



HIS HONOR ROOSEVELT Z. WILLIE
RESIDENT JUDGE
CRIMINAL COURT "A", 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Liberia’s Biggest Human Trafficking Trial Nears Final Argument

The First Judicial Circuit, Criminal Assizes “A” for Montserrado County is preparing to hear final arguments in one of Liberia’s largest human trafficking cases, involving fifty-seven (57) victims: twenty-two (22) females and thirty-five (35) males recruited from seven counties and brought to Monrovia under false promises of traveling to Canada. The victims, aged between eighteen (18) and thirty-six (36), were lured with hopes of better opportunities abroad.

After nearly a month of legal proceedings, both state prosecutors and defense counsel have rested their cases, presenting oral and documentary evidence and witness testimony. The court is expected to set a date for the final arguments soon.

The defendants Bill Plato, Preston Godfred, Alexander Plato, Jerome Gensen, Luter Flomo, Woe Zekarso Garteh, Elijah Smith, Dennis Suah, Boima Saye, Mathianline

Tompia, Shalley Jonny, and Blessing Favor Suah — are employees of Q-net (Infinity Millennials, Plantinu Star Limitless), with offices located at Gbangba's Town, Roberts International Airport Highway.

According to prosecutors, the defendants conspired to extort a total of \$124,921 USD from the victims between 2024 and 2025. Victims reported being locked inside Q-net's compound, stripped of their cell phones and travel documents, and denied freedom of movement. They endured inhumane, slavery-like conditions until their rescue in September 2025.

The charges fall under Article 1, Section III of Liberia's 2011 Trafficking in Persons Law, which criminalizes recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons through coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, or abuse of power for exploitation.

Victims testified that they were deceived into believing they would travel to Canada for life-changing opportunities. Instead, they were subjected to forced labor and exploitation.

This landmark case, involving dozens of victims from across Liberia, is expected to set a precedent in the fight against human trafficking and exploitation in the country.

Trafficking in persons means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, by fraud or deception, or abuse of power; or receiving payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person over another person for the purpose of exploitation.