

Country/entity	Sierra Leone
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Agreement of Ceasefire and Cessation of Hostilities between the Sierra Leone Government and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) ('Abuja Ceasefire Agreement')
Date	10 Nov 2000
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: Solomon Ekuma Berewa, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General for the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone; For the RUF: Jonathan Jim Kposowa, Chief of Administration for the Revolutionary United Front

Third parties Witnesses: Joseph Laryea, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Representing the Republic of Ghana; Rouguiatou Diálo, Acting Chargé d'Affairs of the Embassy of Guinea in Nigeria Representing the Republic of Guinea; Daniel Chea, Sr. Minister of National Defence Representing the Republic of Liberia; Modibo Sidibé, Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Malians Abroad Representing the Republic of Mali; Lamido Sule, Minister of Foreign Affairs Representing the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Api Assoumatine, Ambassador of the Togolese Republic in Nigeria Representing the Togolese Republic; Lansana Kouyate, ECOWAS Executive Secretary; Oluyemi Adjeniji, Secretary-General's Special Representative in Sierra Leone

Description Ceasefire agreement in attempt to have a 'fresh application' of the Lome Accord.

Agreement document [SL_001110_Abuja 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 Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive Page 3, 5. The parties undertake, with a view to restoring the authority of the Government throughout the entire territory of Sierra Leone, to ensure free movement of persons and goods, unimpeded movement of humanitarian agencies, and of refugees and displaced persons.

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 3, 5. The parties undertake, with a view to restoring the authority of the Government throughout the entire territory of Sierra Leone, to ensure free movement of persons and goods, unimpeded movement of humanitarian agencies, and of refugees and displaced persons.
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 3, 4. Both parties agree that UNAMSIL shall have full liberty to deploy its troops and other personnel throughout Sierra Leone including the diamond producing areas in the discharge of its responsibilities, when UNAMSIL is satisfied that the ceasefire is observed by all the parties.

Page 3, 5. The parties undertake, with a view to restoring the authority of the Government throughout the entire territory of Sierra Leone, to ensure free movement of persons and goods, unimpeded movement of humanitarian agencies, and of refugees and displaced persons.

Page 4, 8. The following shall constitute a violation of this agreement:
...(v) Obstructing the activities of the United Nation Mission in Sierra Leone.

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 commenced at midnight on 10/11/2000 and is presumed to be permanent. The whole agreement provides for a ceasefire and its modalities.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes Page 3, 7: The two parties agree to recommence immediately, for all combatants, the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	Page 3, 6. The RUF commits itself to the immediate return of all weapons, ammunitions and other equipment seized by RUF.
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	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory Witness: Oluyemi Adjeniji, Secretary-General's Special Representative in Sierra Leone

Other international signatory Witnesses: Joseph Laryea, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Representing the Republic of Ghana; Rouguiatou Diállo, Acting Chargé d'Affairs of the Embassy of Guinea in Nigeria Representing the Republic of Guinea; Daniel Chea, Sr. Minister of National Defence Representing the Republic of Liberia; Modibo Sidibé, Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Malians Abroad Representing the Republic of Mali; Lamido Sule, Minister of Foreign Affairs Representing the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Api Assoumatine, Ambassador of the Togolese Republic in Nigeria Representing the Togolese Republic; Lansana Kouyate, ECOWAS Executive Secretary

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/ similar Page 3, 3.(i) They agree that the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone shall supervise and monitor the ceasefire. The United Nations Mission In Sierra Leone shall also investigate and report on any acts of ceasefire violation.

Page 3, 4. Both parties agree that UNAMSIL shall have full liberty to deploy its troops and other personnel throughout Sierra Leone including the diamond producing areas in the discharge of its responsibilities, when UNAMSIL is satisfied that the ceasefire is observed by all the parties.

Enforcement mechanism

Page 3, 3.(i) They agree that the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone shall supervise and monitor the ceasefire. The United Nations Mission In Sierra Leone shall also investigate and report on any acts of ceasefire violation.

(ii) These reports shall be presented by UNAMSIL to a Committee comprising ECOWAS Committee of Six on Sierra Leone, the ECOWAS Secretariat, the United Nations, the Government of Sierra Leone and the RUF.

Page 4, 9. The ultimate objective of the present Agreement is to ensure a ceasefire and to bring an end to the hostilities. Consequently, the parties agree to undertake with the participation of the ECOWAS Committee of six of the Mediation and Security Council on Sierra Leone and the United Nations, a review of the implementation of this Agreement, thirty (30) days after its entry into force, to evaluate the timeliness of commencing fresh application of the Lome Peace Agreement.

Related cases

No specific mention.

Source

UN Peacemaker: <http://peacemaker.un.org>. Link to agreement: <http://peacemaker.un.org/sierraleone-cessationhostilitiesruf2000>
