**PRESS RELEASE**

**Monrovia, September 27, 2016:** Liberia will on tomorrow September 28, 2016 join other countries of the world to celebrate the International Right To Know Day. According to a release from the Independent Information Commission, the Day is celebrated to raise awareness on the importance of access to information and the need for governments to be open and transparent. The local theme for this year’s celebration is: **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, A POSITIVE TOOL FOR SUSTAINING THE PEACE IN LIBERIA.**

Liberia in 2010 passed the Freedom of Information Act which at the time made it the first country in Africa to enact a law giving citizens full rights to access government information. The Day will be celebrated at the Ministry of Information where the formal indoor program will take place in the Charles Gbenyon Conference Hall. The keynote address this year will be delivered by the Swedish Ambassador to Liberia, H. E. Lena Nostroom. This is the fourth celebration of the Day in Liberia.

The program is expected to be attended by government officials, civil society organizations, local and international partners, the media, and students. During the program, there will be a FOI fair to display and distribute public documents by selected government ministries and agencies under the Carter Center pilot project of System of Tracking and Monitoring Freedom of Information (STEMFOI).

Meanwhile, as part of the celebrations, an interactive students engagement forum will take place today on the campus of the African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU) on this year’s theme with specific emphasis on the election timetable by staff of the National Elections Commission.

The Day was set aside in 2002 in Sofia, Bulgaria by champions of access to information who had gathered for a conference to make governments open and transparent.

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