



**OFFICE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
WAR AND ECONOMIC CRIMES COURT
FOR LIBERIA (OWECC-L)**



**OPERATIONS REPORT
COVERING THE PERIOD
NOVEMBER 01, 2024 – CURRENT**

**PRESENTED TO
HIS EXCELLENCY JOSEPH NYUMAH BOAKAI, SR.
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

MAY 31, 2025



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MOTTO: Leading the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court of Liberia through a holistic and inclusive process in which everybody has a role.



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PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

MARCH 2025



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Genesis of the Office

The Office for the Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court (**OWECC-L**) is a creature of the Executive Branch of the Government of Liberia, created by His Excellency President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. through the issuance of Executive Order No. 131, on May 2 2024. With the overarching mandate to lead the establishment of (1) a Special War and Economic Crimes Court (**WECC**) and a National Anti-Corruption Court (**NACC**), the OWECC-L is a semi-independent public institution having reporting responsibilities to His Excellency the President through the Ministry of Justice.

In furtherance of its mandate, OWECC-L is empowered to establish relationships with international partners, seek funding and other resources through such relationships, consult with them and garner their expertise in pursuing its mandate, while also doing the same with national institutions, including all transitional justice actors, civil society organizations, Liberians and other persons of interest in Liberia and the Diaspora. The President dwarfed these engagements in a single objective: *“the full establishment, functioning, and coming into effect (operations) of the Special War Crimes Court for Liberia and the Anti-Corruption Court for Liberia”* and hinged the cessation of the mandate, duration, tenure, and operations of the Office to this single objective.

This determination of the lifespan of the Office in the face of the general rule that an executive order is effective for a year as of the date of its promulgation, except under certain circumstances, raises a legal question as to the stipulated duration of the Office and the aforesaid general rule. Suffice it to state that Executive Order No. 131 has its basis not just in the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission but also firmly, in Joint Resolution 001/’24 reached by both the House of Representatives and the House of Senate. It appears therefore that the Executive Order No. 131 may not be considered as a sole decision of the President but a reasoned national decision growing out of the Country’s legislative process. Either way, the necessity to keep the Office operational after the anniversary of the issuance of Executive Order No. 131 is compelling considering the resolve of the Liberian people to ultimately establish the aforesaid courts. Without therefore limiting the effect of the message this report gives, we note that this report emphasizes rationalization of the legal question to keep the courts establishment processes on track.

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B. Commencement of the Effective Operational Period of the Office

Although Executive Order No. 131 established the OWEC-L almost a year ago, the latter only became effective five months ago when His Excellency the President appointed a new Executive Director whose tenure substantively commenced November 1, 2024, thereby providing only a six-month operational period out of twelve, for the office. It is worthy to note quickly that with the strong political will exhibited by the President and the Government of Liberia, and the reception and involvement of a majority of the population including civil society organizations, national, religious, media and other institutions, various communities including the Diaspora, and international partners such as the United Nations and ECOWAS in the process through consultations, public awareness and outreach, and the level of technical support, amongst others, calls for the establishment of the courts continue to soar. These efforts are embedded in the deliberate decision that the establishment of the courts is a national endeavor and therefore, it is both a *“Liberian-led and Liberian-owned initiative.”* The resulting implications of this decision is that Liberia has the full responsibility to bring this initiative to fruition. In view of this undeniable responsibility, the OWEC-L maintains the principle of inclusivity and no tolerance for exclusivity, as enshrined in its motto.

To highlight the principle of borderless inclusivity, the OWEC-L depicts the encapsulating characteristics of the process in its logo, mission statement, vision, and motto, presented below:

(i) Logo and message

Development of the motto was first offered to grade school students throughout the Country, through the Media Section of the OWEC-L. A few students attempted but could not meet the prescribed content apparently due to insufficient knowledge of the civil war and the overall complex legal issues to which the experiences of the war have subjected the Country, as well as the pronounced appearance of corruption in the society. It also appeared that interested applicants did not have sufficient time to figure out what such a revealing logo could be. Consequently, the Office itself undertook the development of the logo.

Inscribed in the logo are:

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a. Peace sign

This represents the dire need for Liberia to sustain the peace it has engendered and to have all persons live in harmony with each other, stressing that in times of peace, the nation flourishes.

b. A Liberian woman carrying her babies cuddled on her back and in her arms

This picture sends a heart-breaking reminder of the struggles, pain and distress women and children were subjected to throughout the civil crises and the need to understand that when violence ensues, they face the most difficult situations and strive the most to find rescue. This message is hatched from the President's assertion, then as Vice President, that *"As human beings, women have human rights that are crucial to the overall peace-building process."*

c. An AK47 Rifle crossed with an X Mark in red

This is one of the weapons most-used used by the various rebel groups during the civil war and is indeed a source of fear when brandished in public. The message is that Liberia should develop and enforce an arms-free national policy that will disallow everyone including state security personnel from the current practice of brandishing such inherently dangerous and trauma-causing instruments in public.

d. Two individuals engaged in a clearly dubious financial transaction – corruption - with a red X mark on both the bag of money and their hands that carrying out the corrupt act

The intent is to draw people's attention more fully that corruption is unacceptable irrespective of who the offeror and recipient are. It cuts across everyone involved and should be eliminated. Hence, the anti-corruption court will have a broad mandate to try all persons alleged to have engaged in such unwholesome acts.

e. The flag of Liberia reflecting the national colors and the Lone Star at the pinnacle of the logo

The message is that above all else, the people reign as the sovereign and every authority, including the military and armed groups, must accept their subordination to the sovereign.

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f. The symbol of justice (the scale) bordering everything in the logo

The truth is, Liberia should be seen as indeed, a country of laws where justice is dispensed without fear or favor; and thus, both the Special War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia and the National Anti-Corruption Court for Liberia will function on the basis of transparency and accountability, ensuring that all persons that appear before them will be treated justly.

(ii) Mission Statement

To lead the establishment of the Special War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia and the National Anti-Corruption Court for Liberia, consistent with the dictates of the Government of Liberia and the wishes of the people of Liberia.

(iii) Vision

We envision:

- i. A Liberia in which people and institutions most responsible for grossly violating human rights and for the atrocities committed during Liberia’s civil crises and committing economic crimes in perpetuation of the civil crises will be held to account for such abuses and violation of international humanitarian law; and for victims and survivors to receive adequate redress and restoration as a mark of justice and respect for human rights; and,
- ii. A Liberia free from corruption and abuse of power by holding people found to be engaged in such acts to account, thereby causing equitable distribution of national resources to the citizens of Liberia as enshrined in the Constitution.

(iv) Motto

The motto is unequivocally firm on the principle of zero tolerance on excluding anybody from the entire processes of establishing the two court; on the contrary, it stresses inclusivity of everyone irrespective of status, perception on the role played during the civil war, or otherwise.

C. Operationalization of the Office

On November 1, 2024, without any funds or other assets, OWECC-L commenced activities under the direction of a new Executive Director appointed by the president through a letter dated October

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30, 2024. The appointment of the Executive Director being with immediate effect, and there being no resource to jump-start the work except for the expressed authority vested in the ED and the Office by the Executive Order, and the letter of appointment to raise resources, it was compelling to source initial funds to facilitate the acquisition of basic and urgently needed items. Notwithstanding this authority, consulting with and ensuring that the Minister of Justice through whom the ED reports to the President and as such, is to confer on critical issues from time to time, met with the ED at the Ministry of Justice and set the basis for consulting and engaging, designating his Special Assistant, Attorney Siafa Bahn Kemokai, as the focal person of the Ministry for engaging with the Office.

As the focal person, Atty. Kemokai has liaised with the Office and has aided in critical decision-making including the acquisition of the building housing the office, vehicle rental, initial fund-raising initiatives including acquiring a small, short-term credit, recruitment of the maiden staff, etc. Since then the Office has had the benefit of other proxies as focal persons including the Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, designated by Her Excellency Sara Beysolow Nyanti, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and several civil society organizations.

D. Financials

The principal financial supporter of the Office has been the Government of Liberia, with a funding grant of United States Dollars Three Hundred and Sixty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety and ninety cents (**US\$368,990.90**), paid in two currencies at sixty percent United States Dollars amounting to US\$221,394.54 and Liberian Dollars (LD) Twenty-Six Million Three Hundred and Eighteen Thousand, Eight Hundred Ninety-Four and Forty-four cents (**LD26,318,894.44**). These amounts constitute the balance of United States Dollars Five Hundred Thousand the Government had appropriated for the Office at the time the Office was established, and although for the year 2024, were transmitted to the Office by the Ministry of State in January 2025.

The Office's funding system in place involves the Ministry of Justice; accordingly, for the above payment, the Minister of Justice, Honorable N. Oswald Tweh, wrote a letter to the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Honorable Sylvester M. Grigsby to secure the remaining funds out of the said US\$500,000.00. Minister Grigsby subsequently wrote the Minister of Finance, Honorable Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, requesting transmission of the balance US\$368,990.90.

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Prior to the receipt of the funds, OWECC-L notified the Minister of Justice in a written update of the opening of an LD and a USD bank account and the completion of a financial and internal control system that will guide its utilization of funds and other resources. The Office also ensured that it worked closely with the General Services Agency and the Public Procurement and Concession Commission in the acquisition of assets and spending of funds. Both institutions approved the spending and acquisition of goods and services through the legally established processes of the Government.

Without detailing the use of the funds herein, it is important to give some highlights. The lease amount of USD50,000.00, purchase of three vehicles at USD85,000.00 and the monthly salary of USD40,000.00 has been paid for three months covering November, December and January while also, goods and services have been underwritten through the use of that single grant, contingent upon remittance of deductibles to the appropriate authorities.

In addition to the GOL funding, the British Government through its Embassy funded the initial study travel in December 2024, of a delegation comprising members of the OWECC-L, INCHR and CSO to the Special Court of Sierra Leone in Freetown, covering the cost of travel, accommodation and daily sustenance, in the amount of USD5,000.00. Additionally, the National Social Security and Welfare Corporation, through an appeal from OWECC-L provided financial assistance of USD10,000.00 to the Office in January. We are pleased to report that these funds form integral parts of the financial report of the Office for the six-month period, expected to be submitted to the President by the close of business on the first of May.

