



Please note that the following alternate spellings for Mandingo were found in the sources consulted: Mandigo, Malinke, Mandinka, Mandigo, Malinke, Maninka, Eastern Maninkakan, Mandingoe and Mandinka. Information searches for this research response were conducted using all of these spelling variations.

**1. Please advise whether people of Mandingo ethnicity are targeted in Sierra Leone?**

The following three reports found in the sources consulted indicate that people of Mandingo ethnicity have been targeted by supporters of the All People's Congress (APC):

- A press statement issued by the National Secretary General of the SLPP describes the intimidation of Mandingo SLPP supporters by youth supporters of the All People's Congress. The press statement reports that on 11 February 2010 during an election campaign for a local council by-election APC supporters “raged invectives of all sorts on SLPP supporters, particularly the Fullahs and Mandingoes since the SLPP candidate named Ibrahim Jalloh is a Fullah”. The press release states that some members of the APC carried knives, machetes and bottles.<sup>1</sup> As no other reports were found in the sources consulted regarding this incident, the veracity of the SLPP’s claims of APC harassment can therefore not be confirmed at this time.
- On 20 September 2007, *BBC News* reported that in the town of Koquima “shops belonging to members of ex-President Tejan Kabbah's ethnic Mandingo people, have been looted and razed”. These attacks followed the election of All People's Congress (APC) leader Ernest Bai Koroma as President. The report also states that members of the Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP) were targeted following the election. According to the report President Koroma criticised the post election violence and “told police to use all their powers to get those responsible”.<sup>2</sup>
- A press statement issued by the SLPP on 19 September 2007 states that Mandingos who support the SLPP, along with other ethnicities who belong to the ‘Tana’ group, had been targeted in Bo and Kono districts. According to the press statement these individuals were “persistently molested, harassed and forced out of their houses”. The report states that the Tana group includes Fullahs,

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<sup>1</sup> Saffa, J.J. 2010, ‘Local Council Bye-Election in Ward 042, Lower Bamabara, Kenema District’, Sierra Leone People’s Party official website, 15 February  
[http://www.slpp.ws/docs/Press\\_Statement\\_February\\_15\\_20101.pdf](http://www.slpp.ws/docs/Press_Statement_February_15_20101.pdf) – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 1.

<sup>2</sup> ‘Violence spreads in Sierra Leone’ 2007, *BBC News*, 20 September  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7004686.stm> – Accessed 11 February 2010 – Attachment 2.

Mandingos Susus and Maracas. No information was found in the sources consulted regarding the 'Tana' group.<sup>3</sup>

One reason for the targeting of people of Mandingo ethnicity could be that Mandingo (and the Fullah) ethnic groups are reportedly considered to be part of a broader group of "strangers" in Sierra Leone, even though they have been present in the country for centuries. According a 2007 report commissioned by the UNHCR "many Sierra Leoneans do not consider Mandingos and Fullah to be 'indigenes' because they do not 'belong' in any particular locality". The report states that "the distinguishing characteristics of the 'stranger' lifestyle are adherence to a strict interpretation of the Koran that precludes [secret] society membership, a specialization in import-export trade, retailing and the diamond industry, and finally a tendency to live in towns rather than the countryside".

Targeting of Mandingos may also be the product of longstanding political rivalry between "indigenous" Limbas and "stranger" Mandingos.<sup>4</sup> The USDOS *Country Report on Human Rights Practices* for Sierra Leone reported in February 2009 that "ethnic clashes" had taken place between the Limbas and Mandingos which "resulted in injuries and property damage, including killed livestock and burned homes and villages". The USDOS report states that the Limba ethnic group is the third largest in Sierra Leone and they have traditionally supported the APC party.<sup>5</sup>

No other reports were found in the sources consulted regarding the specific targeting of Mandingo peoples in Sierra Leone. The lack of publicly available information on the situation for the Mandingo people in Sierra Leone may be the result of the lack of adequate news media within the country. The USDOS reported in February 2009 that the government at times restricted freedom of speech and of the press and that "journalists practiced self-censorship". The report contains the following information on the news media in Sierra Leone:

