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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DOCUMENTARY ON SIERRA LEONE'S 50/50 GROUP TO BE SCREENED AT  
PAN AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL**

WASHINGTON – A documentary, *Side by Side: The Story of the 50/50 Group of Sierra Leone*, will be screened at the Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles, CA, next month. The documentary profiles the development of the 50/50 Group, founded in 2000 to promote the participation of women in Sierra Leone's post-war politics.

The documentary will be screened on Saturday, February 9, at 3:55 PM, and Wednesday, February 13 at 1:10 PM.

The 50/50 Group emerged out of the ruins of a decade-long civil war that resulted in over 50,000 deaths, thousands maimed, and enormous destruction of property and infrastructure. The group has grown from a handful of women meeting in borrowed space in the capital, Freetown, to a nationally recognized organization actively engaged in building a new post-war Sierra Leone in which women can share equally with men in the political decisions that affect their lives.

Presented by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the documentary is narrated by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, NDI's chairman, and recounts the inspirational history and achievements of a remarkable group of women. With support from NDI, the 50/50 Group seeks to live up to its name by ensuring an equal share of power between men and women in the country's traditionally male-dominated political system. The group was established to change public perception of women in politics, remove barriers to women's political participation, and equip the next generation of women candidates with the tools necessary to achieve electoral success.

The film may be viewed here:

<http://www.ndi.org/about/specialprojects/harriman/2007/demluncheon.asp>

Learn more about the 50/50 Group: <http://ndiaction.org/node/270>

Producers: Dwayne Johnson-Cochran and Tiffany Persons; Executive Producers: Reina King and Regina King

*NDI is a non-profit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. NDI works with democrats in every region of the world to build political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness, and accountability in government. More information is available at [www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org)*

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