



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## UN IN ACTION

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Length: 4'35"

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian

### LIBERIA: PEACE HUTS

#### VIDEO

CHILDREN AT SHORE

MOON – RED SKY

FIREFIGHT SCENE

WAR ATROCITIES FOOTAGE

ARMED MILITIA REVELRY

TWO SCHOOL GRILS WALKING

DEREX-BRIGGS TALKS ON CAMERA

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION

It may look like paradise ...but for more than 14 years...this was hell. (6.2)

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

Some quarter of a million people were murdered and an estimated 40% of all Liberia's women attacked. Rape was unleashed as a weapon of war. (10.5)

The bloodshed finally ended in 2003 but the legacy of violence against women continues. Today, sexual violence rates remain devastatingly high - with some 40% percent of rape victims under the age of twelve. (15.3)

IZEDUWA DEREX-BRIGGS (ENGLISH) F

*"If we don't address the issue of sexual violence, the sense of safety, the sense of security is still not there, and you can't say you have peace."*

(7)

NARRATION

DEREX-BRIGGS WORKING AT HIS OFFICE

Izeduwa Derex-Briggs, head of UN Women in Liberia, says securing justice for women has not been easy in this post-conflict country. There is a huge backlog of cases and arrests and convictions are rare, leading to a sense of impunity. (16.8)

COUNTRYSIDE – SHOT FROM A RUNNING CAR

This is especially true in Liberia's vast countryside, where access to justice is severely limited contends Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia, and Africa's only elected female leader. (13)

PRES. SIRLEAF TALKS ON CAMERA

PRES. JOHNSON SIRLEAF (ENGLISH) F

*"We still have a long way to go to have really functioning justice systems in the rural areas. But the process has started."* (7.5)

RURAL WOMEN/PEACE HUT

NARRATION

...started with rural women like these who are helping to fill the gap, here, in what they call "Peace Huts" (6.5)

*(Soundup Singing: "We want peace")*

WOMEN SINGING

These women – all clad in white T-shirts – are part "courtroom" and part "community police" (6)

DEREX-BRIGGS ON CAMERA

IZEDUWA DEREX-BRIGGS (ENGLISH)

*"They follow the investigations / When they hear police say there is no evidence, they say "how can the police have no evidence, come we will*

*show you the evidence". And these are women who have not gone to school!" (8)*

NARRATION

WOMEN GOING TO PEACE HUT

Cases of violence and domestic issues are brought here by women....to be mediated by women. (6.4)

IZEDUWA DEREK-BRIGGS (ENGLISH) F

SHOTS OF RURAL WOMEN

*"Imagine fifty women all walking to one home and telling the man "you touch her again and we are taking you to the police" / Women who have come out of war are now taking security into their own hands and saying "no, we can't allow this to go on." (15.5)*

DEREK-BRIGGS ON CAMERA

NARRATION

INTRO TO MA ANNIE

Women like Ma Annie, who heads this Peace Hut...one of more than thirty throughout the country. (5.5)

MA. ANNIE (ENGLISH) F

MA ANNIE ON CAMERA

*"It is just about telling somebody the truth/ to see who is wrong and who is right // At the end of the day there will be a judgment." (6.5)*

NARRATION

SOPHIE WALKING

Something this woman, Sophie, is counting on ... (3.2)

(Sound up Annie: "Sophie, sit down)

SOPHIE'S CASE BEING HEARD  
INSIDE THE PEACE HUT

Her case – her former husband is refusing to pay child support, and her children are suffering she says .... (6)

(Sound up Annie: *Sophie, I want to ask you how long you and the man be together?* Sophie: 10 yrs ) (7)

SOPHIE'S EX-HUSBAND  
ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER WOMEN

Sophie's former husband is pursued by the women ... and marched to the hut. ....he's also questioned. (6.3)

(Sound up Annie: *Take your time to explain to us what happened between you and the women here, you understand*) (4)

CLOSE-UP – WOMEN LISTENING

By day's end, the women reach their "verdict". The husband agrees to their demand that he pay Sophie some \$500 and he signs their contract. (10)

SLIPPERS PAN UP TO PEACE HUT

The women usually prevail says Ma Annie, but the question remains: Why do the men listen? (6)

LITTLE GIRL AT THE DOOR

The answer is simple she says, if they don't respect the rulings, the women of the community will keep going after them ... (6.7)

MA ANNIE TALKS ON CAMERA

MA. ANNIE (ENGLISH) F

*"The men listen to us. We never been having any problems, no! None of the cases have come back to us. When we finish with it, we make peace, it finished."* (10.5)

WORN OUT FLAG

NARRATION

But those in Liberia know that 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. (13.5)

PRES. SIRLEAF ON CAMERA

PRES. JOHNSON SIRLEAF (ENGLISH) F

*“They’re taking positions and they’re standing up and exerting their rights. They have really, really been empowered.” (5.75)*

NARRATION

WOMEN DANCING INSIDE THE PEACE HUT *(Women singing: “we want peace, we want peace.”)*

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Andi Gitow for the United Nations. (4.5)