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*UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE  
(UNAMSIL)*

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FREETOWN ART PROJECT HOLDS EXHIBITION  
AT UNAMSIL HEADQUARTERS**

*Freetown* – The Public Information Section of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), in collaboration with the Staff Welfare Committee, is organizing an exhibition and sale of artwork by young artists of the Murrays Point Amputee Camp in Freetown. The exhibition will be opened by the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Behrooz Sadry, at a reception on Friday, 31 May, at 17.30. The exhibition will be on display in the foyer of UNAMSIL’s Mammy Yoko headquarters until Wednesday, 5 June.

The artwork is the product of a five-week workshop at the Amputee Camp conducted by Ms. Hilary Ravenscroft, a visiting artist from New Zealand and the project coordinator. Encouraged by the quality of work produced by the young artists, Ms. Ravenscroft thought the work deserved a wider viewing audience.

All artwork will be available for sale, with the proceeds going directly to the artists. It is hoped that the local community will support the young artists by purchasing their creations and/or providing material support to enable them to continue with their craft.

The young artists are not all amputees, but are members of amputee families. In most cases, traditional family roles are now reversed and the children share or even carry the responsibility of supporting the remaining members.

As Ms. Ravenscroft said, “Amputation and loss is not necessarily visible. Internal wounds take longer to heal.” In this respect, participation in the arts and creative media can increase individual confidence and self-esteem.

A special video about the project will be shown at the opening.