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## IWU Political Science Professor Worries About Homeland . .

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November 18, 1992

Contact: Chris Fusco, 309/556-318

*IWU political science professor worries about homeland. . .*

## **Liberian civil war prompts call for UN action**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--As Liberia's bloody civil war escalates, Illinois Wesleyan political science professor George Kieh is urging diplomatic intervention from the United States and the United Nations to bring peace to his troubled homeland.

Since 1989, over 60,000 people have died in the ongoing Liberian civil conflict. The Associated Press reports a rebellious political faction, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, is continuing to terrorize the country. Some 200 people have been killed in Harbel, the home city of the American-managed Firestone rubber plantation, in the past few weeks.

Kieh, a member of former President Jimmy Carter's non-governmental International Negotiation Network, feels that the United States must take a constructive diplomatic role within the UN to stop the killing. The Bush and Reagan administrations, once large financial and military suppliers of the Liberian government that started the civil war, have ignored the new violence since the end of the Cold War.

"The U.S. should not be displaying a nonchalant attitude when it created the monster," Kieh said. "Now it's watching from the sidelines. No one's asking for military intervention, just some diplomatic help."

According to Kieh, a group of American Liberians is drafting an intervention proposal for the incoming Clinton administration. The proposal aims at providing economic aid to West African peacekeeping forces within the framework of the UN.

Last Saturday (Nov. 14) a seven-nation West African peacekeeping force headed by the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) met in Nigeria, calling for a cease fire and disarmament of all factions in the conflict. Charles Taylor, leader of the NPFL, promptly broke the agreement. As of late, the peacekeepers have called for a UN Security Council embargo against Taylor,

Kieh, author of "Dependency and the Foreign Policy of a Small Power: The Liberian Case," joined the Illinois Wesleyan faculty in 1990. He has previously taught at Northwestern University, University of Illinois at Chicago, Memphis State University, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, North Park College, St. Xavier University and the University of Liberia.

Kieh received a bachelor of arts degree (honors) in political science from the University of Liberia and master of arts and doctoral degrees from Northwestern University.

Illinois Wesleyan University (founded 1850) enrolls over 1,800 students on its 60-acre campus in Bloomington, Ill. For four consecutive years, "U.S. News and World Report" has rated IWU No. 1 in the Midwest among regional colleges and universities in the magazine's annual "America's Best Colleges" edition.

<p><b>EDITOR'S NOTE:</b> Interviews with George Kieh on the Liberian civil conflict may be arranged by contacting Chris Fusco or Bob Aaron at IWU News Services -- 309/ 556-3181.</p>
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