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Continental News

Midwife murders reveal brutal IS tactics in Nigeria

The execution-style killings of two Muslim midwives in north-eastern Nigeria have raised fears that the Islamist insurgency is far from over.

The Islamic State (IS) group and the political tensions ahead of elections in Africa's most-populous nation are being blamed for the upsurge in violence this year. Hauwa Liman and Saifura Ahmed Khorsa both worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) when they were kidnapped along with another female aid worker from the town of Rann in March. Fighters from a Boko Haram faction loyal to IS - known as the Islamic State West Africa Province (Iswap) - were behind their abduction.

Ms Khorsa, 25, was shot dead in September and a month later Ms Liman, her 24-year-old colleague, was also murdered. Local journalists who have seen the two videos released by the jihadists after the killings say the women, wearing white hijabs, were forced to kneel down with their hands tied.

They were then shot from

behind at close range.

Schoolgirl in captivity

It is not clear what demands the militants were making - but whatever they were the group says the government ignored them.

Iswap, which is believed to receive instructions from IS leadership, has raised its profile this year and was behind the kidnapping of 110 schoolgirls from the town of

Dapchi in February.

Most of the girls were released after a month, except for a 15-year-old who has reportedly refused to convert to Islam and remains in captivity.

Iswap appears to be the dominant Boko Haram faction since a split in the leadership of the group emerged in August 2016. Boko Haram launched its insurgency nearly nine years

ago taking over large swathes of land in north-eastern Nigeria where it declared an Islamic caliphate.

Its leader, Abubakar Shekau, gained worldwide notoriety five years later after kidnapping more than 200 schoolgirls from Chibok.

In the wake of this, Shekau's fighters joined IS, but it appears to have been a fractious relationship.

IS sacked him two years ago replacing him with Abu Musab al-Barnawi. Many analysts believe Shekau - who is now rumoured to be ill - was removed because of the tactics he used, often sending child suicide bombers to launch indiscriminate attacks on civilians that included targeting places of worship.

Over the last three-and-a-half years, most areas under the militants' control have been recaptured, though the two factions have continued to carry out attacks.

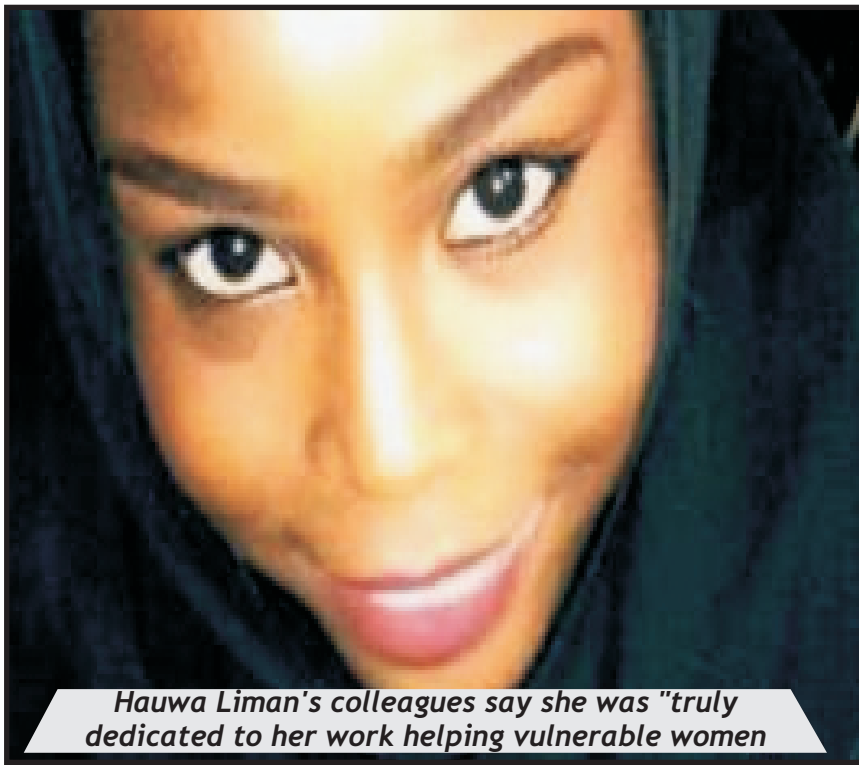
Gun-mounted trucks

But IS' influence is becoming more visible - and security analyst Abdullahi Yalwa believes some of Iswap's insurgents are possibly being trained at IS camps outside the country. Iswap has been behind several daring and deadly attacks against the military in the last four months.

They brazenly drive in convoy in gun-mounted trucks to target soldiers in an apparent attempt to acquire more weapons and armoured vehicles.

The reticent military has not commented much on the attacks, except to say they were "fierce". Many observers believe the authorities are cautious about revealing the actual death toll for fear of demoralising soldiers fighting the insurgents.

It also puts in doubt a key campaign promise made by President Muhammadu Buhari when he came to power in 2015 that he would defeat Boko Haram. BBC



Hauwa Liman's colleagues say she was "truly dedicated to her work helping vulnerable women"

Zimbabwe MP faces contempt of court

ZANU PF Murehwa North legislator, Daniel Garwe, faces contempt of court charges after he allegedly stripped the family farm in Mvuma of assets despite a High Court order barring him from doing so. In a High Court application HC

6885/18 made last week by his estranged wife, Pedzisayi Miriam Lillieth Garwe, the Zanu PF MP is accused of defying a court order made on June 15 2018 that interdicted him from taking away or removing assets held under the family trust.

High Court judge Justice Chirawu-Mugomba ruled that Garwe was in contempt of the High Court order in case number HC 4882/18 dated June 15 2018.

"It is the applicant's contention that in defiance of the court order the respondent is in breach of paragraph 2 which required him to return forthwith assets removed from subdivision A of Rhodesdale also known as Sebakwe Ranch farm in Mvuma being an electric hammer mill, boom spray, lister pump, planter, gladiator mower, TD 95 tractor and P11 plough," read part of the High Court order stamped October 11 2018.

"The applicant averred that again that the respondent was in breach of the court order by failing to return forthwith all assets he removed from number 12 Mitchel Road, Kamfinsa, Greendale, Harare being an Isuzu truck registration number ABI 5006, Bomag roller, construction shutters, window frames, timber, pivot water pump set

AU calls for peace talks in Comoros



The African Union has called for an urgent resumption of peace talks in Comoros where a political crisis has turned violent. At least two people are reported to have been killed during clashes between security forces and armed opposition protesters on the island of Anjouan.

The Chair of the AU Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, called on politicians to put the interest of the country above all other considerations.

and Isuzu TR registration number ABI 5791."

Justice Chirawu-Mugomba ruled that Garwe should be committed to prison for 90 days, 60 of which would be

The crisis began with July's constitutional referendum which ended the rotation of the presidency between the three main islands of the Comoros.

The opposition boycotted the vote which they saw as an illegal power grab by President Azali Assoumani - who can now run for office again.

Mr Assoumani ruled Comoros in 1999 to 2002 and again from 2002 to 2006. His third stint began in May 2016. BBC

suspended on condition that he immediately complies with the court order.

Garwe has since appealed against the court order. NewsDay



EDITORIAL

Where the Ministry of Education fails

THE DEPTH OF complacency or sheer lack of supervisory will, by educational authorities in the country, particularly officials at the Ministry of Education has come to public glare with the excruciatingly damning reports of persistent rape of young girls between ages 10 and 16 at More Than Me Academy, infecting the victims with the HIV virus.

WE BELIEVE STRONGLY if the Ministry of Education had effectively exercised its supervisory functions at learning institutions across the country, the sad situation involving less fortunate and vulnerable little girls at the American-run charity where its Liberian liaison officer, HIV/AIDS-positive McIntosh Johnson persistently raped and infected his preys, from 2014 up to his demise in prison in 2016 would have quickly been brought to check.

NEWS ABOUT THE incident broke here after separate publications by two American outlets, *ProPublica* and *TIME*, respectively, graphically detailing the abuses.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO), Ms. Katie Meyler confirms the number of girls, who were raped at the MTM Academy, could have been a quarter of the school, saying, "Everyone over the age of 11."

HOW COULD THE Government of Liberia, particularly the Ministry of Education, which licensed MTM Academy, and placed 20 schools in its care under the Liberia Education Advancement Program or LEAP turn a blind eye on what unfolds in those institutions that saw our young girls or dare say, babies being sexually exploited, abused and infected, as they suffered.

THE MINISTRY'S COMPLACENCY is so glaring, as indicated in statement issued by the charity, calling on the Ministry of Education to visit the Academy at any time for a complete inspection. Does the Ministry need an official invitation to carry on its statutory functions? We say absolutely no! It is not only frustrating, but highly disheartening that, in the words of the Female Journalists Association of Liberia or FeJal, an NGO could carry a humanitarian face yet leads its targeted beneficiaries through another dark and bleak path with life-threatening consequences.

