

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

*UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE  
(UNAMSIL)*

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**ACTING SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE DECORATES GUINEAN  
PEACEKEEPERS WITH MEDALS OF HONOR**

*Freetown* – The Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone, Mr. Behrooz Sadry, today decorated Guinean Battalion (GUINBATT) 2 peacekeepers of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) with UN medals at a colourful ceremony in Bo.

A total of 30 officers, including two women, and 103 men from the battalion received the UN medal, awarded to military personnel who complete 90 days in the mission without committing an offence.

In his address to the peacekeepers, Mr. Sadry noted that Guinea's participation in the peace process in Sierra Leone was very significant because it is not only a neighbouring country, but also a member of the Mano River Union, as well as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The Acting Special Representative said the Guinean peacekeepers were now contributing to peace in Sierra Leone through UNAMSIL, but their commitment to stability in the country long predated their joining the Mission in February 2000. He commended the Guinea Armed Forces' participation in other peacekeeping efforts in Africa, dating back to 1960 in the Congo, congratulating them for their "positive contributions to peace in Sierra Leone," as well as the "professional manner" in which they have discharged their duties.

In an earlier address to the troops, Col. Momodou Baldet, the Inspector-General of Guinea's Armed Forces, on behalf of the Minister of Defence, commended GUINBATT's courage and perseverance and urged them to remain disciplined and dedicated. He also used the occasion to present the Regimental Flag to the battalion and urged the peacekeepers to defend and protect it at all times. A Regimental Flag is the symbol of authority of a military unit.

Guests at the ceremony were entertained by a martial arts display and a cultural performance. UNAMSIL Force Commander Lt. Gen. Daniel Opande, the Chief Military Observer, Maj. Gen. Syed Athar Ali, the Commander of Sector 3, Brig. Gen. George Ayi-

BOITE, as well as the Guinean Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Mr. Mohammed Amin, also participated in the ceremony.