



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone – SLE36007 – Youth
Movement for Peace and Non-Violence –
People’s Movement for Democratic Change
– Political violence – Elections
1 February 2010

1 Please provide any available information on the history and organisation of the Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence in Sierra Leone.

The Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence (YMPNV) was founded in 2001 as a non-profit advocacy youth group aimed at creating a culture of non-violence, especially amongst youth who had been both victims and perpetrators in the decade old civil war. The YMPNV engages in campaigns and coordinates a number of human rights, development and education projects related to governance, youth empowerment and HIV. The YMPNV is funded through a number of sources including the UN and its work is mentioned on the UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights’ website.

History and Organisation

Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence (YMPNV) website states that it is “a non-profit non-political youth-serving agency” that “was officially launched on the 2nd of November 2001”. The YMPNV was formed with the aim of creating “a culture of non-violence, especially amongst youth who became victims and perpetrators of the decade old civil conflict in our country”.¹ This is confirmed in the US website Charity Vault, which lists charities around the world.²

The YMPNV’s membership is said to be “drawn from young university graduates and well-meaning youths” and was headed by Alpha Amadu-Jalloh as of July 2008.¹⁴ It is worth noting that in terms of the organisation’s vulnerability to Government pressure or threats, the YMPNV’s board members include people in the US, UK and Ethiopia. It is noteworthy that the organisation has a department focused on “Homeless People Football[I]”. The organisation’s national headquarters is in Freetown:

The National Headquarters at 24 Sackville Street has 65 members, including an administrative team that coordinates the various activities of the movement.

Specialized departments have been set up to address emerging issues. The Human Right, Peace Advocacy and Community Homeless People Football Outreach Unit have also been created to enhance the movement's Reach-The-People Campaign.³

¹ ‘Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence’ 2009, Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence website <http://www.ympnv.org/> - Accessed 18 January 2009 – Attachment 1

² ‘Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence Charity In Freetown Sierra Leone’ (undated), Charity Vault website <http://www.charity-charities.org/SierraLeone-charities/Freetown-1537960.html> - Accessed 18 January 2010 – Attachment 2

³ ‘Administrative Team’ 2009, Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence website <http://www.ympnv.org/team.php> - Accessed 18 January 2010 – Attachment 3

Work of the YMPNV

The YMPNV website states that the organisation “coordinates a number of human rights, development and education projects across Sierra Leone”. Reports on these projects are available for download. It states that YMPNV was “to implement an anti-school violence program in Sierra Leonean schools”.⁴ The website also provides a list of projects undertaken including a World Youth Citizens Partnership, a project with an Australian Youth Team and water filtration and agriculture programs.⁵

Several NGO sources provided information on YMPNV projects suggesting the organisation is recognised within the NGO sector. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights website states:

The Youth Movement for Peace and Non Violence conducted a project aiming at promoting human rights and non violence issues. A series of human rights awareness’ raising campaigns were organized in several regions of Sierra Leone. Activities carried out in Pujehun region, Moyamba, Kono, Kailahun and Porto Loko included: display of posters on human rights in strategic places of cities, organization of seminars with lectures on topics such as: knowing your rights and responsibilities, developing human rights advocacy skills, assessing respect of human rights in the community; HIV/AIDS and human rights, violence against women, arbitrary arrest and torture.⁶

In 2001, the United Nations’ Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence website provided further information on the campaigns undertaken by the YMPNV including those in collaboration “with Ministry of Youths and Sports, the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone DDR/UNV (Funders) the Sierra Leone Football Association and the National Sports Council”.⁷ A YMPNV progress report mentions the role it plays at international conferences, which includes “promoting Sierra Leone”.⁸ The YMPNV also provided assistance to a report by the Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children titled ‘Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, and Gender-based Violence in Sierra Leone’.⁹

Funding

The YMPNV obtains funding from a range of sources. These include: from the UN, to implement an anti-school violence program in Sierra Leonean schools¹⁰; from the In Africa

⁴ ‘Reports’ 2009, Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence website <http://www.ympnv.org/reports.php> - Accessed 18 January 2010 – Attachment 5

