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# The New Dawn

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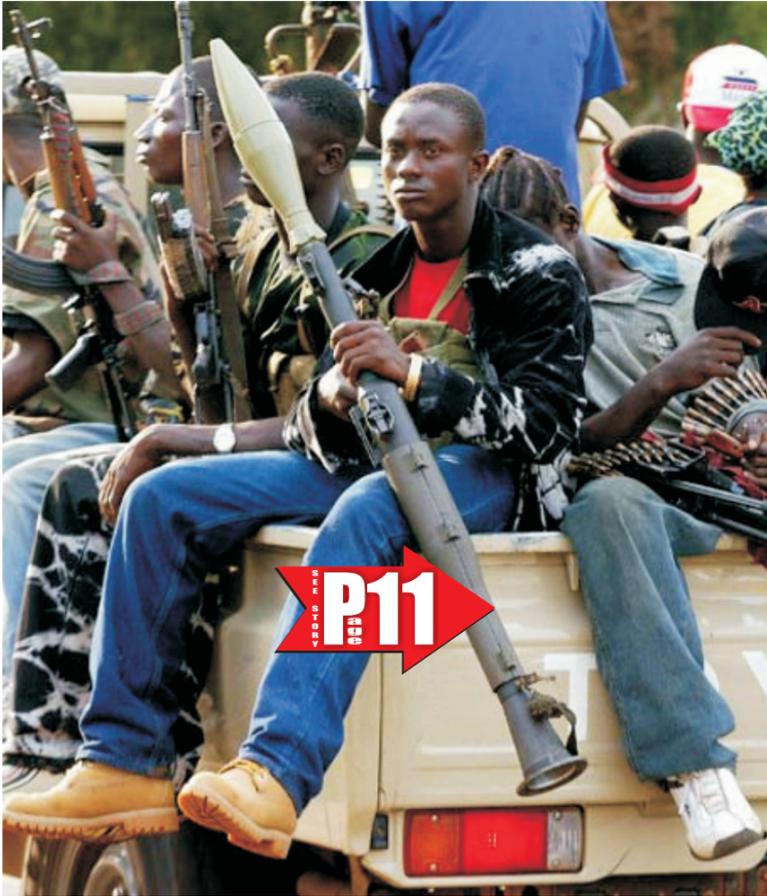
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# War crimes Court

## Deputy MOD Min. expresses concerns

# Nigerian charged with sodomizing boy 10



Suspect Mike Ajana



# Continental News

## Anti-graft war ruins Ruto's 2022 bid

Just hours after former Kenya Pipeline manager Joe Sang and former national hospital insurer head Simeon Kirgotty were arrested in a Friday morning swoop that targeted 22 others, Deputy President William Ruto made a statement that seemed to back an ongoing debate this week about an alleged onslaught on the Kalenjin community in the anti-graft war.

Mr Ruto had a message to civil servants, asking them to relax and do their jobs as he called on the anti-corruption war to remain neutral and fair. "Let us not politicise matters to do with independent institutions of governance, prosecutions and investigations.

Those institutions must operate independently without instructions from anybody and without serving any ethnic, regional, or any other partisan interests," Mr Ruto said at Lelboinet Boys High School in Elgeyo-Marakwet County on Friday.

It is a statement that buttressed a debate this week that Kalenjin politicians have started terming the ongoing war on corruption as targeting professionals from the community in top government positions, and ultimately, Mr Ruto's 2022 State House ambitions.

The noise grew following

the arrest of Mr Sang, the Kenya Pipeline chief, who this week announced his decision not to seek a second term after immense pressure from the public following revelations of loss of 23 million litres of fuel.

### SABOTAGE

He was arrested on Friday, and charges approved against him over a different matter –

the Sh2 billion Kisumu oil jetty. He will be facing prosecution with five other top KPC managers, among them Mr Vincent Cheruiyot, the company's supply chain general manager.

No one should take advantage of the fight against corruption to pursue persecution of an ethnic community. What we are seeing is the ethnic profiling and persecution of people whose careers are being destroyed simply because their surnames have betrayed them in this 2022 succession politics," Nandi Senator Samson Cherargei told the Sunday Nation. Mr Cherargei, who has fashioned himself as

Mr Ruto's ask-questions-later defender, and who had earlier this week taken a diplomatic tone on the matter, said, "People should not take our silence for weakness," and that the noise is only going to get louder.

Arguing that it is all part of a grand scheme to deny Mr Ruto a stab at the presidency, Aldai MP Cornelius Serem wondered why the chief executives were arrested yet the parastatals' boards were not questioned to determine their culpability. "This is a clear case of calling a dog a bad name to get a reason to kill it. The grand scheme is to brand the DP as corrupt, then followed by all these top Kalenjin professionals in government. This is all in a scheme towards 2022," Mr Serem said. AFP



Photo-Kenya's Vice-President William Ruto delivers a speech during the Independence Day ceremony

## Teachers rejects Uhuru's new plan

The Kenya National Union of Teachers (Knut) has rejected plans to deduct 1.5 percent of teachers' salaries to help finance the low-cost housing scheme, saying they are already poorly paid.

A report by Knut set to be discussed at the 61 annual delegate's conference set to

start on Wednesday in Nairobi, indicates that most teachers have taken loans and any further deductions will be punitive to them.

"In the last collective bargaining agreement, the basic income aspect was not increased and where it was increased that was by a margin of less than three

percent. By taxing the same at 1.5 percent, it would imply that the workers gains are being snatched back by the government," the report reads.

### CONCERNS

According to the report, the highest paid teacher at Sh203,916 will part with Sh2,294 while the lowest paid at Sh29,008 will part with Sh326 for the scheme per month. "At the moment it is assumed that every member is earning a net salary that is a third of the gross salary as per the Teachers Service Commission code of regulations, so a deduction of 1.5 percent reduces the net earning, further lowering the earning of the statutory one-third.

"This automatically exposes the teacher making them vulnerable to pecuniary embarrassment and hence subject to disciplinary action by the employer," the report signed by Knut Secretary-General Wilson Sossion says. The union is also raising concerns whether the land on which houses will be erected

## South Africa protests to Rwanda over 'insult'

South Africa has summoned the Rwandan envoy in Pretoria over apparently offensive remarks directed at South African International Relations minister, Lindiwe Sisulu.

Ms Sisulu's spokesman told the BBC the remarks were "unacceptable" and "must stop".

Ms Sisulu recently met an exiled critic of the Rwandan leader, angering Kigali.

A senior Rwandan official, Olivier Nduhungirehe, had criticised the meeting on Twitter. A headline on a Rwandan pro-government news website also described Ms Sisulu as a "prostitute", a South African government source told the BBC's Milton Nkosi in Johannesburg. The story was removed, but the damage was done, our reporter adds. Ms Sisulu's spokesman, Ndivhuwo Mabaya, said that the Rwandan envoy in Pretoria had been told that the tone of comments was unacceptable.

He said the South African High Commissioner in Kigali, George Twala, had also been recalled to Pretoria for consultations.

"It is our commitment to normalise the relations, but we can be more focused without being insulted on social media and the use of undiplomatic language," Mr Mabaya said.

Ms Sisulu told a press conference last month that she had met Rwanda's former army

chief, Gen Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, in Johannesburg.

She said she was "pleasantly surprised" to hear that Mr Nyamwasa, who has established an opposition party in South Africa, was willing to negotiate a reconciliation deal with his former government.

### Gun attack

Mr Nyamwasa has been living in exile in South Africa since 2010, after falling out with Rwanda's President Paul Kagame.

Mr Nduhungirehe, Rwanda's deputy foreign minister, criticised the meeting on his Twitter account, in remarks South Africa said were offensive.

He said that if any South African official wanted to negotiate with a "convicted criminal" who was leading a "subversive movement", they were free to do so but they should "never think" about involving Rwanda in the process. In 2014, South Africa expelled three Rwandan diplomats in connection with an attack on Mr Nyamwasa's home in Johannesburg.

Rwanda retaliated by ordering out six South African envoys. Mr Nyamwasa has survived at least two assassination attempts in exile.

Four men were found guilty in 2014 by a South African court over a gun attack that left him with stomach wounds. BBC



Photo-Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta arrives at the Musee d'Orsay in Paris

has been identified and acquired, wondering where the funds to purchase the land would come from.

The union is also demanding clarification on

whether the project will be piloted in Nairobi and then rolled out to other counties or if it will be rolled out at once in all the counties. AFP

# EDITORIAL

## Pro-Poor Rice is not sustainable

THE WEAH ADMINISTRATION, like several previous administrations before it believes subsidizing rice importation is the prudent way to maintaining food security in the country, but this strategy is foolhardy, because it has never been sustainable.

