

**Statement by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
As Holy Month of Ramadan Draws to a Close**

Greetings, my fellow Liberians:

On behalf of all of us, I extend best wishes to our Muslim brothers and sisters, at home and around the world, as the holy month of Ramadan draws to a close, and you prepare to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr Eid – the Festival of Fast-Breaking.

For an entire month, as your Islamic faith dictates, you fasted from dawn to sunset, refraining from food and drink; you offered special prayers for forgiveness and guidance; you engaged in peacemaking and in charitable giving. With family and community, you gathered for *iftar* and prayers, sharing meals and spirituality.

Ramadan is a period of intense spiritual renewal, a time when Muslims everywhere reflect upon the good judgment and guidance that comes with faith, and upon the responsibility that all humans have to one another, and to God.

During Ramadan, we see the traditions that are shared by many faiths – of deep reflection and sacrifice; of families gathering together with love for each other; of neighbors reaching out in compassion and charity to serve the less fortunate – and everyone mindful of our obligations to one another and to peace, justice and dignity for all people.

And now, after 30 days of fasting and praying, it is time for the Eid – a joyous celebration heralding a new beginning and the victory of a

people who daily subordinated the physical realm to the spiritual, and triumphed.

On the national level, Ramadan is a reminder that Islam has always been a part of Liberia and that Liberian Muslims have made extraordinary contributions to our country. The contribution of our Muslim brothers and sisters in advancing peace, tolerance and progress is essential for Liberia's national renewal.

So, today, as this holy month of Ramadan draws to a close, we congratulate the National Muslim Council, all Muslims in Liberia, and Muslims everywhere.

We, of other faiths, who also believe in the one, true God, celebrate with you, our Muslim brethren, as you bring down the curtain on Ramadan and welcome the glorious Eid-ul-Fitr.

To all of you I say, Ramadan Mubarak!