A visible source of support has been the international community. Coordinated by the UN Office for High Commissioner for Human Rights (**OHCHR**), international partners, especially the Swedish Government, have brought significant relief to the Office in several areas, including the provision of furniture and fixture, technical meetings, local travel to workshops and consultations, support to local partners, etc. Those are also to be detailed in the pending six-month report.

E. Activities Undertaken and Next Steps

The Office has proceeded systematically, guided by a flexible roadmap/work plan that is receptive to modification as the process evolves. Principal amongst the tasks completed are the setting up of a robust office structure, broad public outreach and engagements with transitional justice actors,

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consultations with international partners and various government ministries and agencies, and several technical working sessions that have produced instructive results for going forward. Specifically, we have:

1. Technical Working Groups

Designed the setting up various technical working groups (TWGs) with Terms of Reference covering particular thematic areas. These areas include investigating the nature of the court most suitable for Liberia, strengthening the media engagement and outreach programs, to ensure clarity in both the works of the OWECC-L and the courts when established, legal drafting for the purpose of improving the existing draft for the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court and a draft to establish the National Anti-Corruption Court; the possible location of the courts and the option of constructing new structures, and other buildings or utilizing existing public structures, the critical security concerns for all actors; development of a budget for setting up the courts and mechanisms for sustainability; building a team of potential independent and trained prosecutors and judges, and addressing typical constitutional and other legal questions that could affect the operation of the courts, amongst others. In essence, TWGs in formulation include:

- a. TWG on model design and methodology of the courts;
- b. TWG on infrastructure and location;
- c. TWG on budget and resource mobilization;
- d. TWG on public awareness, education and outreach;
- e. TWG on legal framework and legal drafting;
- f. TWG on government engagements, legislative coordination and lobbying;
- g. TWG on recruitment of independent prosecutors, judges and court staff; and,
- h. The National Transitional Justice Coordinating Committee (NTJCC).

The terms of reference of each of these groups is being completed; we hope to finalize these arrangements by the 15th of April.

2. Office Identification/Direction

The full identification and address of the Office facility is visible by the inscription of its name, logo, motto and the flags of each county outside of its wall. This allows people to easily find the Office and to interact with us, without the previous difficulties they experienced. Additionally, we have established a website (www.oweccliberia.org), Face Book platform (Office for the

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Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia); and installed two telephone hotlines for call in purposes (+231-770-338-497 and +231-881-017-569).

3. Ongoing Activities

With the pending completion of the terms of reference of each TWG and the NTJCC, it is only accurate to assert that the courts establishment processes are on course and progressing, substantive preliminary steps are being taken, and resource mobilization is a high point although there are still some serious challenges. However, it is becoming clearer that the population is most supportive of establishing the courts. Thus, with respect to the roadmaps, the estimations, elaborated under the subheading “Timelines” infra, based on extensive desk studies, are that:

- a. The National Anti-Corruption Court (NACC) will reach the completion and operational mark by November 2026; the provision of adequate financial and other support remains critical, however. Collaboration with existing anti-corruption institutions and the more-easily understandable issues surrounding corruption as compared to war crimes prosecution informs this 2026 estimation.
- b. The Special War and Economic Crimes Court is expected to start operations in November 2027; that is, the first indictments will hopefully, be drawn and served, arrests made, and trials scheduled if not commenced. This also depends on funding and several other conditions, the Government’s direct involvement with the international community especially ECOWAS and the United Nations, and particular the ECOWAS President and UN Secretary General, to support the establishment of the WECC. process. security being paramount. As explained below, security has been completely neglected for the Executive Director and the entire OWECC-L, despite repeated assurances and guarantees by state actors, and have caused serious setbacks in the mobility and public engagement activities of the OWECC-L.

There are yet other ongoing activities; they include:

- i. Completing the roadmap for the full implementation of the mandate leading to the establishment of the court;
- ii. Completion of the research center and upgrading the website to enable full access to information by the public;

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- iii. Visitations to various memorial sites and mass graves, some of which are yet unidentified;
- iv. Recruitment of young college graduates, college and grade school students and other youths, under an internship program, focused on possible training and recruitment of such individuals to perform service when the courts are established;
- v. Identification and preservation of possible pieces and places of relevance for evidentiary purposes during trials;
- vi. Engagement with the GOL to provide adequate funding and other support, including security;
- vii. Strengthening collaboration with CSOs and other transitional justice actors;
- viii. Raising support from partners and the international community

F. Security

Within a few days after the President appointed the Executive Director on October 30, 2024, two Emergency Response Unit (**ERU**) Officers of the Liberia National Police (**LNP**) were assigned directly by the ERU Commander; that number increased to four, but later, fluctuated between three and four for a protracted period, as the LNP repeatedly recalled its Officers for special assignments. Without any clear arrangements on the security provided and despite repeated requests to the hierarchy of the LNP by the OWECC-L to standardize the security detail, the entire arrangement collapsed, and the assigned four officers returned to their base since almost two months. Consequently, only a few private security guards with no capability to provide the minimum requisite protection, except raise alarm, are available to the Executive Director and the office building, leaving them vulnerable, as well as the entire staff when at work.

It is now evident that despite several notices to the LNP senior administration and the several promises they have made to correct the problem, there is no will or any interest in providing security for the ED. Hence, the ED remains most vulnerable in the face of all sorts of foreseeable and unforeseeable risks associated with performing such a critical national service.

With the appreciable leap the efforts to establish both courts have made, and the process being more certain now than it ever has been to reach the envisaged end, it is obvious that elements adverse to the establishment and operationalization of the courts will step up their resistance through diverse ways. The security of key actors leading the process cannot continue to be overlooked. The government is urged to redesign the security protocol such that it is competent to

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provide adequate protection to both the persons and physical structures that are clear targets for detractors of the process, to avoid derailing it. Thus, the arrangement has to go beyond the LNP.

Notwithstanding the difficulties explained above, the Office has been and remains resilient in pursuing its mandate. To achieve this, delegation of duties is a hallmark of the work procedures. Each division, department, section, and unit, is assigned a specific role and checks and balances are in place to ensure maximum productivity. Evident of this standard is the separate reports submitted by each of these branches of the Office, forming cogent parts of this report. Even though the heads take responsibility for the reports at the level of the Office, this overall submission to the President is the responsibility of the Executive Director.

G. Timelines

A few timelines have been set and they are contingent upon several factors including availability of adequate financial and other resources. The ultimate output is the establishment, operationalization and sustainability of the WECC and SACC. Our best calculation at this stage is that both projects should be carried out simultaneously to allow resource sharing at both ends, even though their effective operations date may not be the same. Thus, for:

- (i) The NACC is tentatively scheduled to begin operations in November 2026; this means the Legislature is expected to pass the Act establishing the Court by the end of 2025 and thus, enable other preparatory works to be completed in time; and,
- (ii) The WECC is estimated to start in November 2027; this projection is intended to remove the process from any political distraction since presidential and legislative elections will just be getting underway. However, this too is possible only with the provision of the necessary financial and moral support. An annual grant budget of US\$313,000.00 currently appropriated in the budget cannot take a single aspect of this two-prong program through a quarter of a year. We therefore urge the government to increase the 2025 budget of the Office to United States Dollars One Million, and to provide ready access to the funds.

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H. Partners' support

Local and international partners continue to encourage the Office through collaboration and coordination. Retreats, workshops, technical meetings and working sessions, and other engagements provide greater insights into the nature of the tasks. Additionally, the OHCHR has led a commendable coordinating role in the interventions of international partners. The Office has several assets, including furniture, office equipment, a high-tech conference room, and others due to the crystal coordination of the OHCHR.

I. Extension of the duration of the Office

Executive Order No. 131 that established the Office is a subject of legal review. To prepare for the review, the Office completed a draft to be submitted for the President's consideration. The goal is to have the Executive Order renewed, extended or acted upon affirmatively, to enable the Office to continue to operate without legal complications after May 1. With the resolve of the President to bring the courts to fruition, it is hoped that this matter will be concluded soon.

J. Conclusion

The Office has existed for a period of five months. It started without any resources, including office space, stationery and supplies, vehicles, money, or any turnover note. The GoL's support covered the payment of the lease for one year, purchase of three vehicles, payment of initial salaries coverage of some expenses up to the end of February, and liquidation of past due obligations. To continue to operative even at a bare minimum, the Office is now compelled to seek short-term loans to avoid shutting down, while hoping that salary arrears and other pending obligations will be liquidated soon. In all of these and despite the high insecurity, the staff remains and has continued to exhibit unwavering commitment to achieving the mandate of the Office.

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II. REPORTS FROM DIVISIONS, DEPARTMENTS, SECTIONS AND UNITS OF THE OWECC-L

Part II of this Report presents the individual submission of each compartment of the OWEC-L. The head of each compartment led the production of her/his report, and submitted same to the Executive Director. Satisfied with the reports and resolving to keep them as submitted, the ED takes responsibility for the content of each of the submissions made by the separate compartments.

The essence of departmental reporting is to enhance the delegation of duties and functions as enshrined in qualification requirements for an executive director as was determined by the Search Committee constituted by the President and mandated to identify a suitably qualified person to serve as ED. It is also a springboard for professional growth and independence at various levels of the Office. Hence, our commitment to keep it that way.

A. DIVISION OF WAR AND ECONOMIC CRIMES COURT REPORT

Introduction and Background

1. Consistent with OWECC-L's mandate, the Division of War and Economic Crimes Court (DWECC) is established with the goal *“to lead the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court, that is based in law to effectively investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate war and economic crimes committed during Liberia's civil wars, thereby delivering justice, promoting accountability, and contributing to national reconciliation and peacebuilding”*.
2. Considering this goal, the Division objectives among others includes:
 - a. *Establishing the foundational framework and secure stakeholder commitment;*
 - b. *Leveraging international expertise, resources, and support to enhance the OWECC-L and WECC-L's operations and impact;*
 - c. *To advocate and Secure UN Security Council Resolution/UN General Assembly Resolution to establish the WECC-L;*
 - d. *To establish a robust legal and policy framework for the WECC-L's establishment and operations, ensuring alignment with national and international laws;*

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- e. *To set up the necessary infrastructure and administrative structures; and*
- f. *To recruit and enhance the skills and knowledge of judicial and investigative personnel to ensure the effective functioning of the court”.*

3. This paper is WECC Division’s performance report for the period January to March, 2025. This report covers research and studies to select a model for international tribunal on war crimes, build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders, etc.

