



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

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OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

**RL/MOA/FAC/M-495/10**

May 25, 2010

Mr. Patrick Alley  
Director  
Global Witness  
Buchanan House  
30 Holborn  
London EC1N 2HS  
[www.globalwitness.org](http://www.globalwitness.org)

Dear Mr. Alley:

Your regrettable letter and Press Release of May 11, 2010, containing the allegation of an illegal sale of one of Liberia's valuable Forest Products has been brought to the attention of the President of Liberia who is now on an official visit abroad.

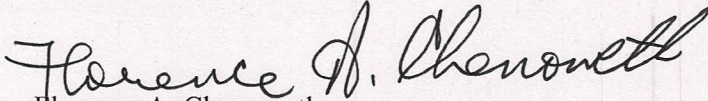
Responsibly, and graciously, as usual, she has asked me to convey her total shock and disappointment by this needlessly damaging disclosure by Global Witness, despite its normal access to her for the review of all Liberia's Forest Management matters. It is a matter which could have been deliberately clarified or handled as in the past when similar issues you have raised had been promptly resolved by her. The incident of an illegal sale of EKKI Wood that was quickly halted when you notified her, is a case in point.

Regarding the present allegation, may I explain that the President had already freely initiated dialogue with the Norwegians, indicating that investment resources to create jobs and provide social services to Forest Communities, as an alternative to generated forestry revenue, would have to be available now, rather than three or five years hence. Accordingly, as far as the President is concerned, the ball is in Norway's Court, and Liberia will be ready to act when conditions are mutually met.

At a time when the Liberian President is abroad tirelessly in pursuit of Liberia's urgent and critical development needs, it is both unacceptable and unfortunate that her fair and proficient leadership style should be so publicly maligned before the world.

It would serve Global Witness' purpose better if you come to Liberia to review these issues, clarify the inaccuracies, and help us identify such measures that could address disagreements conclusively. Otherwise, any open attempt to undermine the success of the President's US visit, and impair the upliftment of the Liberian people, with unconfirmed and malicious information is clearly disheartening and inappropriate. It seems almost self-serving and devoted to your own financial sustainability.

Regards,



Florence A. Chenoweth

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE &  
CHAIR OF THE FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA)**

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