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The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT



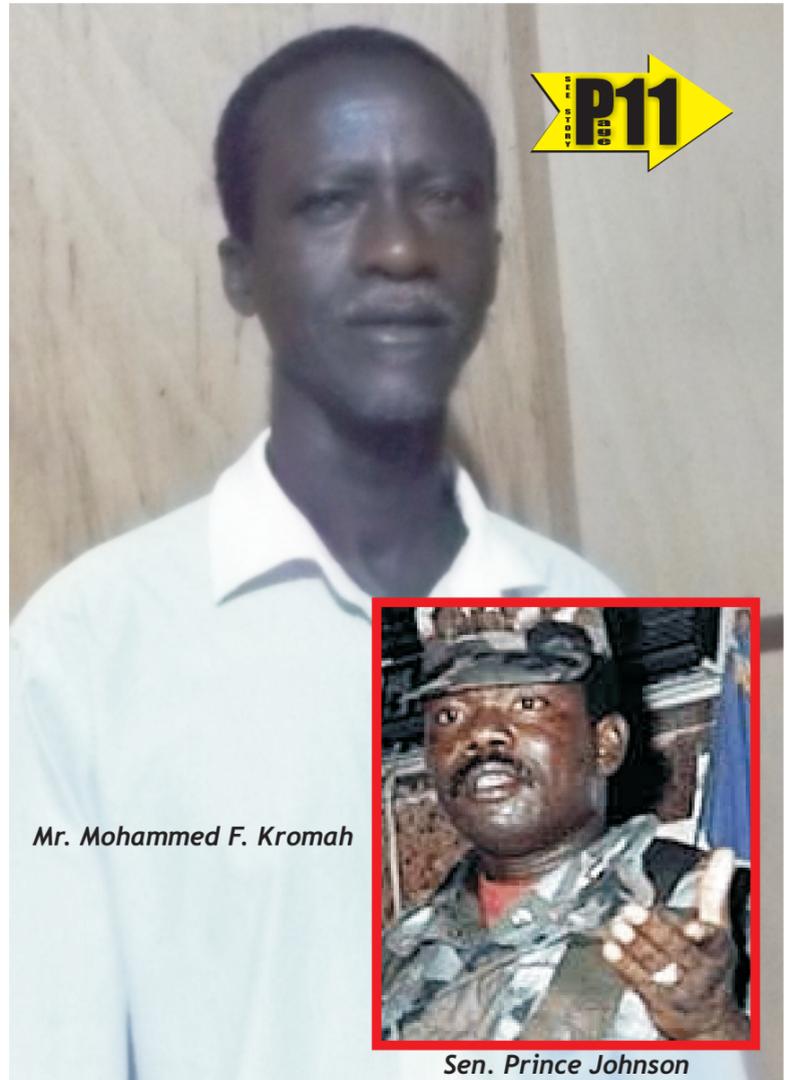
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Man accuses PYYJ

-writes Pres. Weah



Mr. Mohammed F. Kromah



Sen. Prince Johnson



Stinks take over House



Continental News

China hosts African leaders amid aid criticism

China hosts African leaders Monday for a summit aimed at promoting Beijing's vision for development on the continent, even as it finds itself increasingly criticised over its debt-heavy approach to foreign aid.

President Xi Jinping and leaders from across the continent will hold the two-day Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), with talks expected to focus on Xi's cherished "Belt and Road" infrastructure programme.

The massive scheme is aimed at improving Chinese access to foreign markets and resources, and boosting Beijing's influence abroad.

It has already seen China loan billions of dollars to countries in Asia and Africa for roads, railways, ports and other major building projects.

But critics warn that Xi's pet project is burying some countries under massive debt.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his African counterparts Sunday that Xi

will use the summit as an opportunity to outline a "specific vision on building a China-Africa community with a shared future, and announce proposals and measures... to strengthen China-Africa cooperation".

For his part, South African Foreign Minister Lindiwe Sisulu said FOCAC must strengthen efforts to face emerging global challenges such as "the rising nationalistic ethos, populism, unilateralism, protectionism and the emergence of global

trade wars".

- War crimes -

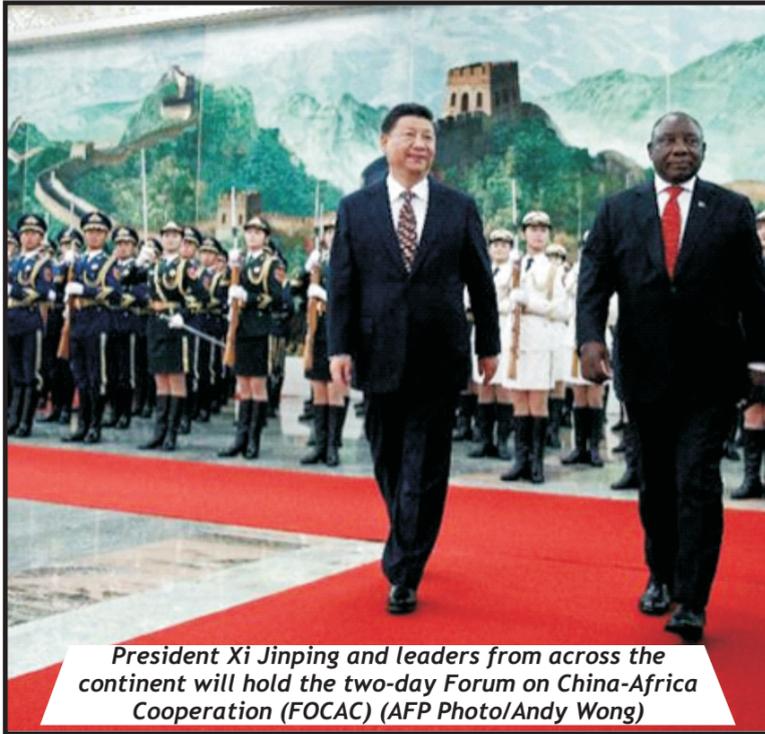
At the last three-yearly gathering in Johannesburg in 2015, Xi announced \$60 billion of assistance and loans for Africa.

Nations across Africa are hoping that China's enthusiasm for infrastructure investment will help promote industrialisation in their countries. Xi spent the weekend in one-on-one meetings with leaders from the continent who arrived early for some face time with the head of the world's second-largest economy.

The guests include the presidents of countries ranging from Egypt to Senegal and South Africa, and controversial leaders such as Sudan's Omar al-Bashir.

Bashir is wanted by the Hague-based International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide related to the war in Darfur. He denies the charges.

Nevertheless, Bashir received a warm greeting from Xi, who told him he "welcomes Sudan's participation in the Belt and Road" and "opposes foreign interference in Sudan's internal affairs", the official Xinhua news service reported Sunday. -AFP



President Xi Jinping and leaders from across the continent will hold the two-day Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) (AFP Photo/Andy Wong)

Hundreds escape Libya prison amid deadly clashes in Tripoli

Some 400 prisoners have escaped from a facility near the Libyan capital Tripoli amid deadly violence between militia groups in the city, police say.

"The detainees were able to force open the doors" in order to leave the Ain Zara prison, the local police said.

They added that guards, fearing for their lives, were unable to prevent the breakout following riots at the jail.

Clashes between militias in

the city have led Libya's UN-backed government to declare a state of emergency.

The incident on Sunday took place during armed violence between rival factions around the facility, which houses only male inmates.

Many of the prisoners held at the Ain Zara prison in south-east Tripoli were reportedly supporters of the late Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, and had been found guilty of killings during the uprising against his government in

2011.

Separately on Sunday, two people were killed and several others were injured when rockets hit a camp in Libya's capital housing hundreds of displaced people, according to emergency services and witnesses.

Libya's Ministry of Health reports that some 47 people, including civilians, have died in rival militia clashes in Tripoli over the past week, with dozens more injured.

A UN-backed government is nominally in power in the capital, but militias occupy much of the rest of the country.

Why is there violence?

The violence broke out last week when militias from a city to the south of Tripoli attacked southern areas, leading to fighting with local militias that support the internationally recognised government, the Government of National Accord (GNA).

The GNA has described the clashes as "an attempt to derail peaceful political transition" in the country, adding that it "could not remain silent over the attacks



Image copyright GETTY IMAGES: Civilians in Libya's capital have been caught up in the deadly clashes between rival militias

Pro-democracy activists arrested in DR Congo

More than 30 pro-democracy activists have been arrested in the Democratic Republic of Congo after holding a protest against the planned use of controversial new voting machines in the presidential election, which is due in December.

The activists from the organisation, Lucha, were also

country, especially after the authorities barred two prominent opposition politicians from running.

A prominent leader of Lucha, Luc Nkulula, was died in a mysterious fire in June.

In an obituary in the UK Guardian newspaper, journalist Ruth Maclean wrote:



calling for a review of voters' lists.