MORE THAN ME is an American charity that was reportedly established in 2009 by U.S. citizen Katie Meyler, to rescue vulnerable girls in Liberia by taking them off the streets into schools, specifically from the densely populated impoverished slum community of West Point along the U.N. Drive in Monrovia.

BUT REPORTS REVEALED the girls were raped right from the onset of the program that was meant to help transform their lives and give them hope.

"WE ARE DEEPLY, profoundly sorry. To all the girls who were raped by Macintosh Johnson in 2014 and before: we failed you.

"WE GAVE JOHNSON power that he exploited to abuse children. Those power dynamics broke staff ability to report the abuse to our leadership immediately. Our leadership should have recognized the signs earlier and we have and will continue to employ training and awareness programs so we do not miss this again. We are moved by the courage and bravery of the girls who came forward and it is a tragedy that they ever had to. To the survivors that have HIV, we remain committed to supporting you. We are heartbroken by what happened and also have fundamentally changed how we operate as an organization since this incident", MTM pleads in a statement issued subsequently.

IN A RATHER belated response, the Ministry of Education says it takes all incidents of sexual assault against students extremely serious and will speedily inquire into the article to ascertain the details of allegations made, being aware that its first duty is to protect Liberian children while educating them. But we still maintain this is a responsibility it failed to execute in the first place.

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COMMENTARY

By Barak Barfi

The US-Saudi Relationship After Khashoggi

The US-Saudi relationship has been a rocky one, and its setbacks and scandals have mostly played out away from the public eye. This time, too, common interests and mutual dependence will almost certainly prevail over the desire to hold the Saudis to the standards expected of other close US allies.

WASHINGTON, DC - The alleged killing of the Saudi Arabian dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a permanent resident of the United States, in the Kingdom's consulate in Istanbul has unleashed a tidal wave of criticism. In the US Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike have promised to end weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and impose sanctions if its government is shown to have murdered Khashoggi.

But significant damage to bilateral ties, let alone a diplomatic rupture, is not in the cards, even if all the evidence points to a state-sanctioned assassination. Saudi Arabia is simply too crucial to US interests to allow the death of one man to affect the relationship. And with new allies working with old lobbyists to stem the damage, it is unlikely that the episode will lead to anything more than a lovers' quarrel.

Saudi Arabia's special role in American foreign policy is a lesson that US presidents learn only with experience. When Bill Clinton assumed the presidency, his advisers were bent on distancing the new administration from George H.W. Bush's policies. Among the changes sought by Clinton's national security adviser, Anthony Lake, was an end to the unfettered White House access that Saudi Arabian Ambassador Bandar bin Sultan enjoyed during the Reagan and Bush presidencies. Bandar was to be treated like any other ambassador.

But Clinton quickly warmed to Bandar, and Bandar and the royal court would become crucial to Clinton's regional policies, ranging from Arab-Israeli peace talks to containing Iraq. In 1993, when Clinton needed a quote from the Koran to go alongside those from the Old and New Testament for a ceremony marking an Israeli-Palestinian accord, he turned to the Saudi ambassador.

Before Donald Trump assumed office, he frequently bashed the Saudis and threatened to cease oil purchases from the Kingdom, grouping them with freeloaders who had taken advantage of America. But after the Saudis feted him with sword dances and bestowed on him the highest civilian award when he visited the Kingdom on his first trip abroad as US president, he changed his tune.

Even the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, could not damage the relationship. Though al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, himself a Saudi national, recruited 15 of the 19 hijackers from the Kingdom, senior Saudi officials dismissed the implications. In a November 2002 interview, the Saudi interior minister simply deemed it "impossible," before attempting to redirect blame by accusing Jews of "exploiting" the attacks and accusing the Israeli intelligence services of having relationships with terrorist organizations.

Americans seethed, and it appeared that the awkward alliance between a secular democracy and a secretive theocracy, cemented by common interests during the Cold War, was plunging into the abyss separating their values. But the alliance not only survived; it deepened. Bandar provided key insights and advice as President George W.

Bush planned the 2003 Iraq invasion.

Today, American politicians are again ratcheting up their rhetoric following Khashoggi's disappearance. The Turks claim they have audio and video revealing his death, and Senator Lindsey Graham warned, "If it did happen there would be hell to pay," while Senator Benjamin Cardin has threatened to target sanctions at senior Saudi officials.

But Saudi Arabia wears too many hats for America to abandon it easily. Though the US no longer needs Saudi oil, thanks to its shale reserves, it does need the Kingdom to regulate production and thereby stabilize markets. American defense contractors are dependent on the billions the Kingdom spends on military hardware. Intelligence cooperation is crucial to ferreting out jihadists and thwarting their plots. But, most important, Saudi Arabia is the leading Arab bulwark against Iranian expansionism. The Kingdom has supported proxies in Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen to contain Iran's machinations. Any steps to hold the Saudis responsible for Khashoggi's death would force the US to assume responsibilities it is far more comfortable outsourcing.

It is a role America has long sought to avoid. When the United Kingdom, the region's colonial master and protector, decided that it could no longer afford such financial burdens, US leaders ruled out taking its place. Policymakers were too focused on Vietnam to contemplate action in another theater. Instead, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger conceived a policy whereby Iran and Saudi Arabia, backed by unlimited US military hardware, would police the Gulf. While Iran stopped playing its role following the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Saudis still do.

It is a quandary Trump seems to grasp. Though he vowed "severe punishment" if the Saudis did indeed kill Khashoggi, he refused to countenance canceling military contracts, instead lamenting what their loss would mean for American jobs.

It is not only defense contractors who are going to bat for the Saudis. Before Khashoggi became Washington's topic du jour, the Saudis paid about ten lobbying firms no less than \$759,000 a month to sing their praises in America's halls of power.

But it may be the Saudis' new best friend who will throw them a lifeline. As Iran has become the biggest threat to Israel, the Jewish State has made common cause with the Saudis. Former Saudi bashers such as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's confidant Dore Gold now meet with the Kingdom's officials. Following the 2013 military coup that toppled Egypt's democratically elected government, Israeli leaders urged US officials to embrace the generals. They are likely to do the same today if US anti-Saudi sentiment imperils their Iran strategy.

The US-Saudi relationship has been a rocky one, and its setbacks and scandals have mostly played out away from the public eye. Yet it has endured and thrived. This time, too, in the wake of Khashoggi's disappearance, common interests and mutual dependence will almost certainly prevail over the desire to hold the Saudis to the standards expected of other close US allies.

O-PED

By Carl Bildt

The End of Scandinavian Non-Alignment

STOCKHOLM - Having debarked from ports in western Sweden, military convoys from various NATO countries are crowding Swedish streets and prompting the police to issue traffic warnings. They are on their way to Norway, where some 50,000 soldiers, airmen, and seamen will come together for NATO's largest military exercise in years. The operation - "Trident Juncture" - has a clear goal: to demonstrate the alliance's ability to defend Norway against a foreign aggressor.

There is no need to name the potential aggressor. Obviously, it is not Sweden or Finland, both of which have contributed soldiers to the exercise. During the Cold War, Finland did occasionally come under Soviet pressure as the Kremlin sought to expand its room for maneuver. But it always remained firm in its commitment to defend its Nordic and Western identity.

Similarly, Sweden has always abstained from joining NATO, owing to its longstanding geopolitical neutrality, and out of solidarity with the Finns. And while Denmark and Norway did join the alliance, they long opted out of hosting foreign forces during peacetime.

But in recent years, Northern Europe's security landscape has changed. In response to Russian aggression and revisionism, NATO has deployed battalion battle groups in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, as well as air force squadrons to police those countries' skies. And in both Sweden and Finland, defense spending is increasing, and there is an ongoing debate about whether to upgrade the privileged partnership with NATO to full membership.

For its part, Sweden already acknowledges that its territory would fall well within the theater of NATO operations should a conflict arise in Northern Europe, and this realization has increasingly factored into its own security policy and defense preparations. The Swedish foreign-policy establishment understands that any threat to the sovereignty of the Baltic countries or Norway would also be a threat to Sweden's security. Hence, Sweden is not just participating in Trident Juncture, but also developing a security partnership with Poland to see to the defense of the Baltic Sea area.

Sweden's deepening partnership with NATO is a far cry from its Cold War-era doctrine of non-alignment. Back then, the custodians of neutrality would have shouted down any hint of collaboration with NATO and the West as an act of treason. The strategy was to persuade the Kremlin that no such thing could ever happen.

But, of course, it was always a charade. The Soviet Union had recruited enough high-level assets in the Swedish government to know about its secret ties to the West. Whatever the Swedish people were led to believe about their country's neutrality, the Soviets knew it was a lie. Now the ruse is over: full-scale military integration with NATO is in the offing.

Still, full NATO membership remains a controversial issue in Sweden. In the old days, Swedish foreign policy was torn between two very different approaches. On one hand, Sweden was an extroverted activist, sounding more like a non-governmental organization than a nation-state; on the other hand, it maintained a hyper-realist "deep security" policy, albeit one that was talked about only in low voices behind closed doors. To this day, the same clash of cultures stands in the way of a rational debate about security policy.