⁵ ‘Projects’ 2009, Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence website <http://www.ympnv.org/projects.php> - Accessed 18 January 2010 – Attachment 6

⁶ UN High Commissioner for Human Rights 2007, ‘Sierra Leone: Phase 3 - Human Rights Awareness Raising on selected topics’, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights website <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/countries/sl.htm> - Accessed 19 January 2010 – Attachment 7

⁷ ‘Organization: Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence, Sierra Leone’ 2001, Decade for Culture of Peace and Non-Violence website <http://decade-culture-of-peace.org/cgi-bin/ib3/ikonboard.cgi?act=ST:f=18;t=685> - Accessed 19 January 2010 – Attachment 8

⁸ Barrie, A. 2009, *Progress Reports of the Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence August 2007- March 2009*, Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence website <http://www.ympnv.org/Reports/YMPNV-ProgressReport2007-2009.pdf> - Accessed 19 January 2010 – Attachment 9

⁹ Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children 2002, *Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, and Gender-based Violence in Sierra Leone*, Small Arms Survey website, September, p.ii http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/files/portal/spotlight/disarmament/disarm_pdf/2002_WCRWC.pdf – Accessed 19 January 2010 – Attachment 10

¹⁰ ‘Sierra Leone in News’ 2009, Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence website <http://www.ympnv.org/news.php> - Accessed 19 January 2010 – Attachment 11

Foundation¹¹; and from LIFE, a U.S. founded Muslim-American humanitarian relief and development organization which donated textbooks to the YMPNV.¹²

The aforementioned YMPNV progress report mentions that it also obtains funding from a fishing and agricultural project which is “the back bone of the YMPNV in Sierra Leone”. The project is said to be self-sustained with the proceeds used to help build capacity, support office running costs and the provide tools and material needed to operate it and other projects.¹³

2 Is the APC government opposed to the Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence?

No information was found to indicate that the All People’s Congress (APC) Government is opposed to the YMPNV. The fact that the YMPNV seems to be politically neutral and a legitimate charity, suggests that it is unlikely to be opposed by the APC Government.

3 Are those people involved in the movement targeted by the Sierra Leone authorities?

There is little information to indicate that the YMPNV has been targeted by the authorities.

An October 2008 article from *Relief Web* stated that the Sierra Leone Government was tightening controls may affect the YMPNV. The Government stated that it sought to ensure more accountability from the NGOs and their donors. However, the Civil Society Forum has “expressed concern that the government may selectively enforce the regulations based on political leanings”.¹⁴

4 Please provide any information on the history and organisation of the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) in Sierra Leone.

The People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) is a political party led by its founder Charles Margai. The party was formed in 2001 after it split from the Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP). The PMDC’s loosely articulated ideology is based on the rights of the individual and claims to support democracy, freedom of expression, transparency and accountability, and devolution to limit the powers of the central government.¹⁵ The party’s main support base is in the south and east of the country, similar to the SLPP. In the 2007 elections, Margai won 13.89% of the vote and PMDC won 10 parliamentary seats. Its support

¹¹ Morris, S. 2008, ‘Sierra Leone: In Africa Foundation Breaks New Grounds’, *All Africa Global Media*, source: Concord Times, 3 September <http://allafrica.com/stories/200809030672.html> - Accessed 20 January 2010 – Attachment 12

¹² ‘Book Distribution and Resource Center in Sierra Leone’ 2006, Life for Relief and Development website http://www.lifeusa.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=5167&security=1&news_iv_ctrl=1122 - Accessed 20 January 2010 – Attachment 13

¹³ Barrie, A. 2009, *Progress Reports of the Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence August 2007- March 2009*, Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence website <http://www.ympnv.org/Reports/YMPNV-ProgressReport2007-2009.pdf> - Accessed 19 January 2010 – Attachment 9

¹⁴ ‘Government tightens control of NGOs’ 2008, *Relief Web*, 10 October – Attachment 15

¹⁵ People’s Movement for Democratic Change (undated), *Manifesto of People’s Movement for Democratic Change*, Leone Direct website http://www.leonedirect.com/marketplace/PDMC_2007_Manifesto.pdf - Accessed 22 January 2010 – Attachment 16

for the winning APC party (based on interest in ending regionalism) earned it four ministerial portfolios in the current Government.

