCG followed incidents and activities on the dismissal of a journalist from the Board of Entertainment and Investment, followed-up on the arrest and detention of a journalist, the curriculum review for media/journalism/communications, and report from the Reformation Committee (RC) of the Parliamentary Press Gallery (PPG).

African Young Voices (AYV) TV presenter, Phebean Swill-Randall, was reportedly dismissed from the Sierra Leone Board of Entertainment and Investment as entertainment Board member by the Ambassador of Entertainment and Investment, Amara Dennis Turay commonly known as Kao De Nero on August 12, 2021 for a Facebook post she made on increment in the pump price of fuel in the country.



On the arrest and detention of Osman Hardy Jalloh in June 2021, for the second time, on orders of Magistrate Joseph Toby of Court Number 2 in Kenema, Osman said he was waiting to get a response from the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, regarding a complaint TV-News24 made against Magistrate Joseph Toby for "unlawfully detaining" him at the Kenema Correctional Center before he filed a lawsuit against Magistrate Toby.

On August 5 and 6 2021, MRCG and Mass Communication, Fourah Bay College held a two-day session to review media/journalism/communication curriculum to be used by media and journalism schools across Sierra Leone. The review was geared towards improving and advancing journalism and media, and training and producing professional journalists so as to promote democratic good governance.

On August 18, 2021, the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) received a report from the Reformation Committee on Parliament's reconstituting the Parliamentary Press Gallery (PPG). SLAJ President, Ahmed S. Nasralla, said they would look into the report, consult with other media stakeholders and then inform the Committee about the next steps to take.

The details of the cases and issues will be published in the MRCG Bi-Annual Press Freedom report.

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The MRCG's freedom of expression, media freedom and internet and digital rights initiative is funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in the United States of America. The MRCG seeks to strengthen democratic dialogue and accountability, consolidate peace and ensure development through professional, independent and sustainable media based on the right to freedom of expression and of the press.