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**UN Envoy meets with the new Director of the Liberian National Police (LNP);  
Decorates UNMIL Serbia and Montenegro Police Contingent with UN Peacekeeping Medals**

**Monrovia, Liberia** - The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, together with the Deputy Special Representative for Operations and Rule of Law, Mr. Luiz Carlos da Costa, and United Nations Police Commissioner, Mohammed Alhassan, yesterday met with the new Director of the Liberian National Police (LNP), Ms. Beatrice Sieh, at the UNMIL Headquarters, Pan African Plaza, in Monrovia.



LNP Director, Ms. Beatrice Sieh

Special Representative Doss congratulated the new Director on her appointment as the first female head of the LNP. He expressed his hope that her example would inspire more women to join the police force. He assured her of UNMIL's continued support to the LNP to build an effective national police force.

Ms. Sieh expressed her determination to work closely with UNMIL and welcomed the emphasis on the recruitment of female officers. She also requested for UNMIL's assistance in providing equipment and logistical support.



Serbia and Montenegro police contingent with SRSO Doss and UNPOL Commissioner Alhassan

In a related development, the Special Representative yesterday awarded UN peacekeeping medals to the police officers of Serbia and Montenegro serving in UNMIL.

Special Representative Doss praised the contingent for their professionalism and commitment to work. He noted that the Serbian and Montenegrin police officers have an opportunity to apply the experience from their own country, which in the recent past also went through a severe civil conflict.

The SRSO reminded the police officers of the key role they are playing in achieving the Mission's mandate of establishing the rule of law in Liberia by providing a valuable service in training, advising and mentoring of Liberian police officers. "An effective and loyal police force is essential to the peace and stability of Liberia," Mr. Doss pointed out.

UNMIL Police Commissioner, Mohammed Alhassan, who is in charge of the UNMIL police force, consisting of 1,100 policemen from 38 UN member states, praised the Serbia and Montenegro contingent for their exemplary conduct and active support of the peace process in Liberia.

Serbia and Montenegro's participation in United Nations peacekeeping began in 2001 when military observers were deployed in East Timor to assist in providing a secure environment for the people of East Timor for the transition towards independence. Currently, 20 peacekeepers are serving in United Nations Missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Burundi, and Liberia.

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