

**Respondent:** As for me traditional ways existed before my grandparents were born. We used to have societies and if you are not member you cannot enter. The Sande society is where young girls stay for 3 months and are initiated into the things of womanhood. When they come back, they have respect for the elders as well as their peers. And the Poro society, which is for men, is a major society that is just like the Masonry. When we are initiating someone and another person comes there, we will not let the person go free. The thing you call here human rights, is really human wrong because they go in the society bush which is not right. Long ago when we were going to school we respected everybody. When we saw our elders we respected them, but not this time children don't respect their elders. The people's society is their society. If you do not want to join, stay away from it. People are not forced to join the society if someone says no we excommunicate the person. This society thing is not bad, it has its good side for example we can use the society to stop people from fighting by calling them in the society bush for investigation. It is the only authority we know because sometimes when people are fighting before you can call the police something bad has already happened.

**Respondent:** Before the western education, this was the major form of education. It was where you learned your career, either to be a leader, to be a trap maker or anything. In life everything was determined from that bush. Also in that bush you will learn to know what of respect is due an elderly person. As a woman you will learn how to take care of a man, you will learn to treat your husband like your father, and treat your mother-in-law like your mother. But because of western education, things have changed. Even before human rights God had given everyone rights. He told parents in the home to train up a child in a way that they should go. But human rights is trying to change our children. Human right say we should send the child to school, whereas you do not have the money to educate the child. Even with this gambling thing, when you the parent is inside the house at night, your 16 year old child is outside in the darkness. When you talk to the person he, she will leave the house to go and stay on their own. It will take time to alleviate the Poro, Sande societies because it is something that has been practiced for over a century and it was the first kind of education.

**Facilitator:** What are other issues of disputes here?

**Respondent:** We don't want the society to be changed because it is our tradition. People who are calling for changing the tradition are only doing so because they want to bring their own tradition, which has already damaged our children. Human right says you don't have right over your child, but our tradition says we have right over our children. So you cannot easily throw it out. If you do not want to join just leave it, just like that because it is our tradition and we love it.

**Respondent:** I'm sorry we don't have a lawyer here because I want to ask him if it is legal to keep you in jail for long time when you are only charged with rape and you have not been found guilty. Like here, we are observing that people are targeting one another. That is, people can put crime on your head and say you raped somebody and people will really not investigate before putting you in jail.