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The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

VOL. 9 NO. 025

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00



Mr. James Verdier

Sacked!

Creeping censorship

-As House denies Independent media access



Speaker Chambers



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Continental News

South Africa funeral firm to sue pastor for 'resurrection stunt'

Zambia police charge MP with hate speech for 'Indian jibe'
Former Zambian minister and a leading critic of President Edgar Lungu "They are made up to try to get money from the hopelessness of our people."

'Tricked' three companies
Three funeral companies who say they were manipulated by the "scheme" are now taking legal action for damage to their reputation.

Kingdom Blue, Kings & Queens Funeral Services and Black Phoenix told local media that church representatives tricked them in different ways.

"Alleged family members of the deceased" told the Kings & Queens Funeral Services they had had a "dispute with a different funeral service provider".

The customers also allegedly placed "Black Phoenix stickers on their private car" to look credible to Kings & Queens Funeral

Services when they went to hire a hearse from them. National debate The coffin, the funeral directors say, was acquired from Kingdom Blue.

Pastor Lukau's church, Alleluia Ministries International, has not responded to the BBC's request for comment.

The Sowetan news site

reports that the church has since backtracked on its resurrection claim, saying the "dead" man was in fact "already alive" when he was brought to the premises in Kramerville.

Pastor Lukau had only "completed a miracle that God had already started", Alleluia International Ministries is quoted by The Sowetan as

saying.

The BBC's Milton Nkosi says the video has sparked a national debate on fake pastors and had been widely condemned by established religious groups. However some South Africans have taken to social media with the hashtag #ResurrectionChallenge to see the funny side. BBC



Pastor Alph Lukau (in blue) claims he brought this man back to life

Zambia police charge MP with hate speech for 'Indian jibe'

Authorities in Zambia charged a prominent ruling party MP, Chishimba Kambwili, with hate speech on Monday for allegedly telling an ethnic Indian worker he was stealing local jobs.

Kambwili, a fierce critic of President Edgar Lungu, allegedly told an Indian-origin road worker that his occupation should be reserved for indigenous Zambians.

A clip purporting to show

the incident went viral on social media last week, prompting the government to issue a rebuke.

Kambwili, 49, attended Lusaka central police station on Monday, supported by opposition leaders including United Party for National Development (UPND) leader Hakainde Hichilema.

Kambwili's supporters chanted anti-government songs denouncing official corruption. "Police in Lusaka

have arrested and charged Chishimba Kambwili with expression or showing hatred, ridicule or contempt for persons because of race, tribe or place of origin," said police spokeswoman Esther Katongo in a statement.

Kambwili, who was briefly minister of information and broadcasting, was denied bail and is expected to appear in court on Tuesday.

Lungu has been accused of using the legal process to suppress his critics. In 2017, Hichilema was arrested and charged with treason after his motorcade apparently failed to stop for the president's own road convoy.

Hichilema said the denial of bail demonstrated what he called Lungu's authoritarian instincts.

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"We as Zambians must know that we have a tyrant in office. Leadership of tyrants have not stayed in power for too long. Don't be afraid as Zambians and let us unify to remove these tyrants," he said.

"Kambwili is not a flight risk and the police should have

Nigeria president extends election lead

President Muhammadu Buhari has extended his lead as votes are being counted in Nigeria's general election, amid allegations of manipulation.

Mr Buhari has won 13 of Nigeria's 36 states, while his rival Atiku Abubakar has taken 11 states and the capital, Abuja.

As results came in, Mr Abubakar's People's Democratic Party (PDP) alleged that there have been irregularities.

Party chair Uche Secondus called the count "incorrect and

with voting on Saturday, but no independent observers have suggested fraud.

Mr Buhari, a member of the governing All Progressives Congress (APC) party, is seeking re-election but faces a strong challenge from Mr Abubakar. Each party says the other is working with the Independent National Electoral Commission (Inec) to influence the vote, which was initially scheduled for 16 February but delayed at the last minute. In turn, the federal government accused



unacceptable".

He said there had been an "attempt by the government and other agencies to manipulate the result", but did not give any evidence.

After the results from 24 states and the capital had been declared, Mr Buhari had a 1.5 million-vote lead, but the results from the states in the south-east, the PDP heartland, had not yet been announced. The EU, US and African Union have all expressed concern about delays and logistical problems

accorded him bond (bail). This thing should come to an end and as Zambians we have to unite," Elias Chipimo, another

the PDP of trying to "scuttle the polls" and prompt a constitutional crisis.

The initial vote was postponed early on 16 February, five hours before polls were due to open. Voters were also choosing members of the House of Representatives and Senate.

Most of the country was calm but there were reports of attacks by the Boko Haram Islamist militant group in the north, and voter intimidation and attempts to steal ballot boxes. BBC

opposition leader, told journalists.

If convicted Kambwili faces up to two years' jail. AFP



Former Zambian minister and a leading critic of President Edgar Lungu

EDITORIAL

Looming media censorship

WHAT COULD BE interpreted as a calculated plan to clampdown on legislative reporters at the Capitol especially in the House of Representatives is emerging here, with unforeseen consequences. Last week, the House revoked the accreditations of four reporters from various media institutions, including the president of the Legislative Reporters Association, Musa Kanneh.

THE PRESS BUREAU at the House justifies its decision by saying some reporters have overstayed at the legislature and their reportage has become redundant and repetitive, making no impact on the public. Therefore, it asks media entities concerned to withdraw their current staff and assign new batch of reporters.

VOID OF ETHICAL breach, who determines how long should a reporter stay at a beat? Surely, it's not the public institution that is being covered, such as the Legislature or the House of Representatives. Rather, this choice squarely lies with editors in the newsroom.

BUT THE DIRECTOR of the Press Bureau at the House, one-time broadcast journalist Isaac G. Redd, missed his cord and wrongly influenced his boss, Speaker Bhofal Chambers, in taking the decision, raising more questions than answers. This has prompted one of the affected media institutions, Renaissance Communications Incorporated or RIC, operator of Truth FM 96.1 and Real Television Channel 7 to reject the request and rebuke the House for rejecting its reporter, Musa.

AS IF THIS weren't enough, accredited legislative reporters, predominantly from independent or private media institutions, who had gone to provide coverage for Tuesday's session at the House of Representatives, were denied access into the Chamber on the basis of lack of seat. Notwithstanding, journalists from the state-owned Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS), Liberia National Television (LNTV) and the Liberia News Agency (LINA) received unhindered access to the House Chamber.

JOURNALIST REDD AND Speaker Chambers should know that the 54th Legislature is a public institution and the media or reporters have "Qualified Privilege" under media law to cover officials as they conduct the public business. Therefore, selecting specific media entities to cover the House's session is pure censorship of the press.

SUCH DRACULAN AND repressive tactics had never happened before at the First Branch of Government, particularly the House of Representatives. Public officials shouldn't hide behind such cloudy and flimsy excuses to clampdown on the media for its reportage.

