



Sierra Leone First Lady celebrates International Day of the African Child

Sierra Leone's First Lady, Alice Sia Koroma, is visiting the International Humanitarian City (IHC) premises and meeting with representatives of United Nations agencies and humanitarian NGOs operating in Sierra Leone and registered at the IHC.

Part of a two day visit to Dubai, at the invitation of Dubai-based charity 'All As One', the humanitarian gathering at IHC coincides with the celebration of the 'International Day of the African Child'. Initiated seventeen years ago by the Organization of African Unity this day honors the memory of the children who, in 1976, were brutally shot down while marching in the streets of Soweto (Southern Africa) to protest the inferior quality of their education.

The First Lady of Sierra Leone dedicated her visit to promoting education, identity,

welfare, status and other civil rights for children and their families in Africa. "The war in Sierra Leone has left some very difficult legacies and a great number of orphans is one of them", said Mrs. Sia Koroma, adding "the children are in need of food, housing, education, medical support. Humanitarian workers are making arduous efforts to improve their situation and give them hope", continued Mrs. Sia Koroma.

She highlighted the contributions made by 'All As One' (AAO), an international charity registered with IHC, which provides complete care for the orphans and destitute children of its Freetown Center. "It was wonderful to see the children looking so happy and well cared for. The centre provides them with education and the opportunity to be children", concluded Mrs. Sia Koroma.