

# YOUTHS AFFECTED BY SOCFIN AGRICULTURE COMPANY

## (YASAC)

Malen Chiefdom, Pujehun District

*MOTTO: Be the Change Agents*

2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017.

Tel: +23277635061

The President,  
Republic of Sierra Leone,  
State House,  
Freetown.

Dear President Koroma,

We the members of YASAC, an association of peaceful citizens of Malen Chiefdom, are appealing to the authorities of Sierra Leone, especially your office as the Father of the Nation, the Minister of Agriculture, the District Officer, the Battalion Commander in Pujehun, the Civil Society Organizations, religious bodies, our development partners and other stakeholders to come to our aid. We are under serious suffering from Socfin Agriculture Company and the suffering from hunger, marginalization, oppression, brutality and even our livelihood is now very difficult. All this is because Socfin Company grab our land without proper compensation and modalities for us to know the true acreage of land and plantation per individual land owners. In fact there is no document between each land owner and the company. The 1,000,000 leones for 1 acre of our plantation does not satisfy us as land owners. The coming of this company and the bad things done by them brought the demonstration in the chiefdom headquarter in 2014 in which we were shot under life bullet by the OSD police. Youths and elders were arrested and the police beat us and jail us in Bo and Pujehun Police Stations.

Moreover, poor salary conditions in the company is very bad as most workers receive between 50 to 300 thousand leones at the end of the month because the daily pay is low and the work is very difficult so we work like slaves. Only very few workers receive between 400 to 500 leones per month. As youths and landowners, we cannot afford basic feeding, medical care, cloths, housing and education for our children which we afforded before Socfin came. Socfin has made us poorer though their propaganda people say on radio that we are happy and have jobs.

Many people are migrating to other chiefdoms to get their living and to avoid arrest by the police. And most of our old people are dying of broken heart for their land which was taken without adequate compensation. The acreage of our land and plantation that was recorded by Socfin and the corrupt survey team was not according to our satisfaction. Our parents and grandparents are dying of disgruntlement and hardship created by this wicked company. Because of these reasons, the youths of Malen supported the notice given by the chiefs of Malen chiefdom to the General Manager and the Plantation Manager that they should leave our chiefdom after 21 days ending on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2017. This notice is important for the youths of Malen Chiefdom and we are now informing the Management Team of Socfin Agriculture Company that after the 21 days notice we don't want to see any worker in the oil palm plantation of Socfin until the authorities of Sierra Leone come and settle the conflict and suffering for the youths and landowners.

The youths will suffer more if no action is taken because all the pressure to survive is on us. We are appealing to you for a peaceful settlement as the President of this country. We look forward to hear from you as soon as possible. Thank you Mr. President for your attention.

Yours faithfully,



Joseph T.S. Ganda (Secretary)



Brima Momoh

Copy: Paramount BVS Kebbie

Socfin Agriculture Company

District Officer

ONS

Human Right Commission and Civil Society Organisations

Ministries of Agriculture, Lands and Justice

Resident Minister

District Council Chairman and other indigenes of Pujehun District

LUC (Police) and Battalion Commander (Military)

American and British Embassies, European Union and other stakeholders

The media