

A House with Two Rooms

Final Report
of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
of Liberia Diaspora Project

The Advocates for Human Rights

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**A House with Two Rooms: Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of
Liberia Diaspora Project**

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The photographs that appear in this volume were taken during the life of the Liberian Truth
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report on page 608.

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This report is dedicated to the people of Liberia.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia

On May 12, 2005, the Act to Establish the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Liberia was passed by the National Transitional Legislative Assembly. The TRC was tasked with investigating the truth about the human rights violations that had occurred during the nation's civil war. In late 2005, following a widespread consultative process and public nominations, nine national Commissioners were selected to make up the TRC panel.

The TRC of Liberia was mandated to promote national peace, security, unity and reconciliation by:

a. Investigating gross human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law as well as abuses that occurred, including massacres, sexual violations, murder, extra-judicial killings and economic crimes, such as the exploitation of natural or public resources to perpetuate armed conflicts, during the period January 1979 to October 14, 2003; determining whether these were isolated incidents or part of a systematic pattern; establishing the antecedents, circumstances factors and context of such violations and abuses; and determining those responsible for the commission of the violations and abuses and their motives as well as their impact on victims.

Notwithstanding the period specified herein, the Commission may, on an application by any person or group of persons, pursue the objectives set out in this Article IV (Mandate of the Commission) in respect of any other period preceding 1979.

b. Providing a forum that will address issues of impunity, as well as an opportunity for both victims and perpetrators of human rights violations to share their experiences in order to create a clear picture of the past so as to facilitate genuine healing and reconciliation;

c. Investigating the antecedents of the crises which gave rise to and impacted the violent conflict in Liberia;

d. Conducting a critical review of Liberia's historical past in order to address falsehoods and misconceptions about the nation's past socioeconomic and political development.

e. Adopting specific mechanisms and procedures to address the experiences of women, children and vulnerable groups, paying particular attention to gender-based violations, as well as to the issue of child soldiers, providing opportunities for them to relate their experiences. Addressing concerns and recommending measures to be taken for the rehabilitation of victims of such violations in the spirit of national reconciliation and healing.

f. Compiling a report that includes a comprehensive account of the activities of the Commission and its findings.

The TRC of Liberia concluded its work on June 30, 2009. It has presented its final report containing findings, determinations and recommendations made by the Commission to the National Legislature.

The Advocates for Human Rights

The Advocates for Human Rights is a non-governmental, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights. The Advocates works with volunteers to document human rights abuses, advocate on behalf of individual victims, educate on human rights issues, and provide training and technical assistance to address and prevent human rights violations.

Mission Statement

The mission of The Advocates for Human Rights is to implement international human rights standards in order to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law. By involving volunteers in research, education, and advocacy, we build broad constituencies in the United States and select global communities.

Operating Principles

The success of The Advocates for Human Rights is based upon:

- A commitment to work impartially and independently to promote and protect international human rights;
- Innovative and flexible programs that include investigation, representation, training and education, to offer concrete opportunities to promote international human rights;
- Dedicated volunteers who devote their skills and energy to projects that support human rights;
- Cooperative relationships with the United Nations as well as other non-governmental organizations working to protect human rights;
- Strategic alliances with local, national and international agencies whose work complements and supports our mission;
- Partnership building with local groups to build relationships in order to educate the community about and protect human rights;
- A generous and receptive community that is the basis of the organization's volunteer and financial support;
- Talented and committed employees, board members and interns who represent the organization with clients, colleagues, donors and the public.



DRI Press

From June 9 – 14, 2008, Hamline University in St Paul, Minnesota served as host site to the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) diaspora public hearings. DRI Press, an Imprint of the Dispute Resolution Institute at Hamline University School of Law, published the TRC Diaspora Project final report to further support the important work of the TRC and The Advocates for Human Rights.

Hamline University School of Law educates students to become competent, professional, and ethical lawyers who apply legal knowledge with disciplined imagination and a global perspective that enables them to strengthen society. The law school's Dispute Resolution Institute, consistently ranked by U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT in the top five among U.S. dispute resolution programs, offers more than 30 alternative dispute resolution courses in a wide variety of domestic and international programs each year, including certificate programs in arbitration law and practice, problem-solving and dispute resolution. Mirroring the reality that contemporary lawyers work in multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural settings, DRI classes intentionally bring together law and other graduate students, human resources and business personnel, practicing lawyers and other professionals from around the world www.hamline.edu/law/adr.