

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****British woman Unjustly Detained in Sierra Leone: Urgent Support Needed**

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Freetown, Sierra Leone 19th June 2023 - British woman, Jane Aspden, urgently requires your assistance. On 15 May 2023, Jane was subjected to arbitrary arrest and detained overnight at CID HQ in Freetown, Sierra Leone, under fabricated charges of, "conspiracy with other unknown persons to incite riotous conduct and other related offenses (Sic) against the interest of the State."

Sierra Leone's dedication to the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for wetland conservation, and the COP26 Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use is being jeopardised by Chinese involvement in the destruction of wetlands and ecosystems. As the convention entered into force in Sierra Leone on 13 April 2000, the country designates one site as Wetlands of International Importance, covering 295,000 hectares. However, the controversial Chinese industrial harbor project in Black Johnson Beach, a protected wetland area, not only violates the principles of the Ramsar Convention but also undermines the commitments made by global leaders at COP26 to halt deforestation and reverse land degradation. Urgent action is required to address the detrimental impact of Chinese involvement and ensure the preservation of Sierra Leone's invaluable wetlands in alignment with international environmental agreements.

Jane, along with her partner, Tito, has been a prominent advocate for environmental conservation, specifically in safeguarding five distinct and irreplaceable ecosystems, including the protected wetlands, rain-forests, and marine areas of Black Johnson Beach in Sierra Leone.

This gross violation of their rights occurred when armed police and soldiers forcefully targeted Jane and Tito on 15 May 2023. The arrest unfolded during a harrowing raid executed by Sierra Leone's armed response unit, which lacked legal legitimacy. Shockingly, no arrest warrant or court order was issued, leaving the pressing question unanswered: "Who authorised this unwarranted and brutal raid?"

In this unlawful operation, innocent fishermen were ruthlessly beaten at gunpoint, forcing Tito to flee for his safety, while Jane was apprehended. An Innocent guest was tasered, arrested, detained and beaten in custody; he was later released with no charge. The police believed he was Tito as he too has dreadlocks. Tragically, their home and guest lodges were looted and subjected to physical damage, compounding the distress caused by this ordeal.

Jane has been granted police bail pending further action; however, her situation remains uncertain and precarious. She continues to face the risk of re-detention and is unable to leave the country, gravely impacting her personal freedom and well-being.

We urgently appeal to individuals and communities worldwide to rally behind Jane Aspden and support her in seeking justice. Your generous donations will play a crucial role in securing the legal representation and resources necessary to challenge these baseless accusations and secure her freedom.

To contribute and make a meaningful difference, please visit SPCO's PayPal page dedicated to Jane's cause: **Donate and share** [Justice for Jane](#)

Your donations and solidarity are vital in the fight against injustice and the pursuit of #JusticeForJane. Together, we can make a tangible impact and help ensure that Jane Aspden is rightfully exonerated from these false charges.

For media inquiries, interviews, or further information, please contact:

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