THE LATE PRESIDENT William R. Tolbert, Jr. ventured into it and his government got entangled in citizens' protest that dragged it into the April 14, 1979 Rice Riot characterized by insecurity, anarchy and deaths. Slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe, guided by experiences from the rice riot, launched and spearheaded the Green Revolution that saw Liberia's food basket swelled with exportation of cash crops such as cocoa and coffee, among others.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Lebanese businessman George Haddad, jailed former President Charles Ghankay Taylor maintained rice on the local market at affordable price, and created the impression that he had solved the nation's food insecurity problem. But that was very far from reality. Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf brought in best qualified and experienced agriculture technicians, who only talked the talk and wrote policy papers; nothing else.

ALL THREE FORMER presidents were fully aware that rice is Liberia's staple. But they sought quick fix solutions except for President Doe, who took the bull by the horn thru his Green Revolution campaign that led to government officials investing in farms. A farm of the late Senator Kerkula B. Kpoto of the Doe regime was never fully harvested due to its large size and the civil war.

DESPITE LEADING A vague slogan of 'power to the people' President Weah seems to be seeking the same quick fix solution by importing rice rather than prioritizing the agricultural sector. Immediately after he took office early this year, the President met with importers in the country and struck a deal to reduce price, but it did not work due to the fact that we don't grow our staple ourselves.

NOW THE GOVERNMENT has established partnership with a so-called private importer, TRH Trading, working in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to import rice and sell at a reduced price of US\$950 and US\$10, respectively below the current price of US\$17.

PRESIDENT WEAH HIMSELF went at the Bong Mines Pier near the Freeport of Monrovia on Bushrod Island last week and launched the Pro-Poor Rice with an initial consignment of 80,000 25kg bags already in country.

"WE ARE NOW happy. When I took over, our people were on the streets because the rice was expensive and I called all rice importers to find a way around the issue and to let them know they need to do their best to reduce the price or government will compete", the President asserts.

THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERVENTION looks like nothing but the same old "cow pupu" story that appears dried on the surface, but inside is watery. How long can this partnership sustain the Pro-Poor Rice on the market is the "61 million dollar question" everybody is asking.

WE BELIEVE STRONGLY that the real solution to our insatiable taste for rice is to grow rice ourselves. Any intervention apart from growing what we eat as a people is temporary, because we don't control the market outside our borders.

# COMMENTARY

By Ian Buruma

## A Second Chance for Britain

*In 1950, the British reacted with a mixture of horror and disdain to the proposed European Coal and Steel Community, suspecting a French plot to lure a pragmatic people into some utopian foreign project. The basic arguments against "Europe" have not changed at all since then, unlike the consequences of acting on them.*

NEW YORK - On May 9, 1950, when European countries were just beginning to emerge from the ruins of war, the French statesman Robert Schuman announced his plan to create the European Coal and Steel Community. By pooling these vital war materials under a common European authority, violent conflict between France and Germany would become unthinkable. The Germans were delighted. The Benelux countries and Italy would take part as well. A first step toward a European union had been taken. Shortly after Schuman's announcement, the British were invited to join in the discussions.

They reacted with a mixture of horror and disdain, suspecting a French plot to lure a pragmatic people into some utopian foreign project. The Labour Party, then in power in Britain, couldn't imagine sharing sovereignty over the United Kingdom's vital industries. And Conservatives failed to see how a global power could possibly be part of such a narrow European club. It was all very well for the Continentals to band together. But Britannia would continue to rule the waves, together with the other English-speaking peoples in the Commonwealth and the United States.

It is easy, in hindsight, to mock the British for missing the European boat with such blithe arrogance. But it is at least understandable. After all, the British with their proud democracy had stood alone against Hitler's Germany and helped to free the European countries that had surrendered to the Nazis. One cannot really blame them for feeling a trifle superior.

What is depressing, however, about the Brexit disaster that is making such a mess of British politics now is that the basic arguments against "Europe" have not changed at all since 1950. Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party ideologues view the European Union as a capitalist plot to undermine the purity of their socialist ideals. And Brexiteers on the right still dream of Britain as a great power, whose global reach should not be hampered by membership of European institutions. Another strand of nationalism, which is more English than British, is the romantic attachment to a "special relationship" with the US.

Alas for the British, the world has changed a great deal since 1950. The British Empire is over, the Commonwealth is little more than a sentimental relic of the past, and the relationship with the US may be very special to the English, but it is much less so to the Americans.

But something else, perhaps even more important, has changed as well. When the British government turned down the chance in 1950 to help shape Europe's future, some Conservatives criticized Labour for being a bit too hasty. As the opposition, the Tories had to say that. But their hearts were not really in it, for, as the New York Times reported at the time, the government's position "reflects a good deal of British feeling toward Europe, regardless of party lines."

Britain - if not every part of England - is now a much more European country. London in 1950 was still a completely British city, where "aliens" were a distinct minority. In the last decades of the twentieth century, it became the unofficial capital of Europe. More than three million Londoners are foreign born, with hundreds of thousands of young Europeans working in banking, law, fashion, catering, the arts, and many other industries. London has a larger French population than many French cities.

No wonder, then, that the majority of Londoners voted to remain in the EU. And so did most young people in Britain who bothered to vote in the referendum. The Britain of 1950 would be unrecognizable to them.

So who are the 51% who voted to leave the EU? And why? Protecting socialism has limited appeal, as do ideals of pure national sovereignty or fantasies of Britain striking out alone as a global power. Fear of immigration appears to be the main reason why people voted to leave. In some cases, this stemmed from genuine worries that Eastern European builders, say, were making it harder for British citizens to do the same jobs for a decent wage. But very often, the people who are most afraid of being "swamped" by foreigners live in areas where immigrants are very few.

At the same time, most British citizens take it for granted that they are nursed and treated in hospitals by immigrants, served in supermarkets by immigrants, and aided in banks, post offices, social service centers, airports, and public transport by immigrants. Without immigrants, the British economy and services would collapse.

Some pro-Brexit politicians have stoked immigration fears more brazenly than others. The most notorious image used in the Brexit campaign was a poster showing a stream of young men, looking vaguely Middle-Eastern, with the text: "We must break free of the EU and take back control." In fact, the young men in the picture were nowhere near the UK's borders. The photograph was taken in Croatia.

The more respectable Brexiteers talk more about sovereignty than immigration. Their anxiety about losing control may be genuine. Figures like Boris Johnson, with his Churchillian pretensions, or Jacob Rees-Mogg, who resembles a minor character in a P.G. Wodehouse novel, are anachronisms. In earlier times, they might have run an empire. Now they are mere politicians in a middle-ranking state.

Brexit for the likes of Johnson or Rees-Mogg is more like a deluded grab for power, undertaken in the name of the common people, supposedly in revolt against the elites of which these politicians are themselves conspicuous members. Their nostalgia for grander forms of rule has already done great damage to the country they claim to love. This is all the more reason, now that the potential catastrophe of Brexit is so plain to see, why those common people should have a second chance to vote for a way to avoid it.

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## O-PED

By Kenneth Rogoff

# Betting on Dystopia

**C**AMBRIDGE - With the price of Bitcoin down 80% from its peak a year ago, and the larger cryptocurrency market in systemic collapse, has "peak crypto" already come and gone? Perhaps, but don't expect to see true believers lining up to have their cryptocurrency tattoos removed just yet.

At a recent conference I attended, the overwhelming sentiment was that market capitalization of cryptocurrencies is still set to explode over the next five years, rising to \$5-10 trillion. For those who watched the price of Bitcoin go from \$13 in December 2012 to roughly \$4,000 today, this year's drop from \$20,000 is no reason to panic.

It is tempting to say, "Of course the price is collapsing." Regulators are gradually waking up to the fact that they cannot countenance large expensive-to-trace transaction technologies that facilitate tax evasion and criminal activity. At the same time, central banks from Sweden to China are realizing that they, too, can issue digital currencies. As I emphasized in my 2016 book on the past, present, and future of currency, when it comes to new forms of money, the private sector may innovate, but in due time the government regulates and appropriates.

But as I also pointed out back then, just because the long-term value of Bitcoin is more likely to be \$100 than \$100,000 does not necessarily mean that it definitely should be worth zero. The right way to think about cryptocurrency coins is as lottery tickets that pay off in a dystopian future where they are used in rogue and failed states, or perhaps in countries where citizens have already lost all semblance of privacy. It is no coincidence that dysfunctional Venezuela is the first issuer of a state-backed cryptocurrency (the "Petro").

The ultimate obstacle for any cryptocurrency is that eventually there has to be a way to buy a range of goods and services beyond illicit drugs and hit men. And if governments ever make it illegal to use coins in retail stores and banks, their value must ultimately collapse.

