



UNMIL/PIO/PR/109

Press release, 18 September 2006

UN Peacekeeping Medals awarded to UNMIL Swedish Quick Reaction Force.

Monrovia, Liberia – The Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Mr. Luiz Carlos da Costa, decorated 233 peacekeepers of the Swedish Quick Reaction Force (QRF) contingent deployed in the country with United Nations peacekeeping medals on 16 September 2006 in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the peace process in Liberia.



UNMIL Swedish contingent awarded with UN peacekeeping medals

Recognizing the contribution of the Swedish contingent towards peace and stability in Liberia, Mr. da Costa conveyed the appreciation of the United Nations to the peacekeepers. “As members of the QRF, you constitute a force reserve for the Mission, have provided quick reaction response in support of other military units, and have conducted independent operations and patrols throughout the country,” he said.

Referring to the arrest and transfer of former Liberian President Charles Taylor to the Special Court in Sierra Leone, Mr. da Costa added: “This was a sensitive task mandated to UNMIL by the Security Council and I commend you for the professionalism you displayed during this high-security operation.”

Mr. da Costa stressed that Liberia has witnessed significant progress since 2003. “Our job is not finished. UNMIL will continue to be vigilant and work to provide a secure environment to allow the recovery of Liberia to go forward. UNMIL will intervene robustly to deal with any attempt, from any quarter that threatens the security of the State,” he pointed out.

Contingent Commander Lt. Col. Mats Ludvig lauded the peacekeepers for their work and explained that each peacekeeper voluntarily applied to come to Liberia as a service for peace. “Your voluntary commitment reflects the good intentions which are the foundation of the United Nations,” he said. The contingent commander also thanked Liberians for “making the Swedes feel welcome.”

The ceremony was attended by senior UNMIL officials including the UNMIL Force Commander, Lt. General Isaac Obiakor, Deputy Force Commander Maj. General Muhammad Tahir, and OIC of UNMIL Administration, Ms. Stephani Scheer. There are currently 234 Swedish peacekeepers, including 11 female officers, serving in Liberia.

* * * * *