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Security Experts Discuss Gender Equity

The Analyst (Monrovia)

NEWS

18 October 2007

Posted to the web 19 October 2007

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Monrovia

Experts from several security groups in Liberia including the Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of National Security, Liberia National Police, National Security Agency met in Monrovia to discuss the need for more women involvement in the ongoing Security Sector Reform (SSR).

The one-day consultative workshop, which was held at the Defense Ministry on in Monrovia, was facilitated by Ambassador Swanee Hunt, chairperson of the initiative for inclusive security in the United States of America.

Amb. Hunt said the involvement of Liberian women as a critical transformation in the country's security sector.

Speaking at the meeting, Ambassador Hunt told the gathering that more women involvement will help to transform the Security Sector Reform.

Ambassador Hunt, who was one time guest of the Defense Ministry, noted that the stability of a society depends on transformation of its security sector.

"You change that by having women in a very significant percent among them (male),"she underscored.

Ambassador Hunt, who heads an organization that promotes full participation of stakeholders especially women, in all stages of peace processes in the world, called for a collaborating effort between security sectors and the civil society group.

According to the participants, in post conflict societies where public trust in the security forces including the military, police and other security apparatuses is eroded, women's involvement can play an important role in rebuilding confidence.

Security experts who attended the consultative meeting took into consideration that attracting more females into the country's security domains is a way to creating societies governed by equity and the rule of law.

Liberia's Defense Minister, Mr. Brownie Samukai stressed the need for concrete engagements between civil society and the security services in Liberia.

He said recruiting many women into the various security agencies will be bolstered with the involvement of the gender and development ministry.

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