

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 10th through June 14th 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://liberiatr.cmnadvocates.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