IF THE SPEAKER and members of the House's leadership or any lawmaker feels he or her right has been infringed upon by a journalist or media entity, the recourse is the law. But stopping journalists from executing their job purely because of disagreement or dislike of their reportage is unorthodox and uncivilized.

AT THE SAME time we do not encourage the media to report falsehood or malign character of public officials and go with impunity. The law provides redress for any official, who feels his right has been violated by media institutions. And lawmakers should always seek due process guaranteed by the Constitution.

THE CURRENT ACTIONS in the House against journalists should be halted immediately because they are counterproductive to the government's professed commitment to press freedom and free speech, including the recently passed Kamara A. Kamara Act, protecting press freedom. Accredited journalists and media institutions operating in the country should have unhindered access to the workings of the Legislature in order to effectively report to the public on that august body, void of prejudice.

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Joschka Fischer

Will Germany Permit Joint European Security?

In an institution as large and complex as the European Union, there will always be blame to go around when efforts to deepen economic and political integration fail to get off the ground. But when it comes to developing a joint EU defense capability, it is clear where the problem lies.

BERLIN - US President Donald Trump has proved truly disruptive to the transatlantic relationship. His questioning of America's mutual-defense commitments presents NATO with an ominous and potentially existential crisis. The US security guarantee, after all, is one of the two pillars upon which European peace and prosperity have rested since the end of World War II. And nor has Trump spared the second pillar: the rules-based global trade system and economic order.

Just two years after Trump's election, Europeans find themselves shivering alone in the icy winds of international politics, rightly wondering what is to be done. It stands to reason that Europe must deepen its internal bonds, close ranks, and strengthen its military capacity. Some might question whether this is what Europeans truly want, given that we are living in the age of Brexit, which will deprive the European Union of its second-strongest military and economic power.

But just because the British don't seem to know what they want doesn't mean the rest of Europe is in the same boat. In fact, most Europeans favor a stronger, more powerful EU with a joint security policy.

The big exception is Germany. As the EU's economic engine and most populous member state, there can be no joint security policy without the country that sits at the very heart of Europe. But it is an open question whether achieving joint European security with Germany's participation is even possible.

Europeans must not allow wishful thinking to obscure important facts, as happened when the European Monetary Union was being formed in the 1990s. From the start, there were pronounced differences between individual member states not only with respect to economic and fiscal policy, but also in terms of political culture and mentality. Nonetheless, willful ignorance prevailed, and the monetary union was launched without the integrated political institutions that such a project requires.

The EU must not make this mistake again. Today, the main fact that cannot be ignored is that a joint security policy will require a compromise between Germany and France, the two largest and most powerful member states. Such a compromise will not come easily. The two countries' political mentalities, historical narratives, and geopolitical interests are simply too far apart, and in many cases diametrically opposed. Still, owing to its particular history, Germany poses the bigger obstacle, even if its official rhetoric suggests otherwise.

For its part, France's traditional self-image reflects its long history as a great European power, even if that era - and Europe's global dominance generally - has passed. As a nuclear power and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, France views its military actions and arms exports not as moral failures but as the prerogatives of a world

power conducting foreign policy.

The genius of Charles de Gaulle was to claim the status of a victorious power for his country after World War II. Doing so invited French citizens to forget the Vichy regime, the defeat by the Nazis in 1940, and the internal political rifts of the 1930s. It was thanks to de Gaulle that France maintained its historical course.

The same cannot be said for Germany. During the twentieth century, Germany made two bids for European hegemony and world domination, and the price it paid was its own destruction, to say nothing of Europe's. Its sense of historical continuity was demolished in 1945, at which point its culture and traditions were devalued and its territorial integrity destroyed. Germany became synonymous with aggression, terror, and genocide.

Postwar Germany abandoned military-based power politics and foreign adventurism, and concerned itself primarily with economic development. Germans simply saw no other way to gain reentry to the democratic West, let alone reclaim political sovereignty. This strategy culminated in the reunification of East and West Germany in 1990.

With the shift away from power politics in 1945, Germans on both the left and the right became pacifists. And to this day, many Germans remain deeply and emotionally committed to neutrality, despite many decades of European integration and NATO membership. This has been particularly true in the post-reunification period, owing in no small measure to America's security guarantee and willingness to manage the dirty business of power politics on Germany's behalf. But this cozy division of labor, like the American-led postwar order, came to an end with the election of Trump.

A German return to traditional power politics certainly has its risks. But the alternative is to maintain the status quo and forego a joint EU security policy. A policy consisting of more than lofty words necessarily implies a deepening of political integration in the name of European sovereignty. Without common export rules, for example, there can be no meaningful cooperation on European armaments development, let alone more far-reaching and ambitious projects.

Germans are currently engaged in an intense debate over defense spending, which must rise to 2% of GDP by 2024 to meet the country's NATO commitments. Given the foreseeable geopolitical risks on the horizon, in the absence of a joint EU security policy, German defense spending would have to rise even higher to make up for the US's withdrawal from Europe.

Needless to say, Germany's rearmament on its own would raise many questions and historical concerns. Rearmament with and for Europe and NATO, however, would be a completely different matter. One way or another, Europe must grow stronger. It is in everyone's interest that Germany be productively engaged in that process.

O-PED

By Jeffrey D. Sachs &
Francisco Rodríguez

How to Avoid a War in Venezuela

NEW YORK - One month after Juan Guaidó, the speaker of Venezuela's National Assembly, said he was assuming the powers of the Venezuelan presidency, currently held by Nicolás Maduro, the country's political crisis remains far from over. Tensions have escalated to the point that a full-blown civil war - a seemingly implausible scenario just weeks ago - is now becoming increasingly possible. At least four people died and hundreds were injured in violent clashes at Venezuela's borders last weekend as government forces opened fire on an attempt by the opposition to bring aid convoys into the country.

The Maduro regime is authoritarian, militarized, and ready to kill civilians to maintain power. The society is bitterly divided between the revolutionaries inspired by Hugo Chávez, Maduro's predecessor, and a large and aggrieved opposition. Each side despises the other. The question is therefore a complex and practical one: what to do to help guide Venezuela away from civil war and toward a peaceful and democratic future?

On this great challenge, US President Donald Trump's administration has gravely miscalculated. When the United States chose to recognize Guaidó as Venezuela's president - along with a group of Latin American countries - and ban oil trade with the Maduro government, it was betting that the pressure would be sufficient to topple the regime. As a former senior US official told the Wall Street Journal, "they thought it was a 24-hour operation."

This type of miscalculation predates the Trump administration. In mid-2011, President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad must "step aside." Similarly, in 2003, George W. Bush declared "Mission Accomplished" shortly after the US invasion of Iraq. All of these cases reflect the arrogance of a superpower that repeatedly overlooks local realities.

Maduro's ability to withstand intense US pressure is not a surprise to close observers of Venezuela's military. The centralized structures of command and control of military intelligence, as well as the personal interests of senior officers who control major chunks of the economy, make it highly unlikely that the army will turn on Maduro. US provocation might create a schism between military commanders and more junior officers, but that would only make the plunge into a bloody civil war more likely. To date, there have been no defections among high-ranking officers with direct control of troops.

