

In August Prem Rawat Spoke at Four West African Events in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Benin



Ghana

First up was Accra, where, among the 1,000 attending, were three high-level prison officials, including the National Director. Since the Peace Education Program is approved for prisons throughout Ghana, they welcomed the chance to meet Prem backstage to express their appreciation personally for its success there. (The Prem Rawat Foundation also supported this event, and you can read more about it and the impact in Ghana of the Peace Education Program [here](#).)

Côte d'Ivoire

Next came a special “Traditional Wisdom in Service to Peace” event in Abidjan. Here, the Representative of Kings had invited Prem Rawat to become a Chief before a VIP audience of 350, many of them community chiefs themselves.



After a question and answer session following his address, Prem was ceremonially enthroned as a Chief, an honor traditionally reserved for foreign presidents and dignitaries. Prem expressed his respect for the honor, and his commitment to the people of Abidjan, by donning these robes.



At this same ceremony, representatives of the major coastal city, Grand Bassam, conferred on him an honorary citizenship.



This extraordinary event attracted media coverage from the national station, plus 13 local radio stations, as well as 6 newspapers. Collating and translating their many reports is already underway.

Although Prem used to speak in this region regularly, civil wars and violence, especially in Côte d'Ivoire, prevented him from continuing for some time. So when later that same afternoon he walked onstage at a larger event in Abidjan, some 2,000 people stood cheering wildly with joy as they welcomed him back.



Benin

Then, Prem concluded this brief West African tour speaking before his largest audience of 4,000 people in Cotonou, Benin.



Excitement, Anticipation—Then an Explosion of Joy

We'll wrap up our report with impressions from Hilary Davis, Global Event Organizer and Manager, who witnessed first-hand the phenomenal impact Prem Rawat and his message made in West Africa this August:

Many people travelled a long way to get to the events in their respective countries in West Africa. The audiences at the Ghana and Benin open events were so happy to see Prem. At the Abidjan event they were so excited at seeing him in person in their country after 18 years that they gave him one of the biggest and loudest receptions I've ever seen. As he walked on stage, they just could not stop cheering, waving handkerchiefs. They did not want to sit down—a tangible explosion of joy!

Before he departed, touched by such enthusiasm for his message from people throughout the region, Prem promised he would return to West Africa soon.