Research and Studies for Model Selection

4. Satisfying the mandate to investigate, design and prescribe the methodology, mechanisms, and the processes leading to the establishment of a special war crimes court for Liberia entails conducting research and studies, consulting with international partners to select a model and jurisdiction of an international tribunal of war crimes for Liberia that is consistent and in harmony with international models. The below actions were taken during reporting period in this regard:
- a. The Division researched, identified and compiled copies of draft statute for establishment of an extraordinary war crimes tribunal for Liberia of 2020. The draft statute, done under the auspices of the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA), were commented on and revised a few times. The statute compiled include:
 - i. An Act to Establish an Extraordinary War Crimes Tribunal for Liberia 2020 (25 November 2020);
 - ii. An Act to Establish an Extraordinary War Crimes Tribunal for Liberia 2020 (06 May 2021); And
 - iii. An Act to Establish an Extraordinary War Crimes Tribunal for Liberia 2020 (November 2022 With BVS Comments).
 - b. In furtherance of the research and studies to decide on the model of the Liberian Court, a few countries in Africa that have had hybrid model were selected, and law creating their hybrid model was identified and compiled. The countries whose law were compiled are Sierra Leone, the Gambia, Senegal, the Central African Republic, Uganda, Rwanda.

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- c. The Division, thereafter, recommended three options of a hybrid model suitable for Liberia. The three recommended hybrid options suitable for Liberia were done in the context of the model for Sierra Leone, Rwanda, and Cambodia. In other words, the hybrid models are that of:
 - i. The Special Court for Sierra Leone - SCSL (**international legal basis and independent legal institution**);
 - ii. International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda -ICTR (**international legal basis and independent legal institution**),
 - iii. The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

- d. Considerably, there is a general agreement for a hybrid court but the details of that hybrid court will be derived upon completion of the research and studies, and the consultation with international partners.

Potential Evidence Gathering Preparation and Responsiveness to Victims Needs

5. Consistent with one of the guiding principles for a hybrid court, “*Responsiveness to the needs and circumstances of the victims and concerned states*”, and the need for getting firsthand knowledge on the critical nature of evidence and witness protection to inform the drafting of the statute, several visitations at various memorials and mass graves were made.

6. Core to the visitations was the holding of a “*Victims’ Hope Restoration Ceremony*” at the Carter Camp Memorial Site, in Harbel, Firestone, Margibi County, Liberia on 11 March 2025 under the theme: “*Remembering the Victims – A Bridge for Sober Reflection, Reconciliation, and National Closure of Nonaccountability for Civil War Abuses*”. The objective for the event was to restore the hope of victims and victim’s communities; honor the dead, survivals and victims of the Carter Camp Massacre; increase communities’ knowledge about the impact of massacre, and the importance of memorialization for victims of massacre, and supports to survivors, victims’ families and affected communities.

7. The event which comprised outreach, vigils, and event speech under the caption: “**Ending Atrocities and Promoting Peace – the Memory of Carter Camp Massacre**”, will ensure

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landscaping and beautifying the Carter Camp Memorial Sites, covering of the memorial site, electrifying and lightening the site.

8. These critical interventions are planned to take place across Liberia in places where massacre occurred to consolidate knowledge on the critical nature of evidence and witness protection to inform the drafting of the statute.

Building and Maintaining Relationship with Key Stakeholders

9. Further executing the ED's responsibilities, particularly, building and maintaining relationship with key stakeholders including government agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners, OWECC-L has taken substantial steps aimed at strengthening collaboration with various local and international stakeholders. Few of the core steps taken during the reporting period include:

- a. OWECC-L is finalizing the development of a comprehensive coordination mechanism to further practicalize OWECC-L's principle of inclusion, participation, and consultation. This coordination mechanism would create the platform for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Government's Ministries and Agencies, and development partners to make meaningful contributions to the establishment and operationalization of the War and Economic Crimes Court (WECC) and the National Anti-Corruption Court (NAC). The mechanism will define the structure comprising steering, strategic, operational and technical levels.
- b. OWECC-L has, in further delivery of its responsibilities, formalized partnering relationships with few key stakeholders. Formalization of relationship through "Memorandum of Understanding" or "Statement of Commitment" would concretize and propel partners/parties to sincerely implement roles and responsibilities mentioned in their individual MoU and Statement of Commitment. OWECC-L has entered into formal relationship with:

- i. Integrity Watch Liberia (IWL) and Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL);

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- ii. The Liberia Council of Churches (LCC); and
 - iii. West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP-Liberia) – Statement of Commitment.
- c. Building relationship with key stakeholders has caused OWECC-L to participate in several transitional justice event organized by the UN or other local institutions:
- i. OWECC-L’s core participation in a two-day retreat to enhance collaboration and coordination among transitional justice (TJ) national stakeholders in Liberia on 18-19 February 2025 in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, organized by the UN Office of the High Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR). This was aimed at bringing together TJ actors to be apprised of the areas in which each actor work and the extent of work done, the volume of support under the TJ project managed by OHCHR, etc.; and
 - ii. Participation in Understanding Transitional Justice organized by YOUNEPO, two-day CSO Training on Transitional Justice and Human Rights-Based and Gender-Responsive Approaches Understanding Transitional Justice organized by OHCHR; etc.

Strategic Planning and Legal Framework Development

10. Detailing OWECC-L’s roadmap for the implementation of its mandate inclusive of budgetary issues, human resource capacity and continuous engagements with victims and survival groups and CSOs is ongoing. The detailing exercise would derive realistic timelines especially after the planned consultation.

Basic Needs

11. Considering the extent of work to be done by DWECC, the below needs should be considered:
- a. Two vehicles (One Toyota Land Cruiser 4 wheel jeep for rough terrain, and a Toyota Hilux Pickup)
 - b. Visitor’s chairs

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- c. Two-Door Bookcase
- d. Metal cabinet
- e. Desktop computer
- f. Combined printer, scanner and photocopier
- g. Stationery & Supplies
- h. Television
- i. Air Condition
- j. UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply)
- k. Projector
- l. White Board
- m. Shredder

B. DIVISION OF NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION COURT REPORT

INTRODUCTION:

On November 4, 2024, I was invited by Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu who was appointed as Executive Director by His Excellency Joseph N. Bokai, President of the Republic of Liberia for the Office for the Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court to join the Team for the coordination and implementation of the process leading to the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court.

Members of the Team were: Cllr. Fredrick L.M. Gbemie, Mr. Decker D. Paye, Atty. Archie P. Williams, Ms. Meima M. Pewee, Mr. Simon J. Lomah and Cllr. Asatu Bah-Kenneth.

We were instructed on November 4, 2024, by the ED, to do the following:

1. Draft an organizational chart for the immediate start of the (OWECC-L);
2. Do a personnel listing reflecting the chart for the commencement of the office;
3. Develop a reasonable budget;
4. Arrange for Vehicle Rental;
5. Search for an office space;
6. Develop a lease Agreement between the General Services Agency (GSA) a prospective lessor;
7. Procure Quotations for relevant logistics; and
8. Open a Bank Account.

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Due to lack of office space during that time, the Team met daily in the David A.B. Jallah's Lounge at the Louis Arthur Grimes school of Law, where we worked daily between the hours 09:00 am to 7: pm for two weeks.

The team was later mandated by the Executive Director to search for a building to be used as Office. In a week's time, a building located at Old CID Road in Mamba Point, was later identified to be used as office. Arrangements were made with the Landlord thru the General Serveries Agency (GSA) to allow us occupy the building prior to making rental payment due to the delay in Government funding. In the third week of November 2024, we occupied the building as Office for the Establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Courts. After the building was occupied, the below became serious challenges which needed immediate attention for consideration.

1. Lack of office furniture: Chairs, Tables, and other accessories;
2. Lack of Water in the building.
3. Lack of Equipment;
4. Lack of Vehicles; and
5. The absence of security for the facility, etc.

In order to address these immediate challenges, the Executive Director, Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu, provided some chairs, tables and other logistics to get the work started. While other staffs provided some personal furniture's to make their office functional. Following the occupation of the office, and due to the lack of relevant staff, the Executive Director advised that the team consider Multitask in making the office functional.

MEETINGS CALLED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

On 18 November 2024, a meeting was called by the Executive Director Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu. For the purpose as follows:

- To thank the staff for their efforts and support towards the process.
- To inform the staff about his sincere satisfaction with their performance within three weeks, which led to the identification of an office.
- Then stressed the need to sign a confidentiality form.
- Terms of Reference for a vetting committee was constituted.

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- The need for the establishment of an Anti-Corruption Court. Stating that it is one of the main mandates for the establishment of the (OWECC-L). At this point, we were informed of the establishment of two courts. It was at this point that I, Cllr. Asatu Bah-Kenneth was named as the Director for the Anti- Corruption Division.
- With Executive Order No. 131, the Office for the Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia (OWECC-L) was established.
- A suggestion for a working session on the TOR and other issues commenced.

MEETINGS WITH PARTNERS:

On November 20, 2024, the Executive Director Dr. Cllr. Jallah Barbu again held a meeting with the European Union (EU) at their mission office in Mamba Point. The purpose of that meeting was for acquaintance and better understanding of the (OWECC-L) budget. In that meeting, the Irish Ambassador commended the Executive Director and pledged his support to working with the (OWECC-L). He added that his meeting with the (ED) has changed his narrative and picture from the Massaquoi Team, Dr. Barbu's predecessor. Stating, he believed that with consultation, things will be better than the past.

Key concerns by the (EU) were as follows:

1. Budget for OWECC-L
2. Critical security concerns of witness protection
3. Senator Prince Johnson's relevance to the process, as well as other persons similarly situated
4. Confidentiality
5. Commitment to the process
6. The security and protection issues for the (ED) and Team.
7. The role of the communication team which is key for the establishment process.

- On Nov 25, 2024, (OWECC-L) met with the Chairperson of the Independent Human National Human Rights Commissioner and his Team. Purpose of the meeting was about the concerns from the Civil Society, alleging that Cllr. Fredrick L.M. Gbemie, Director of the War and Economic Crimes Division was involved with the (NPP), one of the warring factions, during the civil crisis in Liberia. The ED was quick to inform them that he will rely on the evidence from the Civil Society and individuals that will prove beyond all reasonable doubt their allegation before he can take any decision on the

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matter. Other discussions covered collaboration and partnership between the (OWECC-L) and the INCHR. Dr. Barbu also informed them about the issue of the Office Rent and Vehicle challenges.

