

Country/entity Sierra Leone

Region Africa (excl MENA)

Agreement name Agreement on Ceasefire in Sierra Leone

Date 18 May 1999

Agreement status Multiparty signed/agreed

Interim arrangement Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Sierra Leone Civil War (1991 – 2002)

In March 1991, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) launched an armed assault in an attempt to oust the corrupt regime of Joseph Momoh. Grievances were primarily focused on unequal distribution of economic goods. RUF took over large areas by 1992, the poor government response instigating a coup d'état in 1992. After 1993 the RUF gained and lost territory in waves. In 1996, following an intervention on behalf of the government by the private military company, Executive Outcomes, the Abidjan Agreement was signed. Another coup in 1997, however, sparked new fighting and the RUF alongside the new government captured Freetown. Despite declarations that the war had ended, the international community intervened. The Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) recaptured Freetown on behalf of the government. The Lome Peace Accord was signed in 1999, issuing a power-sharing deal, but by 2000 RUF was once again advancing towards Freetown. As the UN mission floundered, the UK government stepped in and by January 2002, the civil war was declared to be over.

Close

Sierra Leone Civil War (1991 – 2002)

Stage Ceasefire/related

Conflict nature Government

Peace process Sierra Leone peace process

Parties For the Government of Sierra Leone: Alhadji Dr. Ahmad Tejan KABBAH, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone; For the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone: Corporal Foday Saybana SANKOH, Leader of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF)

Third parties Witnesses: For the Government of Togo and Chairman of ECOWAS: Gnassingbe EYADEMA, President of the Togolese Republic; For the United Nations: Francis G. OKELO, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sierra Leone; For the Organization of African Unity (OAU): Adwoa COLEMAN, Representative of the Organization of African Unity; Reverend Jesse JACKSON, United States Presidential Special Envoy for the Promotion of Democracy in Africa.

Description A short agreement providing for a ceasefire between the Government of Sierra Leone and the RUF in May 1999.

Agreement document [SL_990518_Ceasefire Agreement.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group** No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced
persons** No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	Page 2, Para 4. Guarantee safe and unhindered access by humanitarian organizations to all people in need; establish safe corridors for the provision of food and medical supplies to ECOMOG soldiers behind RUF lines, and to RUF combatants behind ECOMOG lines;
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	No specific mention.
Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	No specific mention.
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
Treaty incorporation	No specific mention.
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	Page 2, 4. Guarantee safe and unhindered access by humanitarian organizations to all people in need; establish safe corridors for the provision of food and medical supplies to ECOMOG soldiers behind RUF lines, and to RUF combatants behind ECOMOG lines;
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Ceasefire is presumed to be permanent and commenced on 25 May 1999. The whole agreement provides for a ceasefire and its modalities.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	Page 2, 5. Immediate release of all prisoners of war and non-combatants;
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory	Witnessed for the United Nations by Francis G. OKELO Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sierra Leone.
Other international signatory	Witnesses: For the Government of Togo and Chairman of ECOWAS: Gnassingbe EYADEMA, President of the Togolese Republic; For the Organization of African Unity (OAU): Adwoa COLEMAN, Representative of the Organization of African Unity; Reverend Jesse JACKSON, United States Presidential Special Envoy for the Promotion of Democracy in Africa.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	Page 2, 6. Request the United Nations, subject to the Security Council's authorization, to deploy military observers as soon as possible to observe compliance by the Government forces (ECOMOG and Civil Defence Forces) and the RUF, including former AFRC forces, with this ceasefire agreement.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source UN Peacemaker: <http://peacemaker.un.org/>. Link to agreement: http://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/SL_990518_CeasefireAgreementSierraLeone.pdf