Many crypto-evangelists insist that Bitcoin is "digital gold," in part because the long-term supply is algorithmically capped at 21 million. But this is nutty. For one thing, unlike gold - which has always had other purposes and today is employed widely in new technologies from iPhones to spacecraft - Bitcoin has no alternative use. And even if Bitcoiners manage to find a way to lower the phenomenal energy cost of verifying transactions, the very nature of decentralized ledger systems makes them vastly less efficient than systems with a trusted central party like a central bank. Take away near-anonymity and no one will want to use it; keep it and advanced-economy governments will not tolerate it.

The evangelists dismiss such concerns: Bitcoin can still be incredibly valuable as long as enough people perceive it as digital gold. After all, they argue, money is a social convention. But economists (including me) who have worked on this kind of problem for five decades have found that price bubbles surrounding intrinsically worthless assets must eventually burst. The prices of assets that do have real underlying value cannot deviate arbitrarily far from historical benchmarks. And government-issued money is hardly a pure social convention; governments pay employees and suppliers, and demand tax payments in fiat currency.

But it is too soon to say how the new world of digital currencies will play out. Central banks will get into the game (their reserves are already a form of wholesale digital currency), but that is not the end of the story. US Treasury Direct, for example, already offers retail customers an extremely low-cost way to hold very short-term Treasury debt for amounts as little as \$100, tradable to others in the system. Still, heavy security makes the system relatively cumbersome to use, and just maybe governments might adopt one of today's private digital technologies.

For the moment, the real question is if and when global regulation will stamp out privately constructed systems that are expensive for governments to trace and monitor. Any single large advanced economy foolish enough to try to embrace cryptocurrencies, as Japan did last year, risks becoming a global destination for money-laundering. (Japan's subsequent moves to distance itself from cryptocurrencies were perhaps one cause of this year's gyrations.) In the end, advanced economies will surely coordinate on cryptocurrency regulation, as they have on other measures to prevent money laundering and tax evasion.

But that leaves out a lot of disgruntled players. After all, many today - including Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, and Russia - are laboring under United States financial sanctions. Their governments will not necessarily care about global externalities if they encourage cryptocurrencies that might have value as long as they are used somewhere.

So, while we shouldn't be surprised by this year's cryptocurrency price bust, the price of these coins is not necessarily zero. Like lottery tickets, there is a high probability that they are worthless. There is also an extremely small outside chance that they will be worth a great deal someday, for reasons that currently are difficult to anticipate.

## OPINION

By Georgios Kaminis ,  
Erias Lukwago & Marvin Rees

# The Leadership of Cities

**A**THENS/KAMPALA/BRISTOL - After the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen concluded without an agreement on climate action, mayors around the world developed their own innovative solutions. More recently, as national politicians have fomented false fears about refugees and immigrants, local leaders have taken responsibility for welcoming, protecting, and integrating millions of newcomers. When it comes to tackling the complex challenges of the twenty-first century, cities have emerged as leaders.

Past and current initiatives have made our cities stronger and more united, just as neglecting the challenges we face surely would have weakened and divided them. It has also given us important insights into what works best - insights that policymakers at the national and international levels would do well to take on board.

If we are to meet the challenges our world faces, we must capitalize on the strengths and expertise of every level of government. That is why, over the last two years, hundreds of cities have played an unprecedented role in developing two non-binding agreements: the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

Both agreements are informed by the simple, self-evident truth that no country or city can go it alone. And both serve as roadmaps for how countries and communities can work together on managing international migration and forced displacement.

With the overwhelming majority of migrants - including 58% of refugees - residing in cities, municipal-level efforts are vitally important. As mayors who represent cities of origin, transit, and destination, we have a shared interest in cooperating to ensure that migration is safe, orderly, and humane, and that refugees are protected. To be effective, such cooperation must include engaging in migration diplomacy and policymaking at the regional and international levels.

This weekend in Marrakesh, on the eve of the historic Intergovernmental Conference on the Global Compact for Migration, the mayors of eight cities - Los Angeles, Montreal, Milan, Athens, Bristol, Amman, Kampala, and Freetown - will launch the Mayors Migration Council to support local authorities' efforts. The Council will ensure that mayors have a permanent and powerful voice on the international stage, so that policies are grounded in the realities they and their cities face.

The Council will also help cities to elevate successful migration-related practices that can serve as models for action around the world. Networks like United Cities and Local Governments, the Global Parliament of Mayors, and Cities of Migration can help by facilitating the sharing of knowledge and innovation among local governments. Acknowledging that this work extends beyond migration alone, the Council - in partnership with C40 Cities - will seek to tackle the intertwined challenges of migration and climate change in cities.

This effort is all the more urgent in view of the toxic political discourse on migration. Too often, national politicians talk about refugees and immigrants not as humans, but statistics - an approach that enables them to justify inaction. Worse, many politicians now use immigrants as scapegoats. This cynical strategy has led to a rise in hate crimes, discrimination, and a deepening distrust not only among people, but also of government.

In our cities, migrants are anything but abstractions. They are our neighbors, schoolmates, and co-workers, delivering essential services and connecting us to the world through their histories and networks. Migrants bring unique perspectives and new ideas that add to our society, rather than taking anything away. They help our cities foster new relationships and build bridges within cities and with other countries. They diversify our workforce and strengthen our economy. We need migrants as we grow and evolve.

Successful cities take individuals from diverse backgrounds, enabling them to connect and supporting them in ways that capitalize on their strengths and compensate for their weaknesses. Residents of the city of Bristol, to name one example, represent at least 45 religions and 180 countries of birth, and speak 91 different languages. They share public transportation, health facilities, and social services, as well as triumphs and tragedies.

Serving diverse populations is a practical challenge; but it is also an ethical one. If we do not meet it, we risk dividing our residents and making our cities ungovernable. If we do, we will unlock the creativity and dynamism that are the keys to success in the twenty-first century.

In recent weeks, a dozen or so countries have withdrawn from the Global Compact for Safe, Regular, and Orderly Migration, often using specious arguments about how this non-binding agreement undermines their sovereignty. As local leaders, we do not have the luxury of ignoring the challenges we face. In Marrakesh and beyond, we will work with fellow leaders - from national and local governments, from civil society and faith groups, and from international organizations - who are not afraid to confront reality, and make it better.

# LIBERIANS DEBATE

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



## Liberians celebrate World Human Rights Day with mixed views.



### Ruffina Koluba

“I don't support Human Rights in Full because I am yet to accept the rights of Gays and Lesbians (Homosexuals) by legalizing their practice in Liberia! I think that other rights should not be a part of human rights because our future and children are looking at us. We should uphold our moral values

in this country.”



### Foeday Zinnah

“The world is like a home of happiness and freedom but yet, many human beings still live with fear and unacceptable activities. Today, people are not living freely because of their religious beliefs. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is non-discriminatory because it was avowed for every human. Let the world know that the life we live is

an opportunity where everyone should be part of this transition, everyone should have jobs, and everyone should be successful. We don't have to wait for others to save the earth of happiness; the movement of freedom is for everyone. Let's work together for a nonviolent, less horrible and more prosperous future for both Liberia and the societies around us. Today, as we celebrate the Human Rights Day in our various homes, let build the safe spaces for migration and living spaces. Let people enjoy the world around them. I am openly saying to you today, “I will respect your rights, regardless of who you are. I will raise my voice, I will take action, and I will use my rights to stand up for your rights. I pledge #StandUp4HumanRights!!!!”

### Jutomue Doetein

“You have heard that children's rights are human rights, just as women's rights are human rights. On this day, we the children of Liberia say "Happy Human Rights Day". Stop violating children's rights now and forever!” A MESSAGE FROM: Jutomue Doetein, Speaker Liberian National Children's Representative Forum.



### Molon Gray

“To everyone who've championed, who's championing and will champion the causes for the rights of every human being to be heard and respected, thank you. Today, let's gather and unify our voices. Happy

Human Rights Day!”



### Saah Tamba

“Our World today is a sick one and it's very, very unhealthy. 65 percent of people who live in the World today are causing problems for us in the name of human rights. That's why it is polluted with all kinds of immoral acts and doctrines, umbrella under what they called HUMAN RIGHTS. Does it make sense for a child to take his parent to court or for a man to have sexual intercourse

with a man? Certainly No, it doesn't make any sense at all, but they called it Human Right. We need to be careful how we honor human rights and which one to honor.”

# Nigerian charged with sodomizing boy 10

By Winston W. Parley

A Nigerian national dealing in auto parts in Clara Town is facing charges of rape and sodomy for allegedly sodomizing repeatedly a 10-year-old Liberian school boy that lives in the same vicinity with the accused.

The narrative from the kid, his parents and teacher is that the survivor often attends to his alleged predator Mike Ajana's call either to go and buy items for the accused, like scratch cards or to get garbage from his room.

