



Media Reform Coordinating Group-Sierra Leone

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PRESS RELEASE

MRCG Joins Press Freedom Advocates across the World to Commemorate the World Press Freedom Day 2024.

(Freetown: 3rd May, 2024). The Media Reform Coordinating Group (MRCG) today joins media organizations and other press freedom advocates across the world to observe the ‘World Press Freedom Day’ today, Friday 3rd May 2024, on the theme: *A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the face of the environmental crisis*.

World Press Freedom Day, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, commemorates the Declaration of Windhoek. On this day, the MRCG joins one of its constituent member organizations, the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) and other press freedom advocates in Sierra Leone and across the world to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom and reminds the Government of Sierra Leone of its commitment to upholding the right to freedom of expression and enhancing media freedom at all times.

At global level, this day is dedicated to the importance of journalism and freedom of expression in the context of the current global environmental crisis. Journalists encounter significant challenges in seeking and disseminating information on contemporary issues, such as supply-chains problems, climate migration, extractive industries, illegal mining, pollution, poaching, animal trafficking, deforestation, or climate change. Ensuring the visibility of these issues is crucial for promoting peace and democratic values worldwide.

The MRCG is using the day to recognize the role of the media in enhancing reports on environmental crisis, climate change, democracy, peace, and human rights in the country. The MRCG over the years had engaged coastal communities on climate change awareness and mitigation, and will also continue to advocate for media reforms and capacity building opportunities for journalists across the country. The MRCG is also reminding the Government and other development partners to commit towards the public interest media initiative which stood as one of the recommendations of the Media Viability and Investment Conference in April, 2022.

Amidst the several challenges, the MRCG continues to make progress in enhancing media freedom as a country. From the first to the [eleventh](#) edition of MRCG’s Press Freedom reports, **seventy six** cases have been monitored. **Fifty** of them are concluded, settled, resolved, dropped or abandoned, because of lack of progress; **nine** are in court; and **seventeen** under police investigation/inconclusive/stalled. The MRCG will continue to monitor and report on press freedom violations against journalists to enhance media freedom in the country.

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