

UNITED NATIONS



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*UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE  
(UNAMSIL)*

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**UNAMSIL HOLDS SEA BURIAL AND WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY  
FOR ZAMBIAN PEACEKEEPERS**

*Freetown* - The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) yesterday held a sea burial and wreath-laying ceremony for the two Zambian peacekeepers who died in a helicopter crash off the Aberdeen in Freetown on 7 November 2001.

The bodies of the two officers, Lt. Col. Timmy Kasamu and Lt. Col. David Kasonde Mwale, were never recovered. Four Ukrainian crewmembers also perished from the same crash. The deceased were part of the Zambian Battalion serving with UNAMSIL.

A visiting Zambian delegation led by Lt. Col. Fred Mulonda, which included family members of the deceased, attended the ceremony. Other dignitaries who also witnessed the wreath-laying ceremony included the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone, Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji, UNAMSIL Force Commander Lt. Gen. Daniel I. Opande, the Chief Military Observer, Maj. Gen. Syed Athar Ali, and peacekeepers from the Zambian contingent as well as other senior UNAMSIL military officers.

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