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UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE  
(UNAMSIL)

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**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE, UNAMSIL AND UN AGENCIES**  
**COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**

*Freetown* – The Ministry of Youth and Sports, in collaboration with the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), UN agencies and other partners, have finalized plans for the observance in Sierra Leone of the International Day of Peace on 21 September. The theme of this year’s commemoration is “International Day of Global Ceasefire, Non-Violence and the Culture of Peace.”

The United Nations Development Programme, UN Children’s Fund, Talking Drum Studio, the Ministries of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs and Local Government are also assisting in the planning of the events to mark the occasion. The highlights will include a football gala for four non-division teams in the Western Area on 18 and 20 September as well as a 5,000-metre race for persons 45 years old and above.

There will also be a “Delivery of Peace Messages” bus tour of Freetown by children on 19 September, as well as a 16-kilometre “Peace Run” starting from Up Gun and ending at the National Stadium and another one from Lumley Roundabout, also ending at National Stadium, on 21 September.

At mid-day on 21 September, there will be a ringing of a peace bell by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone, Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji, and a hooting of car horns and local instruments throughout the country. This will be followed by a series of drama performances, an address to the nation by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, and the message from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan read by the Special Representative.

On 23 September, there will be a videoconference that will link children in Sierra Leone with their counterparts in UN Headquarters in New York, and at UN peacekeeping missions in Bosnia/Herzegovina, Ethiopia/Eritrea and Kosovo. The children will participate simultaneously in the ringing of a peace bell and other local instruments.

The celebrations, coming at a particularly significant time for Sierra Leone, will be observed in all district headquarter towns throughout the country.

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