



# National Civil Society Council of Liberia

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**Monrovia**—The Civil Society Council of Liberia along with its Thematic Working Group on Concessions, Environment, Natural Resource management and human rights is deeply troubled and concerned about the violence and unfolding events in Butaw District, Sinoe County.

The Council strongly condemns all acts of violence perpetrated by all parties to the conflict. The Council calls on state institutions, particularly Liberia National Police to adhere to the rule of law and uphold human rights standard in bringing the situation under control.

By the same tokening, the Council equally admonishes local communities to exercise restraint, avoid all forms of violence and seek peaceful redress to their grievances.

In similar vein, the Council calls on the international community and all development partners including United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to intervene so that the situation does not escalate further. Given the increasing pattern of violent incidences between concessionaires and host communities, the Council encourages the Government to be proactive and explore alternative dispute resolution mechanism. In this regard, the Council avails its expertise and experience to Government in the peaceful resolution of this matter. The Council maintains that such approach would rebuild trust and consolidate fragile peace.

Finally, in adherence to the rule of law, the Council calls on the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHRL) to immediately conduct an independent investigation into alleged human rights violation. Meanwhile, we call on the Government to respect the rights of all those arrested and accord them due process.

*The National Civil Society Council is an umbrella organization of all Liberian CSOs working across Liberia.*