



# AFRICAN PLATFORM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

Capitol Bye-pass, Monrovia - Republic of Liberia

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August 1, 2024

Hon. Cllr. Oswald N. Tweh  
Minister  
Ministry of Justice R.L  
Capitol Hill  
Monrovia, Liberia

Dear Hon. Cllr. Tweh,

**Re: Take an Express Position in Support of Negotiations of a Convention on Crimes Against Humanity**

We, the undersigned Civil Society Organizations are -urging the Liberian government to take a clear public position of support for moving the "Draft Articles" on the prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity to formal treaty negotiations. African states have a particularly important role to play at this juncture as the continent includes the largest number of states that have yet to take an expressed position on the issue that is cardinal especially to Liberia, in its quest to ensuring accountability for past crimes committed during our years of civil war.

The Draft Articles are currently under the consideration by the United Nations' "Sixth Committee"). The Sixth Committee will meet on the Draft Articles on October 10, 2024, to consider taking a decision as to whether to initiate formal treaty negotiations to elaborate on a treaty based on the Draft Articles. Unlike similar crimes such as genocide and war crimes, there is currently no standalone treaty obligating states to prevent and punish crimes against humanity. A crimes against humanity treaty will help fill this gap. The Draft Articles would expressly delineate states' obligations to prevent and punish crimes against humanity and clarify the means for inter-state cooperation.

A majority of states have already indicated their support for treaty negotiations for a Crimes Against Humanity Treaty. However, given that the Sixth Committee customarily operates on the basis of consensus, the greatest support possible will be important to ensure a decision is taken to move ahead.


Further, as you consider the Draft Articles, we request that you approach the development of a new treaty on crimes against humanity in a gender-competent and survivor/victim-centric way. While the Draft Articles currently draw heavily from the ICC's Rome Statute, there has been significant progress in understanding of sexual and gender-based crimes and of the harm of crimes against humanity survivors. A new international treaty on crimes against humanity should reflect this progress, and we urge Liberia to incorporate it in future discussions on the Draft Articles and in formal treaty negotiations.

Sierra Leone and South Africa have shown leadership in their support for proposals to strengthen the treaty to integrate or reflect issues relative to gender related harms.

More than 450 civil society organizations and individuals have come together from around the world to call for states to support treaty negotiations to address crimes against humanity. We hope you will heed their call.


We would be happy to discuss this matter with you further and can be reached at the offices of the African Platform for Human Rights and Governance (APHURG) located on Capitol Bypass. ***(We have attached a copy of the draft articles for your ease of reference)***

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Gayduobah Korkorku ... African Platform for Human Rights and Governance (APHURG) 

Cllr. Bowoulo T. Kelley .... Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) 

Mr. Martin N. Toe... Foundation .... Foundation for Human Rights and Democracy (FOHRD)  077759172

Mr. Peterson K. Sonyah... Liberia Massacre Survivors Association (LIMASA)  0777440044

Mr. Micheal Yorwah... Center for Democratic Empowerment (CEDE)  0777984289