

UNITED NATIONS



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*UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE  
(UNAMSIL)*

**PRESS RELEASE**

22 July 2002

**ACTING SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE DECORATES GHANAIAN  
PEACEKEEPERS WITH MEDALS OF HONOUR**

*Freetown* – The Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone, Mr. Alan Doss, on 19 July presented United Nations medals of honour to peacekeepers from the Ghanaian Battalion (GHANBATT) serving with the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).

At a colourful ceremony held in the eastern town of Kenema, Mr. Doss decorated 148 officers and men of Ghanaian contingent made up of 17 officers and 131 soldiers, including 20 women. The decorated peacekeepers included personnel from UNAMSIL Sector 3 Headquarters, Ghanaian Battalion 5 and the Ghanaian Medical Unit's Level II Hospital. UN medals are awarded to peacekeepers who complete three months of service without committing an offense.

In his address to the peacekeepers, the Acting Special Representative noted the remarkable performance and contributions of the Ghanaian contingent in the Sierra Leone peace process, a feat that he attributed to their sense of duty, esprit-de-corps and their high sense of professional competence. He commended them for the humanitarian activities they have been providing to local communities, as well as the respect for human rights, human freedom and respect for the dignity of the members of their host communities that had made them worthy ambassadors of their country.

“I would count on the goodwill, tolerance and the spirit of ‘give and take’ of all stakeholders of the peace process as well as all the leaders of the various political parties so that the peaceful democratic atmosphere currently prevailing in this Republic will be maintained,” he told the audience.

Mr. Doss also paid tribute to the Government and people of Ghana for its contribution to peace in Sierra Leone, adding that the prevailing peaceful atmosphere in Kenema District was a true reflection of the success story of the Ghanaian contingent.

Among the guests of honour at the medal parade was the visiting Ghanaian Chief of Defence Staff, Lt. Gen. Seth Obeng. Other dignitaries included UNAMSIL Acting Force Commander Maj. Gen. Martin L. Agwai, the Chief Military Observer, Maj. Gen. Syed Athar Ali, the Ghanaian High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Mr. Ackah Blay Amihere, and UNAMSIL Sector 3 Commander who is also Commander of the Ghanaian contingent in Sierra Leone, Brig. Gen. George Ayi-Bonte.

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*UNAMSIL Headquarters, Mammy Yoko, P. O. Box 5, Freetown, Sierra Leone  
Tel: 232-22-273-183/4/5 Fax: 232-22-273-189*