



From 1979 to 2003, more than 1.5 million Liberians were forced from their homes to escape from the violence and destruction of a protracted civil conflict. Because of the historical connection between the two countries, many Liberians eventually made their way to the United States in their flight from war, including some 30,000 who settled in Minnesota. Most of their stories have never been told.

The Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the body charged by the Liberian government with determining the facts of the human rights violations that occurred during the civil war, will meet in St. Paul, Minnesota, marking the first time any nation has ever conducted such hearings in the United States. The hearings are set for June 10<sup>th</sup> through June 14<sup>th</sup> and will focus on the experience of Liberians in Diaspora. All eight members of the TRC will preside over the hearings.

“To fulfill our charter and our mission, we need to hear the stories of our citizens who fled their homes and ultimately their country,” said Jerome J. Verdier, Sr, chairman of the Liberian TRC. “Many, many thousand Liberians suffered terrible violence and then suffered again through long and arduous travels and then suffered a third time as they arrived in new communities with little more than the clothes on their backs. Their experience is a part of what happened to our country at war with itself; understanding and sharing those experiences is an important part of our healing.”

This historic event takes place at Hamline University’s Sundin Music Hall at 1536 Hewitt Avenue, Saint Paul, MN. Commission hearings begin at 9:30 a.m. (Central) each day and conclude each afternoon at approximately 5:00 pm. The Liberian TRC is being assisted in the conduct of the hearing by its U.S. implementing partner, The Advocates for Human Rights.

For More Information Contact:  
 The Advocates for Human Rights  
 612-341-3302, ext. 113  
 Liberia-TRC@advrights.org  
<http://liberiatrc.mnadvocates.org>



*Welcomes you to the*

# **Opening Ceremonies of TRC U.S. Public Hearings**

June 10, 2008



***Confronting Our Difficult Past for a  
Better Future:***

***The Diaspora Experience***





## Liberian National Anthem

*All Hail, Liberia Hail*

*All Hail, Liberia Hail*

*This glorious land of liberty shall long be ours*

*Though new her name green be her fame*

*And mighty be her power*

*In joy and gladness with our hearts united*

*We'll shout the freedom of a race benighted*

*A home of glorious liberty by God's command*

*All Hail, Liberia Hail*

*All Hail, Liberia Hail*

*In union strong, success is sure*

*We cannot fail*

*With God above our rights to prove*

*We will over all prevail*

*With hearts and hands, our country's cause defending*

*We'll meet the foe with valor unpretending*



## Program

### Official Welcome

Dan Loritz, Vice President for University Relations, Hamline University

Robin Phillips, Executive Director, The Advocates for Human Rights

### Remarks

Emmanuel S. Wettee, President, Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas

Kerper Dwanyen, President, Organization of Liberians in Minnesota

Hon. Alex Gbayee, Consul General

Recognition of Special Guests and TRC Partners

### TRC Peace Song

Produced by Liberian Cultural Amb. Juli Endee & Crusaders for Peace

### Address

Cllr. Jerome J. Verdier, Sr., Chairman, TRC of Liberia

### National Anthems

Liberia

USA

### Commencement of Hearings

Cllr. Jerome J. Verdier, Sr.

