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Curbing crime and keeping communities safe remain priorities for rebuilding Liberia, UN Deputy Envoy says

Monrovia, Liberia – The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance, Mr. Jordan Ryan, has said that together with the Government “we must ensure that crime does not become a problem in Monrovia or anywhere else in Liberia.” Mr. Ryan made this remark today when he awarded UN peacekeeping medals to members of the Jordanian Formed Police Units (FPU) and Police Officers serving with the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).



DSRSG Ryan awards UN Peacekeeping Medals to Jordanian FPU and Police Officers

Mr. Ryan acknowledged the significant impact that “Operation Sweeping Wave” is making in many communities through the joint UN Police and Liberia National Police (LNP) patrols. He said “We must be tough on crime but be concerned about the causes of crime and that is why UNMIL is working closely with the Liberian Government to attract investments and also create jobs.”

“Your valuable service in training, advising and mentoring your fellow officers from the LNP is very much appreciated,” he said. Mr. Ryan told the Jordanian peacekeepers that the skills and knowledge that they passed on to their Liberian counterparts will go a long way in helping Liberia consolidate peace and security, and enhance its democratic functioning.

Mr. Ryan also thanked the contingent for escorting and providing security to the Secretary-General and his wife during their visit to Liberia last July and for providing security to the Office of the President. “All of your work directly contributes towards achieving our principal objective of maintaining law and order and public safety.”



Jordanian FPU and Police Officers serving in UNMIL

The Deputy Special Representative commended the Contingent Commander, Lt. Col. Majed Al Rawashdeh and members of the Jordanian FPU and police contingent in UNMIL for their commitment and contribution to the cause of peace in Liberia. He also used the occasion to urge all UN peacekeepers and UN civilian staff in Liberia to respect the Secretary-General’s policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse.

The medal award ceremony was also attended by members of the diplomatic corps, including Ambassadors from Germany and Lebanon, and senior officials of UNMIL, including the Director of Administration, Mr. Ronnie Stokes, UN Police Commissioner Mohammed Alhassan and the Chief of Staff of the UN Police, Mr. Edward Bradley.

Jordan began contributing to UN peacekeeping in 1992 and has since served in peacekeeping operations across the world. Jordanian UN peacekeepers first arrived in Liberia in November 2003 and have been active throughout Montserrado County. There are currently 120 Jordanian FPU and police officers serving in the country.