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LIBERIA: WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINE

VIDEO

AUDIO

NARRATION

SHOTS OF PALM TREES, WAVES,
CHILDREN AT SHORE

From palm trees waving in the wind ... to waves lapping on the shore ...it looks like paradise. (10.15")

SUNSET

But for more than 14 years ... this was hell. (4")

CU – BULLET HOLE, FLAG
FOOTAGE OF FIGHTING, CIVIL
WAR IN LIBERIA

Liberia, in West Africa, was shattered by a bloody civil war that began in the early 1990s. (7")

DEAD BODIES ON GROUND

Some quarter of a million people were murdered. But when the bloodshed finally

WOMEN MARCHING IN WHITE
CLOTHES

ended in 2003, there was one group who had played a very important role.... (11.15")

PRES. JOHNSON SIRLEAF ON
CAMERA

President Johnson Sirleaf : (ENGLISH) F
*"It was the women who really took up the
challenge." (2.5")*

PRES. SIRLEAF WAVING TO THE
CROWD

NARRATION

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is President of Liberia,
and Africa's only elected female leader. She
says the women rallied tirelessly for peace ...
(10")

FOOTAGE OF LIBERIAN WOMEN
IN WHITE

PRES. SIRLEAF ON CAMERA

President Sirleaf: (ENGLISH)

*"They sat in the sun and the rain so many
times. They forced meetings with the Liberian
president, other Presidents in the region.
Forced a peace." (8")*

FOOTAGE OF WOMEN IN WHITE

NARRATION

It was their strength she says that paved the
way for Liberian women today ... This is the
story of how the nation is once again relying on
the power of women. This time – to help
rebuild the nation's security ... and restore law
and order. (20")

SHOTS OF POLICEWOMEN

POLICEWOMEN TARGET
SHOOTING/MARCHING

The President has set a goal – 20 percent of
all Liberia's security forces today – including
Liberia's National Police – must be women.
(10.15")

PRES. SIRLEAF ON CAMERA
POLICEWOMAN ON COMBAT DRILL

President Johnson Sirleaf (ENGLISH)
"We send a message to women that you have your own that are now part of the protection force. You can count on them. You can rely on them." (7")

ANNE-MARIE GOETZ, UNIFEM, ON CAMERA

Anne-Marie Goetz: (ENGLISH) F
"Around the world, when women come into public office in bigger numbers, we do start to see changes in legislation." (4.5")

GOETZ AT HER COMPUTER

NARRATION
Anne-Marie Goetz of the UN Development Fund for Women, UNIFEM. (4")

POLICEWOMAN WITH POLICEMEN ON A DRILL

Anne-Marie Goetz (ENGLISH):
"A huge priority is to ensure that women get into public decision-making roles at every level, right down to the frontline of the delivery of public services." (8.5")

CHIEF INSP. KORLU PAYNOR ON CAMERA

KORLU: (ENGLISH) F
"I am Chief Inspector Korlu Paynor. I am Special Assistant in the Women and Children Protection Unit." (6.5")

INSP. PAYNOR WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY

NARRATION
Inspector Paynor, a forty-nine-year-old mother of three, is on that frontline in Liberia. Women like her play a critical role as a culture of violence against women continues to haunt the

country, says Liberia's Minister of Justice Christianna Tah. (17")

MINISTER OF JUSTICE,
CHRISTIANNA TAH ON CAMERA

Justice Tah: (ENGLISH) F

"There are undercurrents. There are underlying, unresolved issues." (3.5")

FOOTAGE OF CONFLICT,
CIVILIANS FLEEING

NARRATION

Issues that began during the conflict when an estimated 40 percent of all Liberia's women were attacked. (7.5")

COUPLE OF GIRL STUDENTS
WALKING

Today, sexual violence rates remain staggeringly high – with some 50 percent of rape victims under the age of 15. (9")

INSP. PAYNOR IN THE FIELD

It's a devastating fact that Inspector Paynor must deal with every day ... (5")

SHOTS INSIDE THE PRECINCT
INSP. PAYNOR & FELLOW POLICE
OFFICERS CONDUCTING AN
INVESTIGATION ON SEXUAL
CRIME

KORLU:

"Hello, we have to check on cases, recent cases."

JOY:

"What is the age of the victim?"

OFFICER:

"Five years."

JOY:

"Five years."

KORLU:

"Five years old." (((7.5)))

CHILD VICTIM BROUGHT INSIDE
THE PRECINCT

NARRATION

But before they can finish, another case comes in, a child ...allegedly beaten by a relative. She was found under a tree. (8.5")

INSP.PAYNOR EXAMINES THE
CHILD

KORLU:

"When did the incident occur?"

WOMAN IN STATION:

"Five or ten minutes."

KORLU:

"The child herself explained anything to you?"

WOMAN:

"She has not said anything yet." (((6.5")))

UN VEHICLE LEAVING

NARRATION

Paynor races from station ... to station...
(*natsot- Korlu: "We're on our way, we'll be there soon."*)

PAYNOR & HER POLICEWOMAN
AIDE WALKING OUT OF THE
VEHICLE

...sees case ...after case. (*Korlu to Joy:*
"You've been here before? Joy: Yeah")
(((12.5")))

PAYNOR QUESTIONING AN OLD
MAN INSIDE THE STATION

But securing justice for victims has not been easy in this post-conflict country. (5.5")

WOMEN JOIN STREET
DEMONSTRATION

And so, the women of Liberia once again spoke up, this time demanding a special court for sexual crimes ...and in 2008, they got it. It's called Criminal Court E – the first of its kind in Africa. (18")

LIBERIAN FLAG

But experts say the work of bringing true security to the country is only just beginning ...the key they say, is continuing to invest in the power of women. (12")

POLICEWOMAN ARMED WITH AN
ARMALITE RIFLE

ANNE-MARIE: (ENGLISH)

COUPLE OF WOMEN LISTENING
ATTENTIVELY

"Things can change when leaders are decisive and when they're backed effectively by constituencies of women. That's an impressive lesson for the world." (6.15")

ANNE-MARIE GOETZ ON CAMERA

Justice Minister Tah: (ENGLISH)

WOMEN DANCING AND SINGING

"I'm very, very proud, I'm proud of women. The women of Liberia are very determined women. They did a lot of work to bring peace and they will do a lot of work to maintain peace."
(10.5")

NARRATION

CLOSING TAG

This report was produced by Andi Gitow for the United Nations. (4)