Faced with the prospect that regime change will not come quickly, the Trump administration and some parts of Venezuela's opposition have begun seriously considering military action. Echoing language recently used in a speech by Trump, Guaidó wrote on Saturday that he would formally request the international community to "keep all options open." Similarly, Republican Senator Marco Rubio, who has acted as a self-appointed guru for Trump on Venezuela, warned on Twitter that Maduro's actions had opened the door to "multilateral actions not on the table just 24 hours ago."

Actually, these ideas appear to have been on Trump's mind for some time. As former acting FBI director Andrew G. McCabe revealed recently in his book *The Threat*, Trump said in a 2017 meeting that he thought the US should be going to war with Venezuela. McCabe quotes Trump as saying: "They have all that oil and they're right on our back door." The comments echo Trump's 2011 statement that Obama let himself get "ripped off" by not demanding half of Libya's oil in exchange for US help in overthrowing dictator Muammar el-Qaddafi.

US military interventions are not driven only by economic and business interests. Being tough on Maduro is also highly popular with many Cuban-American and Venezuelan-American voters in Rubio's home state of Florida, which will be a key battleground in the 2020 presidential election.

Advocates of US military intervention regularly cite the cases of Panama and Grenada as precedents for rapid US-led regime change. Yet, in contrast to those two countries, Venezuela has a well-armed military of more than 100,000 soldiers. Of course, the US could defeat the Venezuelan army, but one need not be blind to the atrocities of authoritarian regimes to understand that, as has happened repeatedly in US wars in the Middle East, attempts to overthrow such regimes often end in catastrophe.

Even without military intervention, US sanctions policies, if sustained, are bound to create a famine. By cutting off Venezuela's oil trade with the US and threatening to sanction non-US firms that do business with Venezuela's state-owned oil company, the Trump administration has created one of the most punitive economic sanctions regimes in recent history. But rather than provoking a coup, economically isolating a country that essentially feeds itself with its oil export revenues could lead to mass hunger instead.

Venezuela's neighbors and world leaders must put aside the US military option. Venezuela needs mediation leading to new elections, not war. It also needs an urgent, interim period of political truce in 2019 to end the devastating hyperinflation, restore flows of foodstuffs and medicines, and reconstitute the electoral rolls and institutions for a peaceful and credible election in 2020.

A pragmatic approach might involve the current government continuing to control the army, while technocrats backed by the opposition take control over finances, the central bank, planning, humanitarian relief, health services, and foreign affairs. Both sides would agree to a timeline for a national election in 2020, and to an internationally supervised demilitarization of daily life, with a restoration of civil and political rights and physical security in the country.

The United Nations Security Council should oversee such a solution. Chapter VII of the UN Charter gives the Security Council the mandate to "determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression" and to take actions to "restore international peace and security." The Security Council is also the right venue pragmatically, as the US, China, and Russia all have financial and political interests in finding a peaceful solution in Venezuela. All three countries could readily agree to a path to elections in 2020. Encouragingly, Pope Francis and the governments of Mexico and Uruguay have also offered to help facilitate mediation to find a peaceful way forward.

Trump and other US leaders say that the time for negotiation has passed. They believe in a short, quick war if necessary. World leaders - and those in Latin American countries first and foremost - should open their eyes to the risks of a devastating war, one that could last for years and spread widely.

OPINION

By Michael Spence

Stock Buybacks Are the Wrong Target

MILAN - The surge in stock buybacks in the United States has sparked a high-stakes debate about what corporations can and should do with surpluses they have generated. It is a topic that raises fundamental questions about the role of the public and private sectors in securing inclusive growth patterns.

The debate kicked into high gear recently when US Senators Bernie Sanders and Chuck Schumer wrote an article arguing that corporations should be investing more in employees and the community, rather than buying back stock. They then declared their intention to introduce legislation that would prohibit corporations from buying back their own stock unless they invest in workers first, say, by raising their minimum wage to \$15 per hour or offering paid sick leave.

Sanders and Schumer - and many others - are concerned that surpluses or rents are being allocated entirely to shareholders, who tend already to be among the top 10% of income earners. At a time of rising inequality and stagnant wages, investing more of that money in lower-earning workers seems a better option than lavishing more wealth on the wealthy.

But Benn Steil and Benjamin Della Rocca from the Council on Foreign Relations have serious reservations about the logic of Sanders and Schumer's argument. Based on data showing that buybacks are larger among firms with lower rates of return on capital, they concluded that the capital markets are functioning properly, because the money being returned to investors eventually ends up in higher-return investments. If the government tries to block share buybacks, they argue, corporations are likely to respond by parking the cash in treasuries, thereby recycling capital through an inferior channel.

The practice of recycling capital from low-return uses to other low-return uses - such as through bank lending to troubled enterprises, in order to prevent write-downs and resolve capital-adequacy issues - emerges in periods of financial stress. But it is known to have serious adverse effects on productive investment, because it reduces credit support for healthy enterprises with real growth potential.

There is, however, a more fundamental issue at stake here. Sanders and Schumer seem to want to push publicly traded corporations and capital markets to move faster and more aggressively toward a multi-stakeholder model of corporate governance, rather than the long-dominant shareholder-value model.

There is much to be said for the multi-stakeholder model, and some corporations are already moving toward it. But using legislation to force the change may turn out to be neither practical nor effective. It certainly won't solve the problem of wealth inequality. After all, even in a multi-stakeholder world, shareholders are among the stakeholders.

Achieving inclusive and sustainable growth patterns will require corporations and the financial sector to align their business models and strategies more closely with broadly shared economic and social objectives. This process will be an exercise in creativity. It must begin with values and clarity of purpose (as BlackRock's Larry Fink has emphasized), and proceed via experimentation and innovation. Multidimensional measures of economic and social progress, which are already being developed, will go a long way toward supporting such action.

International experience strongly suggests that this process goes most smoothly when business, the financial sector, government, labor, and the education sector all participate. Indeed, without the engagement of the business and financial sectors, barriers to inclusive, sustainable growth will be difficult, if not impossible, to overcome.

Imposing the multi-stakeholder model of corporate governance, or pieces of it, by regulation would sabotage such cooperation. By sending the signal that adverse trends in distribution can be laid mostly that the doorstep of the corporate and financial sectors, this approach promotes an adversarial relationship between government and business. Whatever the political advantages of vilifying a particular sector, they are dwarfed by the disadvantages of blocking effective partnerships that, say, facilitate skills upgrading in a rapidly shifting employment landscape.

To meet the twin challenges of rising wealth and income inequality and a rapidly shifting labor market, government must act as a coordinator of collaborative efforts and partnerships: participants will be willing to make greater contributions if they are confident that complementary inputs are forthcoming. Income support - of the kind that only government can provide - is also vital to give people and families the resources, time, and security to invest in themselves.

