TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF LIBERIA

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REMARKS BY

AMBASSADOR NATHANIEL BARNES

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CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Ladies and Gentlemen, we want to welcome you back to the continuation of these public hearings after the afternoon break.

At this time, Ambassador Nathaniel Barnes, Liberia's ambassador to the United Nations, will make brief remarks.

Ambassador Barnes.

REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR NATHANIEL BARNES

AMBASSADOR BARNES: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice-Chairman, Commissioners, the leadership of The Advocates for Human Rights, Fellow Liberians, Ladies and Gentlemen, I bring you greetings on behalf of Her Excellency, the president of the Republic of Liberia, Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. I am deeply, deeply honored to be here with you today.

You know, we need to understand the basic philosophy that tolerance is the soil of unity, but we cannot acquire that state of tolerance unless we are reconciled, and this particular process that we are all experiencing today and have been experiencing for the last week and for the last several months is a clear manifestation that we are moving to a point of
reconciliation.

I'm not known to be one to talk a lot or say much, but I just want to take a few minutes to first of all congratulate the chair, cochair, and all of the Commissioners on this particular work that you are doing. Make no mistake about it, it is very, very important work for our national development, our national unity, but, most important, our national destiny.

Now, what we are hearing sometimes are difficult to accept, some of these stories, these witness and these testimonies. They are hard because they are the truth. And there is an old adage that the truth hurts, but I also believe the truth can also heal. So I just want to encourage members of the Commission to continue this very, very important work. I want to encourage all Liberians across the globe to listen, and those that have stories of their hurt or their experiences that need to be shared, that needs to be a part of this healing process, that they come forward and say it, because this is the moment of our healing, which will hopefully be the springboard of our common destiny of prosperity and success.

Thank you again. Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to say these few words. And I have just been profoundly impacted by this experience today, and I'm hoping that those Liberians that are out there watching
on the Webcast will have similar experiences and be able to come together and make our Liberia one of a common destiny. Thank you very, very much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Thank you, Ambassador.

(Applause)

(Conclusion of remarks by Ambassador Barnes)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jean M. Whalen, a Registered Diplomate Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages of typewritten material constitute an accurate verbatim stenographic record taken by me of the proceedings aforementioned before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia, on the 14th day of June, 2008, at the time and place specified.

DATED: July 16, 2008.

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