More than 50 newspapers were published in Freetown during the year, covering a wide spectrum of interests and editorial opinion. Most of the newspapers were independent, and several were associated with opposition political parties. Reporting was often politicized and inaccurate, in large part because of poor journalistic skills, insufficient resources, and lack of professional ethics. Corruption among journalists was widespread. Newspapers openly and routinely criticized the government and its officials, as well as opposition parties, but also libeled individuals.<sup>6</sup>

Minorities at Risk also reported in December 2006 that "the current situation in Sierra Leone is very difficult to judge. The years of fighting have resulted in very little information leaving the country".<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Saffa, J.J. 2007 'Press Statement', Sierra Leone People's Party Official website, 19 September <http://www.slpp.ws/browse.asp?page=480>- Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 3.

<sup>4</sup> Fanthorpe, R. 2007, *Sierra Leone: The Influence of the Secret Societies, With Special Reference to Female Genital Mutilation*, UNHCR website, August, pp. 13-14 <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/46cee3152.pdf>- Accessed 26 February 2010 – Attachment 4.

<sup>5</sup> US Department of State 2009, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2008 –Sierra Leone*, 25 February – Attachment 5.

<sup>6</sup> US Department of State 2009, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2008 –Sierra Leone*, 25 February, Section 2.a – Attachment 5.

<sup>7</sup> Minorities at Risk 2006, *Assessment for Limba in Sierra Leone*, 31 December <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/mar/assessment.asp?groupId=45102> – Accessed 25 February 2010 – Attachment 6.

## 2. What is the situation with regard to women, and Mandingo women in particular?

Limited information was found in the sources consulted regarding the situation of Mandingo women in Sierra Leone. According to 1999 report by the Joshua Project, the Mandingo ethnic group in Sierra Leone is a patrilineal society with traditional gender roles. The article reports that the men undertake farm work and hunting and women are responsible for household duties and child rearing. The report also states that the Mandingo group have a tradition of arranged marriages and that men must pay a “bride price”.<sup>8</sup> No other more recent information was found in the sources consulted regarding the Mandingo in Sierra Leone. However, information from the Mandingo Nation website also indicates that the wider Mandingo ethnic group throughout Africa, has a patriarchal culture and that “most Mandingo women are house-wives”.<sup>9</sup>

A 2005 case study by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) provides information on gender based violence in Sierra Leone. The case study includes two interviews with women of Mandingo ethnicity women who have been the victims of domestic violence. However, information contained in the report indicates that gender based violence in Sierra Leone is not a problem confined to particular ethnic group. The case study found that traditional gender roles and values throughout Sierra Leone have resulted in the normalisation of domestic violence as an “accepted part of spousal relations”.<sup>10</sup>

Reliable sources indicate that women in Sierra Leone are subjected to high levels of domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment and female genital mutilation. Reports state that while legislation prohibits rape and domestic violence, both are common and indictments against perpetrators are rare. Available information also indicates that legal and societal discrimination against women in Sierra Leone is widespread and affects women’s access to education and employment and their rights in relation to marriage, divorce, property and inheritance. Reports state that under customary law women are viewed as having the same status as minors.<sup>11</sup> The following sources provide additional information on the situation for women in Sierra Leone:

- On 15 December 2009, *BBC News* reported that a woman was barred from being elected as a Chief due to her gender. The report states that the woman also lost an appeal against the ban. The report states that “women are barred

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<sup>8</sup> ‘Maninka, Mandingo of Sierra Leone’ 1999, Joshua Project website, source: Bethany World Prayer Center <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=106266&rog3=SL> – Accessed 10 February 2010 – Attachment 7. Please note that this report uses the term Maninka instead of Mandingo.

