



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION KEY DOCUMENTS

# LIBERIA

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12 MARCH 2010

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## Preface

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- i This Country of Origin Information Key Documents (COI Key Documents) on *[country]* has been produced by COI Service, UK Border Agency (UKBA), for use by officials involved in the asylum/human rights determination process. It provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum/human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. The COI Key Documents includes information available up to 1 February 2010. It was issued on 12 March 2010.
- ii The COI Key Documents is an indexed list of key reports, papers and articles produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources. It does not contain any UKBA opinion or policy.
- iii For UK Border Agency users, the COI Key Documents provides direct electronic access to each source referred to in the document, via a link on the source numbers in the index and list of sources. For the benefit of external users, the relevant web link has also been included, together with the date that the link was accessed.
- iv As noted above, the documents identified concentrate mainly on human rights issues. By way of introduction, brief background information on *[country]* is also provided. Please note, this background material is not intended to provide a summary of the material contained in the documents listed.
- v This COI Key Documents and the documents listed are publicly disclosable.
- vi Any comments regarding this COI Key Documents or suggestions for additional source material are very welcome and should be submitted to COI Service as below.

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## INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP ON COUNTRY INFORMATION

- vii The Independent Advisory Group on Country Information (IAGCI) was set up in March 2009 by the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency to make recommendations to him about the content of the UKBA's country of origin information material. The IAGCI welcomes feedback on UKBA's COI Reports, COI Key Documents and other country of origin information material. Information about the IAGCI's work can be found on the Chief Inspector's website at <http://www.ociukba.homeoffice.gov.uk>
- viii In the course of its work, the IAGCI reviews the content of selected UKBA COI documents and makes recommendations specific to those documents and of a more general nature. A list of the COI Reports and other documents which

have been reviewed by the IAGCI or the Advisory Panel on Country Information (the independent organisation which monitored UKBA's COI material from September 2003 to October 2008) is available at <http://www.ociukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

- ix Please note: it is not the function of the IAGCI to endorse any UKBA material or procedures. Some of the material examined by the Group relates to countries designated or proposed for designation to the Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) list. In such cases, the Group's work should not be taken to imply any endorsement of the decision or proposal to designate a particular country for NSA, nor of the NSA process itself.

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## 2. Background information about Liberia

**Full Country Name:** The Republic of Liberia

**Area:** 111,369 sq km (43,000 sq mi).

**Population:** 3,441,790 (July 2009 est.)

**Capital City:** Monrovia

**Peoples and languages:** The main ethnic groups are Kpelle (20%), Bassa (16%), Gio (8%), and Kru (7%). There are 12 other ethnic groups: Krahn, Mano, Grebo, Gola, Gbandi, Loma, Kissi, Vai, Dei, Bella, Mende and Mandingo. English is the official language but there are also 16 indigenous languages spoken in Liberia.

**Religion(s):** Christian 40%, Muslim 20%, indigenous beliefs 40%

**Currency:** Liberian dollar (LDR). The US Dollar is also widely used.

**Major political parties:** normal party political activity was disrupted under Charles Taylor's rule. Parties have re-emerged since the end of the civil war, and following the elections of October 2005, there are 11 parties represented in the legislature. The biggest of these are the Unity Party, the Liberty Party, The Congress for Democratic Change and the Coalition for the Transformation of Liberia

**President:** Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (inaugurated 16 January 2006).

**Vice President:** Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

**Membership of international groupings/organisations:** United Nations (UN), African Union (AU), Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African Development Bank (AFDB) and Mano River Union (MRU).

[1a](Europa World Online); [2b] (United States Department of State, Background Note: Liberia, September 2009); [3a] (FCO country profile, Liberia, 25 February 2009); [10a] (Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), The World Fact book: Liberia, 6 October 2009).

