

**ULAA Press**  
 Working with Our Member Chapters  
 and Friends of Liberia for the  
 general welfare of All Liberians  
**The Voice of the Union**  
 "TOGETHER WE STRUGGLE FOR A BETTER LIBERIA"

**Office of the National Secretariat**  
 1629 K Street NW Suite 300  
 Washington, DC 20006  
 Telephone: 1-866-592-4480; 202-688-2792

**H. E. VAMBA S. FOFANA**  
**National Executive President**

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ULAA CONDEMNS VIOLENCE AND EXTREMISM; SAYS A DECENT SOCIETY MUST PROMOTE A PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY EXCHANGE OF IDEAS**

WASHINGTON, February 21, 2019 – The Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA or The Union) condemns the continue acts of violence and extremism in that small West African, Republic of Liberia. The Union made the condemnation in a consultative briefing at its headquarters in Washington, DC., as a result of continued acts of disrespect for the rule of law by both the Government and her surrogates on the one hand, and the general public and opposition on the other hand. For this ULAA sees these as a blatant disrespect for the rule of law.

ULAA says Liberians most cherished legacy as a society is the system's fundamental constitutional recognition of the rights and liberties of individuals as enjoyed over the past 13 years, and it believes that one of the principal functions of government at all levels is to protect those rights and ensure that their exercise is respected and provided for in all aspects of social discourse.

As the Umbrella Organization of Liberian organizations in the US Diaspora, The Union believes in the essential dignity, worth, and equality of every individual. ULAA strongly believes that the

use of proper language in all of our communications should reflect our commitment to promoting an unwholesome society by invoking Chapter III, Articles 11 – 26 of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia. We believe that there is an obligation for the Government, business and society in all its aspects to respect every individual and recognize him or her as an equal member of the community.

The Union strongly believes that government has a duty to protect the rights of those individuals, whether they are in the majority or minority, the disadvantaged or underprivileged and ensure that their voices are heard in public fora. ULAA says that it is our differences as individuals and the recognition and acceptance of those differences in society which will enrich our culture and make our country vital and energetic.

The Union maintains that as the single most organization that will transform Liberia, it perceives it as our duty to be the voice of those who have no voice, the strong arm for those who are weak, the advocate for the powerless, and the defender of those who are most vulnerable. It is our duty to give them their own voice. The Union believes that the Liberian society can only be judged by how we treat the poorest and least, as we strive for a middle class to bridge the gap between the poor and the rich.

As Liberians we honor our forebears and their legacy to us of one of the best systems of government that this oldest African Republic has ever known by carrying on their fight for individual rights and the creation of a truly just and equal society as enshrined in the 1986 Constitution of this Nation. The Union supports and encourages diversity of tribal and civilized representation in all aspects of public and political life, and call on all Liberians and foreign residents to uphold the rule of law.

The Union deplors and renounces extremist philosophies and the actions of Government and her surrogates, and those individuals and organizations that promote violence, bigotry, or intolerance. ULAA believes that a decent society must promote a peaceful and orderly exchange of ideas among its members in an atmosphere of common respect for one another in spite of their differences and status in society. ULAA opposes Government and her surrogates, and those individuals and groups that refuse to respect the rights of individuals in our society and deny them the common respect that is their due. ULAA will support legislations as supportive of these goals. The Union supports the right of peaceful dissent but condemns all acts of violence and all groups which resort to terrorist acts for whatever purpose.

#### About ULAA

The Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA) is the umbrella organization representing Liberians and their various organizations in the Americas. ULAA is a voluntary, nonprofit, and non-governmental organization formed on July 4, 1974 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States of America. The mission of ULAA is to advance the just causes of Liberians and Liberia at home and abroad.

###

**PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**