As for Finland, it always had plenty of the second approach, but almost none of the first. And in the absence of much domestic disagreement, it has had an easier time adjusting to new geopolitical realities. For example, Finland has explicitly said that it considers NATO membership to be an important option for its security policy, which is something that the Swedish center-left has not yet been willing to countenance.

Nevertheless, with Trident Juncture, Swedes will see a Swedish-led brigade (comprising Swedish and Finnish units) join with NATO forces in a large-scale defense drill. They will witness the extent to which the Swedish, Finnish, and Norwegian air forces are already integrated. And they will watch as Finland leads naval exercises in the Baltic Sea.

In the years ahead, Sweden will continue to move closer to NATO. Joint exercises will lead to deeper operational alignment and the establishment of common deterrence capabilities for all of Northern Europe and the Baltic Sea area.

To be sure, today's mobilization is not driven by an acute threat from Russia. But Russia's aggressive effort to modernize its military all but requires the West to increase its own defense capacity in the region. We need to send a clear message that opportunistic acts of aggression will be answered, both now and in the future. By preparing a proper defense, we can ensure peace and stability in the region, which is a prerequisite for moving toward a more constructive relationship with Russia in the long run.

OPINION

By Jim O'Neill

Will Italy Sink Europe?

LONDON - Despite political turmoil and emerging risks at the global level, the eurozone has had two years of strong economic growth, at least by its own historically disappointing standards - and even with the United Kingdom lurching toward withdrawal from the European Union. But with the emergence of a populist government in Italy this year, it is no longer safe to assume that the eurozone's worst days are behind it.

Italy was the first country that I studied when I entered the financial world back in 1982, so I have a special affection for it. I was working for a very large American bank at the time, and I can still remember joining frequent transatlantic conference calls to discuss Italy's debt-to-GDP ratio. The question on everyone's mind was when the country would default; but it never did. Instead, Italy muddled through, and has continued to do so ever since. Still, now that the Italian government seems poised for a standoff with the EU, it would not be surprising if worries about a default were to re-emerge.

As my experience more than 30 years ago shows, Italy's economic problems far predate its adoption of the euro. It has long had poor productivity by European standards, and that translated into relatively low trend growth in the pre-euro decades. At the same time, occasional spurts of faster growth regularly sowed the seeds for various crises, often resulting in devaluations of the Italian currency, the lira.

Of course, there are some who now yearn for the days when the lira could be weakened to restore growth. That is no longer an option under the single currency. But what the pre-euro romanticists overlook is that euro membership has given Italy low inflation, and thus lower interest rates. Moreover, there is reason to think that lira devaluations did more harm than good. Even if they offered an occasional competitive boost, they stood in for tougher structural reforms that would have increased productivity over the long term.

There are also some who believe that the eurozone's fiscal and monetary framework locks Italy into weak nominal GDP growth, possibly too-low inflation, and high debt. Yet before the new government took office, Italy's cyclically adjusted fiscal deficit - as opposed to its underlying debt position - was often rather restrained compared to the rest of the eurozone, as well as the other members of the G7 (Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States).

Still, the mainstream political parties that governed Italy until this year did not deliver the nominal GDP growth that the country needs. As a result, Italians elected an unconventional coalition whose program combines the policies of the populist left with those of the populist right. While the League party promises to cut taxes, the Five Star Movement (M5S) is pursuing a form of basic income.

But what Italy needs is a broad structural reform program to improve productivity. That is the only way to achieve a higher long-term growth rate, given the country's demographics. In addition to enacting policies to boost the labor-force participation rate among women, Italy must provide more attractive opportunities for its young people.

For its part, the EU should do more to help Italy take the tough steps it needs. The European Commission, the European Central Bank, and the German government have erred in insisting on rigid enforcement of the EU Stability and Growth Pact, particularly the 3%-of-GDP cap on fiscal deficits. Although some countries have been allowed to breach the deficit cap during challenging times, Italy is almost never afforded much accommodation, owing to its high debt levels. Yet as the experience of Belgium and Japan shows, high government debt can be reduced only through sustained economic growth.

Complicating matters further, some reforms to boost long-term productivity can actually reduce growth in the short term. Thus, any government enacting such measures will need to have the option of pursuing counter-cyclical stimulus.

Another problem concerns monetary policy. The ECB could stand to be more broad-minded in how it pursues its inflation target of just under 2%. That target, along with Germany's own 2% target, leaves Italy locked into a state of low inflation, even when it could benefit from more monetary-policy stimulus.

Under these conditions, the EU authorities would do well not to oppose the current Italian government's plans too aggressively. If mainstream liberals are worried about the implications of a democratically elected populist government, then they should worry even more about what could come next if economic circumstances worsen. At this stage, Italy needs stronger nominal GDP growth - plain and simple.

Some will say that it was a mistake to have allowed Italy into the eurozone in the first place, and that an optimal currency zone should have been more discriminating in its membership. But the German and French business communities insisted that the monetary union must include some of Italy's more competitive companies. And once Italy was considered eligible, so, too, were many other countries.

At the end of the day, those with the power to set and enforce EU fiscal and monetary rules know full well that the eurozone could not survive a Greek-style crisis in Italy. It is their responsibility in the months ahead to make sure it doesn't come to that.

Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)
 20th Street Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING - NCB
 Invitation for Air Ticketing
 IFB NO.: LiMA/SBA/NCB/005/18/19



The Liberia Maritime Authority has allocated a portion of its Corporate Funding from 2018-2019 budget towards Air Ticketing Service. The Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) now wishes to invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Air Travel Tickets Service.

Interested firms that are fully qualified and capacitated to perform this service are required to obtain Bid Document at no cost from the Procurement Section of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), 20th Street, Sinkor between the hours of 10:00a.m., through 4:00p.m. Friday, September 14, to Tuesday, October 16, 2018.

All qualified bidders should have a Current Business Registration, Current Tax Clearance, Business Profile and a list of previous clients and their contacts, a clearance from Social Security (NASSCORP), a Permit from the Ministry of Transport And The Liberia Aviation Authority, must have evidence of PPCC Vendor Registry while a discount and pre-finance will be an added advantage.

Final submission date is 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 16, 2018. Subsequently followed by the bid opening ceremony at 2:00 p.m. on the same date.

All would be interested entities should submit sealed bid to the Procurement Section Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), located on 20th Street, Sinkor Monrovia.

Signed: _____
 PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

Liberia Maritime Authority
 20th Street, Sinkor Monrovia, Liberia
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING – RB
 Invitation for bids
Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)
 IFB NO.: LiMA/SBA/NCB/002/18/19



The Liberia Maritime Authority anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2018-2019 Corporate Core budgets for the procurement of the following budgetary line items (herein referred to as goods). The Authority wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable, eligible, and qualified suppliers for the supply of Stationery Supplies.

#	IFB NO.	Items	Quantity	Description
Lot 1	IFB NO. LiMA/SBA/NCB/002/18/19	Stationery Supply		A4 Sheets, Pens, Pencils, Staple Pins, Glue, Note Pals, Etc.
Lot 2		Printer Cartridges		HP, Dell, Canon

Interested Bidders that are fully qualified and capacitated to deliver these stationery supplies are required to obtain a Bid Document (NO CHARGED) at the Procurement section of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) head office, 20th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, You can obtain the Standard Bidding Document between the hours of 10:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. from Friday September 14, 2018 to Monday, October 22, 2018.

All would be interested supplier should submit sealed bid labeled to.

Stationery Supplies
 IFB NO. LiMA/SBA/NCB/002/18/19
 The Procurement Committee
 Liberia Maritime Authority P.O.Box 10 -9042.
 20th Street, Sinkor
 1000Monrovia10 Liberia

Requirement

All Bidders should have a Current Business Registration Certificate, Current Tax Clearance, Profile, A list of current client and their immediate contacts, the ability to supply at all time as the need be, discount and capacity to pre-finance could be an added advantage. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of at least (2%) of the total bid cost. Electronic bid will not be accepted. Final submission date for bid (Stationery Supply) is 1:30 p.m. on Monday, October 22, 2018, subsequently followed by the bid opening ceremony on the same day of submission. All bids will be opened in the presence of bidder representatives who choose to attend the opening ceremony at 2:00 p.m. In the training conference Room of LiMA's Head Office Compound.

Signed: _____
 PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE



UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
 FENDALL CAMPUS
 LOUISIANA, LIBERIA

Section I. INVITATION FOR BIDS
 FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS
 (LOT #1: Generators Spare Parts & Lubricant
 LOT #2: Vehicles Spare Parts & Lubricant)
 IFB No.: UL/NCB/005/18/19

- The University of Liberia through the Government of Liberia has received budgetary allotment from the National Budget for Fiscal Year 2018/2019 and intends to apply part of it towards the procurement of Generators and Vehicles Spare Parts and Lubricant in separate Lot 1 and 2 respectively, through a Framework Agreement with the successful bidders.
- The University of Liberia now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the procurement of Generators and Vehicles Spare Parts and Lubricant for the Fiscal Year 2018/2019.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA), 2010 and approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC), and is open to all eligible bidders in the Country.

