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UNMIL launches quarterly report on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Monrovia, Liberia - The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) today launched its fourth public report on the promotion and protection of human rights in Liberia, covering the period February to April 2006. The report is intended to increase public awareness and enhance respect for human rights in the country.

The report highlights a number of important human rights developments that took place during the period, including, the arrest of former President Charles Taylor and his transfer to the Special Court of Sierra Leone; the inauguration of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and progress in the setting up of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR).

Nonetheless, UNMIL continually received reports of human rights violations throughout Liberia. Rule of Law remained weak, and in many cases due process was not followed. Corruption by some officials continued to undermine the Rule of Law. A high number of cases of rape involving minors were reported. Harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation and trial by ordeal remain an obstacle to the enjoyment by citizens of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The report provides recommendations to Government authorities to address these problems.

UNMIL continues to work with the Government, as well as non-governmental organizations, to improve the human rights situation in Liberia.

All human rights reports are available on the UNMIL website: www.unmil.org. For further information please contact Ms. Signe Poulsen, Human Rights and Protection Section.

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