



# Green Scenery

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The Country's Natural Resources Are Nature's Gift To Us What We Make Of Them Are Our Gift To Posterity

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Use

Thursday December 20, 2007

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SCARCITY WILL LEAD TO VIOLENT CONFLICT THE KOIDU VIOLENCE IS TYPICAL**

Green Scenery, an environmental security advocate, is very worried over the recent development in the extractive sector. The violent conflict that broke out in Koidu town, Kono district on Thursday involving youths and Affected Property Owners on the one hand and the Kimberlite Mining Company, Koidu Holdings Limited on the other hand is characteristic of violent conflict due to environmental scarcity.

Research has proven that natural resource degradation leading to environmental scarcity is bound to lead to violent conflicts. We are very concerned about this ugly incident in which two Sierra Leoneans lost their lives and many more sustained injuries due to police over-handedness.

Green Scenery wishes to bring to the notice of all stakeholders in the extractive sector and particularly the government that environmental scarcity scenarios being exacerbated by climate change or variation are manifesting themselves in the extractive sector. Once these scenarios reach tipping points violent conflicts will be a common feature in the sector.

The problems already created by government as it gives unflinching support to mining companies at the risk of security in the sector, the banal and uncaring operations of mining companies as they shirk their responsibilities (official and social) and the marginalization of communities affected by mining operations to participate in decisions of certain critical operations that affect their security especially security of livelihood can only be solved through constructive dialogue and not by use of force.

While Green Scenery notes an already very tense atmosphere in the extractive sector, we condemn any act of violence by stakeholders as a means of achieving an objective. Particularly for this incident, we condemn the police, the mining company, Koidu Holdings and the community people who all failed to engage in constructive dialogue.

Green Scenery appreciates the current step taken by the office of the President to resolve the problem but we caution that the outcome must ensure that aggrieved parties come out of the process with heads held high in dignity and satisfaction.

We hope that the Commission of Inquiries set up to investigate the Koidu incident will be swift in its work and will also properly investigate the deaths of the two Sierra Leoneans and those responsible made to account for their deeds.

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For further information contact the Executive Director.