



Information Resource Center - Monrovia

# NEWS & ARTICLES ALERT

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Public Affairs Section  
Embassy of the United States of America  
Monrovia, Liberia



## IRC-MONROVIA

The Information Resource Center (IRC) offers information resources, organizes regular weekly events, and is the hub for coordinating outreach programs, especially the American Corner program. The IRC is open to the public Monday to Thursday from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm; photo ID is required for entry.

### IRC NEWS

#### Pilot English Access Program Ends Successfully



Ambassador Deborah Malac issues a certificate to an Access student as Education Minister Etmonia Tarpheh looks on.

U.S. Embassy Monrovia Public Affairs Section has successfully implemented a two-year English Access Microscholarship Program (EAMP) in Liberia through three service providers: J.J. Roberts United Methodist School, Muslim Congress High School and Ricks Institute. At a closing ceremony on February 27, Ambassador Deborah Malac issued certificates to 43 students who participated in the program. The program was attended by Minister of Education Etmonia Tarpheh,

teachers, parents and school administrators. EAMP provides a foundation of English language skills to non-elite, 13-20-year-old students through after-school classes and intensive learning activities. Since its inception in 2004, some 95,000 students in more than 85 countries have participated in the Access Program.

#### Two Schools Benefit from eLibraryUSA Training



L-R: IRC Director Belvis O'diaji takes questions after a presentation to patrons from Muslim Congress High School and Acting PAO Mercedes Crosby welcomes patrons from Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary during their respective training sessions..

IRC-Monrovia hosted two training sessions, one for administrative and Master's students of Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary on February 7, and another for academic and administrative staff of Muslim Congress High School on February 14. Altogether 37 patrons were registered to become IRC members with eLibraryUSA accounts, which gives them access to over 20 databases with vast resources in the eLibraryUSA, a virtual library.

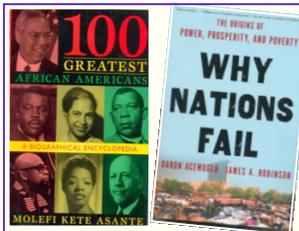
### EDUCATION ADVISING

Education advising sessions at the IRC:  
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

[www.educationusa.state.gov](http://www.educationusa.state.gov)

### NEW ON THE SHELF

#### 100 Greatest African Americans by Molefi Asante



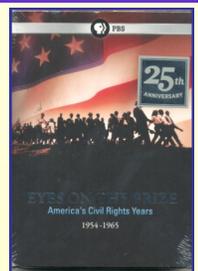
IRC-Monrovia has received a fresh stock of books, among them the following two outstanding ones. First is **100 Greatest African Americans**. "The individuals in this book — examples of lasting greatness as opposed to the ephemeral glare of celebrity — come from *four centuries* of

African American history. Each entry includes brief biographical information, relevant dates, an assessment of the individual's place in African American history with particular reference to his historical timeline, and a discussion of his or her unique impact on American society." The author, Molefi Kete Asante, is a professor of African American Studies at Temple University. Also new in our stock is **Why Nations Fail**, which answers the question that has stumped the experts for centuries: Why are some nations rich and others poor, divided by wealth and poverty, health and sickness, food and famine?

### COMING UP IN MARCH 2013

#### IRC Observes Women's History

**Movie Series, Children's Hour, and Speaker Series:** (4:30 - 6:30 pm): Under the theme "The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum," IRC-Monrovia will screen documentaries during **Movie Series** and host talk shows during **Children's Hour** and **Speaker Series**. Attendance to all events is without invitation; present photo ID at the gate for admission.



#### eLibraryUSA Training

IRC-Monrovia will conduct training on eLibraryUSA and other research databases to academic and administrative staff of the Cedar Lebanese School on March 14, and members of Congress for Democratic Change Youth Wing on March 21. Attendance is by invitation only.

### STAY CONNECTED

<http://monrovia.usembassy.gov>  
<http://facebook.com/monrovia.usembassy>  
<http://twitter.com/embassymonrovia>  
<http://flickr.com/usembassymonrovia>

## ARTICLES ALERT

*Articles Alert* is produced monthly by the Information Resource Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Monrovia. It offers abstracts of current articles, mostly from U.S. publications and by U.S. authors, highlighting significant issues in major areas of international or U.S. domestic affairs. Views expressed in the articles are those of authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.

### WHITE HOUSE

#### State of the Union Address Deeply Rooted in American History

Source: [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov)



When President Barack Obama addressed leaders of the U.S. federal government on February 12 he was fulfilling a constitutional obligation and following a long-standing tradition of American presidents. The U.S. Constitution requires that the president report to Congress “from time to time” on the “State of the Union.” This constitutional requirement has evolved into the president’s annual State of the Union address, which now serves several purposes. The speech reports on the condition of the United States both domestically and internationally, recommends a legislative agenda for the coming year and gives the president the opportunity to personally convey his vision for the nation.

### STATE DEPARTMENT

#### Secretary Kerry on Pope Benedict’s Retirement



The new U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, has issued a statement wishing Pope Benedict XVI well in retirement. “The United States sends its best wishes to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI as he leaves the Vatican after years of service and dedication to God, the Catholic Church, and world peace. As the papal conclave assembles, I look forward to continuing our important relationship with the Vatican and working with the new pope to foster dialogue and promote human rights and human dignity throughout the world. On this day, I keep Pope Benedict in my prayers and wish him well as he enters into retirement.”



Information Resource Center

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### AFRICAN CRISES

#### The International Response in Mali



The March 2012 coup and subsequent loss of northern Mali to Islamic extremists demonstrates all too clearly how quickly terrorists prey upon fragile states. Poor governance, weak democratic institutions, and a lack of development and economic opportunity create fertile ground for terrorism and instability. Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, Johnnie Carson has said. As the Malian Government, regional part-

ners, and the international community continue to respond vigorously to the ongoing crisis in Mali, we must be mindful of the four underlying challenges Mali continues to face: al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb’s (AQIM) continued presence in northern Mali, the restoration of democracy, the need to begin negotiations with northern groups that renounce terrorism and recognize the unity of the Malian state, and a significant ongoing humanitarian crisis. Failure to address these challenges – comprehensively and simultaneously – risks perpetuating the cycle of violence and insecurity that has plagued northern Mali for decades and threatened stability across the Sahel.”



Source: [iipdigital.state.gov](http://iipdigital.state.gov)

#### Call for Peaceful Elections in Guinea



The United States Government has called for non-violence and support of peaceful democratic process in Guinea. “The United States deplores the violence that disrupted political protests in Conakry, Guinea and we reiterate our call

for all political parties, government officials, security forces, and civil society to participate and support the democratic process and commit to non-violence throughout the electoral cycle. The United States continues to urge the Republic of Guinea to work with all parties to ensure peaceful and transparent legislative elections take place.”

Source: [infocentral.state.gov](http://infocentral.state.gov)