4. Specifications and quantity:

Item No.	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure
LOT #: 1	Generators Spare Parts & Lubricant	Assorted	Pieces
LOT #: 2	Vehicles Spare Parts & Lubricant	Assorted	Pieces

- Eligibility and Qualification requirements include:
 - Valid Government of Liberia Business Registration with appropriate Business Activity code
 - Valid Government of Liberia Tax Clearance
 - Must be registered with the PPCC Vendor Registrar
 - Past performance records in the last 4 years for the supply and delivery of spare parts as per the chosen Lot.
 - Bids must be duly signed by the bidder 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, AC1-09, University of Liberia for a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars) beginning September 24 - October 24, 2018, between the hours 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.
- 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 October 24, 2018, and bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or representatives who choose to attend on October 24, 2018, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room, Administrative Complex Building, AC1-01, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow:
 In the upper left corner of the envelop, print:
 "SEALED BID FOR (state the appropriate LOT details or both lots if you are bidding for all)"
 REF: IFB No: UL/NCB/005/18/19.
 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 bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed: _____ Approved: _____
 Fatu Ruth Tipoteh (Mrs.) Atty. Norris Tweh
 DIRECTOR Vice President, UL
 Relations
 Procurement Department, UL

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia moves 4 steps in Global Hunger Index

Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and partner Concern Worldwide have launched the Global Hunger Index (GHI) for 2018, covering 119 countries around the world with Liberia positively moving upward to four positions.

According to the report, Liberia in 2017 was amongst eight countries that suffered from alarming hunger levels thus, obtaining the rank of 112th out of 119 countries with 35.3 out of 100. But this year, the story for Liberia changed positively with an upward gain of four positions.

"This has put the country at 108th position out of 119 countries with 33.3 out of 100." This score according to the GHI calculation, has changed hunger severity status in Liberia from alarming level to serious.

However, a press release from Welthungerhilfe says even though this result sounds good as compared to last years, it is significant for Liberia to maintain the gains.

According to USAID office of food for peace and food security desk review for Liberia (2016-2020),



significant disparities in food insecurity can be found throughout here, with some disparities in malnutrition prevalence as well.

The 2018 Global Hunger Index spotlights places across the world where action to address hunger is most needed. The GHI 2018 is the thirteenth in an annual series that presents a multidimensional measure of global, regional, and national

hunger.

It reveals a distressing gap between the current rate of progress in the fight against hunger and undernutrition and the rate of progress needed to eliminate hunger and alleviate human suffering.

The World Food Day 2018 theme: "Rising Hunger Figures and call on Countries and other Stakeholders to get back on track to Achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2:

Zero Hunger" aligns with this year's GHI call for action against hunger worldwide.

Welthungerhilfe is answering to these calls in Liberia with the implementation of its core mandate "Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security for the most vulnerable" in western Liberia specifically, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount and Montserrado Counties through support to individual farmers, vulnerable households and communities and south-eastern Liberia (Grand Gedeh, Rivercess, Grand Kru, Sinoe and River Gee) through activities on vegetable production and consumption, backyard gardening, nutrition awareness, village saving and loan association (VSLA) and hygiene promotion in schools and communities.

The release says WHH has been in Liberia since 2003, working in partnership with government line ministries (MFDP, MoA, MoH, MoPW), local NGOs and internationally recognized organizations promoting agriculture, food and nutrition security actions integrated with other programmes on livelihoods, climate change, infrastructure, WASH and advocacy for farmers' lands.

In the last 12 months, the organization has increased its engagement in Southeast Liberia to meet up with growing challenges in that region of the country. These actions are part of the organization's global strategy to fight hunger and strengthen farming families in regions

mostly affected by hunger.

The GHI is released every year to provide means of comparing the levels of hunger between countries and regions and made attention call to areas of the world in greatest need of additional resources to eliminate hunger. It is a comprehensive tool designed to measure and track global hunger levels. Countries scores for GHI 2018 are calculated based on a formula that captures three dimensions of hunger - insufficient caloric intake, child undernutrition, and child mortality, using four component indicators: Undernourishment, Child Wasting, Child Stunting and Child Mortality.

In 2015 the world's countries committed to achieving zero hunger by 2030 but this goal seems a difficult one with the results so far.

Chief Executive Officer Mathias Mogge, notes: "Approximately 124 million people suffer acute hunger, a striking increase from 80 million two years ago, while the reality of hunger and undernutrition continues to have a massive impact on the next generation."

According to the Welthungerhilfe CEO, about 151 million children are stunted and 51 million children are wasted across the globe, adding hard-won gains are being further threatened by conflict, climate change, poor governance, and a host of other challenges.

"Despite evidence showing that real progress is possible, the root causes and complex realities of hunger are not being adequately tackled." -**Press Release**

12th graders suspended at Sister Iye High School

-For alleged drunkenness, gang rape

By Ben P. Wesee

A group of 12th graders from the Sister Iye Elementary, Junior and High School System along Kebbah road in Barnesville Township have been sent home by the school administrator for allegedly taking in alcohol and gang raping a female student.

Reports gathered by this paper reveal the incident occurred after the school administration dismissed classes early last Friday, 12 October to have an

appreciation program for teachers on campus.

"After they sent us home, one of our friends had some money on him, so we went and bought some alcohol (Moringa 69) and eggnut (weed eggnut) and drank it before going to our friend's house to kill [spend] sometime there," a student source on campus narrates.

The source continues that while chilling at their friend's residence in Palm Hill community, some of them got

intoxicated and started to misbehave, adding that it was from this backdrop a community dweller called the school principal and informed him about the misbehavior of his students in the community while still dressed in their official uniform.

"While we were sitting and drinking right in front of our friend's house, we saw the principal coming, so we decided to run in our friend's room because some of our friends were still in their uniform, and the principal entered the house, pushed the door opened, and saw everyone of us in the room with this female student lying in the bed."

"But to our utmost surprise on Monday when we went on campus, our principal turned the whole information around, telling other students on the devotion line that he met us naked and having sex with the female student, who was drunk. We got flogged 25 lashes each and were asked to call our parents, but from the way the principal narrated the story on campus, the girl's parents got the information and brought Police on the

campus in a police car," our source details.

When this paper visited the Iye School campus on Wednesday, 17 October the principal was not immediately available. However, he was subsequently sent for and upon arrival, was seen having brief meeting with some staffers from one office to another.

Finally, Principal Barko G. Sorsor came out accompanied by some of his staff, including Vice Principal Florence T. Nyorkor, who instead, spoke with this paper, as Mr. Sorsor sat and listened in silence.

Upon explaining reason for the New Dawn Newspaper's visit on campus, VP Nyorkor responded: "Actually, I am very sorry; I don't know what you are talking about. My students came to school on Monday; my campus is clean and clear, no police, the only problem I have is some of my students on Friday; we allowed them to go home soon because

we had teachers' appreciation day and then our students went out to another area behind here, where they can sell alcohol and other stuff; that's how we got the information that my students were in the streets, not at a friend's residence and the principal went there and saw them on the road under influence of alcohol; that was the only information we got."

When asked to speak with Principal Barko Sorsor himself, he confirms some of the information, but denied his students were involved in alleged gang rape.

However, Principle Sorsor confirms parents of the female student in question visited the campus to query about drunkenness, not about alleged gang rape. "Investigation is ongoing right now as we speak and Friday will be a meeting with parents of all those that were involved and then final decision will be made," he explains. -**Editing by Jonathan Browne**



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

WFP-Liberia urges farmers to increase capacity

World Food Programme-Liberia Deputy Country Director, Asif Bhutto, admonishes farmers in Bong County to maximize opportunity provided under the Smallholder Agriculture Development Project or SHAD-P to increase their production capacities, save enough seeds for the next season, and become sustainable.

WFP says on his second field mission to the project sites since its inception over two months ago, Deputy Country Director Asif expressed satisfaction over achievements made so far in the rehabilitation and development of lowlands in Bong County that utilizes food for assets creation modalities.

He then urged beneficiaries, mainly women's groups, "to work harder to become stronger farmers. We are all aware that WFP's support is not indefinite on these sites as we have to move on to support other producers all around Liberia."

Funded by the Government and people of Japan, the SHAD-P effort is a joint



Nursery beds at Suakoko site

initiative of the Government of Liberia and WFP implemented by Samaritan's Purse Liberia to assist smallholder rice and vegetable producers in the county, increase production, build resilience, and adopt best agriculture practices aimed at long term sustainability.

Bong County has been listed in the past as one of Liberia's

leading "food producing hubs" but the county's production quotas have drastically fallen in recent years.

The release says about 1,200 households comprising youth and women in agriculture are being reached with the hope of helping them contribute to the County regaining its once famed "bread basket" status.

