

Sierra Leone ranks 3rd in both Political Rights and Civil Liberties

Washington DC, May, 2009 - In a recently published report by *Freedom in the World*, Sierra Leone has ranked 3rd in freedom in both political rights and civil liberties in sub-Saharan Africa according to Freedom House, an organization that monitors civil liberties and political rights of individuals throughout the world. Among the 48 countries of sub-Saharan Africa, 10 were rated “Free” for their performance in calendar year 2008, while 23 were rated “Partly Free” and 15 were rated “Not Free”.

Cape Verde Island, Ghana, Mauritius, Benin, Botswana, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Lesotho, Mali were among the countries ranked as “Free” in sub-Saharan Africa. Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Senegal, Seychelles, Zambia, Comoros, Liberia, and Niger were among the countries ranked as “Partly Free”. Guinea, Swaziland, Chad, Eritrea, Zimbabwe, Equatorial-Guinea, Somalia, and Sudan were ranked as “Not Free”.

Freedom in the World provides three broad category designations for each of the countries and territories included in the survey: **Free**, **Partly Free**, and **Not Free**. A **Free** country is one where there is broad scope for open political competition, a climate of respect for civil liberties, significant independent civic life, and independent media. A **Partly Free** country is one in which there is limited respect for political rights and civil liberties. Partly Free states frequently suffer from endemic corruption, weak rule of law, and ethnic or religious strife, and they often feature a single political party that enjoys dominance despite a façade of limited pluralism. A **Not Free** country is one where basic political rights are absent, and basic civil liberties are widely and systematically denied.

Read the full report here: [Freedom_report_2009.pdf](#)

Source: Freedom House