



UNMIL/PIO/PR/123

Press Release, 18 October 2006

UN Envoy to Liberia reassures capital's residents as he goes on night patrol

Monrovia, Liberia – The head of the UN Mission in Liberia, Mr. Alan Doss, has joined members of the Liberian National Police (LNP,) UN military and UN Police on a night patrol in some parts of the capital.



Some residents of the Matadi neighbourhood briefing SRSR Doss and UNPOL Commissioner Al Hassan

During the night, Mr. Doss, accompanied by the UN Police Commissioner Mohammed Alhassan and the LNP Deputy Director in Charge of Administration, Ms Asatu Bah Kenneth, walked through the Monrovia neighbourhoods of Matadi and Dupont Road, where he met with residents and discussed with them security issues. Most residents he spoke to said they now felt safer and more secure from criminals and their activities but several of them complained about the poor condition of roads in their communities. In response, the envoy acknowledged that good roads would greatly help Liberia as well as aid the LNP and UNPOL respond more quickly to criminal activities.

The extra night patrols are part of a special operation, ‘*Operation Sweeping Wave*,’ which was launched a few weeks ago to deal with the reported increase in cases of violent crime in the Liberian capital. “Operation Sweeping Wave is working well and we have seen a significant drop in the number of violent crimes in Monrovia in the month of September. But we cannot relax in our efforts in the fight against crime,” Mr. Doss said. Since the operation was launched by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the number of violent crimes, such as armed robberies has been reduced.



Mr. Doss and some of the security officers on patrol

This is the second time this year that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General has gone on a night patrol with the joint teams of security personnel from the UN and the government. In the Dupont Road area, Mr. Doss inspected work on a new police station he promised to help build when he visited the community earlier this year. He was taken through the building which is expected to be completed in the next few weeks. Local residents in the area thanked him for fulfilling his promise and reported that incidents of crime had gone down in the area.

First at the LNP headquarters and at both locations visited during the night, Mr. Doss expressed the UN’s appreciation to the men and women of the LNP, UNMIL police and military who have been taking part in Operation Sweeping Wave and other security operations. He thanked them for helping to fight crime in Monrovia and other parts of the country.