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### GEOGRAPHY

"Liberia lies just north of the Equator on the Atlantic coast in West Africa. It borders Sierra Leone, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. It has a tropical climate and is one of the wettest countries in the world, with an average annual rainfall of 200 inches. Inland from the coastal plain, much of the country is rainforest". [3a](FCO country profile, Liberia, 25 February 2009)

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### RECENT HISTORY

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile, updated 25 February 2009, notes that:

"Liberia was established as an independent state by freed slaves from America in 1847. They were joined by Africans released from slave ships off the West African coast. For more than 130 years from its founding, politics were dominated by the small minority of the population descended from these original settlers, known as the Americo-Liberians or Congo. During that era, Liberia was renowned for its stability, its functioning economy and the large amount of foreign investment it attracted in the rubber plantations and the iron ore mines. But the indigenous Africans were largely excluded from political power.

"In 1980 Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, a member of the indigenous Krahn ethnic group, seized power in a violent military coup. Key members of the Americo-Liberian

elite, including the President and his Cabinet were summarily executed in public on the beach. The USA, a traditional strong ally of Liberia, withdrew its support. Doe mismanaged the economy and transformed the armed forces into an ethnic Krahn militia which committed extensive human rights abuse against Liberia's other ethnic groups".

The FCO Country profile adds:

"In 1989 the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), led by Charles Taylor, began a revolt against the Doe regime. It quickly became a vicious civil war. The Doe dictatorship collapsed and he was murdered by a rebel faction in September. At this point Taylor (and to a lesser extent other rival warlords) already controlled large parts of Liberian territory. Despite occasional truces and no fewer than a dozen abortive peace agreements, the conflict continued for a further 6 years. During this period, the rival warlords, and West African peace keeping forces, looted the country's natural resources and state revenues.

"Democratic elections were finally held in July 1997. Taylor won but the elections bought only temporary respite. Taylor's government set about plundering the state of its assets and stifling opposition activity. In 1999 fighting began and by July 2003 Taylor had lost control of most of the country, including much of Monrovia. Peace talks in Accra in August led to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in September. A new Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) peacekeeping force was deployed, which has since been replaced by the 15,000 strong UN force (UNMIL). Taylor was forced into exile in Nigeria. Indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), Taylor was arrested in Nigeria on 29 March 2006 and subsequently transferred to the Special Court in Freetown where he was charged on 3 March with offences relating to the Sierra Leone civil war. He has subsequently been transferred to The Hague to await trial under SCSL Mandate".

The FCO Country Profile goes on to say:

"Following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, a vast DDR programme (Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration) disarmed over 100,000 combatants in 2005, although reintegration programmes have had only patchy success. UNMIL are deployed over the entire territory to provide security. The CPA created the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), made up of representatives from former rebel groups, political parties, the former Taylor government and civil society. It has been accused of extensive corruption".

"In 2005 Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf won the Presidential elections, with 59% of the vote in the second round run off against the former footballer George Weah. She was inaugurated President of the Republic of Liberia on 16 January 2006, in the presence of high profile international guests including the US Secretary of State, the First Lady of the United States and FCO Envoy Chris Mullin. President Johnson-Sirleaf has faced a daunting set of challenges and does not command a majority in the legislature. She faced a serious challenge from Speaker of the House of Representatives Edwin Snowe in the first half of 2007, but he has since been removed from his position".

[3a] (FCO country profile, Liberia 25 February 2009)

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## RECENT EVENTS AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Europa World Online, accessed 13 November 2007, notes: "In February 2007 Willis D. F. Knuckles, the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, resigned after allegations were published in the press of inappropriate behaviour and the sexual exploitation of young women. Johnson-Sirleaf announced in March that Dr Edward McClain would assume Knuckles' vacated portfolio on a temporary basis, pending the appointment of a new minister". [1a](Europa World Online)

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile, updated 25 February 2009, notes that: "The judicial system and the security sector in particular need to be rebuilt almost from scratch. Good progress has been made with the reconstruction of the Liberian police force, although a serious incident occurred when a fight broke out between the Liberian Police and the Liberian Seaport authority in July [2007]. The reconstruction of the army has taken longer than hoped. The reconstruction of the army has taken longer than hoped." [3a] (FCO country profile, Liberia, 25 February 2009)

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established in 2005 with a mandate to "promote national peace, security, unity and reconciliation". Between 2006 and July 2009, the TRC toured Liberia, with the intention of investigating more than 20 years of civil conflict in the country by hearing testimony from people affected by the civil war.