The victim's parents Priscilia Golafalley, and father Jackson Kollie are often out to look for the family's daily bread, and during this time, the victim usually stays home alone after school and is often seen playing with friends in the community.

His alleged predator is said to take advantage of this opportunity to carry on the alleged act of sodomizing the kid.

The Nigerian national, Mike would allegedly call the survivor into his room, force him into painful sexual intercourse, the victim and parents said.

When they are into the alleged act, the victim says Mike would position a cup under his (victim's) buttocks



Suspect Mike Ajana

and collect the oozing fresh blood for whatever reason known to the accused.

Speaking with the NewDawn on Saturday, 8 December, the victim said he was playing football on a Saturday in August when Mike Ajana came from work and called him, telling the victim to go and throw away some dirt.

The little boy explains that when he attended to Mike's call and entered the hallway, Mike allegedly pushed him into his room and forced him on the bed.

He says the accused ordered him to take off his clothes, while the suspect also undressed. That was the day the victim says he was first sodomized by Mike Ajana.

According to the victim's medical report dated 5 December 2018, there were "multiple fresh tears seen" at his buttocks (butt) and it describes his abdomen (stomach) as "soft and flat." It says the survivor was depressed.

According to the victim, he was sodomized on three separate occasions by Mike

Ajana. He says each time he was being abused, the suspect would bend him over, put pillar to his neck and cloth to his mouth and insert his penis into the victim's anus.

The victim says when Mike inserted his penis into his anus, blood oozed from there, and the suspect would bring a "green cup" and put the blood into it before wiping the victim's butt with tissue.

The victim says the suspect would give him as little as LD\$50.00 after being sodomized on some occasions.

He continues to face problem when walking, but at least his parents are now attending to him medically at the Redemption Hospital since his teachers took him there on Wednesday, 5 December.

His case was uncovered when the victim confessed to his teacher Madam Rebecca M. Tarplah, a Dean of Students at the Living Hope School System in Clara Town. Madam Tarplah has been very curious about the kid's strange way of walking for before get him to confide in him.

Madam Tarplah says after taking test for the second marking period on Wednesday, 5 December, the victim was coming outside when a teacher observed him walking strangely.

"That's how the other man said oh, that pekin we asked him, he said that Nigerian man knocked broom stake on his foot," she explains.

She says the victim finally

confessed that one "Uncle Mike," a next door neighbor did something to him through his anus.

Suspect Milke denies the allegation when asked for comment.

But the mother Priscila and the father Jackson have both testified to the alleged case and confirmed the boy's statement.

"The Dean of Students [didn't] tell me that they were bringing him to the station," says Priscila, adding that they were sent to Redemption Hospital in New Kru Town later and the medical test was done.

Her fear is that the family doesn't have money, and the suspect and his supporters could bribe their way out of the case if government doesn't pay attention.

Mike is an auto part dealer at the Clara Town Gas Station on Bushrod Island, where many of his Nigerian colleagues are also doing similar business.

Priscila pleads with government to look into this case thoroughly because her son has been damaged.

The victim's father Jackson says he was brutalized by the suspect's friend because police had gone to search the suspect's house for materials listed by the victim.

Police Spokesman Moses Carter confirmed the act, saying police have charged suspect Mike with sodomy and rape.

The suspect was due in court on Monday, 10 December.

## Weah gov't must do more -Caldwell residents demand

By Lewis S. Teh

Aggrieved residents of Caldwell Township, Montserrado County Electoral District# 15 are calling on the Weah administration to do more in terms of providing employment opportunities or skills training opportunities that would empower them in the country.

Speaking under the banner Citizens United for Peace at a one-day skill training program on Sunday, December 10, they say it's time President George Manneh Weah helps to end the current economic hardship citizens are faced with.

"President Weah must do more to address the suffering needs of the masses; we did not vote him for a particular project, but rather to improve our living standards."

Speaking to this paper in an exclusive interview, executive

director Madam Evelyn Toe says the exercise was meant to enlighten, and empower the participants.

She points out that the objective of the training is to foster a society, in which people can start self-help initiatives while awaiting national government to provide bigger opportunities.

"As you may be aware, the economic situation in Liberia is worrisome; and if this government cannot do something, there is going to be a serious trouble for citizens", she cautions.

According to Ms. Toe, since the inception of the CDC-led government, there has been economic hardship across the country, noting that the hardship citizens are facing is as the result of government's failure to create an enabling environment.

"We all are aware that this

government inherited a broke economy as claimed by the President, but what is frustrating is for citizens across the fifteen counties to be crying."

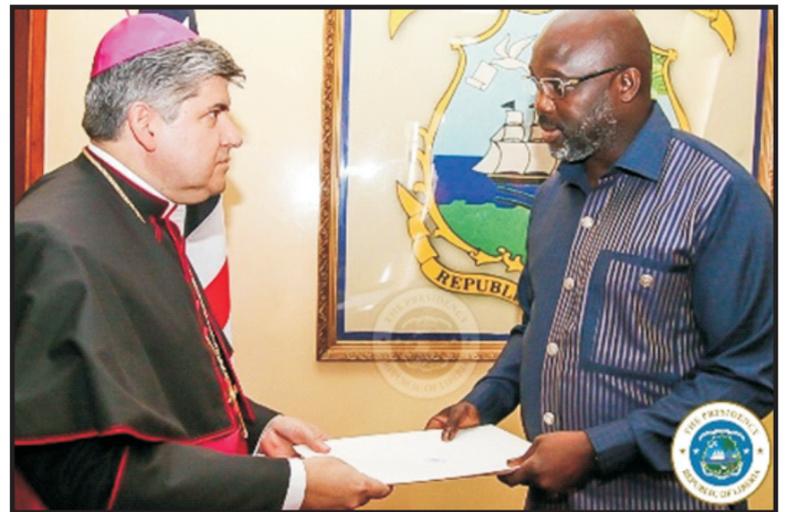
Meanwhile, one of the beneficiaries of the training, Andrew Johnson, expresses delight for the opportunity, terming it as timely. He says the training was organized at a time when everything in the country is going higher on a daily basis.

Johnson narrates that the decision of the local group to conduct training for residents of Caldwell is welcoming, adding that if national government can tap into this initiative, many citizens will have opportunity to do things on their own, instead of calling on government.

"Though there are gains being made in terms of the various community roads project, but more needs to be done to help lift our people out of poverty."

Residents of the township protested recently for the second time in demand of electricity, erecting roadblocks and burning tyers, but the demonstrations were quelled by riot police. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

## Vatican Envoy Presents Letter of Credence to President Weah



President George Weah has acknowledged the important role the Catholic Church has played over the years in Liberia.

He made the acknowledgement when he received Letter of Credence from the new Vatican Envoy to Liberia.

Mr. Weah specifically pointed to the Vatican's continued prayers for peace and prosperity on behalf of

Liberia, which has led to stability and national harmony.

Receiving the Letter of Credence from Ambassador Rev. Monsignor Dagoberto Campos Salas Monday, December 10, 2018, the Liberian leader thanked the Vatican for the good job it has done in Liberia.

He recalled how the Vatican, through Catholic Church, has been standing

**#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#**



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# AFL seeks cordial relationship with media

By Winston W. Parley

The Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), with the support of the Ministry of Defense (MoD) is pushing for a cordial working relationship with the media for the benefit of the public, particularly when handling issues that have national security implications.

At a two - day training which commenced Monday, 10 December at the Defense Ministry in Monrovia, journalists were told of the many chains of command that military personnel have to follow in executing their tasks, which also cover giving out information to the public through the press.

These channels would practically not allow low level servicemen to answer media enquiry unless approved by authorities, according to the training.

Further, it was indicated that the mission of the AFL is not that officers are just trained to kill, but professionals have been built in different units of the army including engineers, lawyers and others that are contributing to national development

Defense Ministry authorities including Deputy Minister for Administration



Olandrus Dickson, Deputy Defense Minister for Operations Ernest Vafee and Assistant Defense Minister for Public Affairs Sam Collins spoke at the training on building cordial relationship between the military and the media to protect confidential security issues.

Also senior military officials made presentations, including Major Nathaniel Waka on Understanding the Military Environment in the Armed Forces of Liberia and Major Alfred Robison who presented on the Leadership Structure of the AFL. Army Chief of Staff Major General Prince C.

Johnson underscored the crucial role the press play in informing the population, saying that building relationship with the media is not intended to deny them needed information.

He says when defense correspondents understand the workings of the military, it would also benefit the public in return when proper information is disseminated by the media and when confidential issues are not disclosed to the public.

“There are lot of issues that are sensitive and in reporting it, it is better that we sit and talk,” he notes.