When it comes to altering the wealth distribution, the tax system is best suited to the task, assuming that a consensus is forged to use it that way. Many economists (including me) believe that a minimum wage of \$15 per hour is a good idea. If there is enough political support, it should be legislated; it should not be slipped in through the back door. To alter the distribution of income, the tax system could also be used, along with measures to bolster the bargaining power of labor.

True, some versions of the multi-stakeholder framework of corporate governance may enhance labor's influence and help shift the income distribution in the longer term. To be effective, however, the model would need to be implemented as part of a voluntary, cooperative, adaptive learning process. Micromanaging that process would create rigidities in what must be a highly dynamic environment.

The good news is that in every sector, people and organizations - including governments - are engaged in cooperative efforts. And there is useful experience in a range of developed democracies. These "coalitions of the willing" are solving practical problems and rebuilding a sense of social cohesion. But there is a long way to go. Ever-deepening collaboration, not political antagonism, is what will get us there.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MONTSERRADO COUNTY
IN THE CIVIL LAW COURT, SIXTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTSERRADO
COUNTY, SITTING IN ITS DECEMBER
TERM OF COURT A.D. 2018

BEFORE HIS HONOR YUSSIF D. KABA.....RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE

Morris Sekou McGee of Monrovia, Liberia

PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

Randa Bennah Mcgee of Dulluth GA. USA

DEFENDANT

ACTION OF DIVORCE
FOR INCOMPATIBILITY OF
TEMPER

WRIT OF SUMMONS

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, TO THE SHERIFF FOR MONTSERRADO
COUNTY, R.L. OR ITS DEPUTY;
GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SUMMONS THE ABOVE NAMED
DEFENDANT, TO APPEAR BEFORE THE CIVIL LAW COURT, SIXTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, SITTING IN ITS
MARCH, A.D. 2019 TERM OF COURT AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 IN THE
MORNING, SAME BEING THE THIRD MONDAY IN MARCH, A.D. 2019,
TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT OF THE ABOVE NAME PLAINTIFF.
THAT UPON HER FAILURE, JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE
RENDERED AGAINST HIM

YOU ARE FUTHER COMANDED TO NOTIFY THE SAID DEFENDANT
TO FILE HER FORMAL APPEARANCE AND OR ANSWER IN MY
OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE 15 DAY OF Jan A.D. 2019
MEANWHILE YOU WILL RETURN THE ORIGINAL WRIT OF SUMMONS
TO MY OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE 25th DAY OF Jan A.D., 2019
WITH THE OFFICIAL RETURNS ENDORSED ON THE BACK OF THE
ORIGINAL AS TO THE MANNER OF ITS SERVICE.

AND HAVE THERE TIS WRIT OF SUMMONS

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL
THIS 15th DAY OF Jan; A.D. 2019

COURT SEAL

AFFIDAVIT

Personally appearance before me a duly qualified Justice of the Peace,
for and in Montserrado County, at my office in the City of Monrovia, Ruth
Jappah, Counsellor-at-Law, and one of counsels for Plaintiff in the above
entitled cause of action and made oath according to law that all and
singular the allegations of both law and facts as set forth and contained in
the annexed plaintiff's complaint are true and correct to the best of her
knowledge and belief, and as to those matters of information, she verily
believes them to be true and correct.

Sworn and Subscribed to before
Me in my office in the city of
Monrovia, Liberia this 15 day of
Jan A.D. 2019

Ruth Jappah
Deponent/Counsellor-at-Law

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINT

Plaintiff in the above-entitled cause of action most respectfully prays this court and your Honor for a
decree, granting divorce from his wife, for cause shows reasons as follows:

- 1. That after six (6) months of marriage and living in peace and harmony, their marriage deteriorated
to the extent that living with the Defendant became so strained and dangerous due to abusive
and violent behavior by the Defendant against the Plaintiff when she on several occasions
attacked him with knife thereby threatening the Plaintiff life that he was left with no choice but to
separate.
- 2. That the differences between Plaintiff and the Defendant have become irreconcilable up to filing
of this action, which makes it impossible for them remain married.
- 3. WHEREFORE, AND IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, Plaintiff prays this Honorable Court for a
Decree, dissolving their marriage and declaring them two separate and distinct persons, both in
law and equity, as if they were never married, and grant unto Plaintiff such other and further relief
as the law directs.

Police presence at Jallah Town election

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Liberia National Police (LNP) supervised Sunday's community leadership election in Jallah Town, a slum community in Monrovia.

Police took charge of the venue of the election after some disgruntled residents from rival parties threw stones at poll workers.

Armed police officers prevented supporters of rival candidates from entering the polling center in a bid to enable electoral staff conduct free, fair, and transparent election.

with the counting process.

Election commission chairman, Lordwin Newland, told reporters that he and his team had no special interest in any of the candidates, but to ensure Jallah Town community has new corps of leaders thru peaceful and transparent elections.

Five candidates, including Alfred T. Bombo, Patrick Karmu, Peter Wo, Lawrence Yonmah and Blama Sarmor contested for the chairmanship, while Ernest Wilson, Garbo Francis, Prince J. Saywah and Wilfred Robert vied for the post of youth leader, respectively.



Jallah Town Community Chairman-elect, Garbo Francis

Unidentified residents threw stones at police officers, reporters, party observers and election officers, but no injury was reported.

The situation caused delay in counting ballots after the poll, compelling the police to further push back those who had encircled the election premises.

While the tallying of ballot papers was in progress at about 10:00 PM, unidentified persons cut-off power source to the polling premises thereby, halting the entire process. But poll workers hurriedly turned on their personal phone light and continued

At the end of the entire process, Mr. Patrick Karmu was elected chairman with a total of 264 votes against his rivals who had 205, 171, 141, and 255 votes respectively.

Candidate Garbo Francis won the post community youth chairman receiving over 300 votes against fellow challengers with 246, 176 and 299 votes respectively.

The election was witnessed and supervised by representatives from the National Elections Commission (NEC) and local observers. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

TransAtlantic Africa Investment Consultants Liberia Limited (TRANSAT AFRICA)
24th Street, Airfield Shortcut Road Sinkor

SURVEY NOTICE/ANNOUNCEMENT

The national Port Authority (NPA) has requested, authorized and hired the Transatlantic Africa Investment Consultants Inc., to provide and conduct Land Re-surveying services for the Port of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. The quantity of available land that will be re-surveyed is seven thousand four hundred (7,400) acres, located within the entire Buchanan Port land area.

The surveying services will assist the National Port Authority (NPA) review and ensure quality assurance, making use of information gathered from the re-survey to determine the relative position of the land space available for extended port operations as well as ware-housing activities. The Field work will include Perimeter Survey and location of details and infrastructure.

The survey will commence at 10:00am, Thursday, March 7, 2019 and will continue and cover period of six (6) weeks. Therefore, all property owners, port users, concessions, companies, County and local authorities, Local Communities, occupants, etc., are requested to be present with their deeds, diagrams, and all relevant documents to support and substantiate their claims; and are also required to take note and give their fullest cooperation for the successful outcome and result of the re-survey exercise.

