

JUDICIARY BRANCH



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

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December 18, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Supreme Court Condemns Attack on Home of Resident Judge in Grand Gedeh County.

The Supreme Court of Liberia condemns, in the strongest term, the protest attack on the home of the Resident Judge of Grand Gedeh County His Honor George S. Wiles Jr. intending to cause harm to persons living within the house and damage to the property.

On Wednesday, December 13, 2023, some citizens of Grand Gedeh County staged a protest action at the home of Judge Wiles demanding the unconditional release from detention of their kinsmen (defendants) who are facing trial for multiple criminal offenses.

The Supreme Court notes that the action of the protesters endangered the lives of the Judge and his family; undermining the importance of upholding the rule of law and maintaining the independence, neutrality and integrity of the courts.

The Court emphasizes the need for citizens of Grand Gedeh and Liberia in general to be accountable for their actions and to seek redress through lawful means.

Cognizant of the fact that opinions/rulings of the courts on a particular matter may or may not appease a particular party, the court will never and can never adjudicate a matter brought before it based on sentiments, desires, whims or caprices of a contending party or the public, but rather based on the fundamental principles of the Liberian Constitution and the relevant laws controlling.

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Therefore, the court cannot be and will not be coerced or intimidated to render a decision in a matter brought before it based on the sentiments of the parties or the public as such will defeat the tenets of justice and erode the very foundation of Liberia's democracy.

It can be recalled that last year, the Supreme Court of Liberia held seven local officials of Bong County in criminal contempt of the Court for vandalizing the Magisterial Courts in Salala, Bong Mines, and Gbartala and subjecting a Magistrate to physical humiliation. As the result of these "wrongdoing and dreadful acts" the Supreme Court sentenced them to six months' imprisonment at the Monrovia Central Prison as deterrence and as means to protect the sanctity of the Liberian Judiciary.

The Court calls on all citizens and residents of Liberia to respect and adhere to the rule of law and to desist from any act that tends to undermine the administration of fair and impartial justice.

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Signed: The House

Cllr. Darryl Ambrose Nmah, Sr.

DIRECTOR

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