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UNMIL Mongolian Contingent serving at the Special Court for Sierra Leone decorated with United Nations peacekeeping medals

Freetown, Sierra Leone – The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, Mr. Alan Doss, on 27 April decorated 250 peacekeepers of the Mongolian contingent deployed at the Special Court for Sierra Leone with United Nations peacekeeping medals for their contribution towards maintaining the security of the Special Court of Sierra Leone.



Mongolian contingent in Freetown, Sierra Leone

Special Representative Doss commended the peacekeepers for their professionalism and dedication in the discharge of their duties. He recognized the vital role of the Special Court in reinforcing the rule of law in Sierra Leone and the sub-region and in helping to end impunity. “UNMIL is working hard to provide a secure environment to allow the recovery of Liberia, which we believe will help the region as a whole to move forward. Your role here in Freetown is a critical part of that effort and your services have a significance of international scale,” Mr. Doss said.

Mr. Doss reiterated that the UN, in cooperation with the national authorities, will respond robustly to any attempt to disrupt the workings of the Court. “We have the will and the capacity to do so,” he emphasized.

Welcoming the guests to the ceremony, the Mongolian Contingent Commander, Lt. Col. Byambasuren Bayarmagnai, said the presence of Mongolian peacekeepers in Sierra Leone represents their commitment to the ideals and goals of the United Nations. He expressed the contingent’s appreciation to UNMIL, the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) and the Special Court for their continued support and assistance and thanked each member of the contingent for their service and for being “ambassadors to your families, communities and your country.”

The ceremony was attended by the Force Commander, Lt.-Gen. Chikadibia Obiakor and other senior UNMIL military officials, the Special Court Prosecutor, Mr. Desmond da Silva, and officials from the Court and UNIOSIL.

Following the end of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), UNMIL assumed responsibility for the provision of a Military Guard Force (MGF) at the Special Court for Sierra Leone with effect from 1 December 2005 in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1626, adopted on 19 September 2005. The Mongolian peacekeepers began arriving in Sierra Leone on 25 December 2005 to take over from Nigerian peacekeepers who were guarding the court in the interim.

There are currently 250 Mongolian peacekeepers serving as MGF at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Mongolia began contributing troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations in 2002 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and since then has served in Western Sahara, Sudan and now in Sierra Leone.
