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### UNMIL Ghanaian Contingent Receives United Nations Peacekeeping Medals

**Monrovia, Liberia** – The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia, Mr. Alan Doss, yesterday decorated 132 peacekeepers of the Ghanaian contingent deployed in the country with United Nations peacekeeping medals for their outstanding contribution to the peace process in Liberia.



Female Ghanaian peacekeepers at Medal Ceremony

Speaking at the ceremony, Special Representative Doss welcomed the Ghanaian Government delegation led by the Commandant of the Ghana Military and Training Schools, Maj. General Amadu Abdulai, and recognized that

the presence of the delegation is a “testimony to the importance Ghana attaches to peace and security in Liberia and the West African sub-region as a whole.”

SRSR Doss commended the peacekeepers for their professionalism and dedication during their service in Liberia. Referring to the Secretary-General’s visit to Liberia earlier in the week, he said, “the Secretary-General personally expressed his appreciation for the valuable contribution you and your fellow peacekeepers have made to the cause of peace in Liberia. He said your commitment and dedication merits the gratitude and recognition of the entire international community.”

Mr. Doss reminded the peacekeepers that UNMIL’s work in Liberia is not yet finished as Liberia is still a fragile nation, and the West African sub-region has not yet escaped the shadow of conflict. “We cannot be complacent. We must continue providing security throughout the country and offer support to the new Government to realize its ambitious programme of national reform and renewal.”

The ceremony was also attended by Liberian Minister of Defence, Minister Brownie Samukai, the Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana, Maj. General Adu Amanfoh, and senior UNMIL officials including the UNMIL Force Commander, Lt. General Isaac Obiakor and the Director of Administration, Mr. Ronnie Stokes. There are currently 849 Ghanaian peacekeepers, including 41 females, serving in Liberia.

Later in the day, Mr. Doss met with the Ghana Government delegation, led by Maj. General Amadu Abdulai, to discuss the role of UNMIL in the post-war phase of the country, the challenges faced by the Liberian administration, and ways for better cooperation and partnership. He reiterated UNMIL’s committed to providing a secure and stable environment that will allow the new government to push forward its reform agenda. Maj. General Abdulai conveyed the government’s satisfaction with the work of the UN in Liberia and spoke about his desire to assist the Mission in resolving any problems on the ground, since what affects Liberia has implications for the sub-region as a whole. He also stressed the determination to maintain the good reputation Ghanaian peacekeepers have had and to this end he would ensure that the troops are fully trained on all aspects of the United Nations Code of Conduct.

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