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# The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

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Rep. Donovan Jr.

Rep. Johnson

# U.S. Congress introduces bill

## -For war crimes court

# Snowe, Fahngon flex muscles



Rep. Edwin Melvin Snowe



Minister Eugene Fahngon





# Continental News

## South Sudan plane crash kills 19

Nineteen people were killed when a small passenger plane crashed into a lake as it tried to land in thick fog in central South Sudan, reports say.

Only four people, including two children, survived the crash, said government official Taban Abel Aguek.

The victims include the pilot and co-pilot, a staff member of the Red Cross and an Anglican bishop, he told AFP.

The aircraft was carrying 23 people from the capital, Juba, to the city of Yirol on Sunday.

"When it arrived the weather was so foggy and when it tried to land it crashed into Lake Yirol adjacent to Yirol town," Mr Abel Aguek, the regional government minister, said.

"The whole town is in shock, the shops are closed,

some people have taken their relatives for burial. It is a commercial plane that crashed," he added.

Images posted on Twitter by Radio Miraya showed the

twisted wreckage of the aircraft submerged in water as local fishermen used canoes to help with rescue and retrieval efforts. -BBC



Image copyright RADIO MIRAYA: The plane crashed into Lake Yirol

## Deadly stadium stampede in Madagascar

At least one person has been killed and nearly 40 injured in a stampede at a Madagascar football stadium.

The incident occurred just before the start of Madagascar's match against Senegal in the qualifying round of the Africa Cup of Nations, local media said.

Thousands of spectators were still trying to get into the

stadium through the only entrance.

Two of those hurt are in a critical condition in the capital, Antananarivo.

Many people had been queuing up since the early hours of the morning for a 14:30 (12:30 GMT) kick-off at the Stade Municipal de Mahamasina.

French radio station RFI reported there was a rush to

enter the stadium when the gates were opened.

"We were waiting in the queue from six o'clock in the morning.

We were metres from the gate when the stampede took place. I was trampled on the back, but my backpack cushioned the impact," Rivo Raberisaona told the AFP news agency.

"I do not understand why there was only one gate open into the stadium when it's such a big match," said Henintsoa Mialy Harizafy, whose uncle was injured in the stampede.

The game, featuring stars such as Liverpool forward Sadio Mané, was played as planned in front of a capacity crowd and ended in a 2-2 draw.

Stampedes at stadiums in Africa occur on a regular basis, often due to poor crowd control in over-crowded stadiums.

A stadium stampede in Angola killed at least 17 people in February 2017.

In July 2017, eight people - including seven children - died in a stampede at a match in Malawi. -BBC

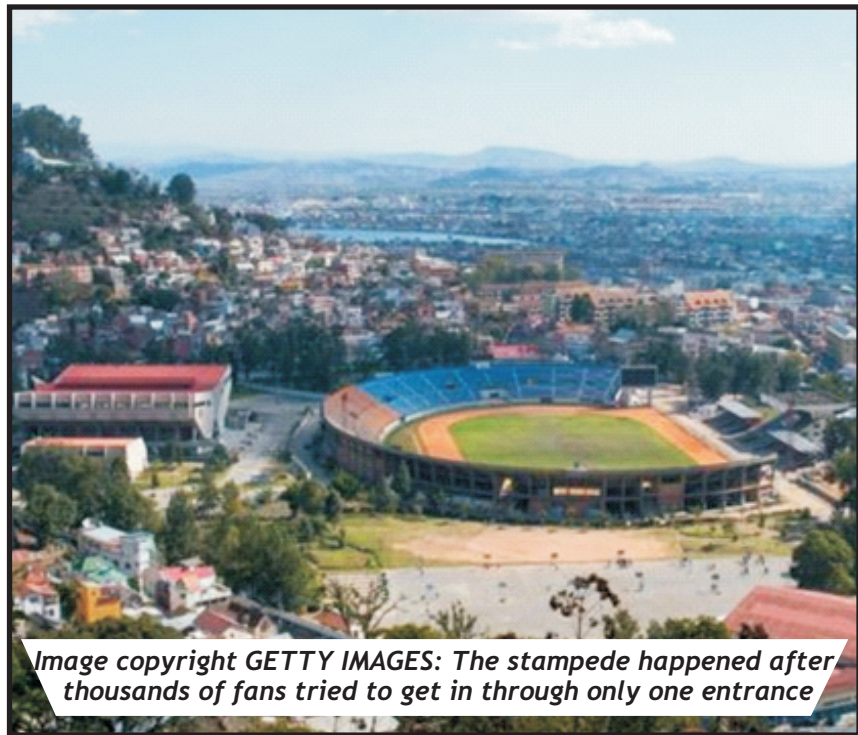


Image copyright GETTY IMAGES: The stampede happened after thousands of fans tried to get in through only one entrance

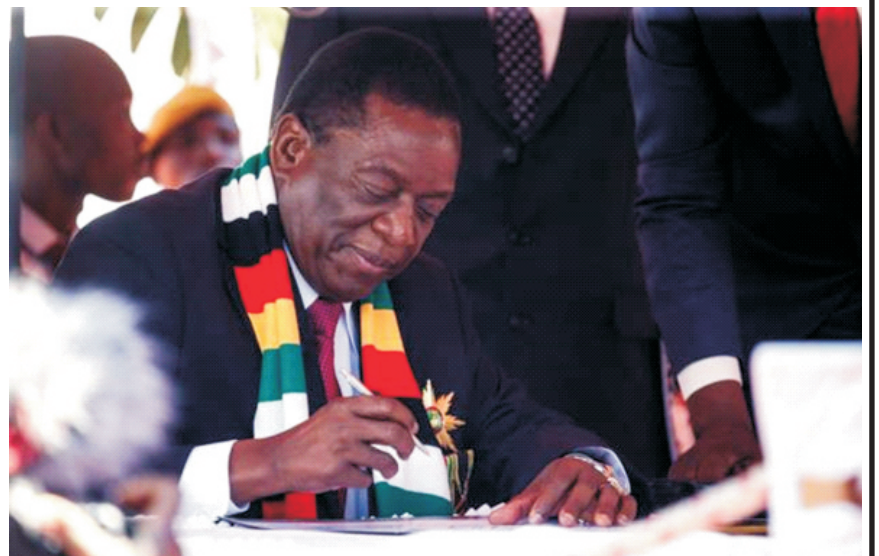
## Mnangagwa unveils new cabinet

Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa has unveiled a 20-member cabinet following his victory in the 30 July elections.

It's a leaner cabinet - down from 33 to 20 ministers. There are no opposition members in the new team which has eight new faces.

Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri - as defence minister, taking away a key security portfolio from Vice-President Constantino Chiwenga, the retired general who led the coup against Mugabe.

Other key figures from the military who held on to their cabinet roles are Sibusiso



Former banker and African Development Bank vice-president Mthuli Ncube will lead the finance ministry.

Kirsty Coventry, the former swimming world champion, will head the sports and arts ministry.

Mr Mnangagwa also appointed the chairperson of the ruling Zanu-PF party -

Moyo as foreign minister, and Perence Shiri as agriculture minister.

Critics say there is still too much "old blood" in this cabinet because many of the old ministers remain.

Others said that President Mnangagwa had a delicate balancing act of pragmatism versus outright change. -BBC

## Djibouti welcomes Eritrea peace efforts

Djibouti President Ismail Omar Guelleh says his country is ready for reconciliation and normalisation of ties with Eritrea after meeting the foreign ministers of Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia.

Eritrea and Djibouti have had a decade long border conflict over Ras Doumeira island, which Djibouti claims is being illegally occupied by Eritrea.

In July, Djibouti petitioned the United Nations Security Council, asking the body to "facilitate an agreement between them upon a mutually acceptable means of peaceful dispute settlement".

The resolution of the Ras Doumeira conflict could



secure the lifting of UN sanctions on Eritrea for the first time since 2009.

Qatar had presided over mediation efforts maintaining a military buffer presence for much of the past decade, but withdrew its peacekeeping contingent from Ras Doumeira at the height of the Gulf Cooperation Council crisis. -BBC



## EDITORIAL

In air ticket saga:  
We beg to differ

THE MINISTRY OF Finance and Development Planning cleverly rejects responsibility for circumstances that led to the upgrading of Finance Minister Sameul D. Tweah's air ticket from business class to First Class at an extra cost of US\$16,000.00.