The Congolese police said they had released some of the demonstrators. There are also reports of arrests at similar protests in the cities of Goma, Lubumbashi and in Kasai Province.

Correspondents say there is increased tension in the

"He died as he had lived: thinking first of Lucha, the movement he and other fearless young Congolese had built, enduring arrests, beatings and repression in order to further their ideals of democratic change and creating a future for the youth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo." -BBC

on Tripoli and its suburbs, which is a violation of security in the capital and of citizens' safety".

Human Rights Watch has also condemned the violence, adding that at least 18 of the dead were reportedly civilians, among them four children.

Hundreds of migrants

trapped by the fighting have been moved to other detention centres, while the city's airport was closed for two days on Friday.

Libya has faced continuing chaos since Nato-backed militia forces, some of them rivals, overthrew long-serving ruler Colonel Gaddafi in October 2011. -BBC

EDITORIAL

Justice is on the way...

LIBERIA SEEMS TO be caught between the rock and high places as the post-war nation is being pushed to stem out impunity and deliver justice for victims of crimes against humanity.

AFTER 14 YEARS of bloody civil war that saw many of our young people drugged and armed with AK-47, RPGs and other deadly weapons to kill innocent civilians, mainly women, children and elderly people in the name of so-called liberation, calls for those who bear greatest responsibility for the heinous atrocities committed across this country is becoming louder and louder by the day.

CAMPAIGNERS WANT KEY actors during the darkest period of our nation's history to account for their inhumane deeds against fellow countrymen.

REGRETTABLY, HOWEVER, CULPRITS from this period hold the mantle of power today in Liberia, opposing and fighting the delivery of justice. In their thinking, peace is now more important than justice, but what is the foundation of genuine peace if people who slaughtered others in cold blood are not given their day in court?

JUSTICE, SURELY IS the platform on which lasting peace should be built rather than impunity. Those who believe heartless gun-toting rebels who murdered defenseless citizens and are now comfortably seated in government should be shielded need to think again, because the victims of their cruelty are weeping in their graves i.e., if they had one.

FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL Cllr. Tiawon Gongloe says, justice is on the way for the scores of victims who lost their lives during the Liberian Civil War. Cllr. Gongloe notes when jailed former President Charles Taylor was arrested in Nigeria and brought back to Liberia in 2006, he (Gongloe) told the international press that the arrest of Mr. Taylor was the beginning of the end to impunity in Liberia.

SPEAKING AT A one-day workshop on transitional Justice last week in Monrovia organized by Geneva-based Civitas Maxima, he further notes the arrest and trial in the United States of America and Europe, of some of the notorious perpetrators of war crimes in Liberia clearly shows there are clear and cogent evidence on perpetrators of atrocities in Liberia.

"WE ESPECIALLY CALL upon our president, whom by all known accounts did not participate in the Liberian civil conflict to take the lead in the efforts to establish a war crimes tribunal in Liberia in order to bring to justice those who committed crimes against humanity during the Liberian civil conflict. We call upon the law-makers to take every step in the interest of the people whom they represent, to establish a war crimes tribunal in Liberia."

WE HOPE THIS administration will listen to the many calls and act sooner than later in its own interest and interest of the victims who deserve justice.

New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Moha Ennaji

Closing the Middle East's Education Gender Gap

In the Middle East and North Africa, girls comprise the majority of out-of-school children. Given the many social and economic benefits associated with higher school attendance for girls, the need to address the gender gap in education is obvious.

FEZ - When it comes to gender parity, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is lagging behind most of the rest of the world. This is undermining the prospects not just of women and girls, but of entire countries as well. And in no area is this reality more acute than in education.

In many MENA countries today, virtually everyone's education is suffering, owing to decades of conflict, displacement, and economic malaise. In South Sudan, for example, at least 2.2 million children are not in school - one of the highest rates globally, according to a new report by the Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children. In many parts of the region - particularly rural, deprived, and overpopulated areas - even children who are in school do not receive a quality education.

But it is girls who bear the brunt of the problem, as they comprise the majority of out-of-school children. Given the many social and economic benefits associated with higher school attendance by girls - including faster GDP growth, reduced poverty, fewer child marriages, lower fertility, and better child health - the need to address the gender gap in education is obvious.

The first step is identifying what underlies the gap. In some countries, educational opportunities simply are not offered to girls as readily as to boys. This is difficult to address, not least because women are often excluded from high-level decision-making. But even where there is no official constraint, girls' attendance rates are disproportionately affected by a wide range of factors, which UNESCO's Institute of Statistics groups into two categories.

The first group includes socioeconomic factors (such as poverty and child marriage) and cultural factors (such as parents' level of education, local attitudes toward girls' education, women's expected role in society, and religious beliefs). The second group covers political and institutional factors, such as education policies determining budget allocation, quality of syllabi, stereotypes in curricula and textbooks, distance from home, adequacy of sanitation facilities, teachers' attitudes and practices, and school security.

For the same reasons, girls who do get an education might still be at a disadvantage relative to boys. A family may, for example, send a boy to a higher-quality private school, while a girl would attend the nearest public school, even if it is of lower quality, because it views a girl's education as less

important to her - and the family's - future.

That makes the United Nations Development Programme's prediction that schools in many MENA countries will increasingly be split into public and private all the more worrying. Such a split, as is happening in Morocco, exacerbates inequality across the board, as the wealthy minority has access to very expensive private schools, while the rest are left to attend lower-quality government schools. But it is likely to hurt girls the most.

To be sure, not all MENA countries have a wide gender gap in education. In Bahrain, the majority of the top 10% of high school graduates are girls, and more women attend university than men. This is no accident. Bahrain, along with Jordan and Tunisia, has made significant political and financial commitments to boosting education, resulting in remarkable progress toward reducing illiteracy and closing the gender gap.

If other MENA countries are to follow suit, they will similarly have to make a sustained political commitment, pursuing major legal and policy reforms focused on guaranteeing equal access to all levels of education. In many countries, broader initiatives aimed at improving access to quality education for low-income families and rural populations will also be needed, though these, too, should include special attention to gender disparities.

In the meantime, campaigns to raise awareness of gender issues among decision-makers, teachers, parents, students, and the general public are needed to push back against deeply entrenched discriminatory attitudes. Such campaigns should carry over to school curricula, as existing curricula often perpetuate traditional gender roles that deny women the opportunity to make their own decisions.

Finally, wealthy countries within and outside the MENA region can step in to support the efforts of their lower-income counterparts to improve education overall, while closing the gender gap. Ensuring accountability, by tracking and reporting progress, will be vital to this effort.

Broadening access to quality education is the most rewarding investment a country can make. For the sake of their countries' economic and social development, not to mention the wellbeing of their women and girls, MENA governments should put closing the education gender gap at the top of their agendas.

O-PED

By Anders Åslund

The Toll of Putin's Wars

STOCKHOLM - Wars are expensive, as the Russian people are now learning. The Kremlin is pursuing military adventures in Eastern Ukraine and Syria, and though these conflicts are limited in scope, one wonders if the country can really afford them.

As the world's 11th largest economy, Russia can manage in the short term. But the long term is quite another matter. From 2008 to 2016, Russia increased its military expenditures from 3.3% of GDP - which roughly corresponds to the current US level - to 5.3%, according to the authoritative Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

According to the Russian government's own fiscal statistics - which remain surprisingly open - its civilian expenditures in occupied Crimea come to around \$2 billion per year. And while there are no public data on its presence in Eastern Ukraine, it is safe to assume that the costs there are roughly the same, in which case Russia is spending \$4 billion per year - 0.3% of GDP - on these two operations alone.

Yet, beyond military expenditures, Russia is also incurring the costs of lost trade and investment, as well as escalating sanctions, which are more than enough to condemn the country to stagnation for as long as its wars last. In July 2014, the United States and the European Union imposed sanctions on Russia's finance, oil and gas, and defense technologies sectors, in response to its military aggression in Ukraine's Donbas region. So far, these measures have been effective. In global finance, the dollar is king. And because every dollar passes through US banks, dollar transactions are ultimately subject to the US Department of the Treasury's jurisdiction. Through financial sanctions, the US can thus starve Russia of foreign investment.

In August 2015, the International Monetary Fund estimated that Western sanctions would immediately reduce Russia's real (inflation-adjusted) GDP by 1-1.5%. In the medium term, however, the IMF concluded that sanctions "could lead to a cumulative output loss...of up to 9% of GDP, as lower capital accumulation and technological transfers weaken already declining productivity growth."

After being cut off from the dollar, Russian corporations have had no choice but to pay off debt as it comes due. As a result, Russia's total foreign debt declined from \$732 billion in June 2014 to \$519 billion in December 2015, and it has stayed near that level ever since.

Similarly, Russia's international currency reserves declined from \$510 billion at the end of 2013 to a low of \$356 billion in March 2015. Since then, they have recovered to \$458 billion, owing to Russia's persistent and large current-account surplus. But, from 2015 to 2017, foreign direct investment in Russia amounted to less than 2% of GDP per year, on average - almost half what it had been in the preceding years - reflecting not just falling investment, but also reduced technology imports.

Through all of this, Russia has managed to maintain macroeconomic stability and external balances, but it has suffered a minor decline in output and a major decline in the standard of living. During the four sanction years from 2014 to 2017, real disposable incomes plunged by 17%, and investment slumped by 12%, though GDP fell by only 0.5% in this period.

Meanwhile, Russia and Ukraine have been imposing escalating trade sanctions on each other. As a result, their mutual trade fell by 80% between 2012 and 2016. The trade war has hurt Ukraine more; but Russia, too, has lost a significant export market and a major source of imported military equipment. Once Russia's most important energy customer, Ukraine has not imported any natural gas from Russia since November 2015.

Russia's asset seizures in Crimea and Donbas have also been costly. For example, under a 1998 Ukrainian-Russian bilateral investment treaty, Ukrainian companies have filed at least eight lawsuits against the Russian Federation at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. The Ukrainian state-owned energy giant Naftogaz and its subsidiaries alone are claiming \$7 billion in damages, while Oschadbank, Privatbank, and Ukrnafta are seeking compensation of \$1 billion each. One case brought by a group of Ukrainian companies has already been won, and the rest are likely to go the same way. At this rate, Russia's illegal confiscations will probably cost it at least \$10 billion.

Naftogaz has also brought a successful case against the Russian energy giant Gazprom. In February, the Stockholm arbitration court ruled that Gazprom must award Naftogaz \$2.56 billion in damages for breach of a previous agreement between the two companies. Gazprom has since refused to pay, and Naftogaz has responded by going after its assets abroad. Gazprom's disregard for a commercial arbitration verdict could prove costly indeed.

With no solution to the Ukraine conflict in sight, sanctions will likely remain in place for the long term. Sanctions tend to be sticky, because the conflicts that spur them usually multiply and evolve. For example, in April, the US imposed additional sanctions in response to Russia's interference in the 2016 US presidential election.

Those new measures have hit the Russian ruble and stock market hard. And now, the US Congress is leading a new offensive, following Putin and Trump's suspicious summit in Helsinki this summer. Having already enacted the Countering American Adversaries Through Sanctions Act last year, a bipartisan congressional coalition will soon approve even more severe sanctions, most likely hitting Russian sovereign debt and state-owned financial institutions. The mere threat of more US sanctions has already roiled the Russian market.

While Russia's annual growth rate is stuck at an anemic 1.5%, the annual civilian, legal, and other related costs of its military aggression are now at least 3-4% of GDP - or \$45-60 billion. The Kremlin may be managing for now. But sooner or later, these mounting costs will have serious political consequences.

OPINION

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

Trump's Policies Will Displace the Dollar

NEW YORK - Back in 1965, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, then France's Minister of Finance, famously called the benefits that the United States reaped from the dollar's role as the world's main reserve currency an "exorbitant privilege." The benefits are diminishing with the rise of the euro and China's renminbi as competing reserve currencies. And now US President Donald Trump's misguided trade wars and anti-Iran sanctions will accelerate the move away from the dollar.

The dollar leads all other currencies in supplying the functions of money for international transactions. It is the most important unit of account (or unit of invoicing) for international trade. It is the main medium of exchange for settling international transactions. It is the principal store of value for the world's central banks. The Federal Reserve acts as the world's lender of last resort, as in the 2008 financial panic, though we should recognize too that the Fed's blunders helped to provoke the 2008 crisis. And the dollar is the key funding currency, being the major denomination for overseas borrowing by businesses and governments.

In each of these areas, the dollar punches far above America's weight in the world economy. The US currently produces around 22% of world output measured at market prices, and around 15% in purchasing-power-parity terms. Yet the dollar accounts for half or more of cross-border invoicing, reserves, settlements, liquidity, and funding. The euro is the dollar's main competitor, with the renminbi coming in a distant third.

The US gains three important economic benefits from the dollar's key currency role. The first is the ability to borrow abroad in dollars. When a government borrows in a foreign currency, it can go bankrupt; that is not the case when it borrows in its own currency. More generally, the dollar's international role enables the US Treasury to borrow with greater liquidity and lower interest rates than it otherwise could.

A second advantage lies in the business of banking: The US, and more precisely Wall Street, reaps significant income from selling banking services to the rest of the world. A third advantage lies in regulatory control: The US either directly manages or co-manages the world's most important settlements systems, giving it an important way to monitor and limit the flow of funds related to terrorism, narco-trafficking, illegal weapons sales, tax evasion, and other illicit activities.

Yet these benefits depend on the US providing high-quality monetary services to the world. The dollar is widely used because it has been the most convenient, lowest-cost, and safest unit of account, medium of exchange, and store of value. But it is not irreplaceable. America's monetary stewardship has stumbled badly over the years, and Trump's misrule could hasten the end of the dollar's predominance.

Already back in the late 1960s, America's fiscal and monetary mismanagement led to the breakdown of the dollar-based Bretton Woods pegged-exchange rate system in August 1971, when President Richard Nixon's administration unilaterally renounced the right of foreign central banks to redeem their dollars in gold. The breakdown of the dollar-based system was followed by a decade of high inflation in the US and Europe, and then an abrupt and costly disinflation in the US in the early 1980s. The dollar turmoil was a key factor motivating Europe to embark on the path toward monetary unification in 1993, culminating in the launch of the euro in 1999.

Likewise, America's mishandling of the Asian financial crisis in 1997 helped to convince China to begin internationalizing the renminbi. The global financial crisis in 2008, which began on Wall Street and was quickly transmitted throughout the world as interbank liquidity dried up, again nudged the world away from the dollar and toward competing currencies.

Now Trump's misbegotten trade wars and sanctions policies will almost surely reinforce the trend. Just as Brexit is undermining the City of London, Trump's "America First" trade and financial policies will weaken the dollar's role and that of New York's role as the global financial hub.

The most consequential and ill-conceived of Trump's international economic policies are the growing trade war with China and the reimposition of sanctions vis-à-vis Iran. The trade war is a ham-fisted and nearly incoherent attempt by the Trump administration to stall China's economic ascent by trying to stifle the country's exports and access to Western technology. But while US tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers may dent China's growth in the short term, they will not decisively change its long-term upward trajectory. More likely, they will bolster China's determination to escape from its continued partial dependency on US finances and trade, and lead the Chinese authorities to double down on a military build-up, heavy investments in cutting-edge technologies, and the creation of a renminbi-based global payments system as an alternative to the dollar system.

Trump's withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and the re-imposition of sanctions against the Islamic Republic could prove just as consequential in undermining the dollar's international role. Sanctioning Iran runs directly counter to global policies toward the country. The UN Security Council voted unanimously to support the nuclear deal and restore economic relations with Iran. Other countries, led by China and the EU, will now actively pursue ways to circumvent the US sanctions, notably by working around the dollar payments system.

For example, Germany's foreign minister, Heiko Maas, recently declared Germany's interest in establishing a European payments system independent of the US. It is "indispensable that we strengthen European autonomy by creating payment channels that are independent of the United States, a European Monetary Fund, and an independent SWIFT system," according to Maas. (SWIFT is the organization that manages the global messaging system for interbank transfers.)

So far, US business leaders have sided with Trump, who has showered them with corporate tax cuts and deregulation. Despite soaring budget deficits, the dollar remains strong in the short term, as the tax cuts have fueled US consumption and rising interest rates, which in turn pull in capital from abroad. Yet in a matter of several years, Trump's profligate fiscal policies and reckless trade and sanctions policies will undermine America's economy and the role of the dollar in global finance. How long will it be before the world's businesses and governments are running to Shanghai rather than Wall Street to float their renminbi bonds?

LIBERIANS DEBATE



With Sally H. Gaye Cell#: 0886726282 Email:sh0770291004@gmail.com

As calls for the establishment of a War Crimes Court for Liberia intensify among Liberians, Nimba County Senior Senator, Prince Y. Johnson, a former rebel leader warns of chaos if such court were to be established. The New Dawn randomly solicits views of some Liberians in Monrovia via social media what they make of the threat.

War Crimes Court debate continues ...



Cheetor B Dweh

“I think this is not the right time for the war crimes court in Liberia because as a country, we have pressing national issues that we need to address now before the war crimes court. Our major priority is Good roads network. Good roads network will address our troubling economic situations. After our road projects, we will turn to war crimes court.”



Colaudius Early

“How can you know where you are going, if you don't know where you're coming from? The reason this court is needed is so worst case scenarios won't be repeated, and again it is not for one person but all those who caused pain in Liberia. It is called War Crimes and Economic court. Too many people have been stealing for free in Liberia and even Weah fears this very project because he will also be questioned for not declaring his assets before constructing those two or three houses of his, and that private jet issue. So think this is the best time.”

John Macail

“What will be the major benefit for the war crimes court in Liberia? The war crimes court is very important to Liberia, but for me it should not be now. If I should get in the street to call for crimes against people in Liberia, I will get there for Economic crime. Right now, if we have economic security guards in our country, our economy will grow very fast; it will help protect our country's economy. We need to get people that took our country money from here to another country. That will benefit us, than running around here for war crimes court. It's good to have that war crimes court here, but for me, not now.”



James Gaye

“For me, there is no better time than this time in our country. People were crying we just came from war during the past leadership, but now we can go for it. I support the prosecution of those warlords and those that committed economic crimes. 100% I support the war crimes court in Liberia. People who have nothing bad in their closets have no reason to fear the war & economic crimes court proposal.”



Amb. Emmanuel G. Doe, Jr.

“I think this is the right time and I support the war crimes court, and it's time for it to come to Liberia, dear. We need justice for all those who lost their lives in the war for no reason.

Seriously, I will fight for human rights for all orphans who lost their parents during the war. If I were the President of the Republic of Liberia, I would judge all the war criminals; the

criminals who destroyed our education; who killed our educated citizens. Look, we need the war crimes court in Liberia.”



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senate opens bid for Petroleum

In keeping with the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) Act, the procurement department of the Liberian Senate officially opens bidding process for petroleum products and stationary supplies.

who have expressed interest that the process will be free, fair and transparent.

Senator Lawrence says the work of the committee will be straightly in line with the PPCC Act.

Providing an overview of the process, Senate

in the Country have expressed interest in the process.

The bidding process is in two categories, including petrol and stationeries. The stationary component was represented by D& G Office Depot and Mattar Trading, respectively.

Mr. Mallen explains the companies bidding for petroleum supplies include Don-Kan, National Petroleum (NP), Liberian Petroleum (LP), Super Petroleum (LP), Aminata and Sons, Total Liberia, Petite Trade, Kailando and Srimex Enterprise, respectively.

He says among the nine companies, the committee received bid documents from only three.

During Monday's bidding, only Super Petroleum and Aminata and Sons were represented at the Capitol.

In closing, the Co-Chair of the bid Committee, Senate Secretary, J. Nanborlor F. Singbeh says the committee will appropriately evaluate the documents before it and subsequently communicate with the vendors. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Procurement Director and Secretary of the bidding committee, Saah S. Mallen discloses that nine of the leading petroleum companies



The Chairman of the bidding committee, Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee K. Lawrence Monday, 3 September assures venders

Mercy Corps graduates over 37 youths in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Mercy Corps Liberia, a leading humanitarian and development organization has graduated over 37 youths from its apprenticeship program in Gbarnga, Bong County.

The graduation ceremony of the apprentices took place recently at the Red Cross Conference Hall in Gbarnga with several stakeholders and business tycoons in attendance.

Giving an overview of the program, an official of Mercy Corps in Bong County, Prince Kuku Dadzie says the prospects program is intended to empower young Liberians to find meaningful market-driving and self-employment to increase their skills and livelihood.

Mr. Dadzie says Mercy Corps is a global non-governmental, humanitarian aid organization operating in transitional contexts that have undergone or have been undergoing various forms of economic, environmental, social and political instabilities.

"Mercy Corps proposes a mission to "alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities," he says.

According to Mr. Dadzie, the initiative is promoting sustainable partnership, economic transformation and empowerment of young

Liberians to build constructive and meaningful livelihoods.

He says the initiative seeks to equip young Liberians with the skills and opportunities to engage with their communities and market.

Mr. Dadzie states that the institution's central goal is for entrepreneurship and businesses to work together in order to grow their business entities.

He says it leads to their optimistic goal by creating employment opportunities for work-ready youths.

Mr. Dadzie indicates that their major factors include entrepreneurship, host businesses and Mercy Corps, including the community, local authorities and government ministries and agencies, with funding from the Swedish International Development Agency.

He reveals that out of 39 persons recruited, 37 of them completed the three months of entrepreneurship successfully.

Some of the graduates who spoke to reporters extended commendations to Mercy Corps Liberia for the training and job opportunities provided them.

The promised to implement the knowledge and skills acquired over the three months. **-Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Sime Darby Plantation improves facilities

The Management of Sime Darby Plantation Liberia increases hand pumps in its estates, constructs laboratories at its high school and improves health facilities for both workers and citizens.

The development is in compliance with recommendations by a recent legislative delegation which

Grand Cape Mount County, two new science laboratories (Physics/Chemistry) have been constructed for the 2018/2019 academic year.

Principal Vaikai M. Gray explains the Sime Darby School System contains a total of seven schools, including four elementary schools, two junior high schools and one secondary

over 7,000 students with 120 teachers, 22 of them with BSc degrees.

However, despite efforts to improve facilities at the plantation, the SDPL Management faces a serious challenge of theft, losing its palm crops to criminals.

One particular incident that led to members of the House



Anthony Tamba taking treatment at the SDPL clinic

toured the plantation and saw the poor state of facilities there.

Management has constructed 35 hand pumps in all four Matamba Estates and across the plantation, enabling residents to have easy access to safe drinking water.

At the Sime Darby Central High School in Senjeh District,

school. Both the elementary and junior high divisions serve as feeder schools for the senior high level.

Principal Gray discloses that as of last Thursday, 31 August the high school had registered a total of 887 students, adding that last year's enrolment was 1070.

He says the entire school system has an enrolment of

sending a delegation to the plantation involved a video recording posted online, capturing a suspected criminal with a stolen palm bunch on his head being assaulted by company security and citizens which went viral.

The latest incident occurred on 27 July 2018 when criminals armed with cutlasses attacked a Sime Darby security

officer Tamba Anthony while patrolling Block 2011 'A' in the palm plantation at night.

"They came to me with cutlasses, demanding release of their colleagues", he narrates while lying in his hospital bed with his left hand in cast and bruises on his body.

Tamba explains he had arrested a suspect in the plantation when the accomplices moved on him with cutlasses. "They chopped me twice on my hand with the cutlass."

The Administrator of the Sime Darby Health Center Ms. Felicia Alie discloses that 95 percent of recommendations put forth by the delegation from the House of Representatives are being

implemented.

She names laboratory and air conditioner, which according to her are to be installed in the next two weeks.

Ms. Alie discloses that the most prevalent disease at the center is Malaria besides Sexually Transmitted Infections, pneumonia, among others.

She says health services up to 2010 were free of charge, but in March 2018 management introduced a new policy, restricting services to employees and emergency cases only. **Story by Jonathan Browne**

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Pro - Weah advocates silent on war crimes court?

By Emmanuel Mondaye

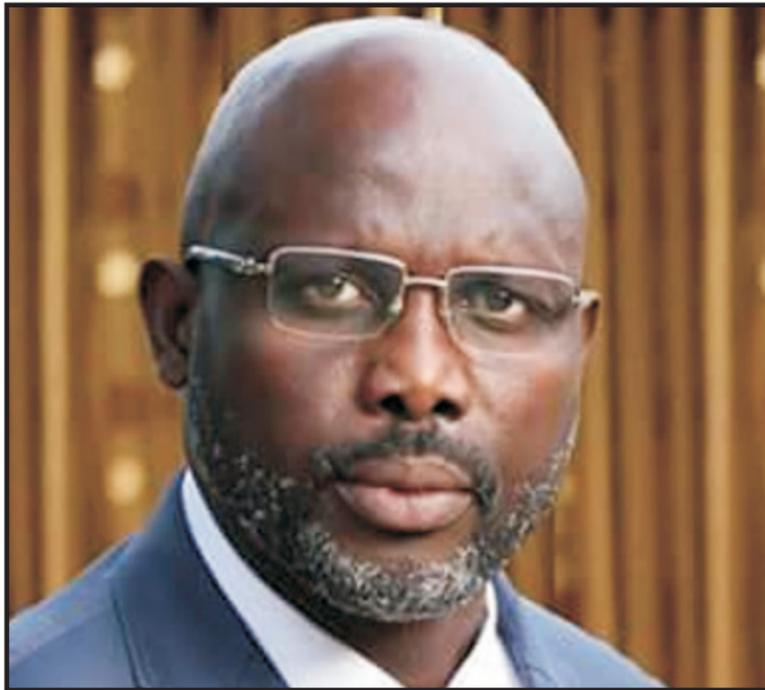
There are growing concerns here over the silence of the National Intellectual Alliance for Weah Presidency (NIAWEP) on advocacy for the establishment of a war crimes court here.

The group earlier this year insisted on the establishment of a war crimes court to have war criminals account for atrocities and brutal killings.

But many are now left to wonder what is responsible for the groups' silence at a time many other war victims and concerned Liberians are demanding the establishment of the court.

NIAWEP has earlier this year strongly advocated for the establishment of a war crimes court in Liberia to prosecute alleged war criminals responsible for the 14 years carnage that claimed over 250,000 lives and destroyed properties.

On 19 April 2018, the intellectual group claimed that it believed that the many challenges of reconciliation in Liberia can only be tackled



when there is justice.

The organization's statement was read at the time by its officer Mr. Clifton B. Hilton, Sr. In that statement, Hilton claimed that while the group did not disregard the forum that could bring victims and perpetrators together, there was need for the Weah-led government to demonstrate its willingness of

pursuing justice for victims of the civil unrest in Liberia.

At the time, NIAWEP said the lukewarm posture of President Weah toward the establishment of a war crimes court could be equated to travesty of justice and a semblance of deceit to the many victims of war.

Officials of the ruling Coalition for Democratic

Change (CDC) led - government are opposed to calls to establish the court over claims of the financial burdens it brings with it.

CDC chair Mulbah Morlu appears to have glaringly abandoned the campaign for the establishment of a war crimes court too, though he spoke so loudly for its establishment while the ruling establishment was still in opposition.

But pro - war crimes court advocates here are counter arguing that such facility may simply require the approval of the ruling establishment.

Speaking to reporters in the provincial city of Bantol recently, a prominent resident of that city Mr. Dominic S. White said he wonders what has happened to the war crimes court advocacy campaign undertaken by the pro - Weah presidency group since the campaign was reinforced by many Liberians.

Mr. White who endorses the establishment of the court in Liberia notes with dismay the

silence of the leadership of NIAWEP which was at the forefront of the campaign to establish a war crimes court here.

According to him, it would be unfair to the relatives of victims who were gruesomely killed if perpetrators do not face justice to serve as a deterrence.

He observes that some of the perpetrators are currently living and working in the government, and seeking to escape prosecution.

Mr. White encourages Liberians and international partners not to relent in their advocacy for the establishment of the war crimes court.

He indicates that the souls of those gruesomely murdered will hunt Liberia if their killers are not held accountable for their actions.

He then calls on President Weah not to allow sympathy to supersede the interest of the vast majority of the people whose relatives were killed during the brutal civil war here.

-Edited by Winston W. Parley

NASSCORP vets pensioners

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The National Social Security & Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP) has embarked on a nationwide vetting and validation exercise for government retirees across the country.

Speaking to reporters recently in Gbarnga, Bong County, NASSCORP Beneficiaries Coordinator Kolu Lloyd Dono says the exercise is vetting all those that have been pensioned by government.

According to Dono, the month - long nationwide vetting and validation exercise

is taken in six counties, and will last up to September 24, 2018.

According to her, counties that will be covered are Bong, Grand Bassa, Maryland, Margibi, Montserrado and Nimba.

She says it will further be extended to the rest of the counties until every Government of Liberia pensioner is vetted and his or her name is entered into NASSCORP's database.

It can be recalled that in February 2017, the Empowering Degree No.14 that governed the organization of NASSCORP over the years was repealed and replaced by an Act creating a new Charter 89

of the Executive Law establishing NASSCORP.

The Act transfers the administration of the Civil Service Pension Program to NASSCORP upon coming into force.

Madam Dono says pensioners will turn out in their numbers at those vetting sites to verify their names, stating that beneficiaries that are unable to go at the sites should have representatives to act on their behalf.

According to her, after the vetting process of pensioners, NASSCORP will manage the payroll, noting that the documents that they are presenting to retired personnel will last for one year.

Madam Dono indicates that during the exercise, government pensioners and survivors will be required to submit the original photocopies of their letters of retirement, pension certificates, pension payroll ID cards, death certificates and passport -size photos respectively.

Meanwhile, Madam Dono is calling on all government pensioners and survivors of deceased pensioners to cooperate by showing up at the various vetting sites at its region five in Gbarnga to be vetted.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

LACRA boss alarms shortage of resources

By Ethel A. Tweh

The head of the Liberia Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority (LACRA) Mr. John Flomo says the institution is experiencing shortage in resources.

But he told a talk show in Monrovia Monday, 3 September that LACRA is now working with stakeholders in the various NGOs and Government in ensuring that they are strengthened.

According to Mr. Flomo, LACRA does not have vehicles to go out in the rural parts of Liberia.

He says they are now trying to activate their old farms, adding that LACRA is also working with local farmers to encourage them to continue to increase their farm sizes.

According to Mr. Flomo, the entity is also working with international partners to promote Liberian farmers.

But he observes that they don't have regulations for some of the agriculture products.

For the past one month, he says LACRA has been working with different partners within the same sector, especially the

cocoa sector to enable them to revisit their cocoa regulations.

MR. Flomo indicates that they are now working with the Ministry of Commerce to make sure that the rice that comes into the country is regulated.

"The quality of rice that is consumed by our citizens need to be of high quality and they need to be regulated by us," he says.

The LACRA Boss adds that they have a cocoa farm in Grand Bassa County which is being supervised by farmers.

"We are working on a gradual scale, if you don't have money, you can't do a lot of things. All of our farms need to be reclaimed and reactivated," he continues.

"A nation that doesn't feed itself is at risk of getting into food crisis. If you cannot feed yourself, you are slave to the one that feeds you," says Mr. Flomo.

He states that for the fact the as a nation Liberians cannot feed themselves, and 90% of everything they eat is imported, it is a risk to national security.--Edited by Winston W. Parley



NASSCORP Boss, Dewitt vonBallmoos

Read The NewDawn Online Daily

Français

La Chine construira deux ponts à Monrovia

Le gouvernement chinois a signé un accord de subvention de 54 millions de dollars avec le gouvernement du Libéria pour la construction de deux ponts au niveau du nouveau complexe ministériel à Oldest Congo Town et au niveau de SKD boulevard jonction afin d'atténuer les embouteillages.

La Chine a récemment remis les clés des annexes du palais de l'Assemblée nationale à Capitol Hill et est en passe de terminer les travaux de construction du complexe ministériel et du nouveau terminal de l'aéroport international Roberts d'ici novembre prochain.

Le président George Manneh Weah et le président chinois Xi Jinping ont assisté à la signature des accords de coopération qui incluent une aide alimentaire d'urgence. Les deux dirigeants se sont engagés à renforcer les liens bilatéraux entre les deux pays.

Dans une dépêche publiée



le samedi 1er septembre, la présidence a annoncé que les deux accords avaient été signés lors de la visite du président Weah en République populaire de Chine.

Le Libéria et la Chine se sont engagés à renforcer les

liens entre les deux pays lorsque le président Weah a rencontré le président chinois Xi Jinping lors des discussions bilatérales en marge du sommet de Beijing 2018 sur la coopération Chine-Afrique au Grand Palais du Peuple.

Le Président Weah a réitéré la ferme adhésion de son pays à la politique d'une seule Chine et a exprimé sa profonde gratitude pour le soutien précieux de la Chine, en particulier son aide désintéressée dans la lutte du Libéria contre l'épidémie d'Ebola.

Le président Weah a noté que la coopération mutuellement bénéfique entre les deux pays avait apporté des avantages sensibles au peuple libérien. « Le Libéria soutient et est disposé à participer à la coopération Belt and Road », a-t-il souligné.

Il a indiqué que le Libéria soutenait la Chine pour accueillir le Sommet de Beijing du FOCAC et qu'il était prêt à apporter toute contribution pour renforcer l'amitié entre les deux pays et les deux

peuples.

Plus tôt, le président Xi a souhaité la bienvenue au président Weah, soulignant que l'amitié entre la Chine et le Libéria continue de servir les intérêts fondamentaux des deux pays et des peuples.

Il a évoqué l'appui de son pays au processus de paix au Libéria et a promis de continuer à soutenir le Libéria dans les institutions multilatérales. Le président Xi a souligné la position ferme du gouvernement libérien sur la politique d'une seule Chine et est disposé à accroître les échanges à tous les niveaux.

Le président Xi a souligné que les deux pays devaient continuer à se comprendre et à se soutenir mutuellement sur les questions concernant leurs intérêts fondamentaux respectifs et leurs préoccupations majeures.

Le président chinois a promis de renforcer la coopération bilatérale dans divers domaines, en particulier ceux énoncés dans le programme de développement national du gouvernement libérien axé sur le développement des infrastructures, la réduction de la pauvreté, la santé, l'agriculture et l'éducation, entre autres.

Le président Xi a dit espérer qu'en tant qu'ancienne star mondiale du football largement admirée par ses compatriotes, le président Weah utilisera son influence particulière pour promouvoir les échanges sportifs entre les jeunes des deux pays.

« L'Impunité est inacceptable », Blamo Nelson

L'ancien sénateur Blamo Nelson veut que l'on mette fin à la culture de l'impunité au Libéria, dénonçant le fait que des gens commettent des crimes hideux et s'en sortent en toute impunité. « Cela est inacceptable dans toute société civilisée », s'insurgea-t-il.

« L'impunité est inacceptable. A l'heure actuelle, aucune victime ne voudra permettre aux gens qui lui ont fait du tort ou à ses

proches de s'en sortir en toute impunité. »

S'exprimant sur la radio d'Etat ELCB à Paynesville, dans la banlieue de Monrovia vendredi dernier, l'ancien sénateur a déclaré que plus jamais au Libéria quelqu'un nuira à autrui et s'en sortira impunément.

« Je sais qu'une seule personne a permis aux gens de s'en aller en toute impunité, et cette personne est Jésus-Christ, et personne ne peut être comme lui ».

L'ancien sénateur et dirigeant du Parti populaire unifié du Grand Kru a déclaré qu'il ne pouvait être question de la mise en place d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre dans l'accord de paix conclu à Accra, au Ghana, d'autant plus que l'on cherchait à mettre fin aux austérités par l'intermédiaire de la Commission Vérité et Réconciliation, dont le mandat était de rechercher la vérité en convoquant les coupables.

Selon lui, la CVR aurait dû passer à la phase deux en amenant les victimes et les agresseurs à s'affronter, mais la CVR ne l'a pas fait.

Il propose que la question de la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre pour le Libéria soit réglée sous l'arbre à palabre par des discussions franches ou par d'autres moyens pacifique afin de mettre fin une fois pour toute à la culture d'impunité.

Il a invité le président George Weah à réfléchir à des rapports périodiques sur la mise en œuvre des recommandations de la CVR, rappelant que l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a rendu compte à quatre reprises de la mise en œuvre du rapport de la CVR.

Il existe, selon lui, des

moyens par lesquels l'on pourra guérir le pays, pourvu que les Libériens essayent de trouver ces moyens pour sauver la nation, car il y a de plus en plus de tension.

Les appels en faveur de la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre n'en démordent pas, car plusieurs citoyens, y compris des personnalités éminentes, apportent leur soutien, ce qui, selon eux, permettra aux auteurs de comparaître devant les tribunaux.

Récemment, Hassan Bility,

militant des droits de l'homme, s'est joint à la conversation sur une station de radio locale en appelant à la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre.

Il a déclaré que si ceux qui ont commis des crimes hideux contre des citoyens ordinaires, y compris le sénateur Prince Y. Johnson, le représentant George Boley et l'ex-chef rebelle Sekou Conneh, pensent que les gens qui réclament justice finiront par se fatiguer alors ils se trompent, parce qu'un jour, ils vont faire face à la loi.



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Français

Éditorial

La justice est en route...

Le Liberia semble être pris entre le marteau et l'enclume d'autant plus que le pays d'après-guerre subit une pression énorme pour éliminer l'impunité et rendre justice aux victimes de crimes contre l'humanité.

Pendant la guerre civile sanglante qui a duré plus de quatorze ans, beaucoup de jeunes libériens ont été drogués et armés de fusils d'assaut tels que des AK-47, des RPG et d'autres armes meurtrières pour tuer des civils innocents, dont principalement des femmes, des enfants et des personnes âgées, ce, au nom de la soi-disant libération. Et ceux qui portent la plus grande responsabilité des atrocités odieuses commises dans ce pays deviennent de plus en plus forts chaque jour.

Les militants des droits de l'homme veulent que les acteurs clés de la période la plus sombre de l'histoire de notre pays rendent compte de leurs actes inhumains contre leurs compatriotes.

Malheureusement, les coupables de cette période détiennent aujourd'hui le pouvoir au Libéria. Ils s'opposent à la justice et luttent contre elle. Dans leur pensée, la paix est maintenant plus importante que la justice. Mais comment peut-on parvenir à une paix véritable si les personnes qui ont massacré d'autres personnes dans le sang-froid ne sont pas jugées devant un tribunal compétent ?

La justice est sûrement la plate-forme sur laquelle une paix durable doit être construite et non l'impunité. Ceux qui croient qu'il faut protéger ces rebelles barbares armés qui ont assassiné des citoyens sans défense et qui occupent maintenant des postes lucratifs et puissants au sein du gouvernement se trompent, car les victimes de leur cruauté pleurent dans leur tombe, en tout cas celles qui en ont.

L'ancien procureur général Tiawon Gongloe a indiqué que la justice est en cours et que justice sera faite pour les centaines de milliers de victimes qui ont perdu la vie pendant la guerre civile libérienne. Me Gongloe a rappelé que lorsque l'ancien président Charles Taylor a été arrêté au Nigeria et ramené au Libéria en 2006, il a dit à la presse internationale que l'arrestation de M. Taylor était le début de la fin de l'impunité au Libéria.

S'exprimant lors d'un atelier sur la justice transitionnelle organisé la semaine dernière à Monrovia par Civitas Maxima, basé à Genève, Me Gongloe a indiqué que l'arrestation et le procès aux Etats-Unis et en Europe de certains auteurs des crimes de guerre notoires commis au Libéria montrent qu'il existe bel et bien des preuves claires et convaincantes sur les auteurs d'atrocités au Libéria.

« Nous appelons tout particulièrement notre président, qui, selon tous les témoignages, n'a pas participé au conflit civil libérien, à prendre la tête des efforts visant à créer un tribunal des crimes de guerre au Libéria afin de traduire en justice ceux qui ont commis des crimes contre l'humanité. Nous appelons les législateurs à prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires dans l'intérêt des personnes qu'ils représentent pour créer un tribunal des crimes de guerre au Libéria. »

Nous espérons que cette administration écoutera les nombreux appels et agira plus tôt que tard dans son propre intérêt et dans l'intérêt des victimes qui méritent justice.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Moha Ennaji

Afrique du Nord et Moyen-Orient : les filles doivent bénéficier de la même éducation que les garçons

FEZ - En matière d'égalité hommes-femmes, le Moyen-Orient et l'Afrique du Nord sont à la traîne de presque tout le reste du monde. Cela restreint non seulement les perspectives d'avenir des femmes et des jeunes filles, mais également celles des pays concernés. C'est un véritable problème, et c'est dans l'éducation qu'il se pose de la manière la plus dramatique.

Dans beaucoup de pays de cette zone, en raison de décennies de conflits, de déplacements de population et de difficultés économiques, l'éducation est souvent de mauvaise qualité. Au Soudan du Sud par exemple, plus de 2,2 millions d'enfants ne sont pas scolarisés - l'un des taux les plus élevés de la planète selon un nouveau rapport publié par l'Initiative mondiale pour les enfants non scolarisés. Dans beaucoup de régions d'Afrique du Nord et du Moyen-Orient - notamment dans les régions rurales pauvres et surpeuplées - même scolarisés, les enfants ne bénéficient pas d'une éducation de qualité.

Or la majorité des enfants non scolarisés sont des filles, ce sont elles les premières victimes. Ne serait-ce qu'au vu de l'intérêt économique et social que représente l'éducation secondaire des filles pour un pays (hausse de la croissance du PIB, diminution de la pauvreté, baisse du nombre de mariages précoces et de la fertilité et amélioration de la santé des enfants), la nécessité s'attache au fossé entre filles et garçons saute aux yeux.

La première étape consiste à identifier les causes de ce fossé. Dans certains pays, il est plus difficile de scolariser les filles que les garçons. Il est d'autant plus délicat d'y remédier que les femmes sont souvent exclues des grandes instances de décision. Même quand il n'y a pas d'obstacle officiel à la scolarisation des filles, de nombreux facteurs s'y opposent. L'Institut des statistiques de l'UNESCO les classe en deux catégories :

- Les facteurs socio-économiques (par exemple la pauvreté et les mariages précoces) et culturels (tels que le niveau d'éducation des parents, l'attitude de la société à l'égard de l'éducation des filles, le rôle attribué aux femmes dans la société et les croyances religieuses).

- Les facteurs institutionnels et politiques. On compte parmi eux le budget consacré à l'éducation, la qualité des programmes, les stéréotypes présents dans les livres de classe, la distance à parcourir pour aller à l'école, l'inadéquation des installations sanitaires, l'attitude des enseignants et la sécurité à l'intérieur de l'école.

Pour des raisons identiques, même si elles vont à l'école, les filles peuvent se trouver désavantagées par rapport aux garçons. Ainsi une famille peut envoyer le fils dans une école privée de qualité et la fille dans l'école publique la plus proche, même si elle est de mauvaise qualité, car elle considère que son

éducation joue un rôle moindre pour son propre avenir et pour celui de la famille.