History and Organisation

In 2009 the *Political Handbook of the World* discussed the founding of the PMDC in April 2006 by Charles Margai:

People's Movement for Democratic Change—PMDC. Registered by the government in April 2006, the PMDC was founded by Charles Margai, who left the SLPP after he lost his bid for the chairship, to promote a civilian, democratic government. Margai was arrested in 2006 on a variety of charges related to disorderly behavior against the government and was later released on bail. Several student members reportedly defected to the SLPP in mid-2007, and in midyear Margai was slated as the PMDC's presidential candidate. His defection from the SLPP caused the former governing party to lose a significant number of votes in 2007 in the south and southeast regions of the country, particularly among younger voters, who make up 56 percent of the electorate.¹⁶

It lists the Ministers in the current Government who are from the PMDC¹⁸:

Health	Soccoh Kabia (PMDC)
Housing and Infrastructural Development	John Saab (PMDC)
Lands, Country Planning, and Environment	Benjamin O.N. Davies (PMDC)
Marine Resources	Moses Moisa-Kapu (PMDC)

PMDC Leader Charles Margai further discussed his party's values, its origins and future plans at Chatham House in London where he claimed the PMDC was born out of the disenchantment people felt towards the SLPP and the APC.¹⁷

The Nordic Africa Institute discusses the power bases of the parties stating that the PMDC has its power bases in the south:

SLPP remains strong in the south, although PMDC, a SLPP splinter party, to an equal degree has the south as its stronghold and will win at least some constituencies there. The diamond-rich east will be a key district where the outcome remains uncertain.

One party must win 55% of the votes on August 11, or else there will be a second round of votes. In the case of a second round, it is highly feasible that most PMDC voters will back SLPP.¹⁸

2007 Elections

The US Department of State provides information on the PMDC's performance in the presidential and parliamentary elections of 2007. The party won 10 seats in the parliamentary

¹⁶ CQ Press Electronic Library 2009, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition - Sierra Leone* http://library.cqpress.com/phw/document.php?id=phw2009_SierraLeone&type=toc&num=43 – Accessed 21 January 2010 – Attachment 17

¹⁷ Chatham House 2006, 'Charles Margai, Leader of the People's Movement for Democratic Change, Sierra Leone - Meeting Summary', Chatham House website, 7 December http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/3393_071206margai.pdf - Accessed 21 January 2010 – Attachment 18

¹⁸ Utas, M. 2007, 'Test for democracy in Sierra Leone', The Nordic Africa Institute, http://www.nai.uu.se/press/newsletter/sierra_leone/ - Accessed 20 January 2010 – Attachment 19

elections and in the presidential elections, its candidate Charles Margai placed third, receiving 13.9% of the vote:

On August 11, 2007, Sierra Leone held nationwide presidential and parliamentary elections for the first time since the departure of UN peacekeepers. In the parliamentary elections, the National Election Commission reported the All People's Congress (APC) won a parliamentary majority taking 59 of 112 seats, while the ruling Sierra Leone's People's Party (SLPP) took 43 seats. The People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) won 10 seats in Parliament.

...According to the NEC official results of the August 11 presidential election, APC presidential candidate Ernest Koroma won 44.3% of the total 1,839,208 votes cast, while former Vice President and SLPP presidential candidate, Solomon Berewa, finished with 38.9%. PMDC presidential candidate Charles Margai placed third receiving 13.9 of the vote. Because none of the candidates won the 55% of the vote needed to win in the first round, a run-off election was held on September 8, 2007...On September 17, 2007, Sierra Leone's National Election Commission declared Ernest Bai Koroma the winner with 54.6% of the vote.¹⁹

The previously mentioned *Political Handbook of the World* adds that PMDC leader Margai backed the APC candidate Ernest Koromo in the presidential election run off against the ruling SLPP. Koromo subsequently won and named four PMDC members to his APC dominated cabinet. No SLPP members were named in the new cabinet. The *Handbook* adds that the "SLPP, widely regarded as likely to maintain its political dominance, claimed that the PMDC was lining up "thugs" to disrupt the elections".²⁰

Prior to the elections, a report from Sierra Leonean news site *Awareness Times* in August 2007 indicated that PMDC leader Margai had planned to endorse the presidential bid of the APC candidate.²¹ Reports suggest that the PMDC's decision to support the APC was in the interest of regional integration and for the party's future.²² An *Awareness Times* article written by a PMDC spokesperson in August 2007 states that:

And the PMDC's main reasons to support the APC in the imminent run-off presidential election are to ensure a more representative government, the survival of the PMDC as a political party and the creation of a third formidable political force for smooth running of democracy in Sierra Leone.

