

**Statement by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf at the Memorial Service
Held on April 22, 2015 for Those That Were Killed in April 1990**

In the spirit and value of Christianity, our nation was born, to right the wrongs, the wrongs of hatred, the wrongs of injustice, the wrongs of discrimination, the wrongs of wickedness.

Over the years, we have strayed from those values. Time and time again, we have allowed ourselves to be divided, to hate each other, to talk about each other, to lie on each other, to kill each other.

But God, in His merciful bounty, has given us a chance, over and over again, to reach out and to right those wrongs; has given us the opportunity to be able to do what He has called us to do, in the spirit of reconciliation and unity. Reconciliation has to come from the heart. It has to start within each and every one of us. We have to be able to look ourselves in the mirror and say, "I have done my part to forgive."

We have all, individually and collectively, sinned and fallen short of the mercy of God. I hope today, as the Government joins in solidarity with this group that has experienced so much pain and so much hurt, and reaching out in solidarity to every other group -- every individual, every tribe, every organization -- that has also felt hurt and pain; that today, we commit ourselves to go back to what the forefathers sought, to right those wrongs, and that together we can, indeed, build the nation, the nation which our forefathers sought when they came to these shores and joined their brethren in a spirit of unity. I pray God that He will give us all the strength and the courage to be a part of righting the wrong, the historical wrong, the courage wrong, and thereby, perhaps, not be a part of any future wrong.

Thank God for eleven years of peace to which all have contributed. We thank God we can say today that, together, we can be a prosperous nation, we can be a unified nation, we can be a nation that does its part in the world.

I'd like the Townsend brothers, who sang so well, to now join us in singing the National Anthem.