- On November 27, 2024, the Executive Director of OWECC-L, met with the Swedish Ambassador at the Swedish Embassy. Purpose of the meeting was to identify ways in which the Embassy can support the OWECC-L. The Ambassador stressed the need for technical support, capacity building, identification of individuals to work with the courts, proper coordination, support from the Swedish Police and the coordination for a big Donor coordination.
- On December 17, 2024, a Donor Coordination meeting was organized by OWECC -L. The meeting was held at OWECC-L's Mamba Point Office. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the ED the opportunity to inform the international partners about the development of OWECC-L. He commenced by informing them about the Executive Order No. 131, which established the OWECC-L. Below are some of the updates presented by the ED.
 1. Payment of the office rental, which was pending.
 2. Staff Salary
 3. Security concerns
 4. Collaboration with The Civil Society, The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR), The Victims' Groups, Staffing, the need for capacity building and Logistics.

Concluding, the partners thanked the ED and expressed their commitment to the process but were very concerned about the Liberian Government taking the lead.

- On January 10, 2025, the ED and Team met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honorable Sara Beysolow Nyanti. Purpose of the meeting was an opportunity for the ED to update the Minister on the status of OWECC-L. In his presentation he highlighted the following:
 1. The ministry is key in the process with the international partners;

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2. The need for coordinated support
3. Meeting with international partners
4. The need for a Frame work
5. OWECC-L's trip to Sierra Leone, Dubai and Ethiopia
6. The UNHCR involvement
7. Government Commitment for payment
8. Joint Resolution: The involvement of the IAA and Vehicle Process.

Responding, the Minister commended Dr. Barbu and his Team for a comprehensive update. She was quick to request the cost of a high breed Court.

1. The need for a peace building funding.
2. The need for meeting with ECOWAS Commission.
3. Meeting with His Excellency President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr.
4. The need to renew Executive Order No. 131
5. Issue of reparation for victim groups need to be handled carefully, due to demands and risk involved.
6. Strategy of Gambian Meeting held.

At the end of the meeting, Minister Nyanti thanked Dr. Barbu and Team, and at the same time, appointed Cllr. Jeddi Mowbay Armah, Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs as the focal person of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to OWECC-L.

- Meeting with Cllr. Alexandra Zoe, Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption Commission. The Purpose of the meeting was for acquaintance. Highlights of the meeting centered on coordination, and the Anti-Corruption Court, Prosecutors.
- Other meetings were held with the Swiss Ambassador, the Canadian Ambassador and other experts. Those meetings were coordinated by the Swedish Embassy. The Swiss Ambassador also committed to support.
- The Internal Audit Agency (IAA) conducted a day's retreat with the OWECC-L, providing guidance on handling its finances, maintaining records, and reporting. It concluded that because of the size of the entity and the volume of transactions at that point, which was then because there were no fundings, it could not dedicate an auditor

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to the Office. Subsequently, it will consider doing so but for now, the Office should utilize a Note to File system.

Study – Foreign Travel:

On December 3, 2024, a Team of five (5) left Liberia for Sierra Leone on a study tour. The purpose of the tour was to visit the Sierra Leone Special Court for best practice. While in Sierra Leone, the Team visited the Special Court, met with the British High Command and the UK network Judges. The trip was sponsored by the British Embassy. Members of the Team were:

- Cllr. Asatu Bah-Kenneth
- Cllr. Fredrick Gbemie
- Atty. Archie P. Williams
- Christopher Sallee
- Mr. Adama Dempster – representative, CSOs
- Cllr. T. Depmster Brown (Opted out due to other engagements)

The Anti- Corruption Division:

As Director of the Anti-Corruption Division, my responsibility is to oversee the Division and perform all duties expected of a person heading such a Division at this office to include the following:

- Preparation of work programs and strategies to undertake such Programs
- Accompany the Executive Director to any Function of the Office.
- Upon approval of the ED, the Director represents the Office
- Undertake all supervision, conduct quarterly evaluation of the staff of your division.
- Advise the Executive Director on steps in the employer-employee relationship with them.
- Report directly to the Executive Director.

Considering these Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Anti-Corruption Division, I am presently working on a plan that will direct the functions of the division. Below are the positions needed for the effective functioning of this Division:

- Director, Anti-Corruption
- Special Assistant to the Director
- Assistant Director
- Legal Counsel
- Investigators/Anti-Corruption

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Needed logistics

Desktop computer

Laptops

File cabinet

Executive Desk (1), Executive Chair (1), Visitor chairs (2)

One Desk three chairs (Director)

One Desk, three chairs (SA)

Assorted Stationery

Other Activities:

- LACC and INCHR update on findings from Freetown.

Other Meetings:

- WONGOSOL Gender Base Violence Awareness Held at the YWCA.
- Transitional Justice Retreat. Organized by the UNHCR in Grand Bassa County
- Acquaintance meeting with victims' Groups, Civil Society and OWECC-L
- Visited Carter Camp Memorial Site
- Meeting at SAMPEI for awareness of OWECC-L

Achievements:

1. Established and functional office
2. Payment of rent for office building
3. Purchase of 3 vehicles (1 jeep and 2 pickups)
4. Signing of MOUs with different Transitional Justice actors/groups
5. Series of media engagement
6. Study visits

Challenges:

1. Low budgetary allocation
2. Transportation
3. Electricity

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WORK PLAN FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION DIVISION 2025

GOAL: To Enforce and reduce corruption in Liberia by investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating corruption-related offenses, promoting transparency, accountability and integrity within public and private sectors, and contributing to national development and good governance.				
Objective: Establish Stakeholder coordination framework				
ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE		COMMENT
1. Conduct meetings with key stakeholders (government officials, civil society, international organizations)	ED/OWECC-L, Anti-Corruption, MoJ, CSOs, International Partners, GAC, and IAA.	April 2025 – June 2025		Provision of Funding / Political Will.
2. Organize Anti-corruption, OWECC-L Steering Committee, operational and working groups’ level to oversee the establishment process.	ED/OWECC-L, Anti-Corruption Division	April 2025	TBD	Provision of Funding
3. Foster coordination and collaboration among relevant agencies and stakeholders.	Anti-Corruption Division	May - June 2025	TBD	Provision of Funding
4. Organize Civil Society Forums to create awareness.	Anti-Corruption Division	May – Dec. 2025	TBD	Provision of Funding
5. Organize meetings that will lead to steps to establish the courts.	Anti-Corruption Division and Civil Society	May - Aug. 2025	TBD	Provision of Funding

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C. DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND OPERATIONS

Per your directive that we submit a full report of the Research and Operation Division by March 27, inclusive of activities undertaken, our next steps and resource needs, we hereby report that we did the following:

- Provided research updates and progress report that included measures and extent of the acquisition, compilation and documentation of research resources that included newspapers, books, clippings and other historical materials of, and, or related to the civil crisis, and warring factions' leaders.
- Researched and submitted photographs and activities of all ECOMOG, Field and Force Commanders from 1990 – 1997.
- Through our research, also identified several war-related documentations and thousands of photographic negatives and newspapers that cuts across all rebel groups, including ECOMOG forces. The photographic negatives need to be scanned, and printed, digitized and preserved so as to be placed on hard drives for OWECC research and other office-related activities.
- Researched and submitted all Accords and Agreements duly signed by the various warring factions and international stakeholders, on the Liberian peace process from 1990-2003.
- Also Researched and submitted general and individual photographs of newspaper articles and other resource materials of President Tolbert, Vice President James Greene and Bishop Bennie Warner. We also submitted photos of the 13 TWP Government officials executed on April 22, 1980 after the special military tribunal headed by Col. Frank Sekpene adjudged them guilty of rampant Corruption and High Treason.
- Provided individual and collective photographs of the 17 PRC members including Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe that overthrew President Tolbert on April 12, 1980.
- Further Researched and submitted the photographs of Chairman and Members of the Military Tribunals that included Col. Frank Sekpeni, and General Joseph Blamo who tried

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the 13 TWP Government officials and Former Vice Head of State, Thomas Weh-Syen and four other PRC members for the alleged complicity to overthrow Head of State Doe.

- Researched and submitted the photos of the first PRC Cabinet Ministers.
- We moreover Researched and submitted the photos of all Interim Heads of State that included Dr. Amos C. Sawyer, Cllr. David Kpormakpor, Prof. Winston Sankawulu, Madam Ruth S. Perry and Charles Gyude Bryant.
- Researched and submitted the photographs of the Corpses of Former Commanding General, Thomas Quiwonkpa, as well as that of President Doe.
- We provided an in-depth historical perspective of Liberia that included its concept of the state-hood; the transatlantic slave trad, the establishment of the A.C.S, the commonwealth and the independence and the formation of the first government in 1847.
- Our Ongoing process include, to search for and compile all relevant documents, minutes, letters, and investigative reports that relate to the Liberian civil crisis which includes demonstrations, uprising, and overthrow of government from 1979-2003.

Other related activities

We fully Participated in a two-day CSO Training on Transitional Justice and Human Rights-Based and Gender-Responsive Approaches, held at the Lutheran Compound, 13th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, from March 18-19, 2025. This training was convened by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Liberia. At this training, I delivered the key remark on behalf of OWECC-L Executive Director, Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu. Discussions were centered around Human Rights Principles and Standards, Transitional Justice Approaches, OWECC-L Mandate and Progress, INCHR presentation on Human Rights-Based Approaches, Gender, Child and Diversity-Responsive Approaches to Transitional Justice, and CSO Participation in Transitional Justice.

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Background

Liberia's path to transitional justice has been long and challenging, with significant efforts aimed at addressing past atrocities committed during the civil war. The issuance of Executive Order 131 by the President of Liberia marked a crucial step toward accountability, mandating the establishment of OWECC-L to lay the groundwork for the War and Economic Crimes Court. This training provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss progress, challenges, and the next steps in advancing justice and human rights in Liberia.

Main Event of the Program

Opening Remarks

Key remarks were delivered by me on behalf of OWECC-L

As Director for Research and Operations at OWECC-L, I delivered remarks on behalf of the Executive Director, Dr. Jallah A. Barbu. Whereat I encouraged participants to actively engage in the discussions and reaffirmed OWECC-L's commitment to ensuring the court is established by 2027, with the first indictments expected that year.

The Swedish Embassy for its part, reiterated its continued support for the establishment of the court, emphasizing that justice has been long overdue.

