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*UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE  
(UNAMSIL)*

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION HOLDS TRC FORUM IN PORT LOKO**

*Freetown* – In collaboration with local human rights groups, UNAMSIL's Human Rights Section in Port Loko organized a forum on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) at the Port Loko Teachers College on 20 August.

In addition to a review of the mandate and activities of the TRC, the Forum examined the question of how the TRC could help safeguard or restore economic, social and cultural rights.

Two TRC commissioners, Deputy Chair Laura Marcus-Jones and Professor John Kamara, participated in the meeting, which was attended by over 100 human rights activists from Port Loko and its environs.

Commissioner Marcus-Jones provided a general overview of the TRC, noting that it would start work effectively in October this year. Professor Kamara addressed the question of how the TRC would address the economic, social and cultural rights of women and children.

The Forum was climaxed by the signing of the Declaration of Commitment expressing participants' support for the truth and reconciliation process.