Signed by: George Ashton Wreh, Survey Engineer

Approved by: [Signature], Acting General Manager, Transatlantic Africa Investment consultant, Inc.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia voices disadvantage at UN, ECOWAS

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Mr. Andy Quamie has voiced out the disadvantage the country faces at the United Nations and ECOWAS Volunteering Programs during a meeting in Monrovia that focuses on youth volunteering and development.

"I was discussing ... a few minutes ago that Liberia is at disadvantage in the UN Volunteering and maybe ECOWAS Volunteering," Mr. Quamie said Tuesday, 26 February at the Royal Grand Hotel.

His observation comes at a meeting of representatives from the ECOWAS Commission, United Nations Volunteers Program (UNV) and the United Nations Office for South - South Cooperation (UNOSSC) that discusses ways of strengthening an existing partnership among these three institutions.

The ECOWAS Volunteers Program (EVP) was initiated by the ECOWAS Commission on 5 November 2004, following which a partnership was signed with the UNV in 2005.

The two - day meeting in Monrovia is the first between



the ECOWAS Commission and the UNV since the partnership was signed in 2005 under the EVP.

At the meeting, Quamie expresses hope that these discussions will continue to come to Liberia to enable the country to take advantage of them.

In his inquiry regarding what can be done better for Liberia to be considered around the world to volunteer, Mr. Quamie

says he is told that it depends on the country's case, adding that a country has to pay for its national volunteers that could lead to their selections if it is shown that they are volunteers.

Mr. Quamie assures that efforts will be made in negotiating with government to ensure that responsibility is taken to pay for Liberian volunteers to do some national volunteering with the UN or

ECOWAS offices here.

"We will see how we can also negotiate with the government to take some responsibilities to pay for their volunteers to do some national volunteering with the UN office here, maybe with the ECOWAS offices and other volunteering in Liberia," Mr. Quamie announces.

Presenting Liberia's case at the meeting, Mr. Quamie laments that "we" have serious issue with "risk youth," referring to young folks here called Zogoes.

He expresses fear that if these young people are just taken directly to a vocational school or youth development program without including recreation program, things might not go well.

Earlier, ECOWAS Commissioner for Industry and

Private Sector Mr. Mamadou Traore says a Memorandum of Understanding and a cost - sharing agreement was signed between the UNV and ECOWAS Commission in 2005.

But he says it has not been recommissioned to effectively establish the EVP with technical support and funding from the UNV and the African Development Bank.

However Mr. Traore expresses hope that the retreat in Monrovia will not only provide framework, but also come up with new ideas ... and mutually beneficial cooperation among the UNV, ECOWAS Commission and UNOSSC.

Mr. Traore hopes that the retreat will provide the ground for heightening collaboration and development of new templates for a three - party South - South arrangement among UNV, ECOWAS Commission and the UNOSSC in the areas of youth migration, youth entrepreneurship, education, scholarship, gender development and volunteerism, among others.

For his part, Mr. Benedict D. Roberts, head of ECOWAS National Office and Chair of the ECOWAS Coordinating Council of EVP Liberia says the single most important instrument - the Memorandum of Understanding - that binds them together and determines the roles individuals play will also be a subject of discussion at the meeting.

Mr. Roberts encourages all participants to contribute to make their gathering at the Royal Grand Hotel a fulfilling one.

11 students injured in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

11 students are reported injured while jumping through windows in panic following an alarm that fire disaster was emerging while the Bong County Technical College (BCTC) building was allegedly crushing on them during an exam.

Our correspondent in the county says it was a scene of fear at the BCTC campus on Tuesday, 26 February when students who were already seated to commence an exam

began jumping through windows from first and second floors of the building out of fear.

It was rumored that there was an outbreak of fire and the building in which the students were due to take exam was also collapsing.

But our correspondent adds that the alarm that caused students to panic and flee at risky directions was not confirmed when scores of them began running for their lives, leaving 11 persons injured.

Of the 11 wounded students, four have been treated and discharged by Medical Doctors at the Phebe Hospital, according to the College's Executive Administrative Officer Dr. Andrew S. Allakamenin.

Among those injured are two pregnant women, one of whom has been discharged. Other victims are still undergoing medication.

An unidentified student who jumped from the second floor of the building sustained major injury both from the leg and the neck and has undergone surgery.

Meanwhile, Dr. Allakamenin told reporters in the county during an impromptu press conference that the remaining seven students are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

"We heard some of our friends shouting, oh there is fire! And following that, we all started escaping to save our lives," Peter F. Jackson of the Nursing Department told this paper.

He says it is actually a sad day especially for the students who sustained major injuries.

"For me I was almost like losing hope when we started running. But when I observed that the situation was becoming serious, I kept

moving and with no other alternative, I only jumped through one of the first floor windows and unfortunately there was a broken bottle under my feet," Patience Suah Jallah, an agriculture student from Lofa County explains.

"I firstly wanted to jump from the third floor but I was scare so when I came at the second floor, I jumped," student Jallah concludes.

The BCTC Administration expresses regrets over the situation and promises to ensure the treatment of the students.

The Liberia National Police Bong Detachment and the

College's private Securities have launched an investigation to establish the actual cause of the situation.

Our correspondent who covered the situation says this is not the first time for such thing to happen.

It can be recalled that years back, some students sustained injuries as a result of rumors that the building was breaking.

But at that time, an investigation established that it was mixed cement that fell from contractors who were working on the third floor of the building.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



#Stop prioritizing foreign businesses over Liberian businesses!#

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Citizens welcome parties' collaboration

By Lewis S. Teh

Many Liberians are supportive of a collaborative pact by four opposition political parties here to stand against President George Manneh Weah's governing Coalition for Democratic Change in future elections, including the impending midterm senatorial election in 2020 and the 2023 presidential and representative elections, respectively.

The former ruling Unity Party (UP), the Alternative

"We want to applaud the four political parties for their time in taking such a wonderful decision; we think this decision will inspire the rest of the politicians to form a coalition so as to reduce the number of political parties during election period."

Also speaking to this paper, a resident of Caldwell Township, Montserrado County, Lawrence Kiazolu, similarly welcomes the collaboration among the four parties, but notes that such decision should have been

the suffering masses is something that needs a strong collaboration from the opposition to help redeem the people from abject poverty they are undergoing in the country.

Another resident of Montserrado County, Massa Kamara welcomes the collaborative framework, but urges the parties to put the interest of the citizens above every other interest.

"To form a coalition, it really doesn't matter; I think what matters to us here is the issue of addressing this economic hardship that [has] taken over our country."

She says the formation of the new coalition should bring joy or put an end to the suffering of the Liberian people, saying, "We all are aware of how the first coalition is treating us."

Last Thursday, leaders of four opposition political parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding, pledging to step up efforts that would lead to formation of a united front to challenge the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) at the polls in 2023.

The intention marks a very early start in what promises to be a challenging 2023 electoral period.

However, the ruling Coalition dismisses the parties involved as insignificant.

The vice chairman of the governing council of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change for Democratic (CDC), Chief Cyril Allen says leaders, who are in the forefront of the so-called collaboration have no trade-mark politically, noting that some have failed in their respective fields of study, and are instead, running to politics for survival. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



National Congress (ANC), Liberty Party (LP) and the All Liberian Party (ALP) signed a collaboration framework last Thursday in Congo Town, suburb of Monrovia to present a common front.

In an exclusive interview with The New Dawn Monday, February 25, an official of the current administration, who refused to be identified, says the decision taken by the four parties is welcoming and necessary for the growth of Liberia.

taken long time ago, something, he says would have stopped the CDC from taking state power.

"This is what we expected from our politicians, to come together and form a coalition; with this, we think it will ease the burden on the government from spending more [money] on printing election materials and other things", he says.

According to Kiazolu, the economic hardship the CDC-led government has brought on

Ja'neh wants

Starts from back page

maintained that the claim that their client allegedly manipulated the Supreme Court to rule in his favor in the property case questions the credibility of Chief Justice Korkpor who serves as the head of the Supreme Court and also signed the very ruling that is one of the counts against the Associate Justice.

There was a motion for the Chief Justice to rescue himself from presiding over the impeachment trial of Justice Ja'neh because he too was allegedly conflicted by signing the judgment in Madam Constance's case which favored Justice Ja'neh.

But the Chief Justice dramatically rejected the motion filed to demand his recusal from the impeachment trial.

He argued that Article 43 of the Constitution gives him the right to preside over impeachment proceedings when the president, vice president or associate justice is to be tried.

In filling the motion to dismiss the Bill of Impeachment this week, Justice Ja'neh's lawyer Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson argues that Article 43 of the 1986 Constitution provides that the Legislature shall prescribe the procedure for impeachment which shall be in conformity with the requirement of due process of law.

Cllr. Johnson maintains that Chapter 5, captioned 'the Legislature,' Article 29 of the Constitution provides that the legislative power of the Republic is vested in the Legislature of Liberia which consists of the Senate and a House of Representatives.

He insists that the law requires that the both houses "must pass on all legislations."

"Accordingly, when the Constitution requires the Legislature to prescribe the procedure for impeachment, to conform with the

requirement of due process of law, the Constitution contemplated that both Houses, Senate and Representatives, must prescribe the rules or procedure for impeachment," Cllr. Johnson states.

On the contrary, Cllr. Johnson argues that the two Houses of the Legislature have not enacted the procedure for and to govern impeachment proceedings, thus rendering his client's impeachment as premature, illegal and invalid.

In alleged violation of the mandatory requirements prescribed by Article 29 of the 1986 Liberian Constitution, Cllr. Johnson says the Senate, on 16 November 2018 also adopted purported rules for the impeachment trial of Justice Ja'neh.

Cllr. Johnson complains that Senators unilaterally amended Rule 63 of the Senate's Standing Rule, designed to be the procedure to govern the impeachment trial for the removal of his client Justice Ja'neh from office.

"Movant submits that this act by the Senate was unconstitutional because Article 43 of the Liberian Constitution ... mandates that the rules or procedure governing impeachment must be adopted by both Houses of the Legislature in a single document," Cllr. Johnson continues.

He says it was not the contemplation of the Constitution of Liberia or the framers of the Constitution that the Senate would amend its Standing Rules that govern the Senate's day-to-day activities to provide for the procedure for the conduct of an impeachment trial of a public official. "Hence, the amendment of Rule 63 of the Senate Standing Rules violates Article 43 of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia," he concludes.

Hell breaks loose at LNP

-No National ID, no salary

By Nathaniel T. Briggs
(UL Mass Communications Dept.)

Officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP) risk forfeiting their monthly salary without valid national identification cards, as the LNP administration has set the national ID as precondition for disbursement of salary.

The pronouncement was made thru the LNP Human Resource Department to all sectional heads at the National Police Headquarters in Monrovia.

No police officer is allowed to receive salary check unless

such officer presents a valid identification card from the Center for National

Identification in Oldest Congo.

Police spokesman Moses Carter confirmed the information, but did decline to elaborate.



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Officers are to also submit their National ID card to the Finance Department to have their names processed through the LNP account.

As a direct result of the situation, dozens of LNP personnel were seen Tuesday at the offices of the Center for National Identification Card in Congo Town to acquire their identification cards.

Some personnel of the LNP had initially overlooked the pronouncement, not until they

were denied their salary check.

Besides the LNP, other ministries and agencies of government have also set the national identification card as precondition for salary disbursement.

This paper gathers that the decision by the Government of Liberia (GOL) is to ensure ghost names currently on the payroll are removed. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Français

Procès en destitution : Le rôle du juge en chef est illégal (opposition)

Le rôle du juge en chef Francis S. Korkpor dans le procès en destitution du juge adjoint Kabineh M. Ja'neh est illégal, c'est ce qu'indique plutôt le leader politique du Parti de la liberté (LP), Me Charles Brumskine.

« Le Libéria et le monde entier sont consternés par le fait que le Président de la Cour suprême de la République descend du haut des plus hautes instances de la Cour constitutionnelle et se précipite dans les ténèbres de notre époque pour présider un procès en destitution inconstitutionnel au Sénat », a affirmé Brumskine.

Récemment, le juriste libérien a déploré que le rôle du juge en chef Korkpor de présider la procédure de destitution soit dépourvu de tout fondement juridique.

Le procès en destitution en cours au Sénat a amené M. Brumskine à conclure que les problèmes de gouvernance auxquels le pays est confronté ne relèvent pas seulement de la présidence, mais également des



Chief Justice Korkpor



Cllr. Brumskine

dirigeants des autres pouvoirs de l'Etat.

« Les règles qui rendraient le procès constitutionnel ne sont pas encore approuvées par les deux chambres de l'Assemblée législative, pourtant le procès continue », se lamente M. Brumskine.

L'une des causes du procès en destitution du juge associé Ja'neh a trait à un conflit foncier opposant ce dernier à une citoyenne ordinaire qui se

nomme Annie Yancy Constance.

Les législateurs accusent Ja'neh d'avoir abusé de son pouvoir en usant de son influence en tant que juge associé pour obtenir de la Cour suprême une décision favorable en vue de prendre possession de la terre qui faisait l'objet de litige.

Mais les avocats de Ja'neh ne cessent de marteler que l'affirmation selon laquelle

leur client aurait manipulé la Cour suprême pour statuer en sa faveur dans l'affaire de terre remet en question la crédibilité même du juge en chef Korkpor, qui préside la Cour suprême, et qui a également signé la décision pour laquelle le juge Ja'neh est poursuivi aujourd'hui.

Une requête visant la récusation du chef du pouvoir judiciaire du procès du juge Ja'neh pour conflit d'intérêts présumé pour avoir signé le jugement aujourd'hui mis en question

par le parlement avait été déposée par la défense.

Mais le Juge en chef a rejeté cette requête, sous le prétexte que l'article 43 de la Constitution lui conférait le droit de présider la procédure de destitution lorsque le président, le vice-président ou un juge associé devait être jugé. Selon lui, aucune partie de la

constitution ne dit qu'une personne d'autre peut présider en l'absence du juge en chef.

