



“AN ACT TO AMEND THE LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, PENAL LAW OF 1978 OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, CHAPTER 11, BY REPEALING SECTIONS 11.11; 11.12 AND 11.14, TO BE KNOWN AS THE KAMARA ABDULLAH KAMARA ACT OF PRESS FREEDOM”

APPROVED: FEBRUARY 21, 2019

**PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
CAPITOL HILL,
MONROVIA, LIBERIA**

PUBLISHED: FEBRUARY 26, 2019

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, PENAL LAW OF 1978 OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, CHAPTER 11, BY REPEALING SECTIONS 11.11, 11.12 AND 11.14, TO BE KNOWN AS THE KAMARA ABDULLAH KAMARA ACT OF PRESS FREEDOM.

Preamble:

Whereas, Liberia is a sovereign nation governed by a Constitution, Statutory laws, Customary laws as well as Decrees, Executive Orders, Ordinances, Administrative regulations, etc;

Whereas, the Constitution guarantees for all citizens the rights to free speech and the freedom of expression, being fully responsible for the abuse thereof.,

Whereas, consistent with Constitutional guarantee to free speech, the right to hold opinions without interference and the right to knowledge and information, the Government of Liberia has enacted the Freedom of information Law and established the Freedom of information Commission;

Whereas, in demonstration of its commitment to upholding freedom of speech and expression, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia, on July 21, 2012 signed the Declaration of Table Mountain which amongst other things, require that African States must recognize the indivisibility of press freedom and their responsibility to respect the freedom, independence and safety of the press;

Whereas, the aforesaid Declaration of Table Mountain demands further that as a matter of urgency, African States must abolish "insult" and criminal defamation laws;

Whereas, it has been determined that the Penal Law of Liberia contains some provisions which have the tendency to impede freedom of speech and expression contrast to the spirit and intent of the Declaration of Table Mountain and other international conventions; and

Whereas, it has been recognized that freedom of speech and expression promotes democracy, good governance as well as the rule of law which is a sine qua non to the development of any nation;

Whereas, the late Mr. Kamara Abdullah Kamara, former President of the Press Union of Liberia, until his death along with other media practitioners, played a pivotal role in the process to repeal those provisions of the Penal Law of Liberia which impede freedom of speech and independence of the press in Liberia, but did not succeed;

Now therefore, it is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:

Section 1: Short Title

This Act shall be named "The Kamara Abdullah Kamara Act of Press Freedom.

Section 2: Repealers

That immediately upon the passage of this law, the following Sections of the Penal Law of 1978 are hereby repealed in their entirety:

- (a) Section 11.11: Criminal libel against the President
- (b) Section 11.12: Sedition
- (c) Section 11.14: Criminal Malevolence

Section 3: Effect

This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication into handbills.

2019

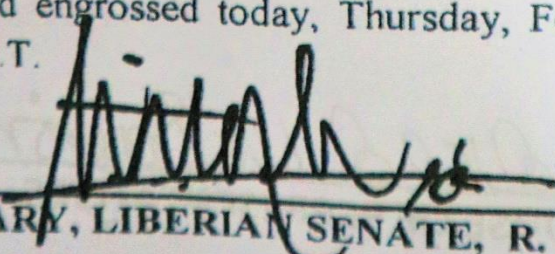
**SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH
LEGISLATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

**SENATE'S ENDORSEMENT TO HOUSE'S
ENGROSSED BILL NO: 8 ENTITLED:**

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE LIBERIAN CODES
REVISED, PENAL LAW OF 1978 OF THE REPUBLIC
OF LIBERIA, CHAPTER 11, BY REPEALING
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THE KAMARA ABDULLAH KAMARA ACT OF PRESS
FREEDOM.**

On Motion, Bill read. On motion, the Bill was adopted on its first reading and sent to Committee Room on Thursday, July 5, 2018 at the hour of 13:05 G.M.T.

On motion, Bill taken from the Committee Room for its second reading. On motion, under the suspension of the rule, the second reading of the Bill constituted its third and final reading and the Bill was adopted, passed into the full force of the law and ordered engrossed today, Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 12:21 G.M.T.



SECRETARY, LIBERIAN SENATE, R. L.

-2019-

ATTESTATION TO:

"AN ACT TO AMEND THE LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, PENAL LAW OF 1978 OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, CHAPTER 11, BY REPEALING SECTIONS 11.11; 11.12 AND 11.14, TO BE KNOWN AS THE KAMARA ABDULLAH KAMARA ACT OF PRESS FREEDOM".

Stannard Taylor

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA/
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

[Signature]

SECRETARY, LIBERIAN SENATE

[Signature]

SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, R.L.

Mildred N. Sayon

CHIEF CLERK, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, R.L.



THE HONORABLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Capitol Building
P.O. Box 9005
Monrovia, Liberia
Website: www.legislature.gov.lr



Office of the Chief Clerk

-2019-

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

SCHEDULE OF HOUSE'S ENROLLED BILL NO. 1 ENTITLED:

"AN ACT TO AMEND THE LIBERIAN CODES REVISED, PENAL LAW OF 1978 OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, CHAPTER 11, BY REPEALING SECTIONS 11.11; 11.12 AND 11.14, TO BE KNOWN AS THE KAMARA ABDULLAH KAMARA ACT OF PRESS FREEDOM"

PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA FOR EXECUTIVE APPROVAL.

APPROVED THIS: 21st DAY OF Feb A.D. 2019

AT THE HOUR OF 4:45 pm

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA