

Liberia: Trading weapons for makeup brushes - but still no jobs

MONROVIA: Tony Clarke traded two grenades for a set of combs, makeup brushes, nail varnish and a short course in cosmetology.

"They help me beautify myself," said the 32-year-old who sports a carefully trimmed goatee and wears a flashy knock-off designer watch. "As a cosmetologist, you have to groom yourself before you can groom anyone else."

Clarke, who fought in the country's civil war, is set to graduate from his training in March. But given skyrocketing unemployment and poorly developed private industry in Liberia, he might end up like many other trained ex-combatants - unable to find a job.

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