

**Remarks by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf  
At Official Lighting of the National Christmas Tree**

**Executive Mansion Grounds**

**Wednesday, December 15, 2010**

We thank God that we all can meet again, on this occasion, to celebrate the birth of Christ, our living Lord. We thank Him for all of you who have been so blessed that you can join us in celebrating his coming birth.

Isn't it wonderful when we can have someone as young as her [five-year-old Elsy Naima Konneh from Bong County, who sang the National Anthem] to be able to come and join us in peace, in tranquility.

Isn't it wonderful when the media can be late, exemplifying the joys and the freedoms that we all have.

As we celebrate, let us, this Christmas season, reach out to someone, someone somewhere in your community, in your neighborhood, in your institution, in your club, in your party, in your church, and bring to them some small semblance of joy. Let each of us share this spirit of Christmas, the blessings that we have all received, by being able to make someone else have a Happy Christmas.

And also, as we celebrate, let us remember our neighbors, the citizens of La Côte d'Ivoire, whose Christmas is one of concern, one of fear, one of uncertainty. Let us pray for them for we know that we have been on that road before, and we know what it is and what they are going through. Pray for them, that God will help them to find peace because their peace is also our peace.

I thank all of you for coming out and for being here with us. And please enjoy the Christmas Holiday. Thank God, He's brought us through, and we can now celebrate His coming with all of the merriment.

I thank our singers, our choirs, our entertainers who have brought much gift to us. As we now light the tree – and hope that it comes on – and thank all of those who have worked so hard to be able to bring to you these few moments of Christmas cheer. Voila!