

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone is a Member State of the African Union (AU) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: African System



Sierra Leone has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which reviews the State's reports concerning its human rights situation and decides complaints of alleged violations. Sierra Leone has not accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to hear complaints presented by the Commission, African intergovernmental organizations, and States parties to the African Charter.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Sierra Leone through the [African human rights system](#). For example, in

Forum of Conscience v. Sierra Leone, the Commission addressed the public execution of 24 soldiers who were sentenced to death for their alleged involvement in a coup overthrowing President Ahmed Tejan Kabah. The Commission found that Sierra Leone had violated the complainant's right to life and right to fair trial. See ACommHPR, [Forum of Conscience v. Sierra Leone](#), Communication No. 223/98, 28th Ordinary Session, 6 November 2000.

Sierra Leone fallen behind in submitting its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted a promotion mission to Sierra Leone in [2004](#).

Sierra Leone has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa



United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Sierra Leone is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Sierra Leone's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of one treaty body.

Sierra Leone has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Sierra Leone has also ratified the optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Sierra Leone has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body that is associated with the relevant treaty Sierra Leone has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Sierra Leone has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Sierra Leone has also ratified the [optional protocol](#) allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Sierra Leone has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT.

On April 7, 2003, Sierra Leone extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups are welcome to conduct visits in Sierra Leone. For example, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief conducted a mission to Sierra Leone in June and July of 2013, and published a [report](#) in December 2013.

For more information on Sierra Leone's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/SLIndex.aspx>.

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