International Partners Call for Calm in Lead Up to Run-Off Election in Sierra Leone

International Partners in Freetown are concerned about recent reports of violence. We encourage the authorities to investigate and take appropriate steps to bring the perpetrators to justice and to prevent escalation. We appeal to all Sierra Leoneans to remain peaceful and respectful during the democratic process. We entreat all political supporters to keep political activity and exchanges civil, to maintain an atmosphere of tolerance and respect, and to avoid the use of tribal rhetoric. The right of all Sierra Leoneans to vote for whichever party they wish regardless of where they live must be upheld. Anyone who would infringe on peaceful expression of political views at the risk of public safety should be held to account.

We request that all parties and candidates reiterate to their constituents their commitment to a non-violent, law abiding, and peaceful democratic process.

We look forward to the peaceful conclusion of a credible electoral process that respects the will of the people and will provide the foundation for a strong and continuing partnership with Sierra Leone.

Maria Brewer, U.S. Ambassador
Guy Warrington, British High Commissioner
Catherine Campbell, Irish Ambassador
Tom Vens, EU Ambassador
Wolfgang Wiethoff, German Ambassador

#########