

GREATEST MEDIA LAW ACHEIVEMENT FOR SIERRA LEONE!!!

*Emmanuel Saffa Abdulai, Society for Democratic Initiatives, Sierra Leone
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Yesterday, 8th Feb 2007 , the Constitution Review Committee adopted a proposal from Society for Democratic Initiatives, Sierra Leone 's executive director, Emmanuel Saffa Abdulai to include in the draft constitution a separate section that mandates parliament and other subordinate bodies concerned to legislate a Freedom of Information Law in Sierra Leone .

The proposal was supported by Alhaji Ibrahim Ben Kargbo, president of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, who had just won a battle to strike of section 25 (2) of the 1991 Constitution that empowers the president to regulate the media in Sierra Leone. Alhaji Kargbo suggested that a regulatory framework devoid of politicians and the Independent Media Commission may not be in existence.

Society for Democratic Initiatives, Sierra Leone had made written contribution to the idea of a review constitution in the country to the Law Reform Commission and a sit was deservedly allocated to them among other institutions.

It will be recalled that the government of Sierra Leone proposed a review and amendment to certain sections of the 1991 Constitution before the July 28th 2007 election in the country. Committees of fifty commissioners were appointed from all spectrum of life to review the said document. The committee meets thrice a week and has been making steady progress.

Last Thursday could be regarded as the '*Media Freedom Day*' for Sierra Leone if constitution becomes law subsequently. Achievement.