During his recent visit to the county, DCD Asif was taken on a guided tour - by implementing partner Samaritan's Purse field technicians - of five production sites, meeting with beneficiaries, field technicians and local Ministry of Agriculture authorities.

Sites toured included Bellemue, Foequelleh, Palala, Suakoko, and Melekie, respectively. In Bellemue he saw ongoing work on the lowland site and visited the farmers' warehouse containing bagged Liberian country rice. He was also taken to the community access road being built as part of the food for assets-connected activities.

In Foequelleh, DCD Asif expresses delight to see the Dolokelen Junior High School building being roofed with food for work support from WFP.

The school's principal, Amos Dolo Jr, praised WFP for the invaluable assistance, adding, "WFP's food for work has helped us roof the building

and the assistance is assured until the building is plastered and completed to its finishing touches. This building has been here since 2011 but with this assistance from WFP, we are going to finish it for the children to learn in good environment".

Speaking earlier in Gbarnga, the provincial city, DCD Asif lauded Regional and County Agriculture Coordinators "for your tireless efforts and collaboration with WFP. We also thank our Japanese partners for their generosity. Our plan is to support the Government's food security vision along the lines of the pro poor agenda to assist vulnerable farmers grow their own food."

SHAD-P is enhancing capacity of farmers in creating numerous new lowland assets as well as rehabilitating former swamp sites that were either destroyed by overgrown high shrubs, ferocious flooding, or long years of neglect due to reported lack of support to farmers. WFP

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Weah declares himself

Starts from back page

for gender equality and empowerment," President Weah says.

He uses the red-lettered women forum, the first to be held in Liberia, to catalogue efforts he personally initiated in the interest of Liberian women, giving them platform for participation in national leadership.

He references the selection of Madam Jewel Howard Taylor as his running mate on the ticket of the CDC, the appointment of several women to positions in government and many other actions to accentuate his advocacy for the advancement of women's cause.

"When I was elected standard-bearer of the Coalition for Democratic Change, the opportunity presented itself for me to demonstrate my commitment to the cause of advancement of women's participation in leadership, and to practice what I preached," he reflects.

"I therefore selected a female as my running-mate," President Weah adds.

He recalls how he raised the bar for his party women to 50% even when the National Elections Commission (NEC) required each party to put up a minimum of 30% of women for parliamentary elections.

"Since my incumbency, I have appointed a woman to be the first female deputy Chief of Staff of [the] Armed Forces of Liberia, and there is a female who serves as Deputy Inspector General of the National Police," President Weah says.

Similarly, he says he has appointed many women to ministerial positions and to boards of State-owned Enterprises and intends to appoint many more.

He classifies those actions as manifestations of his desire and advocacy for gender equality and of increasing women's participation in governance in the country.

The International SHEROES Forum is being held in Liberia through the hospitality of the government, with Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor playing a leading role in the organization.

Dignitaries from Liberia and other parts of the African Continent are gracing this year's event which is being held under the theme "Advancing Women's Participation in Leadership."--Press release



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Français

Le déploiement de la Fibre optique au Libéria confié à un faussaire indien déporté du Ghana

Un ressortissant indien, Ashok Kumar Sivaram, qui avait été expulsé du Ghana il y a un an, pour falsification présumée, se serait vu confier le projet de déploiement de la fibre optique en cours au Libéria.

Selon des documents juridiques ghanéens, numéro d'affaire D2 / 73/18, Kumar Sivaram a été expulsé après avoir été reconnu coupable d'avoir contrefait la signature de Sachin Nambeer, le propriétaire initial de Jai Mai Communications (JMC) au bureau du registraire général du Ghana, en compagnie d'un citoyen Ghanéen, George Dankwa Otempong, pour réenregistrer la société, tout en faisant de lui un actionnaire à 50%, pendant que M. Nambeer était en voyage en Inde.

Des questions se profilent quant à la manière dont M. Sivaram a fait surface au Libéria en tant que responsable du déploiement des câbles optiques de LIBTELCO, un marché qui avait été initialement attribué à

CSquare par LIBTELCO.

Le déploiement de la fibre optique devrait permettre de se connecter à l'internet haut débit, mais le recrutement d'un homme soupçonné d'être impliqué dans la falsification et jugé coupable de faux et usage de faux est très préoccupant en matière de sécurité.

Des rapports ghanéens indiquent que Sivaram a non seulement imité la signature de son patron pour réenregistrer la société, mais qu'il a également été impliqué dans une autre arnaque. Selon des informations rapportées, dans le but de renforcer son soutien local, il s'est marié

avec une Ghanéenne, alors qu'il était encore légalement marié à la sœur de Sachin Nambeer, le président initial de JMC.

Ce geste lui a également valu des ennuis avec les autorités locales ghanéennes, qui ont qualifié son mariage avec la Ghanéenne de faux et qui considèrerait donc son certificat de mariage comme faux.

Le plan de Sivaram consistant à épouser la Ghanéenne alors qu'il était encore marié à la sœur de Nambeer devait lui permettre d'obtenir la citoyenneté ghanéenne, selon les quotidiens locaux.

Le mariage arrangé de Sachin avec la citoyenne Ghanéenne a été exposé après qu'il a demandé sa citoyenneté ghanéenne. Sa lettre de candidature a été interrogée par le service d'immigration du Ghana ou GIS. « Mais en vertu de notre loi au Ghana, vous devez divorcer avant de vous remarier. Il ne l'a pas fait avant de demander la nationalité ghanéenne. Lorsque les autorités l'ont vu, ils l'ont arrêté », a déclaré une source proche du dossier.

Sachin a été déporté du Ghana en juin l'année dernière, selon des documents et des rapports du Ghana.

Lorsqu'un membre de notre équipe d'enquêteurs a contacté les bureaux de CSquare le mardi 16 octobre 2018, un ressortissant ghanéen qui s'est identifié uniquement comme étant le responsable des ressources humaines s'est refusé à tout commentaire, se contentant cependant de

demander à ce quotidien de se référer à son avocat.

L'avocat à qui s'est adressé notre journaliste a déclaré : « Je ne suis pas au courant. Mais si vous plaît appelez-moi demain. Je vais faire des vérifications avec le cabinet d'avocats à ce sujet, car nous avons des gens qui travaillent sur contrat pour différentes entreprises. Je serai prêt à parler de cela. »

L'expulsion de Sivaram n'est pas un secret au Ghana, car plusieurs médias ghanéens, notamment Joy News et le Ghanaian Daily Graphic, en ont longuement parlé dans leurs éditions.

Selon l'une de ces éditions, son expulsion était liée au fait qu'il avait menti au GIS en utilisant un faux certificat de mariage pour étayer sa demande de permis de séjour permanent, ce qui a conduit à son rapatriement en juin dernier à la suite d'une ordonnance du ministre de l'Intérieur en mai 2017.

Le déploiement de la fibre optique nécessite des centaines de milliers de dollars américains. On s'inquiète de la manière dont la société JMC a été incluse dans le contrat sans une diligence raisonnable de la part de PPCC et de la direction de LIBTELCO.M. Lawrence Bropleh, ancien ministre de l'information, aurait également un lien direct avec la JMC. Le Dr Bropleh n'a pas répondu à son téléphone lorsqu'on a tenté de le contacter. Son téléphone a sonné plusieurs fois. Le bureau de M. Sivaram a également été convoqué pour enquête, mais il n'y a pas non plus eu de réponse.



Elections locales en Côte d'Ivoire : large victoire du parti présidentiel

Après les élections municipales et régionales de samedi, les Ivoiriens connaissent le nom de leurs maires et de leurs conseillers régionaux. La CEI a achevé de proclamer les résultats complets mardi 16 octobre. Le RHDP est en tête des deux scrutins.

Avec 46,4% aux régionales et 36,2% aux municipales, les taux de participations sont peu élevés mais similaires à ceux de 2013.

Aux municipales, avec 46% des voix, le RHDP (Rassemblement des houpouëtistes pour la

démocratie et la paix, parti au pouvoir) remporte 92 communes, dont sept des treize abidjanaises, parmi lesquelles Abobo, Yopougon, Koumassi ou Treichville. Le candidat RHDP est aussi vainqueur à Bouaké, San Pedro, Korhogo et officiellement Bassam où le maire sortant PDCI (Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire), Georges Ezaley, conteste sa défaite et déposera un recours devant la Cour suprême.

L'ancien allié du parti présidentiel de son côté l'emporte dans 50 communes avec 28% des

voix. Le parti d'Henri Konan Bedié ravit la commune de Cocody à Abidjan à son rival et l'emporte aussi à Marcory ou au Plateau. Il conserve son fief de Yamoussoukro notamment.

Pour relativiser ces chiffres, il faut toutefois garder à l'esprit que les deux partis n'ont pas présenté des candidats partout. Le RHDP était présent dans 180 communes, le PDCI seulement dans une centaine.

Parmi les 389 candidats indépendants, 56 ont été élus. Ils pèsent 28% des suffrages. Quant au FPI (Front populaire ivoirien), il l'emporte dans deux communes.