Dans ce contexte, le creusement du fossé entre écoles publiques et privées (ce que prévoit le Programme de développement des Nations unies pour de nombreux pays d'Afrique du Nord et du Moyen-Orient) est encore plus inquiétant. Cette fracture aggrave les inégalités, ainsi qu'on le voit au Maroc - la minorité riche allant dans des établissements privés très coûteux, tandis que la majorité des enfants va dans des établissements publics de piètre qualité. Mais à nouveau les filles sont les premières victimes.

Cette différence au niveau de la scolarisation entre filles et garçons n'existe pas dans tous les pays d'Afrique du Nord et du Moyen-Orient. Ainsi à Bahreïn la majorité des diplômés des 10% des meilleurs lycées sont des filles, et à l'université le nombre d'étudiantes est supérieur à celui des étudiants. Ce n'est pas un effet du hasard. Bahreïn, de même que la Jordanie et la Tunisie, s'est engagé en faveur de l'éducation tant sur le plan politique que financier. Cela se traduit par des progrès remarquables dans la lutte contre l'analphabétisme et dans la réduction des inégalités hommes-femmes.

Si les autres pays d'Afrique du Nord et du Moyen-Orient veulent suivre leur exemple, ils devront prendre des engagements politiques analogues et réaliser de grandes réformes juridiques et politiques pour garantir l'égalité d'accès à l'éducation à tous les niveaux. Nombre de pays devront améliorer l'accès à une éducation de qualité en faveur des familles pauvres et des populations rurales et accorder une attention particulière aux inégalités hommes-femmes.

Il faudra aussi des campagnes à destination des décideurs, des enseignants, des parents, des étudiants et de l'ensemble de la population pour lutter contre des attitudes discriminatoires profondément enracinées et susciter une prise de conscience des inégalités entre les sexes. Ces campagnes devront s'étendre aux programmes scolaires, car ceux en vigueur perpétuent souvent le point de vue traditionnel sur la répartition des rôles entre hommes et femmes qui prive ces dernières de leur libre arbitre.

Enfin, il faudrait que les pays riches, qu'ils appartiennent ou non à la zone Afrique du Nord-Moyen-Orient, aident les pays les plus pauvres de cette zone à améliorer l'éducation et à réduire les inégalités hommes-femmes, tout en suivant de près l'évolution de la situation sur le terrain.

Elargir l'accès à une éducation de qualité est l'investissement le plus rentable que puisse faire un pays. Ne serait-ce qu'au nom du développement économique et social, pour ne pas parler de la qualité de vie des jeunes filles et des femmes, les gouvernements d'Afrique du Nord et du Moyen-Orient doivent donner la priorité absolue à l'égalité entre filles et garçons dans l'accès à l'éducation.

PERSPECTIVES

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.
August 29, 2018

Public Policy . Economics . Democratic Politics . Political/Economic Decentralization . Public Dishonesty . Dual Citizenship

POLI-TRICKS

THE ADULTERATION OF POLITICS HAS CAPTURED THE ADMIRATION EFFECTIVE INDULGENCE IN AND COMMITMENT BY LIBERIA'S YOUNG GENERATION OF LEADERS:

ALTHOUGH POLITICS IS THE HIGHEST VIRTUOUS CALLING/VOCATION BECAUSE OF ITS DEDICATION TO ACHIEVEMENT OF THE HIGHEST GOAL IN LIFE BY HUMAN ACTION – HAPPINESS.

Cont'd from last edition

The example is right here in our Capital City of Monrovia. We are sitting on potential time bomb which is likely to explode at any time, in the event that nothing is done about the illegal encroachers at the Cooper Beach Estate. Some of the illegal encroachers/squatters built shops, churches, homes and mansions on land which they do not own, refuse to vacate and render possession to lawful owners, even upon the nation's Supreme decision, with all necessary legal mandates in favor of the Cooper Beach Estate and the land owners who acquired their properties lawfully from the Estate.

The illegal encroachers/squatters depend, simply, upon their friends in high places in government, especially the courts, "Counselors-at-Law" and the Ministry of Justice, with its promise to intervene "because of the nature and volume of citizens involved". The lawful owners are still waiting for Ministry of Justice - it is now more than 10 years!!

Land is life

That Land is Life is so self-evident that it needs no expression or proof. But to give meaning and relevance to the critical importance of Land, particularly, to those us who live in the towns and villages of Rural Liberia, it is necessary to re-echo the fact that Land is everything.

Not only that land has been our only and major historical economic activity - subsistence agriculture - but also that land, to all living beings, has been, and is, the ultimate source of life.

That Land is human life or that human life depends on the Land is so obvious that it needs no lecture. It is such that there is no personal-private ownership of land is permitted in Rural Liberia in order to make land available to all households. A few examples are necessary for emphasis:

- From the Land come the food that we eat daily to sustain life; villages, towns and cities in which we live; the mud, timber, thatch, cement, zinc, iron and related materials used to build huts, houses, mansions in which we live for shelter; the clothes that we wear;
- The automobiles, trains and railroads, airplanes for rapid mobility are made from primary products from the land; and so are the telephones, television sets, computers and paper products, including the very (printed banknotes) money that we use as the medium of exchange for the acquisition of all of these life-supporters and life-givers from the land.

More important and a benefit, there is more land in Liberia than there are people; our small nation of less than 4 million people is, indeed, sparsely populated. Seriously then, our major responsibility is Education.

Historically, the Liberian People are courageous, determined, open, free, fair, caring, friendly, hospitable, loyal and patriotic, but poor, relatively un-informed on complexities of government and relatively uneducated.

To maintain these positive, enviable qualities, we must recapture our land. This responsibility, now, goes to Kaneh Gwedeh, Inc. of Grand Gedeh County for complete and comprehensive administration of the traditional, customary Land.

Land Commission (LC) & Liberia Land Authority Commission (LLAC)

The enactment by the National Legislature of the Land Commission (LC) and the Liberia Land Authority Commission (LLAC) is intended to resolve, reasonably, the prevailing conflicts, confusions and disputes throughout the nation between and among farm land owners, communities and the County (regional Political/administrative Sub-divisions) which arose and continue to arise from denial of traditional, customary Land Tenure rights and deficient and/or lack of boundary demarcations, a condition exacerbated by elements of the recent civil war.

The historical fragmentation of Land decision-making, often contradictory and/or illegal, an action by, between and among the *National Investment Commission (NIC), Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy and the Registry of Land Records, Deeds, etc.*, regarding the issues of land ownership, are now centralized under the *Land Commission (LC)/Liberia Land Authority Commission (LLAC)* by the *Land Rights Act* of the Legislature.

But unfortunately, this *Land Rights Act* has become the proverbial "cart before the horse, rather than the horse before the cart" - the *Land Rights Act & the Commissions*. The Act is still pending approval, passage and printed in Handbills, due to *Poli-tricks and corruption*. Now, at this initial point in time, the *LLAC is deeply entrenched and involved in County "Poli-tricks"*.

For example, available evidence indicates that the *LLAC ignores, disregards and disobeys the lawful appointment power-authority of the President of the nation by seeking to retain the official already removed by the President in in total disregard of the Presidential appointee.*

This Act is crucial and critical to the survival of the Liberian Nation. For, about 80% of Liberians depend on the land for subsistence. There are no "ifs nor buts". But judging from history of massive chopping appetite we may be or are in for a heap of "ifs and buts", *The Land Rights Act and Commissions notwithstanding.*

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Jonathan Williams faces

Starts from back page

media took the story in all form and manner.

He says government was accused of committing the act, and everyone in Montserrado has some information and mix feeling about the case and adding that the subsequent discussions at intellectual centers can attest to that.

Cllr. Bombo alleges that due to the way the media took the matter, defendant Williams approached several lawyers but they refused to take his case.

It is against this backdrop that Cllr. Bombo wants the case to be taken out of Montserrado and be transferred to remote Gbarpolu County where many of the residence there neither buy newspapers nor listen to radio.

He further stated that his client did not want a jury trial, but co - defendants Alice and Edwina's lawyer Counsel Jonathan Massaquoi says his clients want jury trial.

On the issue of change of venue, Counsel Massaquoi also states that he interposes no objection, but adds that if the case will be tried by "this court," his clients did not want to go out of Montserrado County.

But Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie denies the motion for change of venue and bench trial requested by Williams' counsel; and also denies the motion for separate trial requested by Alice and Edwina's counsel Massaquoi.

Judge Willie notes that in any murder case where the life of a human being is taken, the media will always report on it

and in any vicinity where the media is, they will always report on it.

He observes that since the accused has been coming to court, his counsel has not seen anyone carrying on physical or verbal attack against him to warrant his request for change of venue.

Judge Willie references the Criminal Procedure Law Chapter 20 Title "Conduct of a Trial," Sub - Section 20.2 also Title "Waiver of Trial by Jury" in denying the bench trial requested by defendant Williams.