The OHCHR Country Representative welcomed participants and underscored the significance of transitional justice as a crucial step in national healing.

CSO Representative acknowledged the sponsors and noted that years of advocacy were finally yielding tangible results.

Day 1 - Key Sessions and Thematic Discussions

Module 1: Human Rights Principles & Standards

The first session, facilitated by Ms. Caroline Da Silva e Sousa (OHCHR), covered fundamental human rights principles and their role in transitional justice. The session sparked extensive discussions on human rights violations during Liberia's civil war, with participants stressing the need for robust documentation and accountability mechanisms.

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Module 2: Transitional Justice Approaches

The second session, facilitated by Mr. Christian Mokusa (OHCHR Country Representative), outlined the four key pillars of transitional justice: truth-seeking, prosecution, reparations, and institutional reforms. Participants debated the challenges of implementing transitional justice in Liberia, including political resistance and resource constraints.

OWECC-L Presentation: Mandate and Progress

Cllr. Fedrick Gbemie, Director for the war Crimes Court at OWECC-L, delivered a detailed presentation on the institution's mandate, key engagements, and progress. He highlighted ongoing efforts to extend Executive Order 131 to ensure continued government support. Additionally, Cllr. Gbemie referenced public outreach and community engagement initiatives, including the Carter Camp memorialization which was held on March 11, 2025.

Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) presentation on Human Rights-Based Approaches

Commissioner Pindarous Allison of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) provided an in-depth review of human rights-based approaches to transitional justice. He led interactive discussions on strengthening human rights protections in Liberia's justice framework.

Day 2- Highlights

Module 3: Gender, Child, and Diversity-Responsive Approaches to Transitional Justice

UN Women, Women, UNICEF, and OHCHR facilitated presentations on integrating gender and child-responsive frameworks in transitional justice. Participants acknowledged the disproportionate impact of war on women and children and called for specialized protections in the War and Economic Crimes Court.

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Module 4: CSO Participation in Transitional Justice

Civil Society Organizations discussed their role in monitoring and reporting human rights violations. The presentation emphasized the crucial role community engagement and grassroots advocacy play in ensuring inclusive justice.

Special Remarks

Dr. Jallah A. Barbu, Executive Director of OWECC-L provided brief but significant remarks, reaffirming OWECC-L's commitment to inclusivity in the justice process. He also emphasized that the forthcoming anti-corruption court would hold even international NGOs accountable, ensuring comprehensive justice mechanisms.

Recommendations

1. **Timely Extension of Executive Order 131:** The government should act swiftly in extending the executive order to maintain momentum toward establishing the court.
2. **Strengthening Public Awareness:** OWECC-L and partners should intensify community engagement to increase public understanding of transitional justice.
3. **Gender and Child-Sensitive Approaches:** Policies should prioritize protection and redress for women and children affected by war crimes.
4. **Stronger International Support:** The government and civil society should engage more with international partners for technical and financial assistance.
5. **CSO Collaboration:** CSOs must be actively involved in data collection, advocacy, and public mobilization to ensure broad participation in the justice process.

Conclusion

The training reinforced the importance of transitional justice in Liberia's peacebuilding efforts. OWECC-L's participation, alongside key stakeholders, demonstrated a strong commitment to accountability and inclusivity. Continuous stakeholders' collaboration will be effective in ensuring the timely establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court. This is key as it provides justice for victims and strengthens Liberia's democratic institutions.

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OWECC-L Representatives

1. Cllr. Fedrick Gbemie
2. Atty. Archie P. Williams
3. Mr. Christopher Sallee
4. Prince M. Korvah ----- Observer



We Participated and represented OWECC-L in the Women’s Dialogue on Transitional Justice held in Ganta, Nimba County on March 7, 2025. This meeting was organized by OWECC-L, OHCHR and APJHR. Key presentations were done by me and Mr. Adama K. Dempster, a representative from OHCHR. Key amongst the Presentation was the impact of the Liberian civil war, particularly on women, highlighting the need for women to voice their grievances and share their stories so as to facilitate healing and justice. The TRC reports were also mentioned, stressing the importance of state-supported reparations for those affected. Women’s testimonies and psychosocial and legal support were further discussed. The event was chaired by Abigail Freeman from the Alliance for Peace and Justice for Human Rights, who welcomed attendees and recognized the significance of the dialogue. The formal welcome address was delivered by Mr. Wall R. Mooney SR., Director of Sanitation who represented Mayor of Ganta.

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We also participated in a two-day CSO training on inclusive transitional justice for Women's Human Rights Defenders which was held on the 4th and 5th, March 2025, organized by Younepto. OWECC-L and Younepto had earlier develop a partnership for collaboration on youth activities to enhance OWECC-L mandate. The training was facilitated by Atty. Vivian D. Neal of OWECC-L and John Stewart, one of the Commissioners of the Truth Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

Training Objectives:

- To strengthen CSO's capacity to advocate for inclusive transitional justice in Liberia.
- To equip participants with knowledge of human frameworks and policy engagement strategies.
- To develop actionable plans for advocacy and community engagement.

Topic: Understanding Transitional Justice

- Definition, principles and goals
- Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC); Success and Gaps
- Role of CSOs in Justice and accountability

Buchanan, Grand Bassa Outreach was held in the Month of March 2025

Findings

1. General Support for the Court

The majority of respondents expressed strong support for the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court. Many believe that justice has been long overdue and that the court represents a crucial step towards addressing past atrocities and ending the cultural impunity in Liberia. A 78-year-old war survivor, Marwo Wheagar, stated:

"We have waited for so long for justice. Those who killed our children and burned our homes are walking free. It is time for them to answer for what they did."

2. Concerns about Implementation and Fairness

Despite the overwhelming support, some community members raised concerns about the court's fairness and potential political manipulation. Some feared that only selected individuals would be prosecuted while others, particularly those in power, might evade justice. Others questioned the independence of the court, urging transparency in the selection of judges and legal proceedings.

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3. The Demand for Economic Reparations

Another recurring theme was the demand for economic reparations. A few survivors believe that in addition to prosecuting war criminals, the court should ensure reparations for victims including rebuilding homes, providing medical assistance, and offering scholarships for war-affected children. Jestina Sumo, who according to her lost her entire family in the war, shared:

“Justice is not only about jailing people. Many of us lost everything. Things has been difficult. We need help.”

Harrowing War Story: The Massacre in St. John River

During our discussions, we encountered several heat-wrenching testimonies. One of the most harrowing stories came from an elderly woman, Ma Sando, who recounted the St. John’s River massacre. She described how, in 1994, armed fighters stormed her village, forcing people into the river at gunpoint. Dozens drowned others were shot as they tried to escape. she lost her husband and son that day. Through tears she pleaded: *“The war took everything from me. I have no one left. All I want is to see justice before I die.”*

Resource needs for the Research and Operations Division

ITEMS
2 Desktop Computers
4 Laptops Computers
1 Heavy duty printer with scanner
1 Shredder
A4 paper
Legal Paper
Manila Folder (A4 and Legal)
A4 envelops
Paper clips
Pencils & Pen
Stick on pad
Highlighter
Box file
Staple pin
1 Binding machine
1 Laminating machine

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Perforator (large and small)
Small and Giant size staplers
Big and small scissors
1 Paper cutter
Binder clips (large and small)
Ruler
Stamp and Stamp pad
Paper glue
1 UPS
Extension cord
Light bulbs
2 Air Conditioner
Receptacle
Window blinds

D. MEDIA AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION REPORT

Ref: This report is in response to an Executive Director’s directive to provide a period report on the section activities for the period under review as stated supra.

Introduction

The Office for the Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia (OWECC-L) was created by Executive Order No. 131, issued by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., in May 2024 following the passage of a Legislative Joint Resolution No. 0024 by the House of Legislature.

Initially, the president appointed Cllr. Jonathan Massaquoi to lead the office. However, his appointment was withdrawn due to concerns that he was not vetted had not undergone proper vetted. Subsequently, Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu was selected from a shortlist of three recommended candidates and officially appointed to the position. He assumed his duties immediately, as mandated by the presidential directive.

Upon taking office, Dr. Cllr. Barbu moved swiftly to establishing various divisions to facilitate the execution of OWECC-L’s mandate. Among these was the Media and Communication section,

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tasked with serving as a bridge between the office and the public, ensuring transparency and accessibility to information regarding OWECC-L’s operations.

As part of its responsibilities, the Media and Communication Section was recently by the Executive Director to compile a comprehensive media report covering the period from November 1, 2024, to March 25, 2025.

Key Activities and Engagements

UN OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Panel Discussion on Human Rights and Corruption



Figure 1 Fig. 1: Mrs Kenneth of OWECC-L (2nd from left)

November 14, 2024: The Office for the Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia Executive Director Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu honored an invitation to attend a half-day dialogue on human rights and the fight against corruption held at a local hotel in Monrovia.

The dialogue was under the auspices of the UN Office of the High Commission for Human Rights Country Representative Christian Mukosa.

At the dialogue, the Executive Director of the Office for the Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Courts for Liberia reiterated his preparedness for the task given him as enshrined in the *Executive Order No. 131*, through which the power to oversee the establishment of war crimes courts and National Anti-Corruption Court. At the time of this engagement, ED Jallah A. Barbu was just 14 days in office.

Dr. Barbu told the platform that despite the delay due to government bureaucracy, some members of the skeleton staff recruited were making available their personal belongings, including vehicles, chairs, tables, and personal computers, to jump-start the process.

Other speakers were the chairpersons of Liberia’s Anti-Corruption Commission and Liberia’s independent Human Rights Commission, Cllr. Alexandria Zoe and Dempster Browne, respectively.

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The two Commissioners expressed their respective unwavering support for the OWECC-L, pledging collaborations in its TOR. A press release was issued to the effect.

OWECC-L MAKES STUDY VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

December 3-7, 2024: During the period under review, the office organized a study tour of its senior staff to Freetown, Sierra Leone. The trip, funded by the UK government through its embassy in Monrovia, was intended to give firsthand information on how the neighboring country proceeded with their process that tried several of their accused, including former Liberian president Charles Taylor.

During the Freetown study tour, the delegation met the *British High Commission, the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL), the Sierra Leone/UK Pro Bono Network,* and the staff of the Liberian embassy in Freetown. The meeting with the embassy staff was a courtesy call and not arranged.

