

**Statement by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf  
On the Occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan**

On behalf of the Liberian people, I want to extend our best wishes to Muslims in Liberia and around the world. Ramadan Kareem!

Ramadan is a time when Muslims here in Liberia and around the world reflect upon the good judgment and guidance that comes with faith, and the responsibility that all humans have to one another, and to God.

For our Muslim brothers and sisters in Liberia, this is a time when families and communities share the happiness of worshiping and gathering together for iftar and prayers to share meals and spirituality.

But Ramadan is also a time of intense dedication to God and reflection – a time when Muslims fast during the day and pray during the night; when Muslims provide support to others to advance peace, love, opportunity and prosperity for people everywhere. For us here in Liberia, we must remember that the country we want to build – and the changes that we want to make – must begin in our own hearts, our families and our own communities.

These Ramadan rituals remind us of the principles that other religions hold in common – a time of deep reflection and sacrifice. Fasting, as in other faiths, is used to increase discipline, spirituality, and awareness of God's mercy by reaching out to those less fortunate.

The contribution of our Muslim brothers and sisters in advancing peace, tolerance and progress is essential, for our national renewal cannot be overemphasized. I ask all Liberians to share with the Muslim Community the spirit of diversity, peace and equality, for Ramadan is a reminder that Islam has always been a part of Liberia and that Liberian Muslims have made extraordinary contributions to our country. And today, I want to extend my best wishes to the National Muslim Council and all Muslims in Liberia – and your families and friends – as they begin Ramadan.

I want to join the Grand Mufti in calling on all Liberian Muslims to pray for our country for peaceful elections as we make yet another important transition to a better Liberia. I look forward to hosting an Iftar dinner celebrating Ramadan later this month, and wish you a blessed month.

May God's peace be upon you.