



**European Union  
Election Observation Mission  
Sierra Leone 2007**

**European Union Election Observation Mission's long term election observers spend four days in Freetown briefing the mission's headquarters and are re-deployed throughout Sierra Leone on 23 August for the second round of the presidential election.**

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For immediate release

**Freetown, 25 August:** Twenty eight European Union long term election observers were re-deployed throughout the country on 23 August by the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM). The observers arrived back in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on 20 August to brief the mission's headquarters about their observations in all of the districts of the country. They are being re-deployed to observe the preparations and campaign for the second round of elections for presidential office. They will remain in their areas of responsibility to observe election day, counting and the period following the election day.

After three days of extensive de-briefing in Freetown, teams of observers were re-deployed back to their areas of responsibility on the 23 August. The 14 teams of observers will be based in all of the districts including: Bo, Bombali, Bonthe, Kailahun, Kambia, Kenema, Koinadugu, Kono, Moyamba, Port Loko, Pujehun and Tonkolili. Two further teams are stationed in Freetown.

"When we arrived in this country we made a commitment to the people of Sierra Leone that we would be observing all aspects of the election process and that we would remain here in the case of a second round for the presidential elections. The fact that we are still here demonstrates our own commitment to this country's development. As I have stressed before, the work of the long term observers in the field is incredibly important for the EU EOM, as it enables the mission to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the election process throughout the country" said Marie Anne Isler Béguin, the Chief Observer of the EU EOM.

Over the next few weeks the observers will continue to meet with, among others, election officials, political parties and representatives of civil society, and will report their observations back to the core team in Freetown. A group of short term observers are also due to arrive back in the country closer to election day in order to observe voting, counting, and the tabulation of results for the second round.

After election day, the EU EOM will issue a statement of preliminary findings and conclusions on the second round of elections. A final report will be issued at a later stage.

Photos for publication are available on the EU EOM website [www.eueomsierraleone.org](http://www.eueomsierraleone.org) under the press releases section in the menu.

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