

kapra - a similar civil defense force - in the north.

### **Human Rights:**

The signing of the Abidjan Accord resulted in the formation of the National Commission for Human Rights. In the lead up to the peace settlement there was a lot of pressure from both international and national human rights groups that the issue of human rights be addressed by the two parties. Amnesty International, for example, had stressed to both the government and the RUF that any political settlement had to include strong guarantees of respect for human rights if the peace process was to be effective.

On July 1, 1996 the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission was established to address abuses against civilians by the former government. Those found to be victims of injustices were able to apply for compensation. The Commission was also supposed to investigate and identify why society had become divided as a means of preventing future conflicts. Again in this instance, the coup cut short the work of the Commission.

### *Post-Coup:*

Initiatives in human rights after May 1997 have been limited to monitoring the overall human rights situation and a minimal role in ensuring the human treatment of prisoners. The Civil Liberties Congress (CLC) of Liberia has reported that human rights abuses increased following the arrival in power of the AFRC. Summary executions, armed robberies, murder, and incidents of mutilation have all occurred. The National League for Human Rights and Democracy has also accused the new junta of human rights violations. Similarly, Amnesty International has expressed concern over the detention of political prisoners. ICRC delegates have been able to visit detainees in various prisons to register people held as a result of the coup and notify their relatives of their whereabouts.

### **Economic Reconstruction:**

Initiatives concerning economic rehabilitation were primarily limited to the start-up of small income generation projects, the reinvigoration of the agricultural sector, or the provision of basic logistical assistance to such schemes. The implementation of these projects was carried out through a combination of foreign aid agencies as well as national agencies. For example, in the agricultural sector, the government established the Agricultural Emergency Relief Committee. This was divided into three sub-committees which each had responsibility for various areas including the selection of suitable seed and fertilizers for farmers, and the distribution of land for various agricultural inputs.

These national activities were complemented by those of various international actors. CARE, for example, had a Productive Activities Project which targeted productive members of 16000 war affected families by focusing on intervention that maintained or revived initiatives that resulted in food production or cash generation. Specific programs provided seeds and planting materials or basic farm kits which were intended to provide enough food for feeding families as well as some surplus for sale. Women were also helped to start income generation activities such as soap making or tie-dyeing by way of short term loans and technical assistance. Similarly, ActionAid began an EU funded agricultural rehabilitation programme in two districts which distributed seeds and tools to more than 4900 families in