

## **PRESS RELEASE:**

### **World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 2017 in Liberia held on November 18, 2017 at the College of West Africa Auditorium**

Dear Esteemed Road Safety Champion,

Save Life Liberia Inc., formerly Save Life International, organized Self-funded activities commemorating the World Day of Remembrance for Road traffic Victims 2017 in Liberia on Saturday November 18, 2017, at the College of West Africa (CWA) Auditorium on Ashmun Street, Monrovia. The event under a local theme: "Breaking National Silence on Road Safety to reduce serious injuries and deaths in Liberia by 50% by 2020", commemorates one of Liberia's youthful famous musical Stars, the late Quincy L. Burrowes, who died in a fatal accident on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 and other victims.

The official opening of the event brought together participants from civil society organizations, local and international nongovernment organizations and governmental agencies, students and youth groupings and media representatives with panel discussions featuring, WHO, GIZ, Police, EU, and Civil society organizations.

A civil society representative, Fubbi Herries participant, during the panel discussions claimed the Liberian government is entirely responsible for rapid increase in traffic casualties as policies and infrastructure doesn't conform to modern days' reality. He said the traffic law of Liberia was last amended 1972 (45 years old traffic law), something he termed very unfortunate on the part of the government. "if we have infrastructure that have safe sidewalk, pedestrians lights couple with internationally acceptable road policies, fully enforced, road traffic deaths and injuries will reduce" he lamented.

Also Save Life Liberia Executive Director, Vasco Masseh said lack of attention, policies and support to grassroots efforts by government and its international partners are responsible factors impeding road safety education among vulnerable road users. No one is supporting our local efforts to enhance the level of awareness among kids and other road users. The UN decade of action hasn't been acted upon by the Liberian government and society, Liberia has not done anything at all! No national fatality reduction strategy, no national target, no lead agency, no budget for road safety and nothing have been done! We don't have national seatbelt law, drunk driving law, cellphone use law etc. Liberia stands at zero footing for road safety, despite countless painful deaths and injuries on the Liberian road, this bleeds my heart a lot!

Supt. Fred Gaye, Chief Accident Investigator at the Liberian national Police said lack of road safety awareness is the major factor for traffic ignorance among drivers and pedestrians. He said pedestrians doesn't even know when and how to cross the streets. He also blame streets selling and traffic rules violation by drivers among others.

On the general state of the Road Safety highlights at the panel, the panellists alarmed that public awareness and sensitization are virtually non-existent, revealing that traffic ignorance, lack of policies and efforts remain key factors that should be addressed by society and government.

The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is commemorated on the third Sunday of November each year to remember the millions of people killed and injured on the world's roads and their families and friends. It is also a day to thank the emergency services for their role in saving lives; to reflect on the impact of road deaths on families and communities; and to draw attention to the need for improved legislation, awareness,

infrastructure, technology, and post-crash response to save more families from the tragedy of losing a loved one. The World Day of Remembrance was founded by the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR) and adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2005.

The global theme of this year's World Day of Remembrance is "2020 Target: Reduce Road Fatalities and Serious Injuries by 50%." It refers to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 3.6 which calls on governments and their stakeholders, including NGOs and private citizens, to address the personal, medical, and financial burden that road deaths and injuries cause. 1.25 million People die as a result of road crashes every year and tens of millions are seriously injured. Road traffic crashes are the number one killer of young people aged 15–29 and the eighth leading cause of death among all people worldwide. It is estimated that in developing countries, between 1% and 3% of gross domestic product (GDP) is lost each year due to road traffic crashes.

Save Life Liberia Inc., WDoR2017 commemorates one of Liberia's youthful famous musical Star, the late Quincy L. Burrowes, who died in a fatal accident on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 and other victims, opposite the headquarters of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) While returning from a local entertainment centre, Anglers bar and restaurant, when his car lost control and somersaulted. Two of Quincy-B colleagues, who were in the car suffered broken legs, while others went unhurt, unfortunately for the artist, he didn't make it. He died instantly!

We are using this saddened moment to mourn his death and comfort other victims. The event has re-electrified our vigour for doing more to prevent the many unnecessary deaths and serious injuries of the Liberian youths.

We wholeheartedly appreciate our many guests and participants for turning out on Saturday to the colourful event.

Sincerely,

Eugene Tuan-Wleh Williams  
Secretary of the program Committee

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