British High Commission

Delegation met with Ibrahim Bangura and Jack Burne of the mission's Political Office

The two officials expressed excitement that Liberia has now responded to the uncertainties that characterized the establishment of a war crimes court. Though it has taken so long to reach the acceptance of the need to finally deal with impunity from Liberia after long years of civil war

They both agreed that funding would be a challenge but expressed their willingness to continue dialogue with the OWECC-L.

Note: No photographing is allowed at the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone.

During our visit, the Senior Legal Officer, Madam Rhoda Kargbo emphasized the challenges associated with said court's establishment. She named political will, security, funding, and outreach as some of the areas to be seriously considered in performing the task.

She, however, praised the political will demonstrated by the Liberian government, referencing the legislative joint resolution 001 2024, followed by HE President Joseph Nyumah Boakai Sr. Executive Order No. 131.

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The Special Court officials encouraged the delegation to remain focused, as the process will encounter several obstacles especially from perpetrators who have over the years become powerful as State or non-state actors.

The delegation was taken on a guided tour of the Memorial Garden and War Museum—two historical artifacts preaching peace and promoting national unity.

THE SIERRA LEON/UK PRO BONO NETWORK



Following the delegation's return from Freetown, a feedback courtesy call was made to the UK Ambassador to Liberia, during which the head of OWECC-L, delegating Cllr. Asatu Bah Kenneth, thanked the UK government for the opportunity afforded the OWECC-L staff for the study tour.

She used the engagement to call on the UK government that the staff was interested in more of such study tours, which she described as an eye-opener. Ambassador Bradley reencountered the relationship between Liberia and the United Kingdom and renewed commitment to supporting Liberia’s transitional justice process.

Panel Discussion on Abolition of Death Penalty

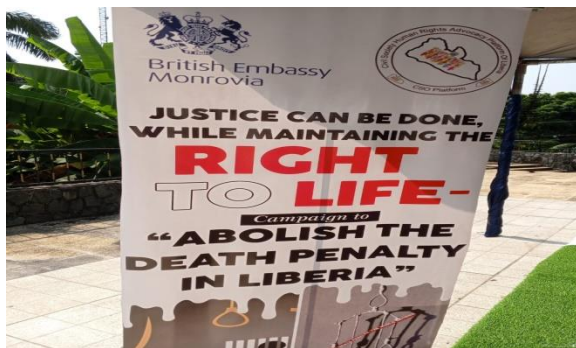


Figure 2: Fig.A banner displaying topical points for panel discussion

December 11, 2024:

The ED designated OWECC-L Anti-Corruption Director, Mrs. Asatu Bah Kenneth, to represent him as an observer at a panel discussion on the abolition of the death penalty—a campaign being funded by the UK government.

The ED of OWECC-L had traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to deliver expert opinion to that country’s transposal justice process. The discussion held at the French Institute in Monrovia brought together the

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ambassadors of the UK, France, and South Africa and a host of civil society organizations.

During the debate, all speakers agreed to join the fight to abolish the death penalty globally. Here in Liberia, the panelists urged the government of Liberia to domesticate the protocol as done by other countries.

MEETING WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR



Figure 3: OWECC-L's ED Barbu and French Ambassador Isebelle Le Guellec

December 6, 2024: French Ambassador accredited near Monrovia, Isebelle Le Guellec, played host to OWECC-L Executive Director Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu at the French Embassy in Mamba Point office and congratulated him for his preferment while pledging to collaborate with him.

The French ambassador commended President Joseph Nyumah Boakai for his prompt action in promulgating Executive Order No. 131 and subsequently establishing an office to ensure accountability and fight impunity.

In the meeting, OWECC-L Executive Director Dr. Cllr. Barbu guaranteed the French ambassador of his office's readiness and commitment to collaborate with international partners, local communities, and civil society groups to strengthen Liberia's legal system in order to promote equal and adequate justice, which he described as the cornerstone for lasting peace, stability, and prosperity.

INTEGRITY WATCH

THE LAUNCH OF ADVOCACY TO ACCELERATE TRC IMPLEMENTATION.

December 11, 2024: As part of the multiple planned engagements aimed at enhancing its work, the OWECC-L participated in a daylong discussion on accelerating the implementation of the TRC report.

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The deliberation under the auspices of the CSO *Integrity Watch* headed by Mr. Herold Aidoo brought together like-minds in the fight against impunity, including OWECC-L.

In his opening remarks, the head of **Integrity Watch**, Herold Aidoo, described the gathering as a pivotal moment in the collective journey toward justice and accountability.

“The TRC report has been lingering for many years; women play a key role, and they were also affected during the war; that’s why gender mainstreaming during the process of establishing the war and economic crimes court is very important,” Mr. Aidoo said.

OWECC-L Director for War Crimes Cllr. Fredrick Gbemie, in remarks, said his office would participate in every discussion made in support of efforts for accountability for atrocities carried out during the war, welcoming the collaborative efforts.

First Media Engagements



To adequately disseminate public information on the works of OWECC-L, the Office, during the period under review, had separate engagement with the leadership of the Press Union of Liberia and one of its auxiliary groups—the Association of Judicial Reporters.

During the separate meetings, the ED reemphasized the crucial role the media plays in transitional justice and committed the OWECC-L to collaborating with local and international media organizations to properly inform the general public.

The PUL and the judicial reporters, in separate responses, thanked the ED for recognizing the media as a partner and promised to uphold media professionalism in its partnership with the OWECC-L, especially in the areas of access to information and opportunities for capacity building.



Figure 4(Fig. 5: ED Barbu middle) with Judicial Reporters after Fig 6: The OWECC ED (2nd from left engages the Press Meeting the leadership of the judicial Reporters

The Press Union of Liberia and the Judicial Reporters were represented by their Presidents and Vice Presidents, Julius Kanubah and Beatrice Sieh and Yassah Wright, respectively.

The OWECC-L also during the period under review, initiated its maiden edition of Live media engagement bring together journalists and Talk Show Hosts for a Q&A interaction.

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The OWECC-L commends ECOWAS for approving the establishment of Gambia’s Special Tribunal to prosecute perpetrators of Gross Human Rights Violations.

December 16, 2024: As part of networking with counterparts in global transitional justice, a press statement extolling the sub-regional body, ECOWAS, for approving the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Gambia terming the move as a milestone and calls on all rights groups should support.

The regional body took the decision on Friday, **December 13, 2024**, at its extraordinary summit in Abuja, Nigeria.

“The OWECC-L acknowledges the participation and congratulates His Excellency President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Sr. for his role in this cutting-edge decision by the sub-regional body, as this exemplifies the President’s resolve to fight impunity and strengthen accountability for all,” the release quoted the OWECC-L ED.

The OWECC-L also called on ECOWAS to extend similar support to Liberia’s efforts towards establishing its War and Economic Crimes Court and Anti-Corruption Court.

OWECC-L STAFF WELFARE



Figure 5 Fig. 7 ED with items distributed to staff

December 23, 2024: The Executive Director of the Office for the Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia, Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu, identified with staff ahead of the festive season celebrations.

The donation of food items was the ED’s personal intervention as the new office was still awaiting government’s operation fund allotment. He urged the staff to focus despite the financial problem, challenging them to brace the New Year with renewed commitment to ensuring accountability, promoting human rights, and fostering a society rooted in fairness and transparency through their respective assigned duties.

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The ED Christmas gift came as an appreciation to the staff for their participation in a daylong facelift of the premises of the OWECC-L.



Fig.8: Staff gathered to receive their package

Foreign Minister Nyanti Commits Government Support to OWECC-L as Initiate Funding released



Figure 6.: Minister Besolow Nyanti, ED Barbu, DM Gray, Atty. Williams, Cllr. Kenneth

January 10, 2025: Foreign Minister Sara Belsolow Nyanti has renewed the government’s commitment to support the Office.

Minister Beysolow Nyanti said the government’s commitment goes beyond issuing a Legislative Joint Resolution and Executive Order but will continue to provide financial and technical support to the Office to bring to closure the issue of impunity.

The Foreign Minister said Liberia was aware of the need to take ownership of the process, and the government has demonstrated a strong political will towards achieving said responsibility.

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She, however, said while it is a Liberian-driven process, she wants coordination, inclusion, and consultation with local and international stakeholders in driving the process.

Briefing the Minister earlier, Executive Director Cllr. Barbu recounted the achievements made thus far since his incumbency in October.

He named stakeholders meeting including civil society organizations, victim groups, and donor partners who have all agreed to collaborate with the office in the discharge of its duties.

Cllr. Barbu also named the completion of technical documents, including a legal Executive Director Barbu used the meeting with the foreign minister to welcome the government’s initial operation funding to the office, terming it as timely and a demonstration of its political will to the process.

He pledged that his administration would adhere to all financial regulations in expanding the fund in keeping with the government’s public financial management regulations.

OWECC-L Hosts Global Delegation of Transitional Justice Experts



Figure 7: Group photo of OWECC-L Staff and Delegation

(January 19-22, 2025) During the period under review, OWECC_L received a high-power delegation from a US-based anti-impunity organization, the Center for Justice and Accountability.

Members of the delegation Ambassador Stephen Rapp (formerly of the ICC), Judge Susan Oklanay of the Uganda Judiciary, Salieu Tall of the Gamba Bah Association, Daniel McLaughlin and Alex Kohls of the Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA), and Penny Hart.

Other members of the delegation were Madam Binta Mansasaray (registrar, Sierra Leone Special Court), Sara Pearce, Derick Cogram, Didier Gbery, and Rebecca Senior (CJA).

The delegation’s weeklong visit was a follow-up engagement to an earlier meeting in December intended to assess challenges and progress made with stakeholders on the way forward for the establishment of a war and economic crimes court for Liberia.

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During their stay in Monrovia, the delegation met with several stakeholders in Liberia's transitional justice sector, including the OWECC-L, Ministry of Justice, the Liberia National Bar Association, the Liberia National Police, and civil society organizations.



Fig 10: Dr. Stephen Rapp views OWECC-L publication on Liberian civil war

At the OWECC-L, the ED updated the delegation on progress made since his incumbency in early November, 2024.

Dr. Barbu informed the delegation that the responses of stakeholders have set the pace for further consultations leading to the court's embellishment.

The ED told the delegation that the courts' establishment has been happily received by the majority of the Liberian people and the Office was open to the assessment mission.

At the LNBA

The delegation was met by outgoing President Sylvester Rennie and incoming President Bornor Varmah at the Law Library on Ashmun Street, Monrovia.