The law cited says in all cases except where a sentence of death may be imposed, trial by a jury may be waived by a defendant who has the advice of counsel or who is himself an attorney.

Under the law, the Judge says waiver of jury trial is not done in all cases,



Man accuses Sen. Johnson of murdering his mother

A man claiming to be a victim of the 1989 bloody rebel invasion of Liberia has written President George Manneh Weah, seeking justice for the alleged murder of his Mom and return of his family properties in Ganta, Nimba County.

In his letter to President Weah, dated May 25, 2018, Mohammed F. Kromah writes, "Your Excellency, I write to bring to your attention a situation dating far back in April of 1990 that has availed itself in this year, April 2018. My biological mother and other 27 family members were slaughtered in Kahnplay, Tappita and Ganta, Nimba County. What is bewildering about their deaths is they were people who knew nothing about the civil war. They were never workers of government, yet they were killed under the command of General Prince Y. Johnson, now senator, who chose to slaughter those innocent people in cold blood."

He says what is even sad about this wicked act is, former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who at one point associated with the rebel group that committed these atrocities, eventually became President of Liberia and General Prince Y. Johnson

became Senator for Nimba County, but they didn't show any remorse for these acts during the entire 12 years in power and have forgotten that while on their way to power they killed parents, relatives and loved ones of their compatriots.

The complaint to President Weah comes amid serious ongoing debate here, and among Diaspora Liberians on the need to establish a war crimes court for Liberia to bring perpetrators of heinous crimes, including crimes

against humanity to justice.

This paper made frantic efforts on Monday September 3, to get Senator Johnson's response to the allegations raised in Mr. Kromah's letter but was unsuccessful. But it will try by all means to ensure that Sen. Johnson give his side to this allegation.

Last week Thursday, 30 August the executive director for the campaigner for Global Justice and Research Project, Liberian Journalist Hassan Bility told a Joint Committee of the House of

Representatives if the Government of Liberia fails to endorse the establishment of a war crimes court, there will be sealed indictments before December for some key perpetrators in the country.

"Hopefully next year, there would be more sealed indictments at airports, border points, and other residential areas for perpetrators of the war which, though it ended since 2003, the scars remain visible", Bility says.

Sealed indictments are used in prosecuting individuals or criminal networks in cases where revealing names could cause individuals or suspects to

flee or destroy evidence.

He appeared before the House's Joint Committee to justify a need to draft and legislate the War Crimes Court Bill in accordance with Chapter 12 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Recommendations on Accountability.

In his letter to President Weah, Mohammed identifies himself as one of the elder brothers of the late Morris Kromah, a CDCian who was shot and killed at the CDC Headquarters on November 7, 2011 in a riot with police.

"Mr. President, my mother



Jonathan Williams faces

Cont'd from page 10

noting that since defendant Williams' charge of murder carries a sentence of death or life imprisonment, the request for bench trial is denied.

Regarding separate trial, Judge Willie states that the indictment says co-defendants Alice and Edwina acted in conspiracy with principal defendant Williams to conceal the discovery of the murder as alleged.

In response to defense's argument that the crime of hindering law enforcement on its own merit has been conferred on the jurisdiction of the magistrate court, Judge Willie notes that in the law [under] criminal joinder the higher offense, in this case, murder, takes precedent.

The indictment says Alice, Edwina and Williams lived in the same compound where journalist Browne had gone to visit when he was allegedly murdered by defendant Williams to the full knowledge of the co-defendants.

According to the indictment, when defendant Williams and Caesar Kennedy conspired and killed journalist Browne, co-defendants Alice, Edwina, Massa Kennedy and Juana Bracewell, all of whom watched and were in full knowledge of the brutal

murder remained mute and concealed the murder from the police and all law enforcement personnel.

Solicitor General Cllr. Darku Mulbah argues that changing of venue and taking the case to another county will not change the deceased's profession, nor stop the reporting of the case by the media.

Montserrado County Attorney Edwin Martin challenges the defense to name specific print and electronic media institutions that have allegedly been biased against defendant Williams.

State lawyer Cllr. Bobby Livingstone cautions the Court that if it grants change of venue and the case goes to Bomi, for instance and there is media coverage, the defense would seek a transfer again to Maryland.

He argues that the law here allows freedom of speech and freedom of the press, reminding the defense that everything that was happening at the court Monday would have been reported as well due to media presence there. -*Edited by Othello B. Garblah*

Stinks take over House

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Offensive smell at the House of Representatives has created serious public concern here, making the first branch of the Liberian government a no-go around.

The stink smell of bathrooms and its continuous closure at the House has claimed the attention of some lawmakers and visitors.

The embarrassing situation is due to lack of proper maintenance, and the filthiness of the bathrooms, particularly in the House has

become the talk of Capitol Hill.

Lawmakers, who had reported for session last Thursday, 30 August could not use the bathrooms attached to the plenary of the House, as some were seen using facilities at the Liberian Senate instead to attend nature.

While some lawmakers apparently tried to manage the embarrassment, Rivercess County Representative Byron Ziaway could hold back his disgust, threatening that if the leadership could not do anything, he will urinate

within the compound of the Capitol.

Outspoken Montserrado County Electoral District #8 Representative Acarous Moses Gray, was constrained to run to the Senate's Canteen to ease himself.

Appallingly, the newly dedicated annex to the House constructed by the Government of China is also being affected by the poor management of toilets. The filths are glaringly visible on walls of the annex that were recently painted.

Speaking to this paper about the filth bathrooms, Student Nora Holder, who is a volunteer staff at the House, laments that it is embarrassing for everyone especially, females reporting for work or going to meet appointment.

"This situation has now reached an alarming proportion to the extent that staffers are most often compelled to rush to their respective homes to attend to the call of nature; and most embarrassingly, our guests or visitors are also subjected to such predicament," Student Holder narrates.

Employees were seen Monday, 3 September urinating near the fence inside the compound due to the filthiness of the bathrooms



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especially, the one near the House's chambers where most lawmakers go to ease themselves.

A male visitor, who was pressed and attempted to use the toilet was denied entry on grounds that the bathrooms are locked.

Mr. Folley Kenneth expresses frustrations and notes it is disappointing that Speaker Bhofal Chambers, who was a strong critic of former

Speaker Alex Tyler, to have poorly managed toilets under his watch like in the past.

Speaker Chambers in a communication dated April 19, 2013, addressed to the House of Representatives, suggested to his colleagues at the time to shut down the entire Capitol due to its hazardous state.

The situation at the House has persisted from one leadership to another, not due to lack of money for janitorial

Jonathan Williams faces jury trial



By Winston W. Parley

Defendant Jonathan Williams is expected to face jury trial for the alleged murder of late journalist Tyron Browne in April this year. The accused pleaded "not guilty" to the crime at the Criminal Court "A" Monday, 3 September at the Temple of Justice.

On the request of the defense, selected jurors will be sequestered. The request by the defense prompted

Judge Roosevelt Willie to abort the juror selection process on Monday, saying that the process will now commence on Tuesday, 4 September at 9:30 a.m. at Court "A."

Following the reading of the indictment to defendants Williams, Alice Youtey and Edwina Youtey on Monday by the clerk of court, their plea of "not guilty" places the burden of proof on government to prove that Williams murdered journalist

Browne and that Alice and Edwina hindered law enforcement.

Co-defendants Alice M.K. Youtey and Edwina Promise Youtey are standing a joint trial with defendant Williams because prosecutors say the indictees knew that Williams murdered journalist Browne but they concealed the information, preventing the discovery of the crime.

The lawyer representing defendant Williams, Cllr. Jimmy Bombo argues unsuccessfully on Monday for a change of venue to transfer the case to Gbarpolu County saying that he fears alleged biased media publicity in the case against the indictee.

Cllr. Bombo says he does not have recording or newspaper copies to back his claim of bias media publicity against his client, but alleges that the citizenry know the stories that were published or aired when journalist Browne's death news came in April, adding that the



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Former Brazil great Ronaldo takes over Spanish club

Former Brazil great Ronaldo took over Monday as the majority stakeholder in recently promoted Spanish club Valladolid, saying he is bringing his soccer expertise to help the team succeed.

Ronaldo now owns 51 percent of the shares of the club. He will preside over the board of directors while Carlos Suarez will remain club president, a job he held

before Ronaldo's arrival.

"I'm really excited," Ronaldo said at Valladolid's city hall. "My entire life has been about football and this is another great challenge for me, a very big one."

The former Brazil striker said "transparency" and "competitiveness" will be part of the basis of his management.

Financial details were not immediately available, but

local media said the operation was worth about 30 million euros (\$35 million).

"I'll try to put all my soccer knowledge at the players' disposal and will try to manage the club efficiently," he said. "I want the club and the city to grow."

Valladolid, which is based in a city of about 300,000 people, is playing in Spain's top division for the 41st time in its 90-year history. It last



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