



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

S.I. NEWHOUSE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Hon. William G. Greaves, Jr.
Consul General of the Republic of Liberia
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 249
New York, New York 10017

August 25, 2013

Dear Consul Greaves,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Liberian journalist Rodney Sieh, who last week was imprisoned in Monrovia. Mr. Sieh, a noted journalist, founder, editor and publisher of FrontPage Africa, worked on a journalism project with one of my colleagues here at the S. I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. I am writing to you as director of the Tully Center for Free Speech, which advocates for free speech and press values anywhere journalists are threatened and punished for their work.

The case of Mr. Sieh is a gross injustice that demands our support. I ask you to forward our concerns to President Sirleaf and members of the Liberian government to free Mr. Sieh immediately with no further constraints or contingencies.


Mr. Sieh founded his newspaper on behalf of the citizens of Liberia to provide news and information to the public. He has worked as a journalist here in Syracuse in Upstate New York and has worked with my faculty colleagues. His journalism experience exemplifies professional news values in a democratic country.

He was sent to prison as punishment for his journalism. He and his newspaper faced a crippling civil judgment as punishment for work published in his newspaper. While in prison, he has embarked on a hunger strike.

The Tully Center for Free Speech at Syracuse University seeks to educate the public and advocate on behalf of the democratic principles of free speech and free press. We annually present our Free Speech Award to a journalist who has faced significant difficulties in performing journalism. In recent years, we have recognized journalists who have been imprisoned, kidnapped, beaten and tortured in countries including Morocco, Zimbabwe, Mexico, Pakistan and Bahrain.

I would be more than happy to talk with you personally or other members of the Liberian government to secure the safe release of Mr. Sieh. I appreciate your consideration and action on this most pressing matter.

Sincerely,


Roy S. Gutterman
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cc. Secretary of State John F. Kerry
U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senator Charles Schumer