In a report, the TRC recommended a 30-year ban for senior politicians for their role in the war, including President Johnson-Sirleaf, who has apologised for supporting Charles Taylor and his rebellion against military ruler Samuel Doe in the late 1980s. [7g] (BBC News: Sirleaf 'surprised' at ban call)

BBC News reported that following publication of the report, members of the TRC received death threats and that "ex-warlords, former fighters and officials who were recommended for prosecution have been hitting back at the truth commission on the radio since the report was released."

It was also reported that despite calls for her resignation, President Johnson-Sirleaf refused to leave office. [7h] (BBC News: Death threats sent to Liberia TRC)

BBC News reported that in July 2009, Charles Taylor began his defence against charges that he "masterminded and directed a campaign of terror and atrocity in Sierra Leone in the late 1990s and early this century".

"The former Liberian president was brought here to The Hague for trial three years ago. The hearing started just over two years ago and at the time it was expected that the trial might last 12 months, but Charles Taylor initially refused to accept the jurisdiction of the court.

"He then dismissed his legal team and the prosecution case has been very lengthy, taking testimony from more than 90 witnesses.

"The defence has said it has a list of 249 witnesses they may call to give evidence. It is very unlikely that all these witnesses will appear, but nonetheless the trial looks as though it may extend well into next year." [7f] (BBC News: Taylor defiant as testimony begins)

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## ECONOMY

**GDP:** US\$836 million (2008 est.)

**Annual Growth:** 7.1% (2008 est)

**Inflation:** 11.2% (2007 est)

**Major Industries:** “The [Liberian] economy is now growing due to growth in exports (especially rubber) and donor funding. UN sanctions on timber were lifted in June 2006 and sanctions on the export of diamonds were lifted in April 2007. The iron ore works at Yekepa in northern Liberia, closed down at the beginning of the civil war, have now been restarted and are to be run by Acelor Mittal. Negotiations for agreements to open up diamond mining and further iron ore mining concessions are underway”. [3a]

**Major trading partners:** Exports: Malaysia 38.2%, US 15.9%, Poland 12.3%, Germany 9%, Belgium 6% (2008).

Imports: South Korea 27.5%, Singapore 25.2%, Japan 11.6%, China 11.2% (2008)

**Exchange rate:** £1 is approximately 115 LRD (October 2009)

[3a] (FCO country profile, Liberia, 25 February 2009), [10a] (Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), The World Fact book: Liberia, 6 October 2009), [27] (www.xe.com, 15 October 2009)

The CIA World Factbook, updated 25 February 2009, states:

“Civil war and government mismanagement destroyed much of Liberia's economy, especially the infrastructure in and around the capital, Monrovia. Many businesses fled the country, taking capital and expertise with them, but with the conclusion of fighting and the installation of a democratically-elected government in 2006, some have returned. Richly endowed with water, mineral resources, forests, and a climate favorable to agriculture, Liberia had been a producer and exporter of basic products - primarily raw timber and rubber. Local manufacturing, mainly foreign owned, had been small in scope. President JOHNSON SIRLEAF, a Harvard-trained banker and administrator, has taken steps to reduce corruption, build support from international donors, and encourage private investment. Embargos on timber and diamond exports have been lifted, opening new sources of revenue for the government. The reconstruction of infrastructure and the raising of incomes in this ravaged economy will largely depend on generous financial and technical assistance from donor countries and foreign investment in key sectors, such as infrastructure and power generation.” [10a] (Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), The World Fact book: Liberia, 25 February 2009).