A PRESS RELEASE from the Ministry carefully clarifies that it has in no way violated the Revised Travel Ordinance of 2016/2017 on the Finance Minister's official trip to China as reported.

INSTEAD, IT EXPLAINS that the purchase of the Minister's ticket to Beijing, China was in accordance with the Government of Liberia Revised Travel Ordinance of 2016/2017 which changed the traveling class of the Minister of Finance and Development Planning as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs respectively from economy to business class.

BUT WHO UPGRADED Minister Tweah's air ticket to First Class onboard Emery Airline at an additional cost of US\$16K?

THIS IS THE question the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning is not answering, but further clarifies that officials or employees of government traveling on official government business abroad are free at their own will and expense to upgrade their ticket with absolutely no financial burden to government.

IT WOULD SOUND totally absurd that the Minister of Finance traveling on an official state duty will use his personal finances to upgrade his official air ticket purchased by the Government of Liberia.

THIS IS UNPRECEDENTED and Minister Tweah is not such a wealthy man to undertake such venture by himself, but the government wants to public to believe that he did so at his own expense.

FURTHERMORE, THE MINISTRY says it has no knowledge of the purported ticket published by FrontPage Africa that the paper claims belongs to Minister Tweah and was purchased from Worldwide Air Service in Osu, Ghana, arguing that the authentic ticket purchased by the Ministry for Minister Samuel D. Tweah's trip to China was purchased from Jos Travels and Tours, Inc. in Monrovia.

GRANTED, BUT WHERE did the upgrading of the Minister's ticket take? Was it in Accra or Monrovia? Would someone at the Ministry of Finance please provide clarity?

WE ARE RAISING these concerns because Minister Samuel D. Tweah is not a private citizen, and neither was he on a private visit to China, but to represent the Government and people of the Republic of Liberia.

**New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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## COMMENTARY

By Minxin Pei

## China is Losing the New Cold War

*In contrast to the Soviet Union, China's leaders recognize that strong economic performance is essential to political legitimacy. Like the Soviet Union, however, they are paying through the nose for a few friends, gaining only limited benefits while becoming increasingly entrenched in an unsustainable arms race with the US.*

HONG KONG - When the Soviet Union imploded in 1991, the Communist Party of China (CPC) became obsessed with understanding why. The government think tanks entrusted with this task heaped plenty of blame on Mikhail Gorbachev, the reformist leader who was simply not ruthless enough to hold the Soviet Union together. But Chinese leaders also highlighted other important factors, not all of which China's leaders seem to be heeding today.

To be sure, the CPC has undoubtedly taken to heart the first key lesson: strong economic performance is essential to political legitimacy. And the CPC's single-minded focus on spurring GDP growth over the last few decades has delivered an "economic miracle," with nominal per capita income skyrocketing from \$333 in 1991 to \$7,329 last year. This is the single most important reason why the CPC has retained power.

But overseeing a faltering economy was hardly the only mistake Soviet leaders made. They were also drawn into a costly and unwinnable arms race with the United States, and fell victim to imperial overreach, throwing money and resources at regimes with little strategic value and long track records of chronic economic mismanagement. As China enters a new "cold war" with the US, the CPC seems to be at risk of repeating the same catastrophic blunders.

At first glance, it may not seem that China is really engaged in an arms race with the US. After all, China's official defense budget for this year - at roughly \$175 billion - amounts to just one-quarter of the \$700 billion budget approved by the US Congress. But China's actual military spending is estimated to be much higher than the official budget: according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, China spent some \$228 billion on its military last year, roughly 150% of the official figure of \$151 billion.

In any case, the issue is not the amount of money China spends on guns per se, but rather the consistent rise in military expenditure, which implies that the country is prepared to engage in a long-term war of attrition with the US. Yet China's economy is not equipped to generate sufficient resources to support the level of spending that victory on this front would require.

If China had a sustainable growth model underpinning a highly efficient economy, it might be able to afford a moderate arms race with the US. But it has neither.

On the macro level, China's growth is likely to continue to decelerate, owing to rapid population aging, high debt levels, maturity mismatches, and the escalating trade war that the US has initiated. All of this will drain the CPC's limited resources. For example, as the old-age dependency ratio rises, so will health-

care and pension costs.

Moreover, while the Chinese economy may be far more efficient than the Soviet economy was, it is nowhere near as efficient as that of the US. The main reason for this is the enduring clout of China's state-owned enterprises (SOEs), which consume half of the country's total bank credit, but contribute only 20% of value-added and employment.

The problem for the CPC is that SOEs play a vital role in sustaining one-party rule, as they are used both to reward loyalists and to facilitate government intervention on behalf of official macroeconomic targets. Dismantling these bloated and inefficient firms would thus amount to political suicide. Yet protecting them may merely delay the inevitable, because the longer they are allowed to suck scarce resources out of the economy, the more unaffordable an arms race with the US will become - and the greater the challenge to the CPC's authority will become.

The second lesson that China's leaders have failed to appreciate adequately is the need to avoid imperial overreach. About a decade ago, with massive trade surpluses bringing in a surfeit of hard currency, the Chinese government began to take on costly overseas commitments and subsidize deadbeat "allies."

Exhibit A is the much-touted Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a \$1 trillion program focused on the debt-financed construction of infrastructure in developing countries. Despite early signs of trouble - which, together with the Soviet Union's experience, should give the CPC pause - China seems to be determined to push ahead with the BRI, which the country's leaders have established as a pillar of their new "grand strategy."

An even more egregious example of imperial overreach is China's generous aid to countries - from Cambodia to Venezuela to Russia - that offer little in return. According to AidData at the College of William and Mary, from 2000 to 2014, Cambodia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe together received \$24.4 billion in Chinese grants or heavily subsidized loans. Over the same period, Angola, Laos, Pakistan, Russia, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela received \$98.2 billion.

Now, China has pledged to provide \$62 billion in loans for the "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor." That program will help Pakistan confront its looming balance-of-payments crisis; but it will also drain the Chinese government's coffers at a time when trade protectionism threatens their replenishment.

Like the Soviet Union, China is paying through the nose for a few friends, gaining only limited benefits while becoming increasingly entrenched in an unsustainable arms race. The Sino-American Cold War has barely started, yet China is already on track to lose.

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# FROM WHERE I SEE PRESIDENT WEAH'S GOVERNMENT

By: Jones Octavious Mallay, Esq.  
mallayjones@hotmail.com Cell: 4015720775; @jonesmallay

## OHCHR's Rep. Emelonye: Should He Be Considered: "Persona Non-Grata?"

The United Nations Office of the High Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR) shouldn't be emblematic of an African version of human rights classic institution, nor should it be an effective exemplary of a wine drinking congregational team singleton within Liberian government functionaries around multiple banquet tables in Monrovia in the dauntlessness of tormenting human rights violations and violators.

Already, the OHCHR's representative, who is a Nigerian born national, has already begun jangling the trumpet of befriending the Liberian government by meddling into the internal affairs of the branches of the Liberian government which is constitutively a serious cause for concern, disappointment and the future of the growing human rights contention which have continuously overwhelmed the nobility of Liberia people in any iota of convenience?

The endeavor by the Liberian government to usher in an OHCHR's country representative accredited to Liberia wasn't for the purpose of staging a sensational political festival or an impressive and fruitless roundtable exhibition by Representative Emelonye who has since his triumphant entrance into Liberia began swaggering Monrovia town like an untouchable God-father in-town. Reprehensive Emelonye was sent to Liberia to purge some of the very serious charges regarding the mountain of unspeakable human rights exploitation that has impregnated Liberia as a nation since its senseless civil wars a few years ago.

It shouldn't be the place of the OHCHR's Representative Emelonye to vehemently interfere in the internal affairs of the Liberian politics when he unleashed or restrained his annotations in some of the Liberian reputable dailies: "challenging the actions of the House of Representatives who made a case of impeachment against the embattled Associate Justice Kebeah Ja'nah of the Liberian Supreme Court" Emelonye also lamented "the lawmakers' action violates the principle of separation of powers." "Lawmakers may have seen a 'loophole' which is why they are acting against Justice Ja'neh without a cause. "Melony also alerted "I will be a friend to the Liberian government."

Rep. Emelonye cannot come to Liberia endeavoring to Africanize the human rights abuses in Liberia in the form of political guardianship, which would be seemingly catastrophic for the gross encouragement of human rights violations in an impoverished nation like Liberia. These utterances on the part of the OHCHR's Representative are troubling and worrisome. Nevertheless, these asseverations from Emelonye may have the inclination to compromise the duties and responsibilities of the UN's human rights functions and activities in Liberia.