A noter que le vote a été annulé dans la commune de Port-Bouët à Abidjan, à cause de la destruction d'urnes et de procès-verbaux. La Commission électorale indépendante a un mois pour y organiser un nouveau scrutin.

Aux régionales, le RHDP l'emporte largement avec 60% des voix et 18 des 31 régions. Le PDCI en prend six, avec 20% des suffrages. Les candidats indépendants totalisent 10% des voix avec trois régions. Deux régions reviennent à des candidats qui portaient les deux étiquettes RHDP et PDCI. Quant au FPI, il en obtient une.



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La région du Guémon n'a pas été comptabilisée puisque le scrutin devra se rejouer dans l'un de ses départements.

Tensions et violences

Si dans son adresse de fin d'élections, le président de la CEI Youssouf Bakayoko a salué « un fair-play globalement exemplaire », ces scrutins locaux laisseront probablement le souvenir inverse.

En effet, des deux côtés les accusations de fraudes ou de tentative de manipulations ont fusé. On retiendra le bras de fer entre Jacques Ehouo du PDCI et Fabrice Sawegnon du RHDP au Plateau autour d'accusations de tricheries et de manifestations, avant que le candidat RHDP ne reconnaisse lundi sa défaite. On

retiendra donc aussi les saccages de bureau de vote ou de matériel électoral à Port-Bouët ou dans le Guémon provoquant l'annulation du scrutin dans ces circonscriptions.

Les contestations sont nombreuses et on comptera le nombre de recours qui devraient pleuvoir dans les cinq jours qui viennent à la Cour suprême. A Port-Bouët justement, le candidat PDCI conteste la décision d'annuler un scrutin qu'il estime avoir gagné. A Grand-Bassam, le candidat PDCI là encore refuse de reconnaître sa défaite proclamée par la CEI. Dans la région Agnéby-Tiassa, un candidat indépendant conteste la victoire de son adversaire RHDP.

Français

Éditorial

Là où le ministère de l'éducation a échoué

La profonde complaisance et manque de volonté des autorités du système éducatif du pays, en particulier des responsables du ministère de l'Éducation, a été mise à nue par les nouvelles terriblement accablantes du viol persistant des jeunes filles âgées de 10 à 16 ans à l'institut More Than Me Academy.

Nous sommes fermement convaincus que si le ministère de l'Éducation avait efficacement joué son rôle, celui de superviser et d'inspecter les établissements scolaires du pays, la triste situation concernant les petites filles démunies ne seraient pas arrivée.

Mcintosh Johnson, un libérien séropositif au VIH/SIDA, et agent de liaison de l'organisation caritative américaine More Than Me Academy au Libéria, a abusé constamment des jeunes adolescentes de 2014 à 2016. Ses victimes sont hélas atteintes du VIH/SIDA.

La triste nouvelle a été donnée par deux agences américaines, ProPublica et TIME, dans leurs publications respectives où les abus ont été détaillés.

Mme Katie Meyler, directrice générale, confirme que le nombre de filles qui ont été violées à l'Académie MTM pourrait représenter le quart de l'effectif total de l'école. Elle a déclaré : « Toutes les personnes âgées de plus de 11 ans. »

Comment le gouvernement du Libéria, en particulier le ministère de l'Éducation, qui a agréé MTM Academy et lui a confié 20 établissements scolaires dans le cadre du programme de promotion de l'éducation au Libéria, a-t-il pu fermer les yeux sur ce qui se passaient dans les établissements scolaires où nos jeunes filles sont sexuellement exploitées, maltraitées et infectées au virus VIH/SIDA ?

La complaisance du ministère est si flagrante qu'une déclaration publiée par l'organisation de bienfaisance l'appelle à se rendre à l'Académie à tout moment pour procéder à une inspection complète. Le ministère a-t-il besoin d'une invitation officielle pour exercer ses fonctions statutaires ? Nous disons absolument non ! Il est non seulement frustrant, mais extrêmement décourageant de constater, selon les termes de l'Association des journalistes du Libéria ou FeJal, qu'une ONG puisse revêtir un visage humanitaire tout en guidant ses bénéficiaires ciblés par un autre chemin sombre et ténébreux aux conséquences mortelles.

More Than Me (MTM) est une organisation caritative américaine qui aurait été créée en 2009 par la citoyenne américaine Katie Meyler pour secourir les filles vulnérables du Libéria, en particulier du bidonville surpeuplé de West Point, le long de la rue UN Drive à Monrovia, en les faisant sortir de la rue pour les mettre sur le chemin de l'école.

Mais des informations ont révélé que les filles avaient été violées dès le début du programme qui était pourtant sensé transformer leur vie et à leur donner de l'espoir.

« Nous sommes profondément désolés. À toutes les filles qui ont été violées par Macintosh Johnson en 2014 et avant : nous vous avons déçues. Nous avons donné à Johnson le pouvoir qu'il a exploité pour maltraiter des enfants. Cette dynamique de pouvoir a empêché le personnel de signaler immédiatement les abus à nos dirigeants.

Nos dirigeants auraient dû reconnaître les signes plus tôt et nous avons et continuerons à utiliser des programmes de formation et de sensibilisation afin que nous ne manquions plus cela. Nous sommes émus par le courage et la bravoure des filles qui se sont manifestées et c'est une tragédie à laquelle elles ont dû faire face. Aux survivants séropositifs, nous restons engagés à vous soutenir. Nous avons le cœur brisé par ce qui s'est passé et nous avons également fondamentalement changé notre façon de fonctionner en tant qu'organisation depuis cet incident », plaide MTM dans un communiqué publié ultérieurement.

Dans une réponse plutôt tardive, le ministère de l'Éducation a déclaré que toutes les agressions sexuelles contre des élèves étaient extrêmement graves et qu'il enquêterait rapidement sur l'article afin de déterminer le détail des allégations, sachant que son premier devoir était de protéger les enfants libériens tout en les éduquant. Mais nous maintenons toujours que c'est une responsabilité qu'il n'a pas réussi à assumer en premier lieu.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Barak Barfi

La relation américano-saoudienne après Khashoggi

WASHINGTON - Le meurtre présumé du journaliste saoudien dissident Jamal Khashoggi, résident permanent aux États-Unis, disparu dans les locaux du consulat saoudien à Istanbul, a déclenché une vague d'indignations. Au Congrès des États-Unis, démocrates comme républicains ont promis de cesser les ventes d'armes à l'Arabie saoudite et d'imposer des sanctions s'il s'avérait que le gouvernement saoudien avait fait assassiner Khashoggi.

Mais aucune atteinte sérieuse aux liens bilatéraux, encore moins une rupture diplomatique n'est à l'ordre du jour, même si tous les éléments d'information dont on dispose laissent penser à un assassinat d'État. L'Arabie saoudite est tout simplement trop essentielle aux intérêts américains pour permettre à la mort d'un seul homme de troubler la relation entre les deux pays. De nouveaux alliés travaillent d'ailleurs avec d'anciens lobbyistes à réparer les dégâts, et il est fort peu probable que l'épisode conduise plus loin qu'à une brouille entre amants.

Le rôle très particulier de l'Arabie saoudite dans la politique étrangère américaine est une leçon que les présidents des États-Unis n'apprennent qu'avec l'expérience. Lorsque Bill Clinton est parvenu à la présidence, ses conseillers étaient décidés à ce que la nouvelle administration prenne sur le sujet ses distances avec la politique de George H. W. Bush. Anthony Lake, conseiller à la sécurité nationale de Clinton, souhaitait ainsi mettre un terme à l'accès sans restriction dont avait joui l'ambassadeur d'Arabie saoudite, Bandar ben Sultan, tout au long des présidences Reagan et Bush, à la Maison Blanche. Bandar serait traité à l'égal de tout autre ambassadeur. Mais Clinton se prit rapidement de sympathie pour Bandar, et ce dernier, ainsi que la Cour royale, allaient devenir des pièces maîtresses de sa politique régionale, depuis les pourparlers de paix entre Arabes et Israéliens jusqu'à l'endiguement de l'Irak. En 1993, lorsque Clinton eut besoin d'une citation du Coran pour accompagner celles tirées chacune de l'Ancien et du Nouveau Testament, à l'occasion d'une cérémonie célébrant l'accord de paix israélo-palestinien, c'est vers l'ambassadeur saoudien qu'il se tourna.

Avant que Donald Trump n'entre en fonction, il se répandait en critiques contre les Saoudiens et menaçait de cesser les achats de pétrole au Royaume, assimilé à une bande de pique-assiette qui tiraient profit de l'Amérique. Mais lorsque les Saoudiens, auxquels il avait réservé sa première visite à l'étranger en tant que président des États-Unis, l'eurent honoré de danses du sabre et lui eurent accordé leur plus haute distinction civile, il entonna vite une autre chanson.