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## HUMAN RIGHTS

The US State Department report for 2008, published 25 February 2009, summarises the human rights record of Liberia's Government as follows:

“The government generally respected the human rights of its citizens; however, problems continued. Mob violence and land disputes resulted in deaths, and ritualistic killings occurred. Police abused, harassed, and intimidated detainees and citizens. Prison conditions remained harsh, and arbitrary arrest and detention occurred. Lengthy pretrial detention and denial of due process and fair public trial were problems. Some incidents of trial-by-ordeal were reported. Corruption and impunity continued in most levels of the government. Violence against women, including rape, was a problem, and domestic violence was widespread. Some ethnic groups continued to practice female genital mutilation (FGM). Child abuse and sexual violence against children were problems, and a few cases of human trafficking were reported. Racial and ethnic

discrimination continued, and instances of child labor were reported, especially in the informal sector.

“The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) held public hearings in all 15 counties, sent psychosocial teams throughout the country to help civil war victims, and collaborated with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to foster reconciliation in many communities.” [2a] (United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices 2008: Liberia, 25 February 2009)

In addition the FCO country profile for Liberia, updated 25 February 2009, notes:

“Since the end of the civil war, there have been no significant prosecutions for human rights abuses, but the human rights environment has significantly improved. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was officially inaugurated on 20 February 2006, with the mandate to gather evidence and testimony concerning the decades of violence the country has suffered. The TRC is mandated to recommend prosecutions or amnesties for individual cases. It has made a slow start. Labour rights remain a contentious subject, particularly with regard to conditions in the rubber and diamond sectors. The death penalty has been reintroduced in 2008.” [3a] FCO country profile, Liberia, 25 February 2009)

The Human Rights Watch Annual Report 2010, covering events in 2009, released on 20 January 2010, stated:

“Striking deficiencies within Liberia's rule of law sectors resulted in persistent human rights violations and undermined President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's post-war recovery, anti-corruption, and development agendas. The increasing incidence of violent crime as well as protests by disgruntled youths, mob and vigilante justice, and bloody land disputes claimed numerous lives and exposed the systemic and persistent weaknesses within the police, judiciary, and corrections sectors. Concern about inadequate progress in strengthening the rule of law was exacerbated by several risk factors, notably the global economic crisis, high unemployment, and growing insecurity in neighboring Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

“Sweeping changes in the leadership of the security and justice sectors in mid-2009 brought some hope of improvement and dispelled growing criticism at home and from donors. Meanwhile the government made tangible progress in creating the legislative framework for respect for human rights and improving access to key economic rights, including healthcare and primary education.

“The June release of the draft concluding report of Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) generated considerable controversy about its recommendations to establish a tribunal to prosecute abusers and publicly sanction erstwhile supporters of the warring factions, including President Johnson Sirleaf.” [5a]

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### 3. Index to key source documents

(KB users - click source number to access document directly)

<b>KEY FACTS AND GEOGRAPHY</b>	<b>[1a]</b>	Europa World Online, Location, climate, language, religion, flag, capital (accessed on 15 October 2009) <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/pub/">http://www.europaworld.com/pub/</a>
	<b>[1b]</b>	Europa World Online, Country statistics (accessed on 15 October 2009) <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/pub/">http://www.europaworld.com/pub/</a>
	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2008: Liberia, 25 February 2009 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119009.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119009.htm</a>
	<b>[2b]</b>	United States Department of State, Background Note: Liberia, last updated September 2009 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6618.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6618.htm</a>
	<b>[3a]</b>	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Liberia, last updated 25 February 2009 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/sub-saharan-africa/liberia/">http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/sub-saharan-africa/liberia/</a>
	<b>[7a]</b>	British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Country Profile: Liberia, Last updated 12 May 2009 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1043500.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1043500.stm</a>
	<b>[10a]</b>	Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), The World Factbook : Liberia, Last updated 6 October 2009 <a href="https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/li.html">https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/li.html</a>
<b>MAP</b>	<b>[17a]</b>	United Nations Cartographic Section, Map of Liberia <a href="http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/liberia.pdf">http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/liberia.pdf</a>
<b>HISTORY</b>	<b>[1c]</b>	Europa World Online, Recent History (accessed on 15 October 2009) <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/pub/">http://www.europaworld.com/pub/</a>
	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2008: Liberia, 25 February 2009 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119009.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119009.htm</a>
	<b>[2b]</b>	United States Department of State, Background Note: Liberia, last updated September 2009 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6618.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6618.htm</a>
	<b>[3a]</b>	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Liberia, last updated 25 February 2009 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/sub-saharan-africa/liberia/">http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/sub-saharan-africa/liberia/</a>
	<b>[7a]</b>	British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Country Profile: Liberia, Last updated 12 May 2009 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1043500.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1043500.stm</a>