<sup>9</sup> Borade. G. 2009, ‘History of the Mandingo Tribe’, Mandingo Nations Website [http://mandingonations.com/May\\_2009/Historyof%20the%20mandingotribs.html](http://mandingonations.com/May_2009/Historyof%20the%20mandingotribs.html) – Accessed 26 February 2010 – Attachment 8.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations Population Fund 2005, *Gender Based Violence in Sierra Leone: A Case Study*, 20 October, pp. 1 & 38-39 [http://www.unfpa.org/women/docs/gbv\\_sierraleone.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/women/docs/gbv_sierraleone.pdf) – Accessed 25 February 2010 – Attachment 9.

<sup>11</sup> US Department of State 2009, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2008 – Sierra Leone*, 25 February, Section 5 – Attachment 5; Freedom House 2009, *Freedom in the World – Sierra Leone* <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2009&country=7699> – Accessed 25 February 2010 – Attachment 10; UNICEF 2008, *Patterns of Female Genital Cutting in Sierra Leone: A Preliminary Study*, April, p.7 [http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/wcaro\\_SL\\_fgm\\_May\\_2008.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/wcaro_SL_fgm_May_2008.pdf) – Accessed 26 February 2010 – Attachment 11; Amnesty International 2009, *Amnesty International Annual Report 2009 – Sierra Leone* <http://thereport.amnesty.org/en/regions/africa/sierra-leone> – Accessed 25 February 2010 – Attachment 12.

from becoming chiefs in the Northern Province and most of the east but they are allowed in southern Sierra Leone”.<sup>12</sup>

- The 2009 US Department of State *Country Report on Human Rights Practices* for Sierra Leone reports that police are unwilling to intervene in domestic violence matters. The report also states that polygyny is widespread in rural areas of Sierra Leone and that in 2007 UNICEF estimated that 43 percent of women were in polygynous unions.<sup>13</sup>
- A 2009 report by Freedom House reports that “Sierra Leone’s maternal mortality rate is the highest in the world, and a recent UN study found that there were just six obstetricians in the entire country.”<sup>14</sup>
- According to a 2008 report by UNICEF “in Sierra Leone, female genital cutting affects about 94% of the female population over the age of 15, and it continues to be practiced on teenagers or on children as young as 5 or 6 or even younger in some parts of the country”.<sup>15</sup> A 2009 report on Sierra Leone by Amnesty International states that during the year “there was little progress in reducing the incidence of female genital mutilation”.<sup>16</sup>

### **3. Are Mandingo people imputed with particular political opinions, or allegiance to particular parties?**

No specific information was found in the sources consulted which states that Mandingo people as a group generally hold allegiance to a particular political party. However, reports indicate that some individuals of Mandingo ethnicity are SLPP supporters. As the former President and SLPP head, President Tejan Kabbah is an ethnic Mandingo it is also reasonable to assume that Mandingo people may be imputed with an allegiance to the SLPP. Reports on Sierra Leone indicate that ethnic loyalty is an important factor in party politics and government. However, the US Department of State reported on 25 February 2009 that in contrast to the major ethnic groups, the Mende, Temne and Limba, “ethnic minority groups had no strong political party affiliations”.

The following two press statements by the SLPP refer to Mandingo SLPP supporters:

- A press statement issued by the National Secretary General of the SLPP describes the intimidation of Mandingo SLPP supporters by youth supporters of the All People's Congress.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> ‘Uproar at S Leone woman chief bid’ 2009, *BBC News*, 15 December

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8413266.stm> – Accessed 26 February 2010 – Attachment 13.

<sup>13</sup> US Department of State 2009, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2008 –Sierra Leone*, 25 February, Section 5 – Attachment 5.

<sup>14</sup> Freedom House 2009, *Freedom in the World – Sierra Leone*

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2009&country=7699> – Accessed 25 February 2010 – Attachment 10.

<sup>15</sup> UNICEF 2008, *Patterns of Female Genital Cutting in Sierra Leone: A Preliminary Study*, April, p.7 [http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/wcaro\\_SL\\_fgm\\_May\\_2008.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/wcaro_SL_fgm_May_2008.pdf) – Accessed 26 February 2010 – Attachment 11.

<sup>16</sup> Amnesty International 2009, *Amnesty International Annual Report 2009 – Sierra Leone*

<http://thereport.amnesty.org/en/regions/africa/sierra-leone> – Accessed 25 February 2010 – Attachment 12.

