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4 TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF LIBERIA

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6 DIASPORA PROJECT

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9 PUBLIC HEARING  
10 HAMLINE UNIVERSITY  
11 June 14, 2008  
12 St. Paul, Minnesota

13 **REMARKS BY**

14 **AMBASSADOR NATHANIEL BARNES**

15 TRC Commissioners:

16 Chairman Jerome Verdier  
17 Vice Chairperson Dede Dolopei  
18 Oumu K. Syllah  
19 Sheikh Kafumba Konneh  
20 Pearl Brown Bull  
21 Rev. Gerald B. Coleman  
22 John H.T. Stewart  
23 Massa Washington

24 Hearing Officer: Pastor John P. Teayah

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## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF LIBERIA

1 (The following proceedings were had and made of  
2 record, commencing at approximately 2:51 p.m.):

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

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

9 Ambassador Barnes.

10 **REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR NATHANIEL BARNES**

11 AMBASSADOR BARNES: Thank you. Thank you  
12 very much.

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

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

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1 reconciliation.

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

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

22 Thank you again. Thank you for the  
23 opportunity to allow me to say these few words. And I have  
24 just been profoundly impacted by this experience today, and  
25 I'm hoping that those Liberians that are out there watching

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1 on the Webcast will have similar experiences and be able to  
2 come together and make our Liberia one of a common destiny.

3 Thank you very, very much, Mr. Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN JEROME VERDIER: Thank you,  
5 Ambassador.

6 (Applause)

7 (Conclusion of remarks by Ambassador Barnes)

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## REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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I Jean M. Whalen a Registered Diplomate Reporter, do  
13 hereby certify that the foregoing pages of  
14 typewritten material constitute an accurate verbatim  
15 stenographic record taken by me of the proceedings  
16 aforementioned before the Truth and Reconciliation  
17 Commission of Liberia, on the 14th day of June,  
18 2008, at the time and place specified.

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DATED: July 16, 2008.

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