He recalls how in February 2017, a journalist called him and indicated that Liberian peacekeeping troop was going by road to be deployed to Mali because government did not have money to airlift them.

Opposed to the, Gen. Johnson says the advantage of going by road allowed the Liberian troop to carry lot of equipment that could not have been conveyed on flight.

However he says the journalist accepted his plead to withhold the story and the security of the troop was not compromised.

Unlike this experience

here, General Johnson narrates how a state security surveillance against a planned terrorist attack in London was compromised as a result of a newspaper report without getting any clearance, and prompted authorities to pull out an undercover agent immediately.

He says the article concerning the London issue indicated that the terrorists planned to use chemical weapons on the door handles of very expensive cars because celebrities, senior government officials and top individuals were using those cars.

But when the entire operation was exposed by the article, he says the authorities could not find who was planning that attack.

Given these situations, Gen. Johnson recommends that journalists, including talk show host should consider inviting security experts whenever there are security issues that they warn to be addressed.

He discourages the use of politicians that have no security expertise to give analysis on security issues because a lot of them would simply present issues to the public in a way that would win some political points for them.

## Liberian youth celebrate Human Rights Day

By Sally Gaye

Over thousands of young people in Monrovia have joined the world to celebrate world Human Rights Day.

Speaking at the celebrating Monday, 10 December, Camp for Peace Liberia’s Youth Coordinator Melchi-Zedek Dologbay said it is an honor for the young people of Liberia to join the world in celebrating this day.

The youth coordinator says the youth have a major part to play in protecting the rights of people.

The formal establishment of Human Rights Day occurred at the 317th Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on 4 December 1950, when the General Assembly declared Resolution 423(V), inviting all member states and any other interested organizations to celebrate the day as they saw

fit.

Many governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the human rights field also schedule special events to commemorate the day, as do many civil and social-cause organizations.

The popularity of the day can be shown by the fact that the commemorative Human Rights Day stamp issued by the United Nations Postal Administration in 1952, received approximately 200,000 advance orders.

Although the Declaration with its broad range of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights is not a binding document, it inspired more than 60 human rights instruments which together constitute an international standard of human rights.

Melchi-Zedek encourages all policy makers and key stakeholders to see and protect human rights, stand up for every person’s rights, as well as remember those persons who lost their lives in fighting for the rights that enjoyed today.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

## Vatican Envoy Presents

Cont'd from page 6

with Liberia since the days of the late Archbishop Michael Francis.

President Weah told Apostolic Ambassador Campos Salas that Liberia still needs prayers to be able to overcome challenges facing the nation and its people. He said he has had longstanding relationship and strong belief in the Roman Pontiff in whom he still cherishes.

He recalled the intervention of late Pope John Paul II when AC Milan, the team he played for in Italy, was struggling in the league.

“So we believe in the Pope. And I still hold onto that. Even now in Liberia, with the help of the Vatican, we will be able to overcome,” he said.

The President said there was a strong need for Liberia and the Vatican to work toward

strengthening the longstanding relationship they share.

For his part, the Apostolic Nuncio said he was glad to be in Liberia and to present his Letter of Credence to the President on behalf of the Vatican. He thanked President Weah for his ascendancy to the highest office of the land and for ably steering the affairs of the state.

He also extolled the exceptional relationship between Liberia and Vatican through the Catholic Church and noted government’s continued support to and cooperation with the Church. He expressed the hope that relations will blossom during his time as Ambassador of the Vatican.-Press release



**#Revoke rock and sand mining licenses from Chinese and Lebanese#**

# Français

## Le Gouvernement du Libéria et la BIDC signent un accord de 100 millions de dollars américains

Le gouvernement du Libéria et La Banque d'investissement et de développement de la CEDEAO (BIDC) ont signé le vendredi 7 décembre 2018 un aide-mémoire qui ouvrira la voie à l'octroi d'un prêt de 100 millions de dollars américains pour la réalisation de la première phase du projet de la route côtière.

La première phase, qui représente 96,6 km, débutera de Barclayville, dans le comté de Grand Kru, en passant par Sasstown, Sinoe.

Le ministre des Travaux publics, Mabutuh Vlah Nyepan, a signé pour le gouvernement libérien, tandis que MJ Doe-Weah Wallace, consultant de la BIDC, a signé pour le compte de la Banque de la CEDEAO.

Les ministres Nathaniel McGill, Samuel Tweah, Eugene Nagbe et d'autres représentants du gouvernement ont pris part à la cérémonie.

Le ministre des Travaux publics, Nyepan, a déclaré



aux journalistes au terme de la cérémonie de signature vendredi soir que le geste témoignait de l'engagement ferme de la banque à apporter une aide financière initiale à l'Etat du Libéria pour le lancement de son projet de route côtière qui lui est si cher.

Selon lui, l'engagement pris par la banque de la

CEDEAO faisait suite à une demande formulée par le Président George Weah auprès de l'institution. C'est en réponse à cette demande qu'une équipe technique de la banque séjourne depuis plus de quatre semaines dans le pays en vue de s'enquérir des réalités sur le terrain.

M. Nyepan a ajouté que la décision prise par M. Weah de

solliciter une aide au développement témoignait de sa volonté de veiller à ce que le déficit du Libéria en matière d'infrastructures routières soit comblé une fois pour toute.

Lorsque l'accord sera finalisé, ont fait savoir les autorités, la construction de la première phase de la route côtière débutera en 2019.

Le ministre des Travaux publics, dont le département est considéré comme un élément très indispensable à la stratégie de développement de ce gouvernement, a dressé la liste de plusieurs projets routiers dont les travaux sont déjà en cours. Il a mentionné entre autres la route à quatre voies entre ELWA Junction et Coca-Cola Factory, le bitumage en cours des routes communautaires et l'ouverture immédiate des routes régionales. Il a ajouté que la route entre Grand Bassa et Rivercess fait également l'objet de discussions.

A l'issue de la cérémonie de signature, le consultant de la BIDC Wallace a, pour sa part, confirmé que la présence de la mission de la banque ouest-africaine au

Libéria fait suite à une demande d'assistance formulée auprès de l'institution financière sous-régionale par le gouvernement du Libéria.

Il a déclaré qu'il resterait dans le pays pendant quelques jours après la signature de l'aide-mémoire pour compléter la signature de tous les autres documents pertinents et connaître la voie à suivre.

Lors de la cérémonie, le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, M. Tweah, a indiqué que la garantie du financement initial de la route côtière témoignait de l'engagement de l'administration Weah de tenir toutes ses promesses qu'elle a faites aux citoyens Libériens, à savoir construire des routes côtières qui relieront l'ensemble des villes balnéaires du pays. M. Tweah a salué les efforts du président Weah, qui visent à « sortir les marginalisés de la pauvreté ».

Ces efforts, selon lui, méritent d'être applaudis d'autant plus que le président Weah a pris les rênes du pouvoir du pays au moment où les aides et les subventions sont devenues rares, contrairement aux temps du régime précédent.

Les bourses d'études d'une valeur de 300 000 dollars US octroyées aux étudiants en médecine, les 4,5 millions USD débloqués pour les travaux de construction des routes communautaires, le dépôt de 3 millions USD à la banque LBDI pour les petites et moyennes entreprises du Libéria et le montant de 4 millions USD généré suite au nettoyage de la masse salariale des enseignants, voilà quelques réalisations du président en 10 mois, selon le ministre des finances.

## Afrique : Amnesty International optimiste sur la situation des droits de l'homme

Cette année, la Journée internationale des droits de l'Homme coïncide avec les 70 ans de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, ce 10 décembre. L'occasion pour l'ONG Amnesty International de publier son rapport annuel

sur la situation des droits humains dans le monde et notamment sur le continent africain.

D'extraordinaires progrès ont été accomplis ces dernières décennies en Afrique, constate l'ONG Amnesty International dans son rapport. Mais le

combat pour les droits humains est encore loin d'être gagné. L'organisation cite le cas de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) où la répression des manifestations pacifiques a fait de nombreux morts et blessés cette année.

Amnesty International cite également le Cameroun où Franklin Mowha, une figure de la société civile, a été victime, selon l'organisation, d'une « probable disparition forcée », un cas que l'organisation juge emblématique des pressions exercées par le gouvernement pour ne rien laisser filtrer de la situation en zone anglophone.

Ethiopie, Angola : leur d'espoir

Au Togo, Amnesty International dénonce l'arrestation de militants pour la démocratie, en Mauritanie, celle de militants contre l'esclavage, juste avant les législatives de septembre dernier. Ces violations des droits humains n'épargnent pas les pays anglophones et lusophones comme la Zambie ou le Mozambique.

L'organisation salue



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néanmoins des progrès en Ethiopie, où plusieurs milliers de détenus ont été libérés au 1er semestre 2018 et où l'interdiction de plusieurs partis d'opposition a été levée. Autre leur d'espoir : l'Angola,

où l'acquittement de deux journalistes de renom en juillet permet, selon Amnesty International, d'espérer une amélioration de la protection des défenseurs des droits humains.

# Français

## Projet routier : une tentative d'une ingénieuse escroquerie démasquée, le suspect aux arrêts

Le désire désespéré de l'Etat du Libéria d'obtenir des aides financières par tous les moyens pour construire des routes a failli lui faire perdre 32 millions de dollars américains. Le pays a failli se faire escroquer par un certain James Lamin Kargbo, un ressortissant sierra-léonais, qui, après avoir eu accès au code et au numéro de compte du pays auprès de la Réserve fédérale lors des discussions avec le gouvernement, a tenté de faire faire un transfert d'argent sur son compte personnel au nom de l'Etat du Libéria.

Le porte-parole de la police, Moses Carter, a déclaré à la presse que le suspect a été arrêté le vendredi 7 décembre et mis en garde à vue au siège de la police nationale du Libéria (LNP). Le suspect avait eu des discussions avec des représentants du gouvernement du Libéria. Il était question d'accorder un prêt à l'Etat du Libéria pour la construction des routes.

La volonté du président George Manneh Weah de doter le pays des infrastructures routières modernes avait poussé son administration à contacter un certain nombre de particuliers et d'entreprises. Elle avait eu des pourparlers avec Elton, une société de financement singapourienne, et EBOMA, un groupe burkinabé. Elle avait signé avec ces deux sociétés des accords de prêt de près d'un milliard de dollars américains. Mais la signature des documents n'a pas porté les fruits escomptés.

Selon la police, le suspect Kargbo a pu avoir accès au code d'accès et au numéro de compte du Libéria auprès de la Réserve Fédérale américaine grâce à des discussions que le gouvernement a eues avec lui pour le financement des projets routiers.

Toujours selon la police le suspect a été arrêté le jeudi 6 décembre vers 20 heures au ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement, à Monrovia.

"Et cela signifie donc que ce suspect avait des intentions criminelles", a dit le porte-parole de la police, avant

d'ajouter que le ressortissant sierra-léonais de 41 ans fait actuellement l'objet d'une enquête pour tentative de vol, blanchiment d'argent, fraude et usurpation d'identité, parmi d'autres infractions.

Le suspect Kargbo s'est fait passer pour le directeur général d'une société douteuse appelée MEGA Strategic Partner Limited, dont il s'est servi pour mener à bien son acte criminel.

Le Sierra-Léonais et d'autres complices à identifier ont eu une conversation avec des représentants du gouvernement via les nouvelles technologies de l'information et se sont présentés en personne au Libéria, sous le prétexte d'octroyer un prêt au Libéria pour la construction des routes, a annoncé la police. Le suspect a fait croire aux enquêteurs que sa société a accordé des prêts à un certain nombre de pays africains dont l'Égypte et la Sierra Leone, pour la construction des routes, à en croire le porte-parole de la police, qui a expliqué que c'est pendant les discussions avec le gouvernement libérien que le suspect et ses complices ont eu accès au code d'accès et au numéro de compte de l'Etat du Libéria auprès de la Réserve fédérale américaine.

Ils ont demandé à l'institution américaine qu'un virement de 32 millions de dollars américains du compte de réserve du pays soit fait sur leur compte. Mais l'argent n'a pas été transféré, selon la police. C'est ainsi qu'il est revenu au Libéria pour avoir gain de cause. Mais, malheureusement pour lui, les choses ne se sont pas passées comme prévu ; il a été arrêté au ministère des Finances et mis en garde à vue au siège de la police nationale du Libéria à des fins d'enquêtes. La police a fait part de son engagement à faire la lumière sur cette affaire et à démasquer les potentiels complices.

Les journalistes ont tout fait pour arracher quelques mots à l'accusé au siège de la police, mais celui-ci a refusé de parler.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Ian Buruma

## Il faut une deuxième chance pour la Grande-Bretagne !

NEW-YORK - Le 9 mai 1950, alors que l'Europe commençait à se relever des dommages de la guerre, le Français Robert Schuman annonçait son plan de création de la Communauté européenne du charbon et de l'acier (CECA). La mise en commun sous autorité européenne de ces matériaux indispensables à la guerre rendrait inimaginable une nouvelle guerre entre l'Allemagne et la France. La CECA était le premier pas vers l'UE ; le Benelux et l'Italie allaient s'y joindre et les Allemands étaient ravis. Peu après la déclaration de Schuman, les Britanniques furent invités à participer aux discussions.

Horriifiés et dédaigneux, ils suspectaient un complot de la France destiné à attirer un peuple pragmatique dans un projet étranger utopique. Le parti travailliste alors au pouvoir n'envisageait pas un seul instant d'abandonner une parcelle de souveraineté sur des secteurs vitaux pour le Royaume-Uni. Et il était inconcevable pour le parti conservateur qu'une puissance mondiale comme la leur se joigne à quelque chose d'aussi minuscule que la Communauté européenne. Les Continentaux pouvaient bien s'unir entre eux, mais la Grande-Bretagne resterait maître des mers, avec les autres peuples anglophones du Commonwealth et les USA.

A posteriori il est facile de se moquer des Britanniques qui ont manqué le coche européen tout en faisant preuve d'arrogance. Mais c'est quelque chose que l'on peut comprendre. Les Britanniques avec leur fière démocratie ont fait face tout seuls à l'Allemagne nazie et ont aidé les pays européens qui avaient rendu les armes. Dans ces conditions, comment leur reprocher un léger sentiment de supériorité ?

Semant la panique dans la vie politique britannique, le désastre que constitue le Brexit est déprimant, car les arguments de base contre "l'Europe" n'ont pas changé depuis 1950. Les idéologues travaillistes de Jeremy Corbyn considèrent l'UE comme un complot capitaliste visant à attenter à la pureté de leur idéal socialiste. A droite, les partisans du Brexit imaginent encore la Grande-Bretagne comme une grande puissance dont l'influence sur la scène internationale serait menacée par l'appartenance aux institutions européennes. Intervient aussi un autre type de nationalisme, davantage anglais que britannique : l'attachement romantique à une "relation spéciale" avec les USA. Malheureusement pour les Britanniques, le monde a beaucoup changé depuis 1950. Leur empire n'existe plus, le Commonwealth n'est guère plus qu'une relique sentimentale et la relation avec les USA est peut-être très "spéciale" à leurs yeux, mais beaucoup moins aux yeux des Américains.

Autre élément crucial : la Grande-Bretagne (notamment l'Angleterre) est aujourd'hui bien davantage européenne. Lorsqu'en 1950 le gouvernement travailliste a refusé de participer à la création de la Communauté européenne, certains conservateurs l'ont accusé d'avoir été trop rapide à dire Non. Etant dans l'opposition, ils ne pouvaient tenir un autre discours, mais ce n'était pas leur véritable ressenti. Ainsi que l'a écrit le New York Times à l'époque, la position du gouvernement reflétait pour l'essentiel "le sentiment des Britanniques à l'égard de l'Europe, quelle que soit leur affiliation politique".

En 1950 Londres était une ville entièrement britannique au sein de laquelle les "étrangers" constituaient une minorité distincte. Au cours des dernières décennies du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle elle est devenue la capitale officielle de l'Europe. Plus de trois millions de Londoniens sont nés à l'étranger et des centaines de milliers de jeunes Européens travaillent à Londres dans les banques, le droit, la mode, l'art, la restauration, etc. La population française de Londres dépasse celle de beaucoup de villes de l'Hexagone.

Il n'est donc pas étonnant que la majorité des Londoniens ait voté contre le Brexit. Il en a été de même de la plupart des jeunes Britanniques qui ont pris la peine de participer au référendum. La Grande-Bretagne qu'ils connaissent n'a rien à voir avec celle des années 1950.

Qui sont alors les 51% qui ont voté pour le Brexit, et pourquoi ont-ils fait ce choix ? L'idée de protéger le socialisme n'est guère séduisante, et il en est de même de l'idéal d'une souveraineté nationale totale ou du fantasme d'une Grande-Bretagne qui serait la seule grande puissance. La peur de l'immigration semble être la raison principale du vote en faveur du Brexit. Dans certains cas, c'est l'inquiétude d'une baisse des salaires due à la présence d'une main d'œuvre d'Europe de l'Est qui est à l'origine de ce vote. Mais très souvent les gens qui craignent le plus d'être "envahis" par les étrangers vivent dans des zones où les migrants sont peu nombreux.