<sup>17</sup> Saffa, J.J. 2010, ‘Local Council Bye-Election in Ward 042, Lower Bamabara, Kenema District’, Sierra Leone People’s Party official website, 15 February

[http://www.slpp.ws/docs/Press\\_Statement\\_February\\_15\\_20101.pdf](http://www.slpp.ws/docs/Press_Statement_February_15_20101.pdf) – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 1.

- A press statement issued by the SLPP on 19 September 2007 states that Mandingos who support the SLPP, along with other ethnicities who belong to the ‘Tana’ group, had been targeted in Bo and Kono districts.<sup>18</sup>

The following report indicates that Mandingo people have been imputed with an allegiance to the former SLPP leader due to their ethnicity:

- On 20 September 2007, *BBC News* reported that in the town of Koquima shops belonging to ethnic Mandingo people were been looted and razed by APC supporters following the election of APC leader Ernest Bai Koroma as President. The report suggests that the Mandingo people were targeted by APC supporters due to their belonging to the same ethnic group as ex-President Tejan Kabbah's, an ethnic Mandingo. The report also states that members of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) were targeted following the election.<sup>19</sup>

The following incident of political favouritism by the former President Tejan Kabbah towards a candidate of Mandingo ethnicity may have resulted in Mandingo people being imputed with an allegiance to Kabbah and the SLPP:

- A 2007 report commissioned by the UNHCR states that in 2006 the Kabbah government openly supported a Mandingo candidate for election in Biriwa, a traditionally Limba paramount Chieftaincy.<sup>20</sup> The USDOS reported that the National Electoral Commission publicly objected to the conduct of the Chieftaincy election. The USDOS reported that “prior to the election, the Ministry of Local Government altered the voters' list to add new tribal authorities (all Mandingo) and removed others (nearly all Limba ceremonial chiefs)”. According to the report “the Limbas protested and ultimately refused to participate in the election, so the sole candidate, a Mandingo, later won in an election”.<sup>21</sup> A report by the UNHCR indicates that following the 2007 election defeat of the SLPP party by the government suspended the Paramount Chief of Biriwa was suspended. An administrative inquiry found that the ethnic Mandingo Chief had not been appointed in accordance with proper procedure. The report state that “the suspension of the Paramount Chief continued to generate tensions between the Limba and Mandingo ethnic groups in the community”.<sup>22</sup>

A 2009 report by Freedom House states that “ethnic and regional loyalty is an important factor in the government, armed forces, and business, and it has traditionally been a deciding factor in elections”.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Saffa, J.J. 2007 ‘Press Statement’, Sierra Leone People's Party Official website, 19 September <http://www.slpp.ws/browse.asp?page=480>- Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 3.

<sup>19</sup> ‘Violence spreads in Sierra Leone’ 2007, *BBC News*, 20 September <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7004686.stm> – Accessed 11 February 2010 – Attachment 2.

<sup>20</sup> Fanthorpe, R. 2007, *Sierra Leone: The Influence of the Secret Societies, With Special Reference to Female Genital Mutilation*, UNHCR website, August <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/46cee3152.pdf>- Accessed 26 February 2010 – Attachment 4.

<sup>21</sup> US Department of State 2007, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2006 – Sierra Leone*, 6 March, Section 5 – Attachment 5.

<sup>22</sup> United Nations Security Council 2009, *First report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone*, 30 January <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/SL%20S200959.pdf> – Accessed 26 February 2010 – Attachment 14

<sup>23</sup> Freedom House 2009, *Freedom in the World – Sierra Leone* <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2009&country=7699> – Accessed 25 February 2010 – Attachment 10.

The most recent USDOS *Country Report on Human Rights Practices* for Sierra Leone report, dated 25 February 2009 provides a brief overview of ethnic relations in the country. The report describes Sierra Leone as having a very ethnically diverse population comprised of approximately 18 African ethnic groups and significant Indian and Lebanese minorities. The report states that “strong ethnic loyalties, bias, and stereotypes existed among all ethnic groups” and that “ethnic loyalty remained an important factor in the government, armed forces, and business”. However, the report also states that while “ethnic affiliations have traditionally been a strong influence in political party membership” for the Mende, Temne and Limba groups, “the country's other ethnic minority groups had no strong political party affiliations”.<sup>24</sup>

#### 4. Deleted.

#### 5. What evidence is there that supporters of the SLPP (or perceived supporters) have been targeted in Sierra Leone?

The following reports indicate that there have been recent political clashes between the youth supporters of the SLPP and APC. During these clashes SLPP supporters and their property have been targeted by APC youth supporters:

- Media reports indicate that on 13 February 2010 SLPP supporters violently clashed with APC youth supporters in an election campaign in Tongo Fields. A press release by the SLPP states that the APC supporters attacked and harassed SLPP supporters. According to a report by the SLPP North American party, 80 SLPP supporters were injured in the attack and an SLPP member's house was burnt down. According to the report the police unlawfully arrested 41 SLPP members on the 14 February.<sup>25</sup> The SNPP press release does not report any violence by SLPP members towards APC supporters. However, *Premier News*, a Sierra Leone based newspaper reported that supporters of both the APC and SLPP were armed with guns, machetes and knives. The report also states that supporters of both parties brought in supporters from other regions during the incident.<sup>26</sup> A report published by *The Awareness Times* states that this political clash also had some slight tribal and regional overtones. According to the report the APC and PMDC claimed that the SLPP had initiated the incident by burning down the stalls of pro APC traders in the North.<sup>27</sup>
- Reports state that during the month of March 2009 APC supporters attacked SLPP supporters in Gendema in the Pujehun district, Freetown and Kenema. The violent clashes first took place between the APC and SLPP during a by-election in Pujehun district from 9 to 12 March 2009. The report states that the clashes led to serious injuries and election was subsequently postponed. On 13 March there were further violent clashes between the APC and SLPP in Freetown. Reports indicate that APC youth supporters set fire to the SLPP national secretary's car and the SLPP national headquarters. On the 16 March the SLPP headquarters was

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<sup>24</sup> US Department of State 2009, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2008 –Sierra Leone*, 25 February, Section 3 – Attachment 5

<sup>25</sup> ‘SLPP-NA Condemns Violence in Tongo Fields’ 2010, *The Exclusive News Paper*, 17 February [http://exclusivepress.net/app/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1506&Itemid=37](http://exclusivepress.net/app/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1506&Itemid=37) – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 26.

<sup>26</sup> Munu, A.B. 2010, ‘APC, SLPP Set Houses on Fire’, *Premier News*, 16 February <http://www.premiernews-sl.com/detail.php?id=1923> – Accessed 2 March – Attachment 27.

<sup>27</sup> Blyden, S.O. 2010, ‘As SLPP Clinches Tongo Elections, Political Violence Re-Erupts in Sierra Leone’, *Awareness Times*, 15 February [http://www.news.sl/drwebsite/publish/article\\_200514554.shtml](http://www.news.sl/drwebsite/publish/article_200514554.shtml) – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 28.

again set upon by APC supporters who allegedly raped six women and injured others. Reports indicate that police were unable or unwilling to effectively deal with this incident.<sup>28</sup> On 2 April 2009 the APC and SLPP signed an agreement to prevent further political violence.<sup>29</sup> According to a report by *The Concord Times* dated 7 October 2009, an Independent Review Commission has been established to investigate the political violence that took place during this period.<sup>30</sup>

