

# Liberia Emergency Map

by U.S. Committee for Refugees

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## **LIBERIA: KEY LOCATIONS EXPLAINED**

(Situation as of April 8, 2003. Listed in alphabetical order)

### **BOPOLU**

Small town captured by rebels known as Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) in early February in a resumption of hostilities between LURD rebels and government forces. Bopolu is about 60 miles (100 km) northwest of Monrovia.

## **CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

Of 60,000 Liberian refugees late last year, some 30,000 hurriedly returned to Liberia while an estimated 30,000 Liberian refugees remain in Côte d'Ivoire in dangerous conditions. Liberian militias and LURD rebels have reportedly raided and looted Ivorian villages along the Côte d'Ivoire-Liberian border, increasing tensions between the governments.

## **GANTA**

Town in northern Liberia on the Guinean border attacked in late March 2003 after Liberian government troops forced LURD rebels out of Gbarnga. The attack on Ganta pushed 7,000 Liberians into Guinea as refugees. Ganta is about 150 miles (250 km) northeast of Monrovia.

## **GBARNGA**

Provincial capital in central Liberia seized by LURD rebels in mid-March 2003 but retaken by the Liberian military days later. The battles displaced an estimated 30,000 persons, including thousands of Liberians residing in internally displaced camps there. Gbarnga is at the junction of major roads from Monrovia to Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. Gbarnga is about 125 miles (200 km) northeast of Monrovia.

## **GREENVILLE**

Port city in southeastern Liberia that received thousands of displaced persons and refugees fleeing the April 2003 attacks on Zwedru. Greenville is about 150 miles (240 km) southeast of Monrovia.

## **GUINEA**

Guinea hosted more than 110,000 Liberian refugees at the end of 2002. A LURD attack on Ganta in northeastern Liberia pushed an additional 7,000 Liberians into southern Guinea in late March 2003. LURD rebels have used Guinea to escape Liberian forces, leading to increased tensions between the two governments.

## **HARPER**

Harper, an isolated provincial capital about 10 miles (20 km) from the Ivorian border, has become the operations center for aid organizations in eastern Liberia. Harper is a destination for eastern Liberians displaced by violence, as well as a transit center for Ivorian refugees and third country nationals under evacuation from western Côte d'Ivoire (please see Updated Côte d'Ivoire Emergency Map #2).

## **KLEY**

Small town in western Liberia captured by LURD rebels in early February 2003. Government forces recaptured Kley in early April. Kley, 25 miles (40 km) northwest of Monrovia, sits at the junction of major transit roads leading to Sierra Leone and northern Liberia.

## **MONROVIA**

LURD incursions increasingly surround and isolate Monrovia, Liberia's capital and largest city. Thousands of Liberians displaced by clashes between LURD rebels and the Liberian military have fled to existing internal displacement camps on the outskirts of Monrovia where tens of thousands of previously uprooted Liberians already resided. More than 100,000 persons reside in seven internal displacement camps at the edge of Monrovia including long-established camps such as Jah Tondo, Montserrado, Ricks Institute, VOA, and Zuannah Town. LURD rebels attacked Ricks Institute camp in late March 2003 and reportedly abducted more than 1,000 as conscripts, prompting the Liberian government to announce plans to move all seven camps from Monrovia for security reasons.

## **NICLA CAMP**

UNHCR's main refugee camp in Côte d'Ivoire. Some 15,000 Liberian refugees resided in Nicla camp during most of 2002. Fighting in western Côte d'Ivoire uprooted more than two-thirds of the Nicla

camp population. Many Nicla camp residents returned to Liberia in early January 2003 before the fighting intensified there. Fewer than 5,000 Liberian refugees remain in Nicla. Nicla camp is almost 20 miles (30 km) from the Liberian border.

### **ROBERTSPORT**

Provincial capital in southwestern Liberia captured by LURD rebels in mid-February, causing thousands of Liberians to seek refuge in Sierra Leone. Robertsport is 50 miles (80 km) west of Monrovia.

### **SACLEPEA**

Small town about 30 miles (45 km) east of Gbarnga and the site of a UNHCR transit center hosting more than 1,000 Ivorian refugees and third country nationals as well as some Liberians displaced by fighting in Toe Town and Gbarnga.

### **SIERRA LEONE**

Thousands of new Liberian refugees have fled to Sierra Leone in recent weeks. They have joined 60,000 Liberian refugees already hosted by Sierra Leone.

### **TOE TOWN**

Small eastern Liberian village on the border with Côte d'Ivoire that was the site of a UNHCR transit center until attacked in late February 2003, reportedly by rebels launching out of Côte d'Ivoire. More than 2,500 Ivorians and other refugees in the transit center fled to Zwedru, 50 miles (80 km) to the south. Three aid workers from Adventist Relief and Development Agency were killed in Toe Town.

### **TOTOTA**

Town in northern Liberia's Bong County which recently received nearly 20,000 Liberians displaced by the mid-March fighting in and around Gbarnga. More than 40,000 Liberians reportedly reside in Totota's four camps for internally displaced persons. Totota is some 30 miles (50 km) southwest of Gbarnga.

### **TUBMANBURG**

Provincial capital in western Liberia captured by LURD rebels in early February. Violence forced at least 5,000 civilians to flee towards Monrovia and signaled an intensification of the three-year-old civil war. Tubmanburg is 35 miles (60 km) north of Monrovia.

### **ZORZOR**

Town in northern Liberia captured by LURD rebels in mid-March 2003 and used as a staging ground for attacks on Gbarnga.

### **ZWEDRU**

Provincial capital of Grand Gedeh County and the site of a UNHCR transit camp hosting 5,000 Ivorian and other West African refugees. Most refugees fleeing insurgent attacks on Toe Town in early March sought safety in Zwedru. In early April 2003, Unknown assailants reportedly overran the transit camp in Zwedru and caused refugees and aid workers to flee to Harper, Greenville, and Côte d'Ivoire. Some 80 Liberian aid workers were missing after the Zwedru attacks. Most of the aid workers are Liberians working with *Medecins Sans Frontieres* (MSF) and *Action Contre La Faim* (ACF). Zwedru is located in northeastern Liberia and is about 15 miles (25 km) from the Ivorian border.