



Update on oil tanker explosion in Sierra Leone

While we have been emailing you a lot about our AMF Walking Challenge, which is in full swing, we wanted to take a moment to update you on a recent tragedy in Sierra Leone.

Many of you will have seen the news of the recent oil tanker explosion disaster in Freetown, the Capital City, that has killed at least 115 people and injured many others. We here at Aminata Maternal Foundation wish to send our sincere and deepest condolences to the families of the victims and the community where the vehicle accident occurred.

Read the report from CNN at this [link](https://edition.cnn.com/2021/11/08/africa/sierra-leone-tanker-blast-115-dead-intl/index.html): <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/11/08/africa/sierra-leone-tanker-blast-115-dead-intl/index.html>

As a Sierra Leonean living in Australia, this tragedy has brought so many dark memories for me and my people. Those of you who have read my memoir 'Rising Heart' will remember that my family and I spent a good deal of time in Wellington. Ong Bai Bureh Road, Wellington, is where the tragedy took place. My family are all well, but as you can imagine, the people of Sierra Leone are again going through another heartbreak. In Sierra Leone, there are no "burn units" in hospitals which makes this more tragic.

The government is doing the best they can with what limited resources they have and hopefully the community will come together to support the victims and the families of this tragic accident. The upside of Sierra Leone's tragic history with Ebola, landslides, floods, and COVID is that my country is actually very good at disaster management and well organised.

We are proud to say that our incredible partners at the Aberdeen Women's Centre mobilised and donated urgent supplies to two of the hospitals treating the burns victims. The WHO is also sending a large shipment of supplies.

I'm reaching out to you, my Australian community, for your support and prayers in this very challenging time for the people of Sierra Leone. I will keep you updated with the current news

The grief in moments like these is truly unimaginable, and we wish to extend our love and support to all those affected.

Deepest gratitude,

Aminata Conteh-Biger
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Aminata Maternal Foundation has a tax-deductible gift recipient status and is endorsed by the ATO as an income tax-exempt charity. Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. ABN: 96603111584