- The USDOS reported in February 2009 that during 2008 “there were multiple reports of harassment and intimidation of members of opposition parties”. The SLPP are the major opposition party in Sierra Leone. However, the report continues on to state that SLPP supporters, along with APC supporters were also responsible for intimidating independent and female candidates and thus forcing them to resign.<sup>31</sup>
- Amnesty International reported in 2009 that “the security situation was generally stable, despite violence before and after local elections in July”. However, the report states that through out the year violent clashes had occurred between youth supporters of the SLP, the People’s Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) and the APC. The report states that “unrest was reported in various districts, as a result of which 71 candidates out of 1,324 withdrew”.<sup>32</sup>
- A report by the International Crisis Group, dated 31 July 2008 describes violence towards SLPP members following the success of the APC in the presidential and parliametary elections in August and September 2007. However, the report states that “police soon quelled the scattered outbreaks of violence against members and property of the defeated SLPP”.<sup>33</sup>
- A report published by *BBC News* 20 September 2007 also states that attacks took place against SLPP members following the election of the APC head Ernest Bai Koroma as the new president. The report states that a crowd “ransacked the SLPP offices in Freetown” and that “at least one person is known to have died” as a result of the post election violence. The report states that “President Koroma described violence by his supporters as "unfortunate and regrettable" and told police to use all their powers to get those responsible.”<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> United Nations Security Council 2009, *Second report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone*, Relief Web website, 22 May <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MYAI-7SK5HW?OpenDocument>- Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 29; Denney, L. 2009, ‘Sierra Leone: Wave of Violence or Wake-Up Call?’, *Pambazuka News*, 18 June, allAfrica.com website <http://allafrica.com/>- Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 30.

<sup>29</sup> Jalloh, B. 2009, ‘Sierra Leone: SLPP, APC Ceasefire’, *Concord Times*, 8 April allAfrica.com website <http://allafrica.com/>- Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 31; United Nations Security Council 2009, *Second report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone*, Relief Web website, 22 May <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MYAI-7SK5HW?OpenDocument>- Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 29.

<sup>30</sup> Bah, A. 2009, ‘Sierra Leone: Riots Commission Sworn-in’, *Concord Times*, 7 October, allAfrica.com website <http://allafrica.com/>- Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 32.

<sup>31</sup> US Department of State 2009, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2008 –Sierra Leone*, 25 February – Attachment 5.

<sup>32</sup> Amnesty International 2009, *Amnesty International Annual Report 2009 – Sierra Leone* <http://thereport.amnesty.org/en/regions/africa/sierra-leone> – Accessed 25 February 2010 – Attachment 12.

<sup>33</sup> International Crisis Group 2008, *Sierra Leone: A New Era of Reform?*, 31 July, p.1 <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=5608&l=1>- Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 33.

<sup>34</sup> ‘Violence spreads in Sierra Leone’ 2007, *BBC News*, 20 September <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7004686.stm> – Accessed 11 February 2010 – Attachment 2.

## 6. Please advise whether Guinea ID passport numbers changed from 14 digits to 15 digits? If so, when?

No information was found in the sources consulted regarding the ID numbers on Guinea passports.

## 7. Additional Information

The following reports provide information on the Mandingo ethnic group in Sierra Leone:

- According to a 2009 publication titled *Traditionalists, Muslims, and Christians in Africa*, the Mandingo are one of seventeen ethnic groups in Sierra Leone.<sup>35</sup>
- The Sierra Leone News website states that the Mandingo are the fifth largest ethnic group in Sierra Leone and comprise 6% of the population.<sup>36</sup>
- The Ethnologue website states that in 2006 there were 108, 000 people of Mandingo ethnicity in Sierra Leone.<sup>37</sup>
- The above mentioned reports indicate that the Mandingo people are predominate in Kabala, a city in the North of Sierra Leone. Sources also report smaller groups of Mandingo people throughout the country.<sup>38</sup> Attachment 37 contains a 2006 map of ethnic groups in Sierra Leone by the Development Assistance Coordination Office of the Government of Sierra Leone. The map outlines the major population centers for Mandingo peoples in Sierra Leone.<sup>39</sup> Attachment contains a map of Sierra Leone which show the location of Kabala.
- The Joshua Project, a US based Christian organisation provides information from the Bethany World Prayer Centre on the Mandingo people. The information cited is dated 1999. According to the information provided the Mandingo people practice a mixture of traditional religion and Islam. The website provides the following further information on the Mandingo people. Please note that this report uses the term Maninka instead of Mandingo:

There are three divisions within Maninka society: free-born, artisans, and slaves. The free-born class formerly consisted of nobility. Today, it also includes merchants, farmers, and others. The artisans include leather craftsmen, blacksmiths, and singers, or griots.

