



Office of the Chairperson

September 26, 2023

*Independent National Commission
On Human Rights*



PRESS RELEASE

September 26, 2023- The Independent National Human Rights Commission (INCHR) has observed with grave concern the incendiary statements emanating from political actors in the ensuing elections. The Commission's concern stems from threaten statements that are coming out of different political camps of those vying for public offices. The Commission acknowledges that the right to freedom of expression is provided for in the 1986 Constitution. Moreover, regional and international human rights instruments also recognize the right to freedom of expression. However, the Commission warns, that these norms also provides restrictions. For example, both the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provide that right to freedom of expression can be limited in some instances on the basis national security, public order, or public health. Similarly, the ICCPR provides that speeches consider incendiaries are restricted on grounds of national security, public order, etc.

The Commission further asserts that hate speeches such as those that have spewed in recent times are menace to democratic values, social stability and peace. The increase enmities in political rallies, social media posts make it potentially dangerous for the sustenance of peaceful elections.

The Commission reminds political leaders to scrupulously respect the commitment they have freely undertaken in the Farmington Peace Pact, which prohibits all forms of inflammable statements that are often used to mobilize groups and incite violence. These awful statements are inimical and that Liberians have long ago put behind them the ugly past. The Commission enjoins all political actors, civil society leaders and the general public to jealously guard the peace that we have enjoyed for 20 years.

The Commission has announced that Commissioners from National Human Rights Institutions in Africa will join the INCHR to monitor, document and contribute to Commission's Elections and Human Rights Report as well hold a press conferences before, during and after the elections.

Signed _____

Cllr. Dempster Brown
CHAIRPERSON-INCHR