The two LNBA officials told the delegation that the Bar has been firm on its position calling for a war crimes court and has not changed despite threats from surrogates of some of those accused. They said they will support all interventions, especially having a hybrid court. The two LNBA officials were keen on a constitutional provision that could prevent an international court but believed there could be adjustments to allow a hybrid court.

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AT MINISTRY OF JUSTICE



Figure 8: LNBA official in group photo with delegation

At the engagement with the Ministry of Justice, Minister Oswald N. Tweh recommitted the government of Liberia to fully supporting the OWECC-L in reaching a final closure to the country’s bitter past as recommended in the TRC.

The Liberia’s Attorney General spoke of support to victims and survivors, psychosocial and sustainability of the Office.

Speaking earlier on behalf of the delegation, former prosecutor of the Sierra Leone special court Ambassador Stephen Rapp hailed the Liberian government for mustering

the courage and willingness to establish a court that will try individuals that committed atrocities during Liberia’s civil war.

He pledged to work with stakeholders in dealing with impunity, especially in the transitional justice process.



Fig 13: Minister Tweh plays host to the delegation at the office

The OWECC-L ED in remarks informed the delegation of the political will the Office currently enjoys from the government, which he said has made his mandate easily achievable with the wide range of consultative engagement with the government and partners.

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The delegation welcomed the approach by the OWECC-L to engage with Victims Protection Advocacy Groups and prioritize witness protection as key to fair trial encouragement to individuals to come up to testify without intimidation and harassment.

The police also formed part of the weeklong assessment and engagement. The inspector general of the LNP, Gregory Coleman, informed the team of a huge gap in trained manpower capacity building. According to IG Coleman, now is the time to correct said inadequacies, or it could lead to future embarrassment. The IG wants a robust capacity building program for officers earmarked for court operations. As it stands according to the IG, the police lack the capacity for any special court operation and used the time to call for a massive capacity building.



Fig 14; IG Coleman takes note as delegation presents its mission statement



Figure 9 Fig. 15: OWECC-L's ED presents card of Thanks to Amb. Rapp

On Friday, January 22, the delegation held a Farwell gathering with OWECC-L

The weeklong assessment was concluded with a farewell engagement at OWECC-L in Monrovia.

During the engagement, the head of delegation, Stephen Rapp, thanked the Office leadership for the well-coordinated engagement role played terming it as an eye opener.

He pledged the delegation's support to the Office and promised shared findings of their assessment trip with OWECC-L following its completion.

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In remarks, OWECC-L' Executive Director said the visit has further cemented the collaboration between the Office and the Center for Justice and Accountability.

Outreach initiative in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County



As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering community engagement on the establishment and operations of the War and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia, an outreach team from OWECC-L conducted fieldwork in various parts of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, with a focus on Buchanan and its surrounding areas. This initiative sought to gain deeper insights into public perceptions of the court, assess

community expectations regarding justice and accountability, and document personal experiences from the war. These firsthand accounts not only reflect the lasting impact of past conflicts but also help inform efforts to promote transparency, reconciliation, and a more inclusive approach to justice in Liberia.

Objective of the Outreach

Public Awareness & Education at the OWECC-L: Addressing Misconceptions & Enhancing Transparency the future Courts.

Findings

1. General Support for the Court: The majority of respondents expressed strong support for the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court. Many believe that justice has been long overdue and that the court represents a crucial step towards addressing past atrocities and ending the culture of impunity in Liberia. A 78-year-old war survivor, Marwo Wheagar, stated: *“We have waited for so long for justice. Those who killed our children and burned our homes are walking free. It is time for them to answer for what they did.”*

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2. Concerns about Implementation and Fairness -Despite the overwhelming support, some community members raised concerns about the court's fairness and potential political manipulation. Some feared that only select individuals would be prosecuted while others, particularly those in power, might evade justice. Others questioned the independence of the court, urging transparency in the selection of judges and legal proceedings.

3. The Demand for Economic Reparations- Another recurring theme was the demand for economic reparations. A few survivors believe that in addition to prosecuting war criminals, the court should ensure reparations for victims, including rebuilding homes, providing medical assistance, and offering scholarships for war-affected children. Jestina Sumo, who according to her lost his entire family in the war, shared: *“Justice is not only about jailing people. Many of us lost everything. Things has been difficult. We need help.”*

A Harrowing War Story: The Massacre in St. John's River- During our discussions, we encountered several heart-wrenching testimonies. One of the most harrowing stories came from an elderly woman, Ma Sando, who recounted the St. John's River massacre. She described how, in 1994, armed fighters stormed her village, forcing people into the river at gunpoint. Dozens drowned while others were shot as they tried to escape. She lost her husband and son that day. Through tears, she pleaded: *“The war took everything from me. I have no one left. All I want is to see justice before I die.”*

It's late / Let us allow sleeping dog to lie: At the Sugarcane Farm Community, some individuals we talked to spoke strongly against, they believe that the courts establishment will dig up old wounds and bring chaos in the country. *“The country is already peaceful, people have forgotten, so there is no need for any war crimes court,”* Princes Tarue.

“Let everybody just move on because this whole court is another noise” Wattie Sieh added.

At the end day, OWECC-L outreach team educated the participants of the court importance and role it will play in the healing process and will serves as a mean to prevent such recurrence.

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Conclusion and Recommendations

The fieldwork in Buchanan revealed the enduring scars of the past and the ongoing call for justice and reparations. While there is strong support for the court, concerns persist regarding fairness and economic justice. Additionally, some oppose the court's establishment, citing the prolonged time that has passed since the war.

Based on our findings, we recommend the following:

1. **Enhanced Public Awareness**
2. **Conduct More Community Engagement**

(February 6, 2025) During the period, as part of OWEEC-L public information sharing, OWEEC-L organized the second in the series of media conversations. During this time, the office brought together media institutions from in and out of Monrovia.

Memorial Service Honors 600 Victims of the Carter Camp Massacre.



(Harbel, Liberia – March 11, 2025) A solemn memorial service was held at the Carter Camp Memorial in Harbel in memory of over six hundred civilians brutally murdered by forces loyal to Charles Taylor’s National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) during the country’s devastating civil war.

Organized by the Liberia Massacre Survivors Association with support from the Office for the Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia (OWEEC-L), the event brought together hundreds of Liberians, including survivors, victims' families, human rights advocates, and government officials. The service served as a moment of reflection, remembrance, and renewed commitment to justice for war crimes.

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At the event, survivors shared harrowing testimonies of the horrors they endured and the lasting trauma they continue to face and also praised the OWECC-L for its ongoing efforts to bring war criminals to justice.

Delivering the keynote address, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, a long-time human rights lawyer and advocate for justice, underscored the importance of accountability, urging Liberians to support the work of the OWECC-L in prosecuting those responsible for wartime atrocities.

In response, the Executive Director of the OWECC-L, Dr. Cllr. Jallah Barbu, assured the gathering that his office remains committed to ensuring justice for victims, emphasizing that multi sectoral collaboration is crucial in bringing the perpetrators of war crimes to justice.

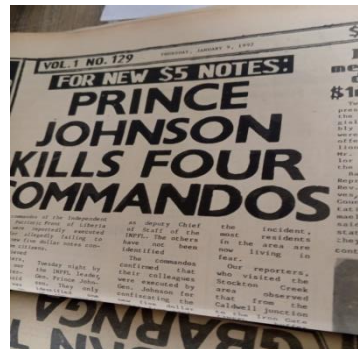
March 26, 2025 - As the report period was climaxing, a group of women under the banner Wapnet stated a peaceful sit-in at the entrance of the Office for the Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia, demanding an explanation on the status of the courts' establishment. They carried placards with the inscriptions "We want the War Crimes Court" and "Why is the War Crimes Court Establishment Slow?" The women's spokesperson, Bernice Freeman, said they wanted to know what the cause of the 'slowness was'.

OWECC-L Executive Director Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu welcomed the peaceful sit-in protest, terming it as the right of the women to know. He, however, told the protesting women that the establishment of the courts was on course, and with the political will being demonstrated by the government, he assured the women that the court would be established by 2027.

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Photo Gallery



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OWECC-L LOGO



WOMEN'S DIALOGUE IN GANTA, NIMBA COUNTY

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SCENES AT THE CARTER CAMP MEMORIAL SERVICE, HARBEL, MARGIBI COUNTY

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E. Psychosocial Department Report

November 2024 – February 2025

The psychosocial department aims to address the critical need for mental health and psychosocial support among victims and survivors of the civil war in Liberia. These victims have endured significant trauma and abuse, and they have not had proper closure. The department seeks to not only promote healing but to help them get closure through professional means. To achieve this, in January the department had an assessment meeting with a group of visiting partners from the Center for Justice and Accountability and some organizations in the mental health and psychosocial field namely, Liberia Association of psychosocial Services (LAPS), Liberia Association of Mental Health Professional (LAMP), and the Carter Center mental health program, to discuss the challenges and Resources needed for the psychosocial component of the war and Economic crime courts.

The session was presided over by *Mr. Carols Aceves*, Clinical Advisor for Mental Health at the Center for Victims of Torture. He began the session with the question,

- What are the scope and psychosocial challenges and needs of OWECC-L?
- What are the needs for dealing with the OWECC?
 - ✓ Court officials need a trauma-informed approach to work effectively with victims, their families, and communities.
 - ✓ There has to be a robust psychosocial system that is enshrined in the laws or policies of the OWECC that will give the clients access to psychosocial support before, during, and after court sessions.
 - ✓ Consider victim-centered support considering the difference between men and women, as the effect of war on women is different from men.

Among other things discussed was that, psychosocial intervention to be provided should be holistic not only for victims but also for persecutors, the accused, as well as their families and communities. Liberia is a very small country not only in demography but also in everyone knowing everyone, which holds a serious implication for the operations of the court. The department is fostering collaboration with major stakeholders in the mental health landscape and has an upcoming meeting to further discuss the collaboration. Given the above, on March 20th, the Psychosocial Department **MOTTO: Leading the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court of Liberia through a holistic and inclusive process in which everybody has a role.**



participated in the monthly Mental Health Technical Coordinating Committee meeting, held on the third Thursday of every month. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss various issues within the mental health landscape. The department's main focus was to raise awareness about the Office for the Establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court (OWECC) and its Psychosocial Department.