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<sup>35</sup> Conteh. S. 2009, *Traditionalists, Muslims, and Christians in Africa: Interreligious Encounters and Dialogue*, Cambria Press website, 28 February, <http://www.cambriapress.com/samplechapters/9781604975963sample.pdf> – Accessed 10 February 2010 – Attachment 34.

<sup>36</sup> 'Ethnic Groups' 2008, Sierra Leone News website, 8 August <http://www.siera-leone.org/2008/08/08/ethnic-groups/> – Accessed 10 February 2010 – Attachment 35.

<sup>37</sup> Lewis, M. Paul (ed), 2009, 'Languages of Sierra Leone', *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, 16<sup>th</sup> ed., SIL International, Dallas [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_country.asp?name=SL](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=SL) – Accessed 10 February 2010 – Attachment 36.

<sup>38</sup> Conteh. S. 2009, *Traditionalists, Muslims, and Christians in Africa: Interreligious Encounters and Dialogue*, Cambria Press website, 28 February, <http://www.cambriapress.com/samplechapters/9781604975963sample.pdf> – Accessed 10 February 2010 – Attachment 34; 'Ethnic Groups' 2008, Sierra Leone News website, 8 August <http://www.siera-leone.org/2008/08/08/ethnic-groups/> – Accessed 10 February 2010 – Attachment 35; Lewis, M. Paul (ed), 2009, 'Languages of Sierra Leone', *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, 16<sup>th</sup> ed., SIL International, Dallas [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_country.asp?name=SL](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=SL) – Accessed 10 February 2010 – Attachment 36.

<sup>39</sup> 'Ethnic Groups of Sierra Leone' 2006, Development Assistance Coordination Office, Government of Sierra Leone website, 16 November [http://www.daco-sl.org/encyclopedia/8\\_lib/8\\_2/8\\_2b/8\\_2b\\_1n/sl\\_ethnic\\_groups.pdf](http://www.daco-sl.org/encyclopedia/8_lib/8_2/8_2b/8_2b_1n/sl_ethnic_groups.pdf) – Accessed 10 February 2010 – Attachment 37

...Most of the Maninka are farmers. Rice, millet, sorghum, and peanuts are their staple crops. While they raise most of their own food, some products are obtained through trade and some are gathered from the forests. During planting and harvesting seasons, much time is spent in the fields. At other times, the men work in part-time businesses to supplement their incomes. Others raise goats, sheep, bees, poultry, and dogs. Cattle are sometimes kept, but only to gain prestige, to use as ritual sacrifices, or to use as a "bride price."

Maninka society is patrilineal (inheritances are passed down through the males). Clan groups are made up of families with the same name. Clans can be recognized by their symbolic emblems, animals, and plants. If someone travels to another village, he is shown hospitality by the villagers who share his last name.

Maninka children have certain expectations placed on them at birth according to their father's lineage. To be considered "noteworthy," a child must exceed people's expectations of him.<sup>40</sup>

## Attachments

1. Saffa, J.J. 2010, 'Local Council Bye-Election In Ward 042, Lower Bamabara, Kenema District', Sierra Leone People's Party official website, 15 February [http://www.slpp.ws/docs/Press\\_Statement\\_February\\_15\\_20101.pdf](http://www.slpp.ws/docs/Press_Statement_February_15_20101.pdf) - Accessed 2 March 2010.
2. 'Violence spreads in Sierra Leone' 2007, *BBC News*, 20 September <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7004686.stm> - Accessed 11 February 2010.
3. Saffa, J.J. 2007 'Press Statement', Sierra Leone People's Party Official website, 19 September <http://www.slpp.ws/browse.asp?page=480> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
4. Fanthorpe, R. 2007, *Sierra Leone: The Influence of the Secret Societies, With Special Reference to Female Genital Mutilation*, UNHCR website, August <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/46cee3152.pdf> - Accessed 26 February 2010.
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