

Eric Bloom (Mercury)

From: Eric Bloom (Mercury)
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 9:52 AM
To: Arijit Ghosh (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)
Subject: UNGA Interview - President of Sierra Leone

Hi Arijit,

I hope you have been well.

President Julius Maada Bio of Sierra Leone will be attending the United Nations General Assembly in September and I wanted to reach out to see if one of your reporters would be interested in an interview.

The President has made progress on several fronts and helped transform the country into one of the leaders in Africa in several key areas such as advancing the rights of women and children, combatting terrorism, rooting out corruption, and sustainability and climate initiatives.

Because of those efforts, international organizations and countries have acknowledgement the country's incredible achievements, including:

- Being elected overwhelmingly to the U.N. Security Council for 2024, the first time in 53 years.
- Leading the critical African organization, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Having been selected by President Biden as one of the few African countries to qualify for the [Millennium Challenge Corporation \(MCC\)](#).

President Bio will be available in Washington D.C. on Friday, September 15th and in New York the week of September 17th-22nd for interviews to discuss the country's current status, future promise, security challenges on the continent, and climate commitments.

Let me know if you have any questions or would like to schedule something.

Thank you.

Best,
Eric

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

According to Amnesty international these are some of the key steps Sierra Leone has taken to improve rights for women and children:

- The Customary Land Rights Act gives women an equal right to own and use family land.
- The National Land Commission Act was introduced, which established a commission that will take a gender-sensitive approach to land administration.
- A bill stipulating that one in three parliamentary candidates be women.
- A bill was passed stipulating that 30% of all positions in government, and in companies with at least 25 employees, be reserved for women.
- 800 children were reintegrated into schools nationwide, including pregnant girls, girls who had dropped out of school because of pregnancy, children with special needs, children living in remote areas and those from poor families.

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