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UNMIL Philippine Contingent decorated with United Nations peacekeeping medals

Monrovia, Liberia – The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, Mr. Alan Doss, over the weekend decorated 165 peacekeepers of the Philippine contingent deployed in the country with United Nations peacekeeping medals for their contribution to the peace process in Liberia.



The 5th Philippine contingent in Liberia awarded with UN peacekeeping medals

Special Representative Doss commended the peacekeepers for their professionalism and dedication to the mission. Recognizing the significance of 9 April for the Filipino people, SRSR Doss said “on the Day of Valor, Filipinos pay tribute to their fellow citizens and soldiers who gave up their lives during World War II, whose heroism made it possible for your countrymen to now enjoy the freedom that they have.” He added that “it is the very same valor that your soldiers have demonstrated in the performance of their duties.”

Mr. Doss reminded the peacekeepers that UNMIL’s work in Liberia is not yet finished. He said “Notwithstanding recent events concerning former President Taylor, the situation remains calm and stable. UNMIL is working with the national authorities to ensure that violence has no part in the new Liberia.”

Welcoming the guests to the ceremony, the Philippine Contingent Commander, Col. Mario A. Mendoza, said the presence of Filipino peacekeepers in Liberia represents their selfless service and commitment to the ideals and goals of the United Nations. “It is our pride and honour to be of service to UNMIL and the good people of Liberia. Be assured of our continued support and cooperation towards the successful accomplishments of UNMIL’s mission,” he said.

The ceremony was attended by the Deputy Special Representative for the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance, Mr. Jordan Ryan, and senior UNMIL military officials including the Force Commander, Lt.-Gen. Chikadibia Obiakor, and Deputy Force Commander Maj.-Gen Muhammad Tahir.

There are currently 172 Filipino peacekeepers, including 9 women, serving in Liberia. The Philippines began contributing troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations in 1950 in Korea and since then has served in over 20 peacekeeping missions including Vietnam, the Congo, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, East Timor, Haiti and now Liberia.
