

Closing remarks on the occasion of the visit of Her Excellency ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia, to the Parliament of the Netherlands. Friday 9 November 2012

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Your Excellency, Madam President,

At the end of this meeting I would like to thank you, on behalf of the Senate and the House of Representatives, for visiting the Parliament of the Netherlands. It was a pleasure to hear you speak about the developments in your country. You painted the problems of a country that for many years was torn apart by violence and hatred. But you have also showed us that the efforts of dedicated persons can realize a turn for the better. And, thanks to the question of Mr. Sjoerdsma, you told us it is our obligation to dream impossible dreams.

Your dedication and commitment have been recognized by the world community. We already mentioned the Nobel Peace Prize you received last year. And this afternoon the University of Tilburg will award you with an honorary doctorate. May I congratulate you in advance with this important tribute.

Madam President,

I would like to wish you a very pleasant and rewarding stay in our country, especially this afternoon in Tilburg. I am convinced that you will leave the Netherlands with good memories. I wish you all the best with your difficult and defiant job as political leader and I hope for a peaceful and prosperous future for the people of your country.