Pourtant la plupart des Britanniques considèrent comme un fait acquis d'être soignés par des immigrés quand ils sont malades, d'être servis par eux dans les supermarchés et de bénéficier de leur aide dans les banques, les bureaux de poste, les services sociaux et les transports publics. Sans les immigrés, l'économie et les services britanniques s'effondreraient.

Certains politiciens favorables au Brexit jouent sur la peur de l'immigration. La photo la plus célèbre de la campagne pro-Brexit représentait un flot de jeunes hommes que l'on pouvait prendre pour des Arabes, avec la légende suivante : "Nous devons nous libérer de l'UE et reprendre le contrôle". En réalité la photo avait été prise en Croatie, loin des frontières britanniques.

Des partisans plus respectables du Brexit parlent davantage de souveraineté que d'immigration. Leur crainte de perte de contrôle peut être sincère. Des personnages comme Boris Johnson avec ses prétentions churchilliennes, ou Jacob Rees-Mogg qui ressemble à un personnage de second ordre d'un roman de P.G. Wodehouse, sont des anachronismes. A une époque lointaine ils auraient peut-être été à la tête d'un empire, mais aujourd'hui ce sont de simples politiciens dans un pays d'importance secondaire.

Pour eux, le Brexit est surtout un instrument illusoire pour parvenir au pouvoir au nom d'un peuple qui serait en révolte contre les élites dont ils sont eux-mêmes des membres éminents. Leur nostalgie d'un empire a déjà fait des dégâts dans le pays qu'ils prétendent aimer. Maintenant que la catastrophe potentielle du Brexit saute aux yeux, c'est une raison supplémentaire de redonner la parole au peuple pour l'éviter.

## ARTICLES

# Analysis of the Tale of Liberian Media: The High Price Journalists Paid For Press Freedom in Liberia

By: Josephus Moses Gray  
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*The Liberian media has a daunting and challenging history dating back from its formation to present, with journalists paying a high price from the brutal hands of successive authoritarians. During the heat of the civil war, journalists were divided into two groups as the belligerent forces through fierce battles succeeded splitting the country, set-up defacto governments, without reference to the Liberian constitution. But if freedom of the press is sacrificed in the name of combating societal ills, one has allowed small groups of troublemakers to destroy one of the basic foundations of a democratic society. I leave you with these lines from a great United States statesman- Thomas Jefferson's preference for "newspapers without government" over "government without newspapers" (1787)*

This article is also gives the vivid picture of the history, development, increasing complexity and successes of the Liberian media, and in other instances discusses the globe media. There is also the belief that the media hold a large amount of power and wield it in an effective manner to direct and manipulate the development of the society.

The Liberian media has a daunting and challenging history dating back from its formation to present, with journalists paying a high price from the brutal hands of successive authoritarians. During the heat of the civil war, journalists were divided into two groups as the belligerent forces through fierce battles succeeded splitting the country, set-up defacto governments, without reference to the Liberian constitution. But if freedom of the press is sacrificed in the name of combating societal ills, one has allowed small groups of troublemakers to destroy one of the basic foundations of a democratic society.

The media in some countries, especially the ones in which the leaders feared the media, for example, will not exercise the same influence as those in opened societies, the ones in which the media exercise its responsibilities and function as a free press. the media is considered as "mirror" of the modern society, in unarguably it is the media which shapes our lives and served as a conduit between the government and the people. The role of media is complex and varied, sometimes, media is viewed positively by society, although it is considered overbearing and obnoxious other times.

The press freedom took a nose-dive during the administration of President William V.S. Tubman (1944-1971) when the "strict sedition, libel and slander laws that protected government officials from most forms of criticism constrained the independent press as editors and reporters were jailed and or banned from time to time. Tuan Wreh (Read his book: *The Love Of Liberty*) was jailed by the Tubman Administration and made to parade through the principals' streets of Monrovia with fusils on his head. In 1945 the Tubman government jailed one journalist for 15 years, the longest term for any in our country.

Just like Tubman, President Charles D.B. King inflicted rusticity sty against the Liberian media but was challenged by one critic who remained a thorn in the flesh of the Tue Whig Party leadership and the military government was that "inveterate" Pamphleteer, Albert Porte (1906-1986) who from time to time sold his pamphlets on the sidewalks of the streets, attacking issues of current significance. After the passage of the 1924 law, Albert Porte clashed with King in 1929 for using government funds to build himself a private mansion.

There was some degree of press freedom under this provision until the administration of President Charles D.B. King (born in Freetown, Sierra Leone) when the National Legislature passed an anti-press freedom law on February 8, 1924 making it a criminal libel. Law makes it illegal to criticize the President of Liberia and "even if the publication were true, it could not hold water in court and therefore, the individual or publication was still guilty of libel.

"It can be recalled that the enactment of this law coincided with King's exportation of native Liberians as slaves to work on plantations on the islands of Fernando

Po. The investigation of this scandal by the League of Nations forced King out of office since slavery had earlier been abolished in the settlements.

Any person to malicious make, publish, expose for sale or to public view any writing, printing, engraving, drawing or effigy charging the President of Liberia or the Diplomatic Representatives of any foreign government with the commission of any act which, if true, would warrant a criminal prosecution against such official, with the intent in so doing to defame, degrade, revile or expose to public hatred, ridicule and contempt for any of the aforesaid officials, or to disturb the peace and friendship between any foreign government and our own.

This law, which is in contravention of the 1847 Constitution, provides a fine of \$300-\$1000 and imprisonment ranging from six months to two years for any person convicted of said offense. Best adds that this law makes it illegal to criticize the President of Liberia and "even if the publication were true, it could not hold water in court and therefore, the individual or publication was still guilty of libel."

The Liberian civil war has come and gone but the cruelties of the perpetrators of the war still remain fresh in the minds of journalists, most especially those who tasted wraths of these belligerent forces. The ordeals of Liberian journalists and their foreign colleagues can be told in different experience but similarities are much closed. Liberian journalists or media houses were no exception, they all suffered different forms of brutalities, leaving the unlucky ones dead while others faced with life time injuries.

Media practitioners and journalists operated in a risky circumstance since journalist were accused of being biased to any of the belligerent forces or the peace keepers. Liberian journalists found it difficult to operate freely for fears of stray bullet or shot intentionally, as lawlessness became very high. While journalists were battling risks posed by rebel forces, they were also encountering confrontation from some civilians, apparently owing to their dissatisfaction for certain publications.

**The Liberian media has a daunting and challenging history dating back from its formation to present, with journalists paying high price from the brutal hands successive dictators including former presidents Samuel K. Doe and Charles G. Taylor. Both men have gone down in history for inflating severe injuries and uncompromising actions against journalists and media institutions.**

## TORTURES AND BRUTALITIES

To begin with, while all eyes were anxiously glued to the mayhem and other dangerous treatments inflicted on journalists (Liberian) by the known NPFL, there were even much more gruesome and dreadful acts carried out by the LPC, INPFL, ULIMO-J and K, MODEL and LURD. For example, during the invasion and subsequent fall of Taylor's Gbarnga stronghold, ULIMO-K captured alive a renowned broadcast Journalist of the Gbarnga -ELBC Radio Station, chopped out his fingers and was later reportedly found dead. LPC which was also in a fierce contest with ULIMO-K for the control of Gbarnga captured the Bassa Vernacular Announcer Philip Yogar of the very radio station while escaping the bullets and wrath of the advancing armed bandits when he fell in an LPC's ambush.

He was searched and the station's ID card was found with him and for that, his head was placed on a solid rock and smashed to death with an axe. Again, a journalist from Gbarnga who came to Monrovia to print his newspaper, was seized by the INPFL and placed in a sealed container to be blown up with an RPG round, but through the grace of Providence, a rescue team from the NPFL's Representatives stationed in Monrovia rushed to the scene and was released upon serious negotiation.

Due to the tactical strategy adopted from the NPFL wherein journalists picked up in conflict besieged areas were incorporated into their public relation network thereafter while providing protection and some items



to feed on, are used to provide coverage for their activities as well as promulgating the usefulness of their missions. These embedded journalists, especially when LURD and MODEL collectively mounted the war theater (battlefield) purposely to capture Charles Ghankay Taylor or to see his back were very mindful not to cross the thin red line in order to avoid being branded enemy journalists or spies.

As a result, violations of their rights or encroachment on their security or wellbeing remain a faraway untold story due to little or no information simmering from those two warring factions. But let it also be made emphatically clear here that this does not mean in any way that it was all bread and butter or honeymoon for those journalists trapped in those two factions' web because while some were operating against their will, others had to swallow the bitter pills and often remain mute in the face of psychological threats just to save their own lives or those of love ones, relatives and friends.