There will be a bubbling human rights abuses in Liberia, owing to Emelonye's extrinsic comments such as befriending the Liberian government when he should be a very thorough, neutral and pragmatic Rep. on human rights issues in Liberia. Mr. Emelonye is seemingly not the right agent to tackle human rights abuses in Liberia based on his dangerous utterances in recent past. He has already muddled the waters against transparency, neutrality, openness, execution, punishment and his sincere lack of professional commitment to his human rights undertakings which have already been compromised in context.

Emelonye's utterances were serious diplomatic bridges of interference and undermining the branches of the Liberian government from all intents and purposes. Mr. Emelonye's statements are basically foreign to the rudiments and ramifications of human rights especially, in Liberia. Those statements are direct interference into the body politics of the Liberian government which should qualify Rep. Emelonye as: "persona non grata."

UN's personnel often come to impoverished African nations like Liberia to take due advantage of their fragility and feeble political status by overstepping their official boundaries into the internal affairs of most African nations which is equivalent to political and diplomatic dishonesty. The OHCHR wouldn't have made these statements against the lawmakers in the US, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, South Africa, or even at the doorsteps of his own native land, the Federal Republic of Nigeria's parliament, the Rep. would have been declared a "persona non grata" within 24 hours for his interference as a Rep. accredited to those nations.

Mr. Emelony's action itself is a human rights abuse within the context of human rights enforcement. It would be prudence on the part of Mr. Emelonye to buttress his utmost tasks by going after some of the gross and growing human rights abuses in Liberia rather than confined himself to the Monrovia's population when Monrovia is not Liberia. Liberia will need an OHCHR's Representative who will not befriend the Liberian government but will migrate these growing and enormous human right rights abuses that are gradually destroying Liberia.

For example, Liberian women/girls are being sexually raped, brutalized, killed through domestic violence, yet Mr. Emelonye is sleeping in his slumber enjoying the comfort of wine drink as he eats American cakes in hotels around Monrovia. Journalists are being threatened in their reportage, Liberians committing suicides due to hardship imposed by the Liberian government policies, other Liberians are being flogged to death in Nimba County by ordinary citizens. There are growing police brutalities across Liberia, there are the intensities of growing mop violence across Liberia, yet the OHCHR is nowhere to be found addressing these issues, but rather interfered into the internal affairs of the Liberian government.

There are dangerous prisons' conditions for prisoners some of whom are dying slowly. Many are denied justices and hearing for years. The nation is reddened with rampant corruptions where poor Liberians are being denied justice with the increased in armed robberies that have continued to dehumanize Liberians, but where are the human rights tenets?

Workers in Firestone and B.F. Good ridge rubber plantation is treated like slaves and dogs with deplorable working conditions coupled with the so-called 37-years killer contracts by the authorities in Firestone. Rep. Emelonye action constitutes gross human rights abuses that are destroying Liberia's gradually under his watchful eyes? Emelonye is definitively a human rights' joker in Liberia.



Firestone Liberia, Inc  
Harbel, Liberia

## Notice of Position Opening

Internal/External

Full Time

Title: Physician  
Posting Number: S-030  
Posting Date: September 6, 2018  
Reports to: Medical Director  
Grade/Level: S4

Applications will be accepted through September 14, 2018

The Physician shall be responsible but not limited to the following duties:

- Examines patients, makes diagnosis, prescribes and effects treatment, makes medical opinions and when necessary, recommends referrals (daily).
- Conducts both staff and non-staff clinic services 3-5 times a week averaging 300-350 patients at the hospital and/or Divisional Health Centers as assigned. (daily)
- Conduct pre-employment and pre-departure physical examinations (as required)
- Perform surgical and Obstetric procedures within the limits of his/her competence as determined by the Medical Director as required. (daily)
- Performs special X-ray procedures (as required)
- Performs and maintains records of specialized diagnostic procedures (as required)
- Performs specialist duties according to qualifications and training. Eg. Ophthalmology, Anesthesia, Obstetric, etc. (daily)
- Assumes full responsibility for a hospital service averaging 30-35 beds and maintains record of admissions, treatment, progress notes and case summaries (daily)
- Participates in planning and implementing disease prevention campaigns such as health education, mass vaccination programs, etc.
- Attends and participates in daily and weekly clinical meetings
- Participates in weekly grounds rounds
- Participates on rotational basis in the "on – call" schedule with other physicians.
- Available for "2<sup>nd</sup> call" duties. (as required)
- Participate in the monthly mortality reviews

### REQUIREMENTS:

- Education: Basic Medical Degree (Doctor of Medicine) MD or equivalent Postgraduate Training

**Experience:** Three (3) years postgraduate experience and two (2) years experience in delivery of medical care to rural communities or in the tropics.

**Competencies:** Proficient in spoken and written English, Motivated and exhibits excellent skills in interpersonal relationship and ability to work in a team with flexibility

Send resume to:

Human Resources Department

Firestone Liberia, Inc.

Or email: ThomasMary@bfusa.com

Please reference this posting number on all documents: S-030





**JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI)**  
**Ebola Transmission Prevention & Survivor Services Program**  
 Horton Avenue, Capital Bye Pass  
 Monrovia, Liberia

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) No: 011**

**ISSUE DATE: September 3, 2018**

**CLOSING DATE AND TIME:** Proposals must be received **no later than 3:00PM**  
**Monrovia time on September 14, 2018**

**PRE-TENDER MEETING:** This meeting is intended to address questions that may arise from bidders. Slated for 1:00-2:00pm on Wednesday, **September 8, 2018**, JSI/APC Office, Horton Avenue, off Capital Bye- Pass, Monrovia, Liberia

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI) is a public health management consulting and research organization dedicated to improving the health of individuals and communities across the US and in globally.

Presently in Liberia, JSI, supported by USAID Global Health funding, is implementing the Ebola Transmission Prevention & Survivor Services (ETP&SS) program through the Advancing Partners & Communities Project (APC). This program focuses on Ebola transmission prevention, strengthening clinical care support for Ebola survivors, and reducing stigma and related barriers to health care services for Ebola survivors.

Via this document, JSI is soliciting proposals from interested, established, reputable and legally registered construction companies that have the capacity to provide quality health facility renovation services. Specifically, JSI/APC is requesting proposals from construction companies for **the Installation of Upvc rainwater harvesting gutters, including downspout, end caps, installation of 3 WIYS Model WWF 150 rain water vortex filters and connecting the system to a 90,000 Liter GRP Water Storage Tank at the Foya Boma Hospital, Foya City, Lofa County.**

No	County	Name of Facility	Description of Works
1	Lofa	Foya Boma Hospital	Installation of Upvc rainwater harvesting gutters, including downspout, end caps, installation of 3 WIYS Model WWF 150 rain water vortex filters and connecting the system to a 90,000 Liter GRP Water Storage Tank at the Foya Boma Hospital, Foya City, Lofa County.

All interested companies are requested to come to the front desk at JSI/APC to pick a hard copy of the RFP package. Each bidder will receive a set of technical working drawings, technical specifications, BOQs and RFP Bidder Instructions. This package can be picked daily between 8:00am – 5:00pm from September 3, 2018 to September 12, 2018.

**Note:** It is possible that there may be changes to the scope of the work. In the event of an award, JSI/APC will communicate any changes in the scope of work to the successful applicant.

You are requested to submit your most competitive proposal in accordance with the attached instructions, including all required certifications.