Mais le candidat malheureux aux trois dernières élections présidentielles du Libéria, Me Brumskine, a laissé entendre que certaines personnes croient que le Libéria ne changera pas de sitôt, donc elles cherchent à aggraver la situation en s'intégrant au système corrompu.

« Pour faire avancer le pays », indique Me Brumskine, « La locomotive nationale doit accepter d'abord personnes âgées et jeunes, faibles et plus forts, femmes et hommes, lettrés et analphabètes, riches et pauvres. Et ceci n'est qu'un premier pas du long voyage. Il ne faut pas chercher à créer une autre classe politique et exclure la pleine participation du peuple libérien ».

La politique doit viser à réaliser les aspirations du peuple, ajoute-t-il, et ne devrait pas être une question de réaliser les rêves de grandeur de chaque homme politique.

Me Brumskine a ainsi exhorté les citoyens à travailler ensemble pour faire la différence, car le Libéria a besoin d'aide. « Notre tâche ne consistera pas seulement de critiquer, mais aussi de parler avec les trois pouvoirs de l'Etat.

Oui, dialoguer avec eux sera difficile, car cela ne fait pas partie de notre culture politique », a-t-il conclu.

Le ton incendiaire d'un animateur radio inquiète la communauté internationale

La communauté internationale s'est inquiétée vendredi de la prolifération des "provocations" dans les médias et sur les réseaux sociaux au Libéria, où un célèbre présentateur radio s'en prend avec virulence au président George Weah, dans un pays hanté par une guerre civile (1989-2003) qui a fait

quelque 250.000 morts. Les Nations unies, l'Union africaine et la Cédéao ont publié cette mise en garde après qu'un présentateur radio vedette, Henry Costa, a à plusieurs reprises fustigé le chef de l'Etat dans ses émissions. "Je vais recruter quelques anciens rebelles qui me sont loyaux et je leur achèterai des armes

(...) C'est comme ça que les gouvernements tombent", a notamment déclaré l'animateur. Sans citer M. Costa, les trois institutions "condamnent les messages sur les médias qui menacent la paix et la stabilité du Libéria", relevant qu'ils se sont "intensifiés au cours des derniers jours et semaines".

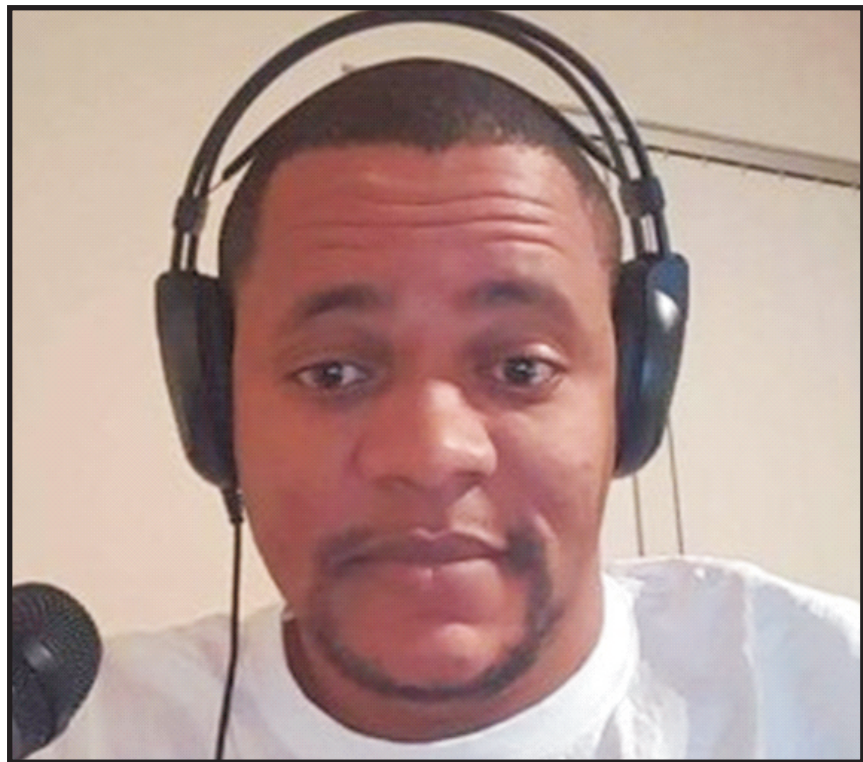
Les trois organisations internationales se disent "encouragées" par l'adoption par les deux chambres du Parlement d'une nouvelle loi sur la liberté de la presse, en attente de promulgation par le chef de l'Etat, mais soulignent que la liberté d'expression "doit s'exercer de manière responsable". Dans un même ordre d'idée, l'association des journalistes libériens en Amérique (ALJA) estime que "les commentaires parfois incendiaires et insultants de M. Costa à l'égard du président peuvent être contreproductifs et créer un environnement hostile inutile".

De son côté, le Comité pour la protection des journalistes (CPJ), organisation basée aux

États-Unis, a appelé les autorités libériennes à enquêter au sujet de deux attaques ayant selon M. Costa visé sa radio, Roots FM. Selon lui, des hommes armés se sont introduits dans ses locaux le 31 janvier et le 11 mars et coupé des câbles ou volé du matériel de transmission, l'obligeant à interrompre temporairement ses programmes.

Ancienne star du PSG et du

Milan AC, George Weah est devenu le président de ce pays pauvre d'Afrique de l'Ouest en janvier 2018. Quatre de ses anciens adversaires ont renouvelé jeudi leur alliance, forgée entre les deux tours de l'élection présidentielle, promettant d'unir leurs forces pour vaincre le parti de M. Weah aux sénatoriales de 2020 et à la présidentielle de 2023. Par Africa No 1.



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Français

Éditorial

Encore faut-il que les partis politiques de l'opposition fassent preuve de sincérité

Joseph Boakai, candidat malheureux à la dernière présidentielle et leader politique de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, le Parti de l'unité, a tout dit lorsqu'il exhorte ses collègues de la coalition quadripartite à faire preuve de « sincérité et d'honnêteté, d'audace et de détermination » dans leur volonté d'arracher le pouvoir au président George Manneh Weah de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) aux élections présidentielles de 2023.

Les dirigeants du Parti de l'unité, de l'Alternative National Congress, du All Liberians Party et du Parti de la liberté doivent comprendre que l'honnêteté, la sincérité, l'audace et la détermination sont indispensables à leur mission sacrée de débarrasser et de protéger la République du Libéria de l'inaptitude, de la mauvaise gouvernance, de la violation constante de la Constitution, de la corruption et de l'effondrement éventuel.

Il ne faut pas que les dirigeants considèrent la signature du cadre de collaboration de jeudi dernier comme un simple effet d'annonce, car cela nuirait gravement au bien-être du peuple libérien et à la postérité.