...Examining the poll results, most of our support is southeastern based. Supporting the SLPP will only strengthen the great regional political divide we have been preaching against all along. On the other hand, supporting the APC will make a difference in integrating a nation not just at the higher leadership but also at the grassroots level.²³

¹⁹ US Department of State 2009, *Background Note: Sierra Leone*, December
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5475.htm> - Accessed 21 January 2010 – Attachment 20

²⁰ CQ Press Electronic Library 2009, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition - Sierra Leone*
http://library.cqpress.com/phw/document.php?id=phw2009_SierraLeone&type=toc&num=43 – Accessed 21 January 2010 – Attachment 18

²¹ 'In Sierra Leone, Margai endorses Ernest Koroma at his 62nd Birthday Party' 2007, *Awareness Times*, 19 August http://awarenesstimes.com/drwebsite/publish/article_20056276.shtml - Accessed 21 January 2010 – Attachment 21

²² Manson, K. 2007, 'Sierra Leone opposition unite', *IOL*, 24 August
http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=86&art_id=nw20070824192835994C801444 - Accessed 21 January 2010 – Attachment 22

²³ Kabba, K. 2007, 'Why We Went APC', *Awareness Times*, 20 August
http://awarenesstimes.com/drwebsite/publish/article_20056295.shtml - Accessed 21 January 2010 – Attachment

More recently, an *Awareness Times* article on 4 January 2010 reports that the PMDC National Chairman had denied allegations that the entire PMDC leadership had declared their support for the SLPP, and touted the party's independence:

Mohamed Bangura on Saturday 2nd January 2010 explained that: "The right of our party to interact with various political parties and other stakeholders in our country is the exclusivity of our party in as much as such interactions will continue to promote peace, stability and political tolerance in Sierra Leone".

According to Mr. Bangura, "The PMDC is an independent, democratic political party that does not hinge on any single individual and hence the Party has not entered into any discussions and has no intention thereof as a party to enter into any form of political dialogue with the opposition Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) or any other party for that matter for any political alliance".²⁴

5 Are people who have been supporters of the PMDC the subject of ill-treatment by the Sierra Leone authorities?

There is little evidence to suggest the PMDC is targeted by the authorities. PMDC leaders have issued statements praising the tolerance of the current APC Government. The PMDC's support for the APC in the last elections which helped the latter to win power also suggests a cordial relationship between the two parties. A single source, the aforementioned *Political Handbook of the World*, mentioned that rifts had occurred between the two parties in early 2008 after the PMDC Leader accused the APC government of "chronic tribalism".²⁵

A January 5 2010 article in the *Awareness Times* discusses the defection of prominent PMDC political guru, Dauda Tombo Bangura and 650 supporters to the APC. Bangura claimed "the APC's political tolerance with the PMDC has always been cordial, since the eve of the 2007 elections".²⁶

The previously mentioned *Awareness Times* article of 4 January 2010 has a PMDC spokesman explaining the PMDC's support for the APC Government following the elections:

Our declared support for the ruling All People's Congress (APC) party following the 2007 presidential elections was done in the best interest of promoting political tolerance in the country coupled with the anticipation of diffusing regional and ethnic politics that has come to permeate the political landscape in our country", Mohamed Bangura pointed out.²⁷

The relationship between the PMDC and opposition SLPP seems more strained. According to a PMDC spokesman following elections in 2007, because the SLPP and the PMDC compete

²⁴ Fonti, A. 2010, 'In Sierra Leone, PMDC Denies Alliance with SLPP', *Awareness Times*, 4 January http://www.news.sl/drwebsite/publish/article_200514117.shtml - Accessed 21 January 2010 – Attachment 24

