

On October 15, 2016, a special FELS Team met with twenty-two vulnerable youth (Zogoes) behind the former Defense Ministry located on Benson and Buchanan Streets. The purpose of the meeting was to ascertain from the Zogoes the way forward for their rehabilitation and re-integration in the society.

Challenges:

1. Difficulty in finding support for the meeting;
2. Fear of being set up and arrested by the police and,
3. Threat posed by drug dealers to the team safety.

Despite these challenges, we braced the threat from drug pushers in the community and went ahead to host the meeting with the meager resources to provide feeding and refreshment for the zogoes in flagbah.

Objectives

1. To establish contact with vulnerable youth,
2. Ascertain from the vulnerable youth (twenty-two) in total about the way forward,
3. To solicit support for the rehabilitation and re-integration of the affected youth into the greater society.

In view of the above, the team headed by Jeddlee S. Kinnii, Jackson Musa and Miss Ernestine Freeman arrived at 0830 a.m. at Fblabah and at 0900 a.m., the meeting resumed with all twenty-two (six females and sixteen men) present. Initially, the affected or vulnerable youth expressed security concern. (whether) the holding of the meeting was not a set up for the police to have them arrested. We reminded that the LNP knows Flagba and they did not need us. They would storm the area if it was on their agenda. We assured them that our presence in the community was to help them find a way-out of their current situation. The meeting was allowed to continue. Team members were introduced and objectives of FELS were explained. They were happy and wanted to know how soon this program would go into effect.

Secondly, they all agreed that they wanted change in their lives. Many of the vulnerable youths, or zogoes disclosed that being a zogoes was not an easy life to live. They revealed that they are often:

1. Exposed to being mobbed when arrested, even if innocent, they would brutally be assaulted.
2. No due process of law.
3. No legal representation
4. You would be kill while your murderer freely walked the streets because you are a zogoes.
5. Many of us are war and Ebola affected youth without parents.
6. All that our government can do for us is to have the police bundle us and Thrown behind bars.

2. We need help. We are calling on the government of Liberia and, local and international NGOs to come to our rescue. We are tired. Many of our friends are dead. We have no where to go to? We hate the life we are living. It is risky and dangerous. We hope that your coming here today will be of help.

Observations:

a. Many meant what they said as they were in tears asking for God’s intervention to transform their lives.

The meeting ended at 11 a.m. and, meal (plate of rice and water) was served thereafter. 12 M.P. The team departed from Flaga.

<b>Static of participants</b>	
Number of males participants	20
Number of females participants	6
<b>Total number of participants</b>	<b>26</b>



Ms. Massalley 25 years old girl arranging seat for fellow colleagues in the tomb



Collecting data before the meetings with the vulnerable youths



The Executive Director Jeddlee S. Kinnii standing with one of the vulnerable youths



Vulnerable youth commonly known as Zokos standing with the Executive Director Mr. Jeddlee S. Kinnii listening to the message for the youth



FELS volunteer Jackson Musa collecting other information while refreshment process is ongoing



Refreshment time



Refreshment continue

This is a clear indication that, with support we can make the difference.