



## Sierra Leone Association of Journalists

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### PRESS RELEASE

Monday, 12th September, 2022

#### **SLAJ Condemns Assault on Night Watch Managing Editor by Njala University Staff**

The **Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ)** vehemently condemns the beating of journalist **Emmanuel Christian Thorlli**, Managing Editor of **Night Watch Newspaper** by some **Njala University (NU)** staff on Sunday 11th September 2022 at Ellen Street, Ebo Town in Waterloo, Western Rural District.

According to Emmanuel, after giving a tribute at the New Life Ministries International Waterloo Fellowship Church to his late colleague, Ralph Simeon Sesay, he was invited outside of the church by the Deputy Public Relations Officer of NU, Ayuba Koroma, to discuss with some staff of the University.

The late colleague, Ralph, was the former Editor of Night Watch Newspaper and former Public Relations Officer of NU.

Emmanuel says upon arrival at Ellen Street, he was quickly surrounded by some NU staff who started asking him questions randomly relating to his tribute. They also ordered him to return to the church and withdraw a statement he mentioned in his tribute about NU.

“I was surprised at the way they came at me. I attempted to leave but they held me and started slapping and beating me on the head,” narrates Emmanuel, adding that this happened in the presence of the Deputy Public Relations Officer of the University and a Night Watch staff by the name of Ragan Conteh.

Emmanuel was rescued by the SLAJ National Secretary General, Alhaji Manika Kamara, together with the SLAJ Southern Regional Chairman Abubakarr Mustapha and other journalists, who also attended the funeral service of their late colleague.

The SLAJ National Secretary General says even when he tried to intervene amicably to get Emmanuel from the scene, the NU staff also threatened to assault his person.

SLAJ is disappointed that the staff of NU will go so low as to beat a journalist for merely mentioning the University in a short tribute to a late colleague. In his tribute, Emmanuel



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explained that when his late colleague informed him about his new job at NU, he advised him thus: “You know say Njala na institution wae dorti eh?”

SLAJ President, **Ahmed Sahid Nasralla**, says: *“This is very shocking! How can you beat a journalist, or any citizen for that matter, for giving an honest tribute to a colleague? This is great dishonor to the late gentleman, who was a distinguished staff of NU. We keep saying that if you feel aggrieved about what a journalist says or writes, there are appropriate channels to seek redress rather than taking the law into your own hands.”*

Therefore, SLAJ wishes to continue to inform the public that journalists can be reported to the SLAJ Disciplinary Committee or the Independent Media Commission (IMC).

SLAJ calls on the Administration of Njala University to investigate the incident and take appropriate action.

Meanwhile, Emmanuel has reported the matter to the Waterloo Police Division and has sought medical attention.

Signed

**Alhaji Manika Kamara**  
National Secretary General