<b>HISTORY CONT...</b>	[7b]	British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Timeline: Liberia, last updated 12 May 2009 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1043567.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1043567.stm</a>
	[7c]	British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Liberia: A year of slow progress, 16 January 2007 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6266155.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6266155.stm</a>
	[21a]	Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Liberia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2009">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2009</a>
<b>POLITICS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS</b>	[1c]	Europa World Online, (accessed on 15 October 2009) Recent History <a href="http://www.europaworld.com/pub/">http://www.europaworld.com/pub/</a>
	[2a]	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2008: Liberia, 25 February 2009 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119009.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119009.htm</a>
	[2b]	United States Department of State, Background Note: Liberia, last updated September 2009 <a href="http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6618.htm">http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6618.htm</a>
	[3a]	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Liberia, last updated 25 February 2009 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/sub-saharan-africa/liberia/">http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/sub-saharan-africa/liberia/</a>
	[4a]	UN Security Council, Nineteenth Progress Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia, 10 August 2009 <a href="http://www.unmil.org/documents/sqreports/sq19pr.pdf">http://www.unmil.org/documents/sqreports/sq19pr.pdf</a>
	[5a]	Human Rights Watch (HRW), World Report 2010: Liberia <a href="http://www.hrw.org/en/node/87679">http://www.hrw.org/en/node/87679</a>
	[7a]	British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Country Profile: Liberia, Last updated 12 May 2009 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1043500.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1043500.stm</a>
	[7b]	British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Timeline: Liberia, last updated 12 May 2009 <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1043567.stm">http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1043567.stm</a>
	[11a]	Amnesty International (AI) report 2009: Liberia, covering events from January to December 2008 <a href="http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/liberia/report-2009">http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/liberia/report-2009</a>
	[21a]	Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Liberia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2009">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2009</a>
	[22a]	AllAfrica, Liberia: The Fight against Rape a Brutal Wait, 14 September 2009 <a href="http://allafrica.com/stories/200909141478.html">http://allafrica.com/stories/200909141478.html</a>
	[26c]	Afrol, Liberia: Liberia successfully completes old debt buy back deal, 16 April 2009 <a href="http://www.afrol.com/articles/32976">http://www.afrol.com/articles/32976</a>

<b>HUMAN RIGHTS - GENERAL:</b>	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2008: Liberia, 25 February 2009 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119009.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119009.htm</a>
	<b>[3a]</b>	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile: Liberia, last updated 25 February 2009 <a href="http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/sub-saharan-africa/liberia/">http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/sub-saharan-africa/liberia/</a>
	<b>[4a]</b>	UN Security Council, Nineteenth Progress Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia, 10 August 2009 <a href="http://www.unmil.org/documents/sgreports/sg19pr.pdf">http://www.unmil.org/documents/sgreports/sg19pr.pdf</a>
	<b>[5a]</b>	Human Rights Watch (HRW), World Report 2010: Liberia <a href="http://www.hrw.org/en/node/87679">http://www.hrw.org/en/node/87679</a>
	<b>[11a]</b>	Amnesty International (AI) report 2009: Liberia, covering events from January to December 2008 <a href="http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/liberia/report-2009">http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/liberia/report-2009</a>
	<b>[21a]</b>	Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Liberia <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2009">http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&amp;year=2009</a>
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS – SPECIFIC ISSUES:</b>		
<b>(IN ADDITION TO GENERAL REPORTS ABOVE, INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES IS PROVIDED IN THE DOCUMENTS LISTED BELOW)</b>		
<b>CHILDREN</b>	<b>[2a]</b>	United States Department of State, Report on Human Rights Practices – 2008: Liberia, 25 February 2009 <a href="http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119009.htm">http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/af/119009.htm</a>
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