



## **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AU COMMISSION ON THE UPSURGE OF VIOLENCE IN LIBERIA**

The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, unreservedly condemns the violence which has been occurring in Monrovia, Liberia, since Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2004. He notes with concern that the wanton acts of violence have involved attacks on innocent civilians, as well as the burning of houses of worship and of homes and businesses; and that this has, in turn, led to deaths and destruction of property. He is particularly disturbed at the fact that this development has come just before the scheduled end of the disarmament process.

The Chairperson notes, further, that the series of incidents which have occurred in Monrovia in the past few days could not only undermine the consolidation of peace in Liberia, but could also send the wrong signals to members of the international community which have pledged to contribute towards Liberia's post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

Accordingly, the Chairperson of the AU Commission strongly urges the people of Liberia, particularly those in Monrovia, to be law abiding, comply with the curfew imposed by the Government of Liberia and desist from carrying out any further acts of violence. He urges them, further, to cooperate with the Government in its bid to fulfill its mandate in ensuring the completion of the disarmament exercise and the preparations for the elections scheduled to be held next year.

**Addis Ababa, 31 October 2004**