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UNMIL's Zambian Police Contingent Decorated with UN Peacekeeping Medals

Monrovia, Liberia: The United Nations Police Commissioner, Mohammed Alhassan, on 17 November awarded United Nations peacekeeping medals to the Zambian police contingent deployed in Liberia, during a ceremony held at the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) headquarters in Monrovia.



Police Commissioner Alhassan awards UN Peacekeeping medals to Zambian Police Contingent

Commending the Zambian contingent for their commitment and professionalism, Commissioner Alhassan thanked them for the sacrifices they've made by accepting duty beyond their country's borders, in order to secure peace in Liberia.

The Police Commissioner mentioned that the 26 police officers, clad in their ceremonial uniforms, provide valuable services by training, advising and mentoring Liberian police officers to make sure the Liberian National Police become a strong institution that safeguards the rule of law in the country.

Commissioner Alhassan further observed that the steady progress made by the United Nations Police (UNPOL) since the onset of the Mission is a testimony of their hard work, dedication and overall efforts. "You play a key role in achieving the Mission's mandate of establishing the rule of law in Liberia. Your daily activities in Monrovia and leeward counties are contributing towards ending the culture of impunity in Liberia," he said. "The skills and knowledge you pass on to your Liberian counterparts will go a long way in helping this war-ravage country achieve peace and security and progress towards an effective and functioning democracy," the Police Commissioner stressed.



Zambian Police Contingent serving in UNMIL

He reminded his colleagues that though UNMIL has made significant progress, there is still more to be done in Liberia. He reiterated that they must all continue working to make sure that Liberia's national security is not compromised.

"We cannot allow anyone to undermine the country's peace and stability, which has been achieved at such high cost. We in UNMIL will respond, in the most robust manner possible, to any activities that could undermine the security of Liberia," the Police Commissioner warned.

This is the fourth Zambian Police Contingent in the Mission since Zambian peacekeepers deployed in Liberia on 20th November 2003. This is the first

peacekeeping mission for all of those awarded at the parade. During their tour of duty, they have been deployed in both Monrovia and outlying areas including Loguato, Nimba County; Tubmanburg and Guthrie Rubber Plantations, Bomi County; Barclayville, Grand Kru County; Zorzor, Lofa County and Fish Town, River Gee County.

Zambia began contributing to United Nations peacekeeping mission in 1989 by sending forces to the UN Transition Group in Namibia. In addition to Liberia, Zambian peacekeepers are currently serving with the United Nations in Kosovo, Haiti, East Timor, Sudan, and Democratic Republic of Congo.