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UN Envoy warns against vigilantism and urges Liberians to respect rule of law

Monrovia, Liberia -- The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Liberia, Mr. Alan Doss, has called on Liberians not to take the laws into their own hands as they fight against crime. Mr. Doss made the appeal on Wednesday, 18 October, during a medal award ceremony to acknowledge the contribution made by a detachment of Filipino Police Officers towards the consolidation of peace in Liberia.



SRSG Doss decorates an UNMIL Filipino Police Officer while UN Police Commissioner Alhassan and Contingent Commander Franco applaud

“In our fight against crime, we must always remember that we cannot, and must not take the law into our own hands. Mob justice is wrong! It is a violation of the law. We must allow justice to take its course even though the wheels of justice sometimes turn slowly,” the Special Representative of the Secretary-General said.

Emphasizing the need to ensure the effectiveness of the rule of law in Liberia, Mr. Doss gave the assurance that, “UNMIL and other partners are working closely with the Government and the Judiciary to help reinforce the rule of law and strengthen the administration of justice in Liberia.” And he pledged to work for bail regulations to be reviewed and tightened.

Decorating the Filipino Police Officers, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General commended them for being part of efforts to rebuild the Liberia National Police (LNP). The Police, Mr. Doss noted, is one of the core pillars on which the rule of law has to be built, “UNMIL and the UN Police are fully committed to assisting the LNP become a modern and effective Police force that can ensure public order and safety.” The Government of the Netherlands has just pledged 2 million Euros to help with this effort, he added.

The UN Envoy also reminded the Police Officers of their responsibility to scrupulously respect the Secretary-General’s policy of zero tolerance on sexual exploitation and abuse. “Every contingent that steadfastly upholds the UN’s Code of Conduct contributes immensely to the overall success and dignity of our mission here,” he said.

UN Police Commissioner, Mr. Mohammed Alhassan, said the decorated Filipino Police Officers have demonstrated great enthusiasm, freedom from fear, and maximizing efficiency to impart knowledge to their Liberian colleagues. “Your professionalism, dedication, competence and commitment have earned you the medal and I implore you to wear them with pride, dignity and humility,” Commissioner Alhassan added.

Filipino Police Officers have been deployed across Liberia, in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Grand Cape Mount and Montserrado counties. They have played key roles in the areas of Reform and Restructuring, Crime Services, Training and Development and Communication within the new Liberian National Police.