## JOURNALISTS' DILEMMA

Reporting in conflict zone is very difficult and dangerous because as a journalist, the side you find yourself in either rebel or government controlled, well expected you to report in their favor, report only good happening, and not the ugly side. Anything on the contrary, you will be hunted. Also if you are reporting form one group controlled area and that side is overrun by the other side is a gun battle, if you are caught in the web, you either be killed or severely manhandled.

For instance, in 1994 when Charles Taylor's NPFL former stronghold of Gbarnga fell to another rebel group, there was killing even where, a local journalist was captured and all his fingers were cut off. He was forced to commit suicide. Unlike in the Western world, rebel fighters and ill-regular forces that participated in the war in Liberia do not subscribe to Geneva Convention. This poses a serious impediment for journalists to operate and report unbiased in hot spot.

Both ill-regular forces and government soldiers are in most instances feel uncomfortable with journalist because they fear for international reprisal. Government usually engages in several tactics to force journalist to report in it favor by libeling the jargon "Yellow Journalism". The world (Yellow Journalism" is being so misused by state authorities to the extent it become a household word. In a conflict area, when a journalist report the actual story of happenings, that journalist is the labeled and referred to as enemy" by the group the report is against. Sometimes, the public "lash out at journalists just the journalist do not reported exactly what they want to hear.

The experience of Liberian journalists is very worrisome, especially for those who found their selves divided between the lines of government soldiers and rebels fighters. The limitation of journalist as a result of the civil crisis, led several of them to take side with politician in supporting their cause.

*To be Continue*

# War crimes Court

By Winston W. Parley

Deputy Defense Minister for Operations Mr. Ernest Vafee has warned of unintended consequences that will evolve when a War Crimes Court is established here, saying it is not just accountability for war victims.

“Are you considering for example Nimba, a riot that breaks up in Nimba, with the military that we [have] now, if riot breaks up in Nimba, another riot breaks up in Bomi, another riot breaks up in Grand Gedeh as a result of whatever decision we’re going to take ... do we as a country, have the capacity to deal with multipronged riots?” he asked Monday, 10 December in Monrovia.

Minister Vafee’s comments come at a time Liberians are divided on a call to establish a War Crimes Court to hold war criminals to account for atrocities committed during the brutal civil war here in the 90s.

The current regime of President George Manneh Weah is not in support of the



Court being established now, and sitting Nimba County Senator Prince Yormie Johnson who controlled a dreaded breakaway rebel faction Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) is a lead opponent to establishing the court.

“When you are considering the War Crimes Court, you

should do what we call a cost - benefit analysis,” Minister Vafee said at the Ministry of Defense where defense correspondents were beginning a two day training session on Monday, 10 December.

With the current military, he asks if Liberia has the capacity to deal with

multi-pronged riots (riots taking place at several points), saying what happens if for example riots broke up in Nimba, Bomi and Grand Gedeh Counties as a result of whatever decision taken.

He clarifies that he is not against the establishment of War Crimes Court, but he is recommending that a cost benefit analysis is done that will help one to understand the security implications associated with the decision.

He argues that laws are made for the preservation of societies, noting that when a law threatens the existence of a society, that law should be extracted out.

Minister Vafee continues that he wants this to be contextualized and a complete picture is given of what will happen when the court is established.

He emphasizes that accountability for war victims is good, but he insists that accountability of victims that “threatens your very existence must be looked at keenly.”

He wonders if the millions of dollars associated with running of a War Crimes Court here could be given for the improvement of the military so that it can buy boats to patrol the waters and improve personnel’s livelihood and build roads.

Minister Vafee recalls how during the Ebola crisis here, soldiers were put in harm’s way and made sacrifices, adding that “our” reading of history should be able to tell what has been the positive benefit or the cost associated with all of what is being talked about here.

“For us what worries us, if the people are hungry, people are not taking pay, when there is an epidemic, it concerns us,” he says.

Over 250,000 Liberians were estimated killed and others forced into exile in the civil war that broke out in the 90s, and next crisis that forced sitting President Charles Taylor leaving Liberia for exile in 2003 also resulted to bloodshed.

## Dubious road investor

By Winston W. Parley

arrested at 8PM on Thursday, 6 December at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in Monrovia.

“And so it tells you that this suspect has been treading criminally,” he says, adding that the 41 year old Sierra

person in Liberia under the canopy of giving Liberia a grant for road construction, the police say. He told investigators that he has been giving grant to other African nations including Egypt and Sierra Leone for road construction.

Police narrate that while these discussions were going on between Kargbo and the Liberian Government, the suspect and his cohorts criminally got access to the country’s swift code, Liberia’s account number at the Federal Reserve.

They requested for a transfer of US\$32 million from the country’s reserve account to be credited to an account owned by them. But the money was never credited into their account, according to the police. In an attempt to further dupe the government, suspect Kargbo again arrived in Liberia and engaged the government in an attempt to further negotiate.

It was at this time that police say he was arrested at the Ministry of Finance and placed under investigation.

Efforts were made by journalists to get comment from the accused at the police headquarters, but he refused to

speak to the allegations, saying the prosecution will tell.

Police say they take the investigation very seriously and will ensure that Kargbo and his accomplices are duly investigated.



James Lamin Kargbo

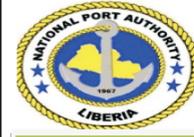
Leonean national is being investigated for attempted theft, money laundering, fraud and impersonating officials, among other offenses.

According to police, suspect Kargbo is running a dubious company named MEGA Strategic Partner Limited that he uses to carry out the act.

The Sierra Leonean along with other accomplices to be identified has been having conversation via electronic media as well as appearing in

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**NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY**  
FREEPORT OF MONROVIA  
BUSHROD ISLAND  
P.O. BOX 1849  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



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NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY OF LIBERIA

### NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY (NPA) FREEPORT OF MONROVIA REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (REP) RESTRICTED TO LIBERIANS OWNED BUSINESSES (SBA)

1. The Government of the Republic of Liberia through the National Port Authority intends to apportion part of its revenue for Fiscal Years 2018/2019 towards the hiring of a Land Surveying Firm to survey approximately 500 acres of land located at the port area, Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County, R.L. under the contract Package **IFB NO. NPA/SBA/QBCS/004/ 18/19**.
2. The Authority now invites eligible and registered Land Surveying Firms to submit their Request for Proposals in providing the surveying services. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services by submitting their detailed information (brochures, past performance records, references of similar assignments executed in recent past). They must also provide description of work experience both general and on similar assignments. More details on the services are provided in the Terms of Reference.
3. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Securing Declaration Form.
4. Qualification requirements include:
  - I. Articles of Incorporation
  - II. Valid Tax Clearance
  - III. Valid Business registration Certificate
  - IV. Must be duly registered with PPCC (Vendor List)
5. Interested consultancy firms may obtain copy of the bidding document from the Procurement Department for a non-refundable fees of **US\$51.50** beginning 19 November 2018 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 P.M, Mondays through Fridays.
6. Sealed Bids must be delivered to the Procurement Department not later than 11:00 A.M. on 11 December 2018. Late bids will be rejected and returned to the bidders unopened. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders who choose to attend or their representatives on 11 December 2018 at 11:30 A.M in the National Port Authority Conference Room.

The address referred is:  
The Procurement Department  
National Port Authority, P. O. Box 1849  
Freeport of Monrovia,  
Bushrod Island

**Tel: +231-886 - 523 - 531 – nyanwayman@gmail.com**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**MANAGEMENT**

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# Dubious road investor hooked

**-Gov't US\$32m nearly landed in wrong hands**



James Lamin Kargbo

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's desperation for loans to finance road projects nearly robbed the country of US\$32 million through talks with dubious Sierra Leonean national James Lamin Kargbo that criminally got access to

the country's swift code and account number at the Federal Reserve, demanding transfer of US\$32 million.

Briefing journalists about suspect Kargbo's arrest on Friday, 7 December at the Liberia National Police (LNP) headquarters, Police

Spokesman Moses Carter said the suspect has been engaged with government dubiously in the name of providing grant to the government for road construction.

President George Manneh Weah's quest for roads across Liberia has pushed his administration into engaging a number of individuals and companies, including the signing of nearly a billion dollar agreement with controversial Singaporean financing firm Elton private limited and Burkinabe group EBOMAF which are yet to bring results.

Police say suspect Kargbo's engagement with government led to the suspect getting access to the nation's swift code and account number at the Federal Reserve, thereby requesting money from the Federal Reserve.

Police Spokesman Moses Carter says suspect Kargbo was



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## Public Service Announcement

The New Dawn will take its usual annual break beginning December 24, 2018 to return on the newsstand immediately January 4, 2019. We thank our many loyal readers and subscribers for standing by us in 2018 despite a rather tough business climate. We look forward to a very peaceful and prosperous New Year. Merry Christmas.

The Management

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**#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#**