**One hard copy and one electronic copy on disc or memory stick of your proposal is due no later than Friday, September 14, 2018 3:00pm Monrovia time to the JSI/APC office and addressed to:**

Desmond Harris  
 Office Supervisor  
 JSI R&T Institute, Inc.  
 Horton Avenue  
 Monrovia, Liberia  
 Tel: +231 777142666

Signed:  
 Amos T. Gardy, II  
 Finance & Operations Manager  
 JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.  
 Horton Avenue, Capitol Bye Pass  
 Monrovia-Liberia

*[Signature]* 8/31/18



# University of Liberia

Capitol Hill  
 Fendall campus  
 Louisiana, Liberia

## Section I. INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS (Printing and Delivery of Diploma Covers) **IBF No: UL/NCB/003/18/19**

- The University of Liberia has allotted portion of it internally generated revenue for the fiscal year 2018/2019 towards the printing and delivery of diploma covers for its 99<sup>th</sup> commencement convocations in Louisiana, Fendall campus, University of Liberia.
- The University of Liberia now invites sealed bid from eligible bidders for the printing and delivery of the diploma covers.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA), 2010 and approved by the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC), and are open to all eligible bidders in the country.
- Specifications and quantity:

ITEMS NO.	Description	quantity	Unit of measure
1.	Printing and delivery of Diploma Covers	5,000	pieces

- Eligibility and qualification requirements includes:
  - Valid Government of Liberia Business Registration
  - Valid Government of Liberia tax clearance
  - Must be registered with the PPCC vendor registrar
  - Past performance records in the last 4 years for similar job including the names and contact details of at-least three (3) clients.
  - Current Bank Statement
  - Bid must be duly signed by the Bidders or person authorized on behalf of the bidder.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain copy of the bidding document from the procurement Department, Administrative Complex Building, Fendall Campus, ACI-09, University of Liberia for a non-refundable fee of USD\$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars) beginning August 20—September 19, 2018, between the hours 10:00a.m to 4:00p.m Mondays to Fridays and **inspect sample of the Diploma Cover.**
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid securing declaration duly signed by the bidder or person authorized on behalf of the bidder.
- Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00p.m, September 19, 2018 and bids will be open in the presence of bidders or representatives who choose to attend on September 19, 2018, at the hour of 2:00p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room, Administrative Complex Building, AC-01, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow:  
 “SEALED BID FOR THE PRINTING AND DELIVERY OF DIPLOMA COVERS”  
 REF: IFB NO: UL/NCB/003/18/19
- Below the bid reference number, print the bidder's address
- In the middle of the envelope, print the address below:  
 Procurement Department  
 Administrative complex Building  
 Fendall Campus  
 Louisiana, Liberia
- Note that electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fatu Ruth Tipoteh (Mrs.)  
 DIRECTOR

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Atty. Norris Tweah  
 Vice president, UL



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Troubling testimony in Tyron's case

### -As helper indicts Jonathan Williams

By Winston W. Parley

**L**iberian journalist Tyron Browne's bleeding soul may have been awakened in tears on 7 September when one of those that wore a pair of gloves and allegedly assisted suspect Jonathan Williams to destroy all traces of evidence gave a troubling testimony surrounding the 15 April incident.

"When I [tried] to help him and the both of us realized that this person was so heavy, we needed a help. Mr. Williams instructed that Edwina Youtey go into the house and call Ernest. When Ernest ... arrived, he also gave a pair of gloves to Ernest, which Ernest wore and then we assisted, took this person and placed [them] in the jeep of Mr. Williams..." third State Witness Bill Caesar Kennedy explained Friday, 7 September.

Caesar Kennedy, Massa

Edwina Youtey and Williams' brother "in a confused mood".

According to Caesar, defendants Williams, Alice and Edwina told him that someone entered the yard, attacked Williams "and got into a fight."

Subsequently he says defendant Williams explained that he thought the person was hurt.

After hearing from his neighbors, Caesar says he went inside and requested Ernest to give him his food so that he could eat.

Upon taking the first spoon of the food, witness Caesar says he was called by defendant Williams.

"[When] I came out, he [had] his car ready, the two back seats bent over with a plastic ready placed in the back of his jeep," says Caesar.

The witness narrates that he was instructed by defendant Williams to walk behind him while he drove

tried to help defendant Williams, but Tyron was so heavy, and so they needed a help.

That led defendant Williams to allegedly instruct Edwina to call Ernest.

Upon arrival, he recalls that Ernest was also given a pair of gloves and "then we assisted, took this person and placed [them] in the jeep of Mr. Williams..."

Under defendant Williams' instruction, Caesar says they sat with the principal defendant in his jeep, drove off through the road leading to the Kingdom Care Hospital.

Upon arrival, defendant Williams stopped just few meters away from the hospital, got out of his jeep and pulled Tyron out of the vehicle and dropped him at the side of the road, Caesar explains.

Having dropped Tyron few meters away from the hospital, witness Caesar says Williams got back into his jeep and drove back into the yard at Duport Road.

When they finally arrived home, Caesar narrates that defendant Williams again instructed that the plastic and gloves be burnt.

"... I did [collect] the plastic, placed it on the septi tank along with the gloves which was given by Mr. Williams to be burned," witness Caesar says.

According to Caesar, defendant Williams instructed Alice to bring a box of matches while the indictee personally fetched fuel from his generator room, spilled it over the items and burned them.

"I stood in the presence of Mr. Williams, Alice Youtey, Edwina Youtey and Ernest Kermo. After we watched it burned, I went along with Ernest into the house and ever since ... I was afraid to say anything," Caesar notes.

Defendant Williams allegedly used a knife and inflicted grievous bodily injuries on diverse parts of journalist Browne's body, rendering the victim unconscious.

According to the indictment, co- defendants Alice, Edwina, Massa Kennedy and Juana Bracewell watched and were in full knowledge of the incident, but they never reported it to police or any law enforcement office.

Proceedings in this case have been rescheduled pending the outcome of a conference before the Justice in Chambers at the Supreme Court of Liberia. **-Edited by Othello B. Garblah**

outside of the fence.

In the process, Caesar recalls being asked by defendant Williams if he saw anybody.

"[And] I said no. We got at the scene, I noticed that there was a body lying just few meters from our fence where we live," witness Caesar explains.

In the presence of Edwina and Alice, Caesar recalls that defendant Williams took a glove and handed it over to him (Caesar) so that he could assist the defendant to drop off victim Tyron.

The witness indicates that when he inquired from defendant Williams what he meant by "dropping," he says the indictee said it meant to take the person (Tyron) to hospital.

Caesar testifies that he

## How many more ULIMO-K generals wanted?

**W**ith the sudden arrest of a notorious Liberian rebel general Swaliho Soumawolo by French security in Paris France, last week for possible prosecution, many are wondering here how many more generals of the disbanded ULIMO-K rebel group could be picked up before a pending mass arrest in December.

Another general of the dreaded ULIMO-K rebel group Mohammed Jabbated a.k.a

Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy ULIMO-K, reportedly committed various acts of shocking brutality including rapes, sexual enslavement, slave labor, murder, mutilation and ritual cannibalism. He also used children as soldiers.

The BBC reports that the authorities in France have detained Soumawolo suspected of being a militant commander during Liberia's first civil war, in the 1990s.



"Jungle Jarbah" was sentenced to 30 years by U.S. District Judge Paul S. Diamond after he was tried and found guilty in October 2017 of two counts of fraud in immigration documents and two counts respectively of perjury.

ULIMO-K was commanded by Professor Alhaji G.V. Kromah, a former minister in the ex-regime of slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe.

Jabbateh, while serving as commander for the United

French police identified him as a naturalised Dutch citizen, Kunti K, and he has been charged with crimes against humanity.

The BBC says he is suspected of torture, murder, slavery, use of child soldiers and cannibalism.

Around 250,000 people were killed in Liberia's civil war in the 1990s and many thousands more fled the fighting. **-BBC**



Suspect Jonathan Williams

Kennedy and Juana Bracewell are three former co-defendants that government nolle prosequi (abandoned trial against) to testify to what they know about journalist Tyron Browne's murder on 15 April this year.

Witness Caesar told Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie and a 15 - man jury panel at Court "A" that since he assisted in putting Tyron into the jeep who was later dumped on the roadside by Williams, he (Caesar) had been afraid to say anything over fear that Williams may have done something to him.

Caesar says he returned from work on 15 April, entered their Duport Road residence in a compound behind 704 by 23:58 GMT and met defendant Williams, Ernest Kermo, defendants Alice Youtey and

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Finance boss upgrades ticket at personal expense?

### -Finance Ministry rejects responsibility

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning insists that it has in no way violated the Revised Travel Ordinance of 2016/2017 on Finance Minister Samuel Tweah's official trip to China as reported in the Thursday, September 6, 2018 edition of the FrontPage Africa Newspaper.

According to a press release from the Ministry, the purchase of the Minister's ticket to Beijing, China was in accordance with the Government of Liberia Revised Travel Ordinance of 2016/2017, which changed the traveling class of the Minister of Finance and Development Planning and the Minister of Foreign Affairs respectively from economy to business class.

But Minister Tweah went a step further and upgraded his air ticket acquired by the Government of Liberia from Business Class to First Class at an additional expense of US\$16,000.

The Ministry clarifies that officials or employees of government traveling on official government business abroad are free at their own will and expense to upgrade

their ticket with absolutely no financial burden to government.

However, the release did not say in clear terms whether Minister Samuel Tweah did

traveling on state functions.

This has generated serious concern here, particularly at a time when the Pro Poor government that is desperately in need of funds to



Minister Samuel Tweah

upgrade his air ticket from business class to First Class from his pocket or at his personal expense, something that would sound very incredible for an official

execute development programs, had go to China to seek financial aid.

Additionally, the Ministry says it has no knowledge of the purported ticket published by

FrontPage Africa, which the paper claims belongs to Minister Tweah and was purchased from Worldwide Air Service in Osu, Ghana.

The release continues that contrary to what it describes as "deliberate falsehood being peddled by the FrontPage Africa", the authentic ticket purchased by the Ministry for Minister Samuel D. Tweah's trip to China to attend the China-Africa Summit was

purchased from Jos Travels and Tours, Inc. in Monrovia, Liberia instead.

The Ministry also adds that contrary to the concerns raised by the paper about adherence to the Procurement Policy, all procurement compliance requirements were met in acquiring tickets for the government official delegation to China. **-Press Release**

## Lonestar Cell MTN

Starts from backpage

and the Deputy CEO to be women.

"This is something that makes us committed to women empowerment, and providing the opportunity to everyone," he adds.

Giving the overview of the program, the Executive Director of the Innovation Team Liberia Mr. Robert K. Bolay told the audience that for the past two months, over hundred young ladies have had the opportunity to benefit from the Ladies in Tech pre-bootcamp project.

According to him, the project was intended to build the capacity of young women in digital literacy, especially in web application development and programming.

Mr. Bolay says 90% of the women had zero knowledge in computer literacy.

"Today I'm proud to say that these women are on the path to become tech heroes of Liberia," Bolay says.

He expresses heartfelt sentiments to their partner Lonestar Cell MTN for providing them the necessary support that brought their program to fruition.

According to the Innovation Team Executive Director, the Ladies in Tech project prepared the beneficiaries during an intense six - month bootcamp, where they taught web application development, mobile app., product design, and graph design, among others.

"Our Ladies in Tech program mission is to build a community of females' tech innovators, where society benefits more from social development," he continues.

According to Mr. Bolay, this program is also in line with one of the key merits of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals -4 which talks about quality education for all, and to target underprivileged groups.

He discloses that in the few years, their program will empower about one thousand ladies through the innovative training.

Mr. Bolay narrates that after the training, the beneficiaries will enter into mentorship and internship programs to prepare them for the job market.

**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

## Liberia & Japan Will Hold a Joint Committee Meeting on Tuesday

The Governments of Liberia and Japan are expected to a Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

The Joint Committee

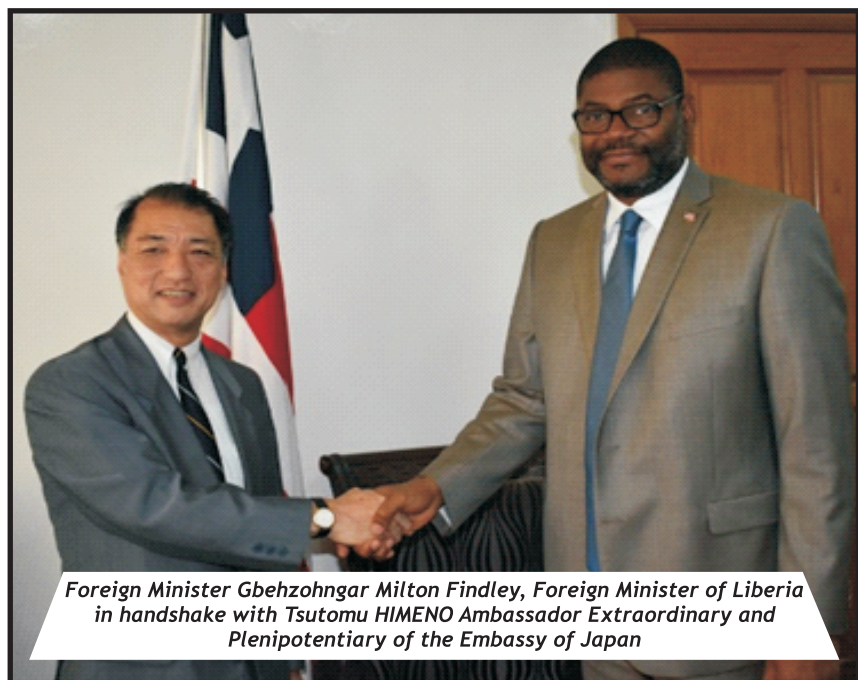
achievements by the Government of Liberia as well as the positive impacts of the KR Food Aids Project (rice) and Non-Project Grant Aids (petroleum products) in

Program in Liberia, the Government of Japan has provided 58,531.13 metric tons of assorted rice and 21,084.64 metric tons of mixed petroleum products, respectively.

It can be recalled in 2008, before the upsurge of the global financial meltdown, Former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf engaged in a bilateral arrangement with the Embassy of Japan near Accra, Ghana, for food aid assistance under the Japanese Oversea Development Assistance (ODA) Program for Africa. The first Exchange of Notes, (E/N), was signed between the Government of Liberia and the Government of Japan on August 18, 2008, and the first consignment of rice weighing 8,612 metric tons arrived March 2009.

As a direct result of the Japanese Grant Commodities monetization in Liberia, a number of economic recovery projects have been funded and executed by the Government Ministries and Agencies.

**-Press Release**



Foreign Minister Gbehzohngar Milton Findley, Foreign Minister of Liberia in handshake with Tsutomu HIMENO Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of Japan

Meeting (JCM) is an annual event that catalogs the Government of Japan's contributions to Liberia's social economic development programs that are "Pro-Poor" and to review all milestone

Liberia.

Foreign Minister Findley represent Liberia, while Ambassador HIMENO of Japan will be represent the Government of Japan.

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# Français

## L'ancien rebelle Libérien Dénommé Kuntī K. arrêté en France

Un homme soupçonné de crimes contre l'humanité au Liberia dans les années 1990, durant la guerre civile qui a sévi dans ce pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest, a été mis en examen et écroué jeudi en France.

Kuntī K., ressortissant libérien naturalisé néerlandais, a été interpellé mardi en région parisienne à Bobigny (Seine-Saint-Denis), a indiqué à l'AFP le colonel Eric Emeraux, commandant de l'Office central de lutte contre les crimes contre l'humanité, les génocides et les crimes de guerre (OCLCHGCG), qui a mené l'opération conjointement avec les gendarmes d'élite du GIGN.

Cet homme né en 1974 "aurait été commandant au sein de l'ULIMO (United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy), faction de trois groupes armés" s'opposant au mouvement de l'ancien président libérien Charles



Taylor (le Front national patriotique du Liberia, NPFL, qui avait déclenché la guerre au Liberia fin 1989), au moment de la première guerre civile dans ce pays, a indiqué pour sa part une source

judiciaire.

Il est soupçonné d'actes de torture, d'utilisation d'enfants soldats, de meurtres, d'actes de cannibalisme et de mise en esclavage, entre 1993 et 1997, selon cette même source.

L'homme, qui se cachait chez un ami au moment de son interpellation, "avait rejoint la France en 2016, après avoir quitté les Pays-Bas et être passé par la Belgique", a expliqué le colonel Eric Emeraux.

Le pôle "crimes contre l'humanité, crimes et délits de guerre" du parquet de Paris avait ouvert une enquête préliminaire à la suite d'une plainte déposée le 23 juillet 2018 par l'ONG Civitas Maxima, et lancé un mandat de recherche à son encontre, selon la source judiciaire.

- "Actes de torture" -

À l'issue de la garde à vue, le parquet de Paris a ouvert une information judiciaire et le suspect a été mis en examen

pour actes de torture en réunion par l'usage d'une arme, et actes de torture constitutifs de crimes contre l'humanité.

Contactée par l'AFP, Civitas Maxima n'a pas souhaité faire de commentaires. Cette ONG basée à Genève, qui défend les victimes de crimes de guerre et de crimes contre l'humanité, a pour but de "faciliter la documentation des crimes internationaux", et de développer "une coopération à l'échelle globale entre victimes, enquêteurs, avocats indépendants, et autorités étatiques", selon son site.