Même les attentats terroristes du 11 septembre 2001 ne purent porter atteinte à la relation entre les deux États. Quoique le dirigeant d'Al-Qaïda, Oussama Ben Laden fût lui-même un ressortissant saoudien et que 15 des 19 pirates de l'air recrutés soient venus du Royaume, les hauts responsables saoudiens dénièrent tout implication. Lors d'un entretien accordé à un quotidien de langue arabe, en novembre 2002, le ministre de l'Intérieur saoudien considérait simplement que la chose était « impossible » avant de tenter d'en détourner la responsabilité sur les juifs accusés d'« exploiter » les attentats tandis qu'il reprochait aux services de renseignement israéliens d'entretenir des relations avec des organisations terroristes.

Les Américains enrageaient, et il semblait bien que l'étrange alliance entre une démocratie séculaire et une théocratie laconique, cimentée par des intérêts communs à l'époque de la guerre froide, sombrerait dans les abîmes que creusaient entre elles des valeurs par trop différentes. Non seulement l'alliance survécut, mais elle se renforça. Bandar fournit des informations essentielles au président George W. Bush et le conseilla alors que ce dernier prévoyait l'invasion

de l'Irak, déclenchée en 2003.

Aujourd'hui, les élus américains intensifient leur rhétorique après la disparition de Khashoggi. Les Turcs affirment être en possession d'enregistrements vidéo et audio révélant sa mort, et le sénateur Lindsey Graham a tonné : « Si cela s'est réellement passé, ils le paieront cher. », tandis que la sénateur Benjamin Cardin menaçait de sanctions de hauts responsables saoudiens.

Mais l'Arabie saoudite porte trop de casquettes au nom de l'Amérique pour qu'elle puisse être aussi facilement abandonnée. Si les États-Unis n'ont plus besoin du pétrole saoudien, grâce à leurs réserves en gaz de schiste, le Royaume leur est encore nécessaire pour réguler la production, et par conséquent stabiliser les marchés. Les sous-traitants américains des industries de défense sont dépendants des milliards que dépense le Royaume en matériel militaire. La coopération entre services de renseignement est essentielle à la traque des djihadistes et à la découverte de leurs projets d'attentat. Mais plus important encore : l'Arabie saoudite est le premier rempart arabe contre l'expansionnisme iranien. Le Royaume soutient des combattants par procuration au Liban, en Syrie et au Yémen afin de contrer les intrigues iraniennes. À la moindre tentative de tenir les Saoudiens comptables de la mort de Khashoggi, les États-Unis se verraient contraints d'endosser des responsabilités qu'il est beaucoup plus confortable d'externaliser.

Cet engagement, l'Amérique cherche depuis longtemps à l'éviter. Lorsque le Royaume-Uni, maître colonial et protecteur de la région, décida qu'il ne pouvait plus se permettre d'en supporter le poids financier, les États-Unis exclurent la possibilité de le remplacer. Leurs décideurs politiques étaient trop occupés au Viêt-Nam pour envisager d'intervenir sur un autre théâtre. Le secrétaire d'État Henry Kissinger préféra mettre en place une politique qui confiait à l'Arabie saoudite, soutenue par une aide militaire matérielle illimitée, les tâches de police dans le Golfe. Si l'Irak cessa de jouer son rôle après la Révolution islamique de 1979, les Saoudiens le tiennent encore.

C'est un dilemme que Trump semble avoir saisi. Bien qu'il ait juré d'infliger une « sévère punition » aux Saoudiens s'ils avaient bien tué Khashoggi, il a refusé de consentir à l'annulation des contrats d'armement et préféré se lamenter des conséquences qu'entraînerait leur perte sur les emplois américains.

Les sous-traitants de l'armement ne sont pas les seuls à intervenir en faveur des Saoudiens. Avant que Khashoggi ne devienne le sujet du jour, les Saoudiens payaient dix sociétés de lobbying pas moins de 759 000 dollars mensuels pour chanter leurs louanges dans les allées du pouvoir américain.

Mais c'est peut-être leur nouvel ami qui tend aux Saoudiens leur ligne de vie : l'État juif fait cause commune avec l'Arabie saoudite depuis que l'Iran est devenu la première menace pour Israël. D'anciens détracteurs du Royaume, comme Dore Gold, confident du Premier ministre Benyamin Netanyahu, s'entretiennent aujourd'hui avec ses hauts responsables. Après le coup d'État militaire qui a renversé en Égypte le gouvernement démocratiquement élu, les dirigeants israéliens ont exhorté leurs homologues américains à soutenir les généraux. Ils feront probablement de même si se développe aux États-Unis un sentiment anti-Saoudiens qui mettrait en péril leur stratégie vis-à-vis de l'Iran.

La relation américano-saoudienne est difficile, encore que ses revers et ses scandales se soient pour la plupart tenus à l'abri de l'attention publique. Mais elle dure et se renforce. Cette fois encore, après la disparition de Khashoggi, les intérêts communs et la dépendance mutuelle prévaudront presque certainement sur le désir de faire respecter aux Saoudiens les normes attendues des autres alliés des États-Unis.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

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



Liberians are upset over the reported persistent rape of young girls between ages 10 and 16 at More Than Me Academy, infecting the victims with the HIV virus. The New Dawn randomly samples some citizens' view in Monrovia about the incident reported by U.S. outlets ProPublica and Time.



Saykwayee H. Henry

“Children, who today hear of HIV/AIDs and get afraid, wishing not to even get in contact. Child cries for help each and every day just for free minds are today being abused in their minds. The children bleed and the blood flow every corner of Liberia Tears has become their daily meals. No hope, No Courage, No one to turn to why? Where have they gone wrong? Why are they being treated with dishonor, disrespect, arrogance, selfishness? OMG!!! What a pain, why a great pain?? Why? Justice must prevail so that the government comes in and save our sisters and boys, future. Let the head of the organization face the law in the USA.”

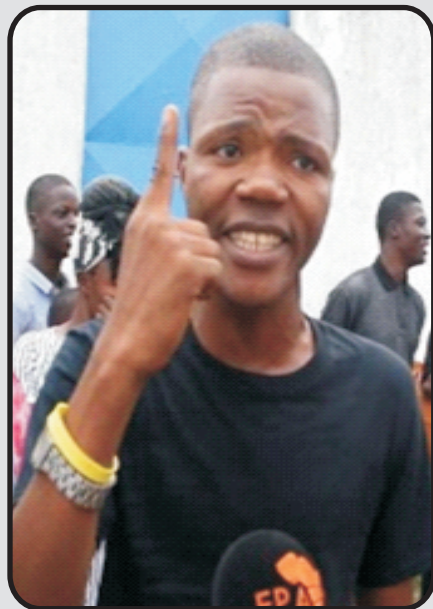


Foeday Zinnah

“Katie didn't come to help! She has a plan to destroy the future mothers and leaders of Liberia. I kept silent when I heard people saying, Liberian people don't know good. The worst part is, when I heard "THE WOMAN CAME TO HELP US THEN WE GOING AGAINST HER". Today, when I read many stories about this situation, I feel like shooting some people immediately! We the young people need to fight for Justice and the world will know Katie intentions she used to damage about 10 teenagers. Why only Liberia?”

Titus Pakalah

“One is retributive to every crime. Katie Myler and her team must pay an unavoidable price for abusing the rights of these Kids. In fact, this case is the first of its kind in our messy justice system, that a huge portion of children were raped and infected with HIV/AIDS, while the founder and actors of our laws kept silent. This can't happen in the USA where she's from; this must not happen in Liberia, cause Liberian girls are a representation of children across the globe.”



Patience Korker

“Politics over principle and such story makes you sick to your stomach. Is there anyone who will be held accountable for this bestial act? Katie is using our weak system to enrich herself in the name of helping vulnerable kids to get education; she is a fraudster. This is so sad. God never sleeps. Katie got lots of questions to answer. The time is now. Thanks for not giving up. This too will come to pass. And we need to stand up now and protect our children from these people who are coming in the country in the name of helping us.”



Sunday Gaye



“She wanted to protect her image and her donations. Thinking this would go away due to the fact that she had Ellen wrapped around her finger. Forgetting this a new day, a new dawn, Liberians are getting wiser and I pray she takes that stand one day to testify. Time magazine will never release a story that wasn't filled with facts and evidence. The fact that

Katie came to do damage control at an unprecedented time, speaks volumes. It is belated and this should've been done the day she stood in front of CEOs from Fortune 500 companies, begging for more funds.”



READ NEW ISSUES EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY

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Who spent the missing billions?

By Winston W. Parley

Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and opposition Liberty Party (LP) appear to see each other as suspects in Liberia's biggest financial scandal, citing 2017 campaign - time fleet of vehicles acquired by both parties as clues for investigators to find who allegedly spent Liberia's missing billions.

Appearing on a live talk show (OK Fm) Wednesday, 17 October Dillon says CDC Chair Mulbah Morlu had suggested that the LP should be a subject of investigation because the opposition party brought in pickups last year during campaign.

"These guys can just get up and lie. Liberty Party is prepared to face any investigation. We bought those pickups, we passed them through Freeport, we paid our duties through LRA, everything, the processes are in place," Dillon argues.