Key points raised included:

- The department's desire to collaborate with mental health stakeholders to provide psychosocial services to victims and survivors of war crimes.
- The importance of utilizing available mental health services for witnesses in need of specialized care.
- The establishment of clear referral pathways to ensure victims and witnesses receive the necessary care and support.

The Psychosocial Department held a meeting with Rev. Philip L. Nushann, head of the Lutheran Trauma Unit. He reached out to the OWECC-L- L to establish a collaboration in developing and providing trauma care to victims and survivors of war crimes. He provided a brief reflecting the services they provide and a drafted framework. A second meeting was held to discuss feedback on the brief presented to the Office, OWECC-L. During this meeting for action points were derived;

- Develop a draft MOU
- Work with the Lutheran Bishop to release a statement of support for the office.
- The concept to reflect more of the mechanism of action needed to implement the services in the brief.

At the end of the meeting, he recommended that the office do the following;

- Develop a general template for the MOU that all partners should follow
- The psychosocial team should be prepared to provide counsel and follow-up with people sharing their testimony.

The department developed a quarterly work plan that reflects the following activities;

- ✓ Conduct a one-day psychosocial awareness meeting with the OWECC-L staff.
- ✓ Develop jingles, messages, flyers, stickers, and others in the local vernacular in collaboration with the media department.

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- ✓ Conduct radio talk shows at local, national, and community radio stations.
- ✓ Awareness meetings

In collaboration with the office, the department developed a draft TOR and a list of potential Psychosocial partners to form part of the psychosocial technical working group. The department also established a relationship with the Mental Health and Psychosocial Technical Coordinating Committee to guarantee their support and available resources.

In commemoration of International Women's Day, the psychosocial department forms part of a delegation that attended The Women's Dialogue on Transitional Justice that was held in Ganta, Nimba County, on March 7, 2025. The event aimed to advocate for transitional justice and provide a platform for women to share their experiences related to the Liberian civil war, and ask questions about the OWECC-L. During the session, several questions were asked by the women, and they include but are not limited to;

1. Now that Prince Johnson is dead, will the court still go on?
2. What will be done to protect witnesses and their families?
3. What will victims or their relatives and survivors benefit from the court process?
4. Will the court be persecuting rape cases?
5. Where will the court be situated?

In response, the OWECC-L informed the women that the court issue was not limited to the late Sen. Johnson and assured them that the court would be established. With regards to the issues of protection, the office told the women that witness protection is a major to the establishment of the court and will be addressed before the court commences.

Key Takeaways

- The dialogue provided a critical platform for women to share their war experiences and advocate for justice.
- The establishment of OWECC-L will serve as an inspiration of hope for victims of war crimes.
- There is a need for continued psychosocial support and state-backed reparations for affected individuals.

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OWECC Mental Health and Psychosocial Implementation Work Plan 2025

Overview:

The OWECC Mental Health and Psychosocial Implementation Work Plan for 2025 outlines key activities designed to raise awareness, collaborate with psychosocial stakeholders to provide support, and engage communities in addressing the psychological impact of war crimes and stress. The implementation plan ensures that staff, communities, and individuals affected by war crimes have access to psychosocial support resources and understand the significance of mental health care.

Activity:

Identification of Community Groups and Key Stakeholders

It is crucial to ensure that the message reaches all sectors of society. Identifying key community stakeholders, such as women’s groups, youth groups, traditional leaders, marketing associations, religious institutions, local leaders, and CBOs, ensures broad outreach and community engagement.

Strategies:

- Engage with local community leaders, associations, and groups to spread awareness about the importance of psychosocial support.
- Develop a comprehensive outreach plan to ensure the involvement of all identified community sectors.

Resources Needed:

- Local contacts and networks within the community.

Responsible Person(s):

- Community Outreach Team

Outcome:

- Track community participation and engagement rates.

Psychosocial Awareness Meeting for OWECC Staff

Ensuring OWECC staff understands the impact of mental stress on performance and overall well-being is essential. The psychosocial awareness meeting will enhance their ability to recognize and manage mental health concerns in their roles.

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Strategies:

- Conduct a one-day awareness meeting that discusses mental health, its impact, and the importance of psychosocial support for both personal and professional well-being.

Resources Needed:

- Notepads, pens, a projector, and lunch for participants.

Feedback:

- Post-meeting evaluation forms to assess the understanding and impact of the staff session.

Development and Distribution of Awareness Materials

It is important to raise awareness of psychosocial support in a way that is accessible and understandable to all sectors of the community, especially in local vernaculars.

Strategies:

- Develop culturally relevant and locally understood materials (e.g., jingles, messages, flyers, stickers).
- Distribute these materials through multiple channels to ensure wide outreach.

Resources Needed:

- Finances for the production and distribution of materials.

Feedback:

- Monitor the effectiveness of distribution through community feedback.

Radio Talk Shows and Broadcasts

Radio talk shows at local, national, and community stations will ensure that the message reaches a broad audience and provides an opportunity to discuss the importance of psychosocial support. This will also raise awareness about the need to support victims of war crimes in their journey to healing.

Strategies:

- Partner with local and national radio stations to host talk shows on mental health and psychosocial support.
- Ensure content includes testimonials, expert advice, and information on available resources.

Resources Needed:

- Air time on selected radio stations.

Feedback:

- Gather listener feedback and track audience reach.

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Regional Town Hall Meetings

Town hall meetings allow for direct community engagement and provide a space for individuals to discuss the impacts of war crimes on their mental health. This open dialogue is crucial for creating an atmosphere where individuals feel supported in sharing their experiences.

Strategies:

- Conduct regional town hall meetings in key locations to discuss the impact of war crimes and the importance of psychosocial support.
- Engage local leaders and mental health professionals in these discussions.

Resources Needed:

- Event space, local leaders, and mental health professionals.

Feedback:

- Collect participant feedback on the effectiveness of the meetings and willingness to share their experiences.

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F. INTERNAL SECURITY UNIT

INTRODUCTION

Whereas, on May 2, 2024 His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., President of the Republic of Liberia, created The Office for the Establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court of Liberia (OWECC-L) by issuing Executive Order No. 131, and cognizant of the challenges surrounding prosecuting war crimes and corruption involving accused and culprits who are reluctant to readily avail themselves for trial,

Whereas, the unwillingness to face prosecution at the War and Economic Crimes Court as voiced by some participants of the Liberian civil war who presently occupy powerful political positions, represent a clear and present danger to OWECC-L and the public and must be seen as a threat to the stability of the society as a whole,

Whereas the role of security is vital in the protection of the right to life and liberty of the person as guaranteed by the laws of Liberia,

A security arrangement is structured for OWECC-L to address the need for the maintenance of order and ensure protection for the Executive Director and other OWECC-L staff as they perform their duties.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

As a section head tasked with coordinating security as OWECC-L, the following measures are in place and being implemented:

1. A security firm provides a 24-hours/7-days a week Static Protection service at OWECC-L and the Executive Director's residence simultaneously.
2. OWECC-L enlisted 4 LNP ERU officers who provided all-round VIP Protection service for the Executive Director from November 2024 to March 6, 2025 when their services were discontinued for administrative reasons.
3. Other activities undertaken during the period November 2024 to March 26, 2025 are:
 - a. Shift details
 - b. Incident reports
 - c. Equipment checks

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- d. Visitor and contractor logs
- e. Maintenance issues
- f. Daily notes and observations

NEXT STEP

While all OWECC-L facilities are secured under existing arrangements, since March 6, 2025 the Executive Director vulnerable without adequate close protection detail during certain hours of the day thus necessitating the recommendation for the recruitment and training of a small but efficient security unit to satisfy OWECC-L’s immediate needs.

RESOURCES NEEDED

To facilitate training and equipping inhouse security for OWECC-L, we recommend the following:

- A. Recruit a 15-man team to form the security unit.
- B. Training will include the following content:
 - Orientation to OWECC-L mandate
 - Intelligence gathering and surveillance
 - Physical fitness
 - VIP Protection
 - Computer Literacy
 - Driving and Motorcycling

The required staffs for training are 2 facilitators, 5 security trainers, a driving instructor, and a computer teacher.

See listed below estimated costs of gadgets and resource persons needed to effect training.

1. Facilitators	2 person	US\$250.00	US\$500.00
2. Driving instructor	1 person	250.00	250.00
3. Computer instructor	1 person	250.00	250.00
4. Trainers	5 persons	250.00	1,250.00
5. Projector	1 set	250.00	250.00
6. Radio handsets	4 pc	90.00	360.00
7. Mobile phones	4 pc	15.00	60.00
8. Earpiece	15 pc	5.00	75.00
9. Surveillance camera	4 pc	175.00	700.00
10. Taser	10 pc	35.00	350.00
11. Pepper spray	15 pc	25.00	375.00
12. Baton (extendable)	10 pc	40.00	400.00
13. PI-24 Baton	5 pc	25.00	125.00

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14. Handcuffs	5 sets	35.00	175.00
15. Flashlights	10 pc	10.00	100.00
16. Battery (dry cell)	1 ctn.	25.00	25.00
17. Whistle	2 doz.	5.00	10.00
18. Rain gear	15 sets	10.00	150.00
19. Miscellaneous			400.00

GRAND TOTAL

US\$5,805.00

In conclusion, building and maintaining a vigilant security team will ensure stability at OWECC-L and culminate into achieving goals set by the entity.

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III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CLOSING STATEMENT

1. The Government of Liberia leads and owns the entire process of establishing the War and Economic Crimes Court and the national Anti-Corruption Court.
2. The GoL has exhibited strong political will by the issuance of JR 001/'24 and EO 131, and the funding grant to the OWECC-L.
3. The semi-independence status of the OWECC-L committed by the GoL is visible and enjoyed by the Office.
4. There is a dire need to step up funding and other support, especially security, to the OWECC-L.
5. Liberian actors at all levels and the Liberian public embrace and are in fact impatient about the delay in establishing the two courts.
6. There is strong and visible support and potential for more support from the international community and partners.
7. Support from partners, especially international partners, is clearly conditioned on the support and exhibited interest from the GoL.
8. It is important to present the GoL as being both ready politically and financially to undertake this initiative.
9. The OWECC-L assures of its fullest resolve to perform its duties and pursue its mandate without compromise.
10. It is now evident and more assuring that the War and Economic Crimes Court and the National Anti-Corruption Court will be established, operationalized and made to achieve the objectives for which they are being organized.

Signed: 

Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu (Prof.)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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