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Kenyan Police and Corrections Officers receive UN peacekeeping medals

Monrovia, Liberia – The Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Mr. Luiz Carlos da Costa, on Thursday decorated 13 police officers and 5 corrections officers from Kenya with UN peacekeeping medals for their contribution to peace in Liberia.

Awarding the UN peacekeeping medals on behalf of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Mr. da Costa paid tribute to the Police and Corrections Officers for their contribution towards the restructuring of the Liberia National Police, the Correctional Services and other security agencies in Liberia. “You and your colleagues have also contributed towards the development of the criminal justice system by building linkages between the different agencies of the justice chain. All of you have played a part in strengthening the Rule of Law in Liberia, an essential component in an emerging democracy,” he said.



Officer-in-Charge da Costa decorates Contingent Commander John Gathu



Decorated Kenyan Police and Corrections Officers

As part of the United Nations’ Police Force and the Corrections Advisory Unit, the Officer-in-Charge recounted their valuable services rendered through recruiting, training, advising and mentoring Liberian Police and Corrections officers. “You play a key role in achieving the Mission’s mandate of establishing the Rule of Law in Liberia. The skills and knowledge you pass on to your Liberian counterparts will go a long way in helping Liberia consolidate the peace and security and enhance its democratic institutions,” Mr. da Costa said.

He then reminded the Kenyan peacekeepers to scrupulously respect the Secretary-General’s policy of zero tolerance of sexual abuse and exploitation.

The medal award ceremony was attended by three senior visiting officials of the Kenyan Police Service (KPS), Mr. Everet Wasige, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. Zakayo Tum, Assistant Commissioner of Police and Benard Muli, Senior Superintendent of Police. UNMIL officials attending the medal ceremony included Police Commissioner Mr. Mohammed Alhassan and the Chief of the Corrections Advisory Unit, Ms. Marjo Callaghan.

Presently, there are 20 Kenyan Police Officers and 7 Corrections Officers who are deployed in eight of Liberia’s 15 counties.