Elle a contribué à l'arrestation de plusieurs personnes liées à la guerre civile au Liberia, l'un des plus atroces conflits du continent africain qui a fait quelque 250.000 morts entre 1989 et 2003. Parmi elles, Agnes Taylor, une ancienne épouse de Charles Taylor, ou encore Mohammed Jabateh, un ancien commandant de l'ULIMO condamné en avril dernier à 30 ans de prison aux Etats-Unis.

L'ex-président Charles Taylor (1997-2003) a pour sa part été condamné par le Tribunal spécial pour la Sierra Leone (TSSL) en 2012 à 50 ans de prison pour crimes contre l'humanité et crimes de guerre commis dans ce pays voisin du Liberia. Sa condamnation a été confirmée en 2013 et il purge sa peine en Grande-Bretagne.

## Le Gouvernement pour les pauvres doit décaisser 1,2 million de dollars pour des élections partielles

La Commission électorale nationale (NEC) a annoncé un budget de 1,2 million de dollars pour les élections partielles qui sont prévues pour le 20 novembre 2018 dans les comtés de Montserrado et de Sinoe.

La Commission électorale indépendante a fait l'annonce le jeudi 6 septembre lors de la remise

de deux brefs d'élection aux autorités électorales des deux comtés. Il s'agit d'une élection législative partielle qui aura lieu dans la circonscription électorale No 13 du comté de Montserrado et une élection sénatoriale partielle qui aura lieu dans le comté de Sinoe.

Maitre Elizabeth Toe, l'un des vice-présidents de la NEC, a fait savoir que le budget a

déjà été soumis au ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement. Quant au président de la commission électorale, Jérôme George Korkoya, il a indiqué qu'en raison des contraintes économiques que traverse le pays, la commission a décidé de combiner les deux élections partielles pour amortir les coûts.



### Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

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Dévoiant le chronogramme des élections partielles, Me Korkoya a déclaré que le processus de mise en candidature des potentiels aspirants a déjà commencé et qu'il prendrait fin le 20 octobre, et que les Libériens des localités citées ci-haut seraient invités à se présenter dans leurs différents bureaux de vote le 20 novembre pour élire un représentant et un sénateur.

Les élections partielles visent à pourvoir aux postes laissés vacants par l'ancien représentant de la circonscription électorale No

13 du comté de Montserrado, Saah Joseph, à la suite de son élection au Sénat libérien, et par l'ancien sénateur du comté de Sinoe, Me Joseph Nagbe, récemment nommé à la Cour suprême du Libéria à la suite du départ à la retraite de l'ancien juge associé Philip A.Z. Banks.

La NEC a profité de l'occasion pour rassurer les Libériens et la communauté internationale qu'elle est prête à organiser des élections libres, équitables et transparentes, comme elle l'avait fait lors des élections précédentes.



# Français

## Burkina Faso : le président promet d'en finir avec les attaques dans l'Est

Dès son retour de Chine, le président burkinabè Roch Marc Christian Kaboré a présidé samedi 8 septembre une session du conseil national de la défense, avec pour but de trouver des solutions à la recrudescence des attaques dans les régions de l'est et du sud-ouest du Burkina Faso. A l'issue de la réunion, le président Kaboré a assuré que les forces armées mèneront des opérations de reconquête des forêts de l'Est dans les prochaines semaines.

seront prises les prochains jours pour parer à cette situation et rétablir la sécurité dans cette zone, a assuré le président burkinabè. Nos forces armées vont travailler à reprendre toute cette zone, tout en continuant à sécuriser les zones du Sahel et les autres zones également du Sud-Ouest. »

Tout en demandant aux Burkinabè de soutenir leurs forces armées et d'éviter de saper leur moral, le président Roch Marc Christian Kaboré promet des mesures pour assurer la prise en charge des



Selon le président Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, il est important que le Burkina Faso reprenne l'initiative sur la partie Est du pays. Sans donner de précisions sur les prochaines opérations, le président du Burkina Faso assure que des dispositions seront prises pour éradiquer les attaques mais aussi neutraliser définitivement les auteurs.

« Je voudrais dire que nous assistons à une vaste opération de déstabilisation du Burkina Faso. C'est pour cela que des dispositions urgentes

familles des soldats tués ou blessés et invalides. « C'est clair que nos forces armées sacrifient leurs vies pour la nation. Il est tout à fait normal que la nation, même si nous ne pouvait ressusciter personne, leur soit reconnaissante », a-t-il souligné.

Roch Marc Christian Kaboré assure que dans les prochains jours le Burkina Faso aura la suprématie au niveau de la région de l'Est, en mettant en avant l'engagement des forces armées à défendre la patrie.

## COMMENTAIRE

By Minxin Pei

## La Chine est en train de perdre la nouvelle guerre froide

HONG KONG - A la suite de la dislocation de l'Union soviétique en 1991, le Parti communiste chinois (PCC) a développé une obsession quant aux raisons qui pouvait expliquer cet événement. Les groupes de réflexion du gouvernement chargés de cette tâche ont essentiellement fait porter le chapeau à Mikhaïl Gorbatchev, le dirigeant réformiste qui n'était simplement pas assez impitoyable pour préserver la cohésion du bloc soviétique. Mais les analystes de l'époque ont également souligné d'autres facteurs importants qui ne semblent pas avoir été pris en compte par les dirigeants chinois actuels.

Il ne fait aucun doute que le PCC a parfaitement assimilé la première leçon essentielle : de bonnes performances économiques sont indispensables à la légitimité politique. L'acharnement du PCC à stimuler la croissance du PIB au cours des dernières décennies à produit un « miracle économique », avec une envolée du revenu nominal par habitant, de 333 dollars en 1991 à 7329 dollars l'an dernier. Il s'agit là de l'unique importante raison pour laquelle le PCC est toujours au pouvoir.

Négliger une économie en difficulté n'est toutefois pas, et de loin, la seule erreur commise par les dirigeants soviétiques. Ils furent également entraînés dans une course aux armements, coûteuse et impossible à gagner, avec les États-Unis et succombèrent à une démesure impérialiste, investissant des sommes d'argent et des ressources considérables dans des régimes sans réelle valeur stratégique et avec des antécédents notoires de mauvaise gestion économique. Alors que la Chine se dirige vers une nouvelle guerre froide avec les États-Unis, le PCC semble prêt à répéter ces mêmes errements catastrophiques.

Il ne semble pas, à première vue, que la Chine ait réellement engagé une course aux armements avec les États-Unis. Le budget officiel chinois de la défense de cette année - 175 milliards de dollars environ - ne représente qu'un quart du budget de la défense, 700 milliards de dollars, approuvé par le Congrès américain. Il semble toutefois que les dépenses militaires réelles de la Chine soient bien supérieures au budget officiel : selon l'Institut international de recherche sur la paix de Stockholm, la Chine a consacré quelques 228 milliards à son armée l'an dernier, soit 150 pour cent du chiffre officiel de 151 milliards pour 2017.

Dans tous les cas, la question n'est pas tant la quantité d'argent dépensée par la Chine pour son armement que celle de l'augmentation constante des dépenses militaires, qui implique que les autorités chinoises sont prêtes à mener une guerre d'usure avec les États-Unis. L'économie chinoise n'est pourtant pas en mesure de générer les ressources qui permettraient le niveau de dépenses nécessaires à une victoire sur ce front.

Si la Chine avait un modèle de croissance durable, à la base d'une économie très performante, elle pourrait se permettre une course aux armements modérée avec les États-Unis. Mais elle n'a ni l'un, ni l'autre.

Au niveau macroéconomique, il est attendu que l'économie chinoise continue à se contracter à cause du vieillissement rapide de la population, de niveaux d'endettement élevés, de l'asymétrie des échéances et de l'escalade de la guerre commerciale initiée par les États-Unis. Tous ces facteurs grèveront les ressources limitées de l'État. Par exemple, l'augmentation du taux de dépendance des personnes âgées entraînera une

hausse corollaire des soins de santé et des retraites.

De plus, si l'économie chinoise est bien plus compétitive que ne l'était l'économie soviétique, elle n'enregistre pas, de loin, les mêmes performances que l'économie américaine, principalement à cause du poids persistant des entreprises d'État chinoises, qui accaparent la moitié de la totalité des crédits bancaires du pays tout en ne contribuant qu'à hauteur de 20 pour cent à la création de valeur ajoutée et des emplois.

Le problème pour le PCC est que ces entreprises jouent un rôle fondamental dans le maintien au pouvoir du parti unique, étant utilisées à la fois pour récompenser les comportements loyaux et pour faciliter l'intervention du gouvernement en faveur d'objectifs macroéconomiques officiels. Démanteler ces entreprises surdimensionnées et inefficaces reviendrait ainsi à commettre un suicide politique. D'un autre côté, les préserver ne fera probablement que différer l'inévitable : plus longtemps elles sont autorisées à ponctionner les ressources limitées de l'économie, plus le coût d'une course aux armements avec les États-Unis devient inabordable - et plus l'autorité du PCC sera remise en question.

La deuxième leçon que les dirigeants chinois n'ont pas appréciée à sa juste valeur est la nécessité d'éviter la démesure impérialiste. Il y a une décennie environ, lorsque les énormes excédents commerciaux se sont traduits pas de colossales réserves de devises, le gouvernement chinois a entrepris de conclure des engagements coûteux à l'étranger et de subventionner des « alliés » mauvais payeurs.

L'exemple type en est la tant vantée initiative « Route et Ceinture », un programme d'un coût de 1000 milliards de dollars axé sur la construction d'infrastructures, financée par l'emprunt, dans des pays en développement. Malgré des signes précurseurs de difficultés - qui, à la lumière de l'expérience soviétique, devraient inciter le PCC à y réfléchir à deux fois - la Chine semble déterminée à aller de l'avant avec cette initiative que les dirigeants du pays ont qualifié de pilier de leur nouvelle « stratégie globale ».

Un autre exemple encore plus déplorable de la démesure impérialiste est l'aide généreuse accordée par la Chine à des pays - du Cambodge au Venezuela en passant par la Russie - qui n'ont pas grand-chose à offrir en retour. Selon le laboratoire de recherche AidData du College of William and Mary, entre 2000 et 2014, le Cambodge, le Cameroun, la Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, l'Éthiopie et le Zimbabwe ont ensemble reçus pour 24,4 milliards de dollars de subventions et de prêts bonifiés de la part de la Chine qui, sur la même période a accordé 98,2 milliards de dollars d'aide à l'Angola, au Laos, au Pakistan, à la Russie, au Turkménistan et au Venezuela.

La Chine s'est à présent engagée à fournir 62 milliards de dollars de prêts dans les projets liés au couloir économique sino-pakistanaï, un programme qui aidera le Pakistan à faire face à la crise imminente de sa balance des paiements, mais qui videra également les coffres de l'État chinois au moment où les mesures commerciales protectionnistes risquent d'empêcher que ceux-ci soient reconstitués.

Comme l'Union soviétique, la Chine paye le prix fort pour quelques pays amis, sans grand avantage en retour, tout en s'enferrant de plus en plus dans une course aux armements qu'elle ne peut assumer. Alors que la guerre froide sino-américaine commence à peine, la Chine est déjà en voie de la perdre.

Articles traduits

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# FEATURE ARTICLE

## Russia outline goals ahead of RAfTIF

By Kester Kenn Klomeagh

The Russia-Africa Investment Forum (RAfTIF) is one of the platforms that seeks to promote business opportunities on the African continent and serves as a bridge between Russian and African business. It primarily seeks to deepen understanding of the business climate, accelerate investment and partnership possibilities in Africa.

Ahead of the first Russia-Africa Investment Forum planned for November, Event Managing Director Irina Awote explains in this interview, taken by Kester Kenn Klomeagh, what potential Russian investors and participants can expect from the African business leaders and politicians, and useful information from thematic discussion panels on the public and private sectors. Interview excerpts:

**Q:** The first edition of Russia Africa Investment forum comes on in November, why only at this time nearly three decades since the Soviet collapse?

**A:** This has mostly been driven by economic factors, first internal that is within Russia, and second, external market influences that have occurred over time. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia primarily focused on building and strengthening its internal economy.

Today, the Russian economy and Russian industries have come a long way since the Soviet collapse - the Russian economy is a lot stronger than in the first two decades following the Soviet collapse, at the same time many Russian enterprises have since evolved and developed, many through partnerships with international organisations.

Russian industrial products are now much more refined and mostly on par with those of their international counterparts, both in terms of quality and appeal. Russian companies have become more savvy and experienced with working with international partners, as well as doing business in international markets.

As such, whilst there has been, for a long time, interest from Russia to revive its old economic ties with Africa. Russia and Russian enterprises are in a much stronger position today to capitalise on this opportunity than a few decades ago. At the same time, not ignoring the fact that the continued economic sanctions imposed by the West, has made Russia reinforce its strategic partnerships with other regions, and especially Africa where they have had good historical ties from the Soviet era. So the Russia-Africa Trade & Investment Forum is quite timely in this respect.

**Q:** Can you point out some of its objectives for stimulating transaction, investment and possibly, flow of corporate deals to Africa?

**A:** The Russia-Africa Trade & Investment Forum (RAfTIF) aims to present Africa as an investment destination for Russian businesses, whilst promoting further business collaboration between the two regions.

The Forum will provide Russian organisations with the opportunity to explore business investment opportunities in Africa focusing on key economic

sectors such as Infrastructure, Energy, Power, Agribusiness, Health, Transport and Logistics. At the same time, the forum will provide African organisations with opportunity for strategic partnerships, finance and joint venture collaborations.

The Forum's objective is to help Russian companies to enter and work in Africa, both in exclusive as well as internationally integrated projects, as reliable business partners and expand their presence in the African investment field.

The Forum will inform Russian businesses about Africa, in understanding key legal, economic and political issues that surround Doing Business in Africa and at the same time inform African businesses about Russian business offerings.

The Forum programme has been designed specifically to provide participants ample opportunities for networking and discussions with a mix of formal and informal gatherings including plenary sessions, panel and roundtable discussion sessions, industry specific breakout sessions, country/state investment briefings and b2b meetings for more detailed discussions and knowledge sharing, making up the two-day programme.

**Q:** Who will attend/participate? Is it the usual protagonists speaking about the continent, or can we expect something extraordinarily new?

**A:** Forum participants will be senior executives and decision makers from international companies, government agencies, banking and the investment community from Africa and Russia, as well as ministers of respective industry sectors and is already starting to gather high interest participation of delegations from countries like Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya with more expected from other African countries. The speaker panel to date features experts from organisations such as the Africa Agribusiness Alliance, African Health Federation, AU Commission for Trade & Industry, Dentons, Control Risks, Renaissance Capital, amongst others.

We are very keen to see strong private sector participation at the event. We are working in close partnership with a number of business and trade organisations, such as the African Business Roundtable, East Africa Business Council, Africa Business Initiative - a Moscow based organisation specifically dedicated to developing Russia-Africa business relations, as well as with a number of Russia-Africa trade councils, just to mention a few.

**Q:** With so many African summits and conferences with foreign countries such as China, India, Japan, Europe and many others, how different are you to the usual narrative regarding the continent?

**A:** Well, the fact that this event focuses specifically on Russian investment into Africa i.e. focusing on business and investment opportunities between the two regions - this is new and as such already makes it different!

It is the first and only event of its kind to be organised on this level, bringing together thought



leaders, policy makers and investors from Africa and Russia including international organisations on one platform to address technical details related to funding projects, establishing partnerships and joint venture collaborations as well as showcasing sectors for viable investment returns.

As a private sector led initiative, the event takes on a much more transactional nature and we expect to have a wider participation of private sector enterprises allowing for more constructive dialogue and opportunity for establishing local partnerships.

**Q:** Why are you holding an important Russia-Africa event in Dubai? Is there advantage it offers to boost this business event? And what are your final words...?

**A:** Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, is the chosen location for the event as it offers easy entry access for both Russian and African delegations, and with its excellent connectivity - Emirates airlines, the national carrier, operates frequent routes, serving many cities in Russia and African countries - and its extensive business services, Dubai makes the perfect location as a central meeting point, allowing for wider and increased participation in the forum of business executives from both Russia and Africa.

Dubai is home to regional headquarters of many worldwide corporations and international SMEs, including many Russian and African organisations many of which service their Africa business interests from the Emirates. For participants to the forum, this means that they can take advantage of their participation in the forum in Dubai to tie-in other related business activities at the same time. Making their participation that much more worthwhile and cost effective - both in terms of time and money!