Liberia's key historical ally the United States of America says it will help to conduct investigation using international forensic experts, exclusive of a special presidential investigative team set up by President George Manneh Weah over the alleged \$15.5 missing billion Liberian Dollars.

"Now, but let's use the childish ... reasoning by Mulbah Morlu. When we brought in pickups for the campaign, CDC was bringing helicopters and new buses and new pickups and new



motorbikes. Should they be subject for investigation too?" Dillon counters.

He claims there is no \$16 billion in fact, and rather challenges government to account for alleged 9 billion Liberian banknotes loaded in a container that was allegedly cleared from the Freeport of Monrovia on 31 March this year.

He continues the government is using the figure 16 billion to confuse Liberians, stressing the need for accountability for 9 billion that was allegedly cleared in March.

Dillon insists that if government could tell Liberians about the money that came through the Freeport and was allegedly cleared on 31 March, and how the US\$25m announced by President George Manneh Weah was used to mop up excess liquidity in the economy, then the investigation would be heading

somewhere.

But in a swift reaction on the live talk show, Deputy Information Minister Eugene Fahngon expresses hope that Mr. Dillon will come forward with the information he has "concerning the so - called 9 billion LRD that he talked about."

Dillon discloses he heard CDC's Morlu saying that he was told that plenty people carried pickups to Central Bank vault and took Liberians' money to private homes.

"You want Liberty Party to appear before an investigation when you already have somebody who got credible information where our money was," Dillon adds.

In an audio said to be of Mr. Morlu played by host station OK FM, the ruling CDC chair could be heard blasting that former Central Bank governor Milton Weeks "is the individual

that gave the authorization for the printing of additional ten billion dollars that did not go to the Legislature."

Mr. Morlu says if he were to testify about the missing money, he would ask Milton Weeks how did the money leave the Freeport of Monrovia?

The ruling party chair says he would have also asked the Central Bank governor how the whole container loaded with Liberian Dollars "is said to have ended up at the vault of National Housing and Savings Bank?"

"If I were asked to testify in this saga, I would have asked the Central Bank governor how come the whole container loaded of Liberian Dollars is said to have ended up at the vault of National Housing and Savings Bank ... where it is alleged that pickups were driven there under the cover of darkness during the campaign and were there uploaded and taken to personal homes when George Weah was not yet president?" says Morlu.

But Dillon maintains the CDC has been panicking since this alleged missing billions issue came to light.

He claims that the ruling party and government have

held more than hundred press conferences since the money issue broke here, four of which he says were allegedly held by CDC Chair Mulbah Morlu alone in three days before the "Bring Back Our Money" protest.

He indicates that the LP has just made its financial report with the National Elections Commission (NEC) in keeping with the Constitution.

According to him, government is not serious about the ongoing investigation on grounds that it was aware of the money since April this year, but didn't announce investigation until the media broke the story.

He additionally observes the Liberia Anti - Corruption Commission (LACC) was added to the team of investigators after the Commission expressed disappointment on not being included.

In reaction to these claims, Deputy Minister Fahngon thinks that Mr. Dillon is confused when he says government is not serious because it lacks credibility, and yet goes on to accept the fact that government invited foreign investigators for the matter. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

U.S. investigators visit Capitol

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

United States - sponsored investigative experts from USAID that are charged to investigate Liberia's alleged missing \$15.5 billion dollars visited the Capitol Building in Monrovia Wednesday, 17 October for the first time.

The U.S. has announced that it will help Liberia investigate claims of missing \$15.5 billion of local currency, but it is not clear whether the experts' visit is the commencement of the investigation or a courtesy visit to the Legislature.

Well - dressed and very quiet looking experts entered Liberia's Capitol Building Wednesday, visiting House Speaker Bhofal Chambers' office and later inviting those that they may consider 'interest to the investigation' to talk on the first floor in the conference room of the main building of the Capitol.

In attendance at the meeting with the U.S.

investigators were Deputy Speaker Prince Moye, the Chief Clarke of the House of Representatives and some key members of the 53rd Legislature and it lasted for over an hour.

Though reporters tried to pose few questions to the experts, but the investigators left the Capitol Building Wednesday unnoticed.

The facility has several entry and exit points, especially with two new annexes now added by the Chinese government's aid project to Liberia.

Legislators who had attended the meeting with the U.S. investigators remain tight-lipped when reporters tried to pose questions.

Information gathered so far indicates that Montserrado County Representative Thomas Fallah, who chairs the House's Public Accounts Committee should have attended, but it appears that he is currently out of the country.

Earlier, the media advisor to Speaker Chambers, Mr. Bobby Addison had hinted the media to be ready to engage the U.S. experts, but the variables changed suddenly without Mr. Addison giving reason.

However, there are thoughts already out there that the entry of the U.S. experts could be the start of the investigation here.

There have been conflicting accounts about the authorization of the printing of \$15.5 billion Liberian Dollars.

Some say the 53rd Legislature gave authorization during former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's regime, while others are arguing that the authorization was only for the printing of just \$5 billion Liberian Dollars.

On September 19, the government said it sent a request to the United States for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to investigate the alleged \$15 billion scandal here. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**

NEC declares

Starts from back page

Montserrado County District #13 opened.

"The campaign period commences today and will end at midnight on Sunday, November 18, 2018," Cllr. Toe says.

Madam Toe says candidates in the by-elections are advised to go about their campaign in a peaceful manner, void of violence and in keeping with the laws of Liberia.

She asks candidates to submit their campaign schedules to the Elections Magistrates to avoid conflict during the campaign.

Further, the NEC says parties and candidates listed are asked to submit the list of agents that will man the pools on their behalf on November 20, 2018.

Madam Toe notes that following the nomination period which ran from September 24 to October 6, 2018, the Commission on Tuesday published the list of 12 candidates to contest the Representative by-election in Montserrado County District #13 and four candidates to contest the Senatorial By-election in Sinoe County.

Those contesting for the Sinoe County Senatorial by election are Cllr. Augustine Chie of the ruling CDC; former Development Superintendent Romeo Quiah of the United People's Party; Mr. Jarbah Gboloh Klahn of VOLT and

Othello Doe Nagbe of CLP respectively.

The NEC Co Chairman also announces that there are 13 candidates vying for the Montserrado County post, including CDC's John Wiah; Independent Richard Pratt; MVOL's O'neal Oral Roberts; VCP's Mama Kiziel Siah Sicarr, among others.

In an effort to beef up the manpower needed in Sinoe County, the Commission says it has deployed two base teams to assist the Elections Magistrate in the conduct of the Senatorial By-election.

It says one team is deployed in Billibo Creek while the other is in Diyananko.

The NEC says it has recruited a total of 36 Civic Educators (CVE), and Gender Mobilizers for the Representative by-election in Electoral District #13, Montserrado County and the Senatorial by-election in Sinoe County.

It says training will begin on 18 October, and deployment will commence on 20 October.

"The CVE initiative for the by-elections, the Civic and Voter Education Section will on October 22, 2018, begin consultation with relevant stakeholders in the areas where the by-elections are being held," the Commission concludes. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Weah declares himself Liberia's "Feminist-In-Chief"

--Recommits to women's cause



President George Manneh Weah on Wednesday, 17 October, turned another historical page in his presidential manifesto by conferring upon himself the enviable appellation of "Liberia's Feminist-In-Chief."

By the declaration, the President reaffirms unwavering commitment to the pursuit of the feminist

ideals that guarantee the rights and wellbeing of women.

"In closing, allow me to share a story with you. During a discussion about this conference that I had a few days ago, one of my colleagues "accused" me of being a feminist, under the misimpression that only women can be feminist," President Weah told the gathering at the

opening of the International SHEROES Forum at the Monrovia City Hall.

Besides the argument that he says ensued between him and his friend, the decision is informed by the broad understanding of who a feminist is: "someone who organizes activities on behalf of women's rights and interests, with the objective of achieving political, economic and social equality of sexes."

According to him, this includes seeking to establish educational and professional opportunities for women that are equal to those for men.

"On the basis of that definition, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to declare myself as "Liberia's feminist-in-chief, and hereby pledge to the women of Liberia that I will do all that I can, during my tenure as president of this country, to fight



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NEC declares campaign open

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has officially declared the political campaign for the holding of two separate by-elections both in Montserrado and Sinoe Counties.

One of those by-elections will be conducted in Montserrado County for a representative seat in

Electoral District #13 and the other will be conducted in Sinoe County for a senatorial seat.

These two by-elections come separately due to the election to the Senate of ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Rep. Saah Joseph, and President George Manneh Weah's appointment of Senator Joseph Nagbe as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Announcing the opening of campaign, the NEC advises candidates to campaign peacefully and live within the conferment of the laws.

Speaking at a news conference in Monrovia, 17 October, NEC Co-Chairman Cllr. Sarah Toe declared campaign for the Senatorial By-elections in Sinoe County and the Representative by-election in



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