²⁵ CQ Press Electronic Library 2009, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition - Sierra Leone* http://library.cqpress.com/phw/document.php?id=phw2009_SierraLeone&type=toc&num=43 – Accessed 21 January 2010 – Attachment 18

²⁶ Samba, A. 2010, 'Dauda Tombo Bangura & 650 Others Declare for APC', *Awareness Times*, 5 January http://www.news.sl/drwebsite/publish/article_200514125.shtml - Accessed 21 January 2010 – Attachment 25

²⁷ Fonti, A. 2010, 'In Sierra Leone, PMDC Denies Alliance with SLPP', *Awareness Times*, 4 January http://www.news.sl/drwebsite/publish/article_200514117.shtml - Accessed 21 January 2010 – Attachment 24

for the same voter base, the SLPP has more of an interest in destroying the party than the APC does.²⁸

The *Concord Times* describes the July 2008 attack on PMDC Offices by opposition SLPP party members, including the local Mayor and district council chairman:

Police in Kenema are investigating the Mayor and the Kenema district council chairman, both of the SLPP party, suspected of being behind the July 23 violent attacks on the offices of PMDC [People's Movement for Democratic Change], a potent splinter group.

The criminal investigations department (CID) Friday summoned newly elected Mayor Chief Brima Kargbo and Chairman Patrick Samu for allegedly inciting rallying party supporters to attack a rival party office on Dama Road and assault its supporters.

Detective police constable Alie Bangura disclosed that the Mayor and Chairman, believed to be at the vanguard of the attacks, have made statements regarding the matter brought against them by supporters of PMDC.

...Secretary general of SLPP [Sierra Leone Peoples Party] in Kenema Ato Koroma said allegations levied against their supporters were baseless because the two leaders were not part of the procession on the day of the alleged incident.²⁹

Amnesty International's 2008 annual report mentions an incident in June 2007, prior to the elections, where the then ruling SLPP party had threatened to shut down a radio station and have its station manager arrested "if he allowed members of the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) living outside the country to use the radio to inform its members about the August polls".³⁰

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Government Information and Reports

US Department of State <http://www.state.gov>

UK Home Office <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

Regional Links

All Africa <http://allafrica.com/>

Africa Confidential <http://www.africa-confidential.com/news>

International African Institute <http://www.internationalafricaninstitute.org/>

Concerned Africa Scholars <http://concernedafricascholars.org/>

Africa Studies Centre, University of Pennsylvania <http://www.africa.upenn.edu/AS.html>

Africa Daily <http://africadaily.com/>

International News & Politics

BBC <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

²⁸ 'The People's Movement for Democratic Change' (undated), *Amazines*, http://www.amazines.com/People's_Movement_for_Democratic_Change_related.html - Accessed 21 January 2010 – Attachment 26

²⁹ Vandi, M. 2008, 'Police probe opposition members over violent attacks in east', *Concord Times*, 8 August – Attachment 27

³⁰ Amnesty International 2008, *Amnesty International Annual Report 2008 - Sierra Leone*, 28 May – Attachment 28

Search Engines

Google <http://www.google.com.au>

Copernic <http://www.copernic.com/>

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Research & Information database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

MRT-RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. 'Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence' 2009, Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence website <http://www.ympnv.org/> - Accessed 18 January 2009.
2. 'Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence Charity In Freetown Sierra Leone' (undated), Charity Vault website <http://www.charity-charities.org/SierraLeone-charities/Freetown-1537960.html> - Accessed 18 January 2010.
3. 'Administrative Team' 2009, Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence website <http://www.ympnv.org/team.php> - Accessed 18 January 2010.
4. Deleted.
5. 'Reports' 2009, Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence website <http://www.ympnv.org/reports.php> - Accessed 18 January 2010.
6. 'Projects' 2009, Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence website <http://www.ympnv.org/projects.php> - Accessed 18 January 2010.
7. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights 2007, 'Sierra Leone: Phase 3 - Human Rights Awareness Raising on selected topics', Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights website <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/countries/sl.htm> - Accessed 19 January 2010.
8. 'Organization: Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence, Sierra Leone' 2001, Decade for Culture of Peace and Non-Violence website <http://decade-culture-of-peace.org/cgi-bin/ib3/ikonboard.cgi?act=ST;f=18;t=685> - Accessed 19 January 2010.
9. Barrie, A. 2009, *Progress Reports of the Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence August 2007- March 2009*, Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence website <http://www.ympnv.org/Reports/YMPNV-ProgressReport2007-2009.pdf> - Accessed 19 January 2010.

10. Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children 2002, *Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, and Gender-based Violence in Sierra Leone*, Small Arms Survey website, September, p.ii
http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/files/portal/spotlight/disarmament/disarm_pdf/2002_WCRWC.pdf – Accessed 19 January 2010.
11. 'Sierra Leone in News' 2009, Youth Movement for Peace and Non-Violence website
<http://www.ympnv.org/news.php> - Accessed 19 January 2010.
12. Morris, S. 2008, 'Sierra Leone: In Africa Foundation Breaks New Grounds', *All Africa Global Media*, source: Concord Times, 3 September
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200809030672.html> - Accessed 20 January 2010.
13. 'Book Distribution and Resource Center in Sierra Leone' 2006, Life for Relief and Development website
http://www.lifeusa.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=5167&security=1&news_iv_ctrl=1122 - Accessed 20 January 2010.
14. Deleted.
15. 'Government tightens control of NGOs' 2008, *Relief Web*, 10 October. (CISNET – Sierra Leone CX212057)
16. People's Movement for Democratic Change (undated), *Manifesto of People's Movement for Democratic Change*, Leone Direct website
http://www.leonedirect.com/marketplace/PDMC_2007_Manifesto.pdf - Accessed 22 January 2010.
17. CQ Press Electronic Library 2009, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition - Sierra Leone*
http://library.cqpress.com/phw/document.php?id=phw2009_SierraLeone&type=toc&num=43 – Accessed 21 January 2010.
18. Chatham House 2006, 'Charles Margai, Leader of the People's Movement for Democratic Change, Sierra Leone - Meeting Summary', Chatham House website, 7 December
http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/3393_071206margai.pdf - Accessed 21 January 2010.
19. Utas, M. 2007, 'Test for democracy in Sierra Leone', The Nordic Africa Institute,
http://www.nai.uu.se/press/newsletter/sierra_leone/ - Accessed 20 January 2010.
20. US Department of State 2009, *Background Note: Sierra Leone*, December
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5475.htm> - Accessed 21 January 2010.
21. 'In Sierra Leone, Margai endorses Ernest Koroma at his 62nd Birthday Party' 2007, *Awareness Times*, 19 August
http://awaresstimes.com/drwebsite/publish/article_20056276.shtml - Accessed 21 January 2010.
22. Manson, K. 2007, 'Sierra Leone opposition unite', *The Nation*, 24 August
http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=86&art_id=nw20070824192835994C801444 - Accessed 21 January 2010.

23. Kabba, K. 2007, 'Why We Went APC', *Awareness Times*, 20 August http://awarenesstimes.com/drwebsite/publish/article_20056295.shtml - Accessed 21 January 2010.
24. Fonti, A. 2010, 'In Sierra Leone, PMDC Denies Alliance with SLPP', *Awareness Times*, 4 January http://www.news.sl/drwebsite/publish/article_200514117.shtml - Accessed 21 January 2010.
25. Samba, A. 2010, 'Dauda Tombo Bangura & 650 Others Declare for APC', *Awareness Times*, 5 January http://www.news.sl/drwebsite/publish/article_200514125.shtml - Accessed 21 January 2010.
26. 'The People's Movement for Democratic Change' (undated), *Amazines*, http://www.amazines.com/People's_Movement_for_Democratic_Change_related.html - Accessed 21 January 2010.
27. Vandi, M. 2008, 'Police probe opposition members over violent attacks in east', *Concord Times*, 8 August. (CISNET – Sierra Leone CX207547)
28. Amnesty International 2008, *Amnesty International Annual Report 2008 - Sierra Leone*, 28 May. (CISNET – Sierra Leone CX201140)