

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
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To: H
Subject: Fw: Liberia opposition calls poll 'flawed,' pulls out (AP)

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To: NEWS-AF; NEWS-Mahogany
Subject: Liberia opposition calls poll 'flawed,' pulls out (AP)

MONROVIA (AP) - Opposition parties in Liberia say they're pulling out of a recent presidential poll which they called "flawed" and say they won't accept the results.

A Saturday statement from eight opposition parties including those of the second- and third-place candidates say the electoral commission manipulated vote-counting in favor of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

The statement also called for a Sunday rally but gave no details.

Sirleaf led late Friday with 45.4 percent of the vote, falling short of the majority needed to avoid a runoff, according to partial results.

The Harvard-educated Sirleaf faced 15 challengers on Tuesday. She is viewed abroad as a reformer and was awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize for her role in stabilizing Liberia after a 14-year civil war.

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