On a final note, we would like to take this opportunity to inform your readers that more information about the event, how to get involved can be found on the event website: [www.raftif.com](http://www.raftif.com) and we look forward to welcoming all to what promises to be a highly informative and interesting event this November in Dubai. \*Kester Kenn Klomeagh writes frequently about Russia, Africa and BRICS



# U.S. Congress introduces bill

By Othello B. Garblah

A bill calling for the establishment of a war crimes tribunal in Liberia to prosecute war crimes criminals and the full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) recommendations has been introduced in the United States House of Congress.

The bill, named and styled US Congress H. Resolution 1055 - (115th Congress 2017-2018) was introduced on Friday September 7, 2018 by Representative Daniel M. Donovan Jr., a Republican from New York, and Co-sponsored by Congressman Hank Johnson, Democrat, from Georgia.

The intent of the bill, according to Congressman Donovan Jr., is "...To affirm strong United States-Liberia ties and support for democratic principles, and call for full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations, including the establishment of an Extraordinary Criminal Tribunal for Liberia."

Reports say the move by a member of the US Congress is the first tangible indication that the US and the



Rep. Donovan Jr.



Rep. Johnson

international community are prepared to decisively deal with issue of impunity in Liberia.

According to the West African Journal Magazine, Representative Donovan's bill has been agreed to in the U. S. House of Representatives and it has been forwarded to the House's Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Congressman Donovan has a background as a former prosecutor and attorney.

He represents the 11th

congressional district which covers parts of Kings County and Richmond County southeastern in New York. He was elected in 2015.

According to procedures in the U. S. House of Representatives, bill are generally sent to the Library of Congress from, the Government Publishing Office a day or two after they are introduced. But delay in passage of bills are possible when there is a large bill to print.

The introduction of the bill comes days after authorities in France detained a former rebel commander from the United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy (ULIMO), for war crimes and crimes against humanity including torture and cannibalism, according to French police on Friday.

Reports say the alleged war crimes criminal identified as naturalized Dutch citizen Kunti K., was arrested in the northeast Paris suburb of Bobigny where he had been hiding out at the home of a friend. He is suspected of torture, murder, slavery, the use of child soldiers and

cannibalism between 1993 and 1997.

ULIMO, formed by Alhaji G.V Kromah and other remnants of the erstwhile slain President Samuel Doe regime was established as a counter force against the Charles Taylor National Patriotic Front (NPFL).

Taylor is currently serving a 50 year jail sentence in a UK prison for aiding and abetting war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sierra Leone as well as committing atrocities in that country.

Since the end of the Liberian civil war here, not a single perpetrator has been arrested and punish on home soil despite calls by the TRC for prosecution. However, there have been arrests and prosecutions of Liberians in the UK, United States, Belgium and now France.

The introduction of the bill also comes amidst mounting pressure from 75 international non-governmental organizations, the international Justice Group and Liberians for the establishment of the war crimes court.

President Weah is expected to address the UN General Assembly this month in New York. Already, there are reports of some Liberians planning to peacefully protest and call for the establishment of war crimes court.

## Snowe, Fahngon flex muscles

By Winston W. Parley

A disturbing video on social media hews Bong County Representative Edwin Melvin Snowe and Deputy Information Minister Eugene Fahngon in a hot encounter at a police depot in Monrovia where the lawmaker allegedly attempted

based on the Deputy Information Minister's complaint.

There are unconfirmed reports that the man taken under police custody was allegedly suspected to be photographing Mr. Fahngon at an entertainment center on a

is said to have seized the phone, called police officers and agents from the National Security Agency (NSA) who took the guy in question to a police depot in Monrovia.

Rep. Snowe was said to have come in the picture given that the man who had been arrested was either from his district or some aide.

In the video, Rep. Snowe accuses Mr. Fahngon of being the one who took the man to the police depot for detention, but Fahngon denies it and insists that "the law brought him here."

Fahngon says the guy's phone is with the NSA and the police, and accuses Snowe of allegedly violating the law.

Snowe is said to have demanded the guy's release, which Fahngon argues would have resulted to the lawmaker's arrest and detention for interfering with law enforcement if it were in the United States.

Fahngon also makes accusation that Mr. Snowe may have been the one who allegedly sent the guy to photograph him (Fahngon).

In front the police depot, Rep. Snowe is seen standing while Mr. Fahngon points finger to his face, warning him and using some words that were so damning to the lawmaker.



releasing someone that Fahngon had complained.

In the dramatic video, Fahngon accuses Rep. Snowe of going to the police depot and ordering officers there to release a man who had been taken under police custody

mobile phone.

Mr. Fahngon is said to have noticed that he was being photographed by the man in question and subsequently demanded that his photo be deleted.

In the process, Mr. Fahngon

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Rep. Snowe is heard asking Mr. Fahngon what did the guy do, but Fahngon continues that Snowe should ask the law.

While Fahngon persistently engages Snowe, the lawmaker is seen like trying to make phone calls.

Fahngon says he is going to damn Rep. Snowe for his action "tonight."

In the video, Fahngon accuses Mr. Snowe of allegedly ordering the tearing of a police officer's uniform during a tussle at the police depot to get the arrested man out.

Fahngon also alleges being insulted by Mr. Snowe, but his own video also shows on many instances how he damned the lawmaker.

Fahngon claims that he has been threatened by Rep. Snowe that he would be fired in three days. But he warns that Mr. Snowe should "never, ever try that nonsense to me."

He says Snowe needs to watch himself, saying he (Fahngon) went at the police

station to condemn Snowe for his action.

In the drama, Snowe is heard complaining against a man wearing red shirt and called police to arrest him.

As Fahngon makes angry expressions, Mr. Snowe is heard in the background asking the Deputy Minister if he still had more to say.

It was a long engagement with Fahngon at some point bringing in party politics and claiming that "we fought" for this revolution.

Fahngon says this is not Charles Taylor (NPP) or Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf (UP) government, adding this is Weah's government and "we're" right here with CDCians."

But Snowe questions how Fahngon claims to have fought for the Change when he was with businessman turned - politician Benoni Urey (ALP) and later joined President George Manneh Weah (CDC).



## Lonestar Cell MTN committed to equal opportunity

### --Says Marketing Chief



By Lewis S. Teh

The Chief Marketing officer of Liberia's telecommunication giant Lonestar Cell MTN Mr. Manu Rajan says the company remains committed to providing equal opportunity to citizens across the country.

"We at Lonestar Cell MTN

are so committed to providing citizens especially customers the equal opportunity they deserved," he said over the weekend.

Mr. Rajan's comments were made at a program marking the certification of 120 females of Ladies in Tech Pre-bootcamp.

The 120 females were trained in ICT, particularly in software development.

In his keynote address, Mr. Rajan says women empowerment is important in any society, noting that women make about 50% of the world's population.

The LoneStar Cell MTN official says it is in this context that women empowerment, and equal opportunity are essential not only in ICT, but in every field.

He indicates that ICT is a key force behind the changes that all are witnessing in the world today, noting that it changes the way people do things in life.

Mr. Rajan says Lonestar Cell MTN is therefore committed towards equal opportunity in the promotion of ICT to every single Liberian without discrimination.

Mr. Rajan boasts that LoneStar Cell MTN is the only multilateral company here which has its Chairperson of the Board, the CEO,



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## Salah scores twice, misses two penalties in Egypt romp

Liverpool ace Mohamed Salah scored twice and missed two penalties as Egypt made a dream debut under Mexican coach Javier Aguirre by crushing Niger 6-0 Saturday in Africa Cup of Nations qualifying.

Salah had clashed with Egyptian football officials ahead of the matchday 2 qualifier in Alexandria for the 2019 finals over image-rights violations and personal

security.

But once on the pitch, the Egypt superstar was quickly in the thick of the action, winning a first-minute penalty which was blocked.

After Marwan Mohsen and Ayman Ashraf goals gave the 2018 World Cup flops a two-goal edge, Salah had another penalty saved, but scored from the rebound for a 3-0 half-time advantage.

The Liverpool sharpshooter, who scored 32 English Premier

League goals last season in his first campaign at Anfield, created the fourth goal for rising star Salah Mohsen.

Salah netted the fifth and Mohamed Elneny from Arsenal completed the rout with a goal two minutes into stoppage time.

It was a wonderful start for former Mexico and Japan manager Aguirre, who recently signed a four-year contract as boss of the record seven-time African champions.



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