Nous pensons que pour atteindre leurs objectifs, chaque parti de la coalition émergente devrait mettre de côté ses ambitions égoïstes et d'œuvrer à la réalisation de l'objectif commun, qui consiste à prendre le pouvoir par le biais des urnes afin d'améliorer les conditions de vie des populations.

Ce n'est pas le moment de jouer, car il y a beaucoup de travail à faire. Premièrement, les dirigeants des partis respectifs devraient immédiatement commencer à éduquer et à sensibiliser leurs partisans respectifs au combat qui consiste à collaborer pour un objectif commun. Nous craignons que le cadre ne reste sans effet si les dirigeants n'inculquent pas cela dans la tête de leurs partisans.

Lors de la cérémonie de signature officielle qui a eu lieu le jeudi 21 février au siège de l'ancien parti au pouvoir à Congo Town, les partis ont convenu, entre autres, d'élaborer un programme sur lequel ils collaboreront afin de défendre l'intérêt commun et supérieur de la nation.

Ils s'engagent également à mettre un accent particulier sur la question du bien-être des populations en ne permettant pas à leurs différences politiques et leurs ambitions personnelles d'enrhumer cette coopération.

Ils veulent aussi procéder de manière ouverte et cohérente dans leur collaboration sur toutes les questions relatives au bien-être des populations qu'ils représentent et avoir une position nationale commune.

Le travail doit commencer dès maintenant et non demain, si l'on veut que cette collaboration soit une réussite. Il est indispensable que les partis politiques de l'opposition se considèrent comme un gouvernement potentiel en attente. Qu'ils commencent à élaborer une feuille de route qui mettra en exergue les grandes lignes de leur gouvernance si le pouvoir de l'Etat leur est confié.

En d'autres termes, la dynamique ne doit pas uniquement consister à renverser le régime actuel, mais à s'efforcer sincèrement d'améliorer le Libéria, tant pour les générations actuelles que les générations futures. L'objectif ultime devrait être le peuple.

À moins que les partis politiques de l'opposition et leurs dirigeants mettent en place une nouvelle base de réflexion et sortent de leurs petits coins pour travailler sincèrement à l'avenir contre toute attente pour le futur du Libéria, le mariage ne sera plus qu'un effet d'annonce, où chacun sera à l'affût pour son avenir, sa sécurité personnelle et son intérêt personnel, en lieu et place du plus grand bien commun.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Joschka Fischer

L'Allemagne va-t-elle autoriser une politique de sécurité et de défense commune ?

BERLIN – Le président américain, Donald Trump s'est révélé vraiment perturbateur envers la relation transatlantique. Sa remise en question des engagements de défense mutuelle avec l'OTAN présente une crise grave et potentiellement existentielle. La garantie de sécurité des États-Unis, après tout, est l'un des deux piliers sur lesquels reposent la paix et la prospérité depuis la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Trump n'a pas épargné le second pilier non plus : le commerce et un système économique mondial fondés sur des règles.

Seulement deux ans après l'élection de Trump, les Européens se retrouvent seuls, battus par les vents glacés de la politique internationale, à se demander à juste titre ce qu'ils doivent faire. Il va de soi que l'Europe doit approfondir ses relations internes, serrer les rangs et renforcer sa capacité militaire. Certains pourraient se demander si c'est ce que les Européens veulent vraiment, étant donné que nous traversons l'ère du Brexit, qui va priver l'Union européenne de sa deuxième puissance économique et militaire.

Mais le seul fait que les Britanniques ne semblent pas savoir ce qu'ils veulent ne signifie pas que le reste de l'Europe est dans le même bateau. En fait, la plupart des Européens sont favorables à une UE plus forte et plus puissante avec une politique de sécurité commune.

La grande exception est l'Allemagne. L'Allemagne étant le moteur économique et l'État membre le plus peuplé de l'UE, il ne peut pas y avoir de politique de sécurité commune sans ce pays qui se trouve au cœur même de l'Europe. Mais c'est une question ouverte de savoir si la réalisation de la sécurité européenne commune avec la participation de l'Allemagne est encore possible.

Les Européens ne doivent pas laisser des vœux pieux obscurcir les faits importants, comme ce fut le cas lorsque l'Union monétaire européenne était en train de se former dans les années 1990. Dès le début, il y a eu des différences marquées entre les États membres individuels non seulement en ce qui concerne la politique économique et budgétaire, mais également en termes de culture politique et de mentalité. Néanmoins l'ignorance délibérée a prévalu et l'union monétaire a été lancée sans les institutions politiques intégrées qu'un tel projet exige.

L'UE ne doit pas commettre cette même erreur à nouveau. Aujourd'hui, le principal fait qui ne peut pas être ignoré, c'est qu'une politique commune de sécurité va nécessiter un compromis entre l'Allemagne et la France, les deux plus grands et plus puissants États membres. Un tel compromis ne sera pas facile. Les deux pays ont des mentalités politiques, des récits historiques et des intérêts géopolitiques simplement trop divergents et dans de nombreux cas diamétralement opposés. Néanmoins, en raison de son histoire particulière, l'Allemagne représente le plus grand obstacle, même si son discours officiel laisse croire le contraire.

Pour sa part, l'autoreprésentation traditionnelle de la France reflète sa longue histoire de grande puissance européenne, même si cette époque - et la domination mondiale de l'Europe en général - est révolue. En tant que puissance nucléaire et membre permanent du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies, la France considère ses actions militaires et ses exportations d'armes non pas comme des fautes morales, mais comme les prérogatives d'une puissance mondiale dans la conduite de sa politique étrangère.

Le génie de Charles de Gaulle a été de prétendre au statut de puissance victorieuse pour son pays après la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Cela a invité les citoyens français à oublier le régime de Vichy, la défaite par les Nazis en 1940 et les clivages politiques internes des années 1930. C'est grâce à de Gaulle que la France a maintenu son cap dans l'histoire.

On ne peut pas en dire autant de l'Allemagne. Au cours du XX^{ème} siècle, l'Allemagne a tenté deux fois d'exercer son hégémonie sur l'Europe et de dominer le monde. Mais le prix à payer fut sa propre destruction, sans parler de celle l'Europe. Son sens de la continuité historique a été démolé en 1945, date à laquelle sa culture et ses traditions ont été dévaluées et son intégrité territoriale détruite. L'Allemagne est devenue synonyme d'agression, de terreur et de génocide.

L'Allemagne d'après-guerre a abandonné sa politique de puissance militaire et d'aventurisme hors de ses frontières, pour s'intéresser principalement au développement économique. Les Allemands n'ont trouvé aucun autre moyen pour réintégrer l'Occident démocratique et pour recouvrer leur souveraineté politique. Cette stratégie a abouti à la réunification de l'Allemagne de l'Ouest et de l'Est en 1990.

En abandonnant de la politique au pouvoir en 1945, les Allemands de gauche et de droite sont devenus pacifistes. Et à ce jour, de nombreux Allemands restent profondément et émotionnellement engagés envers la neutralité, malgré plusieurs décennies d'intégration européenne et leur adhésion à l'OTAN. Cela a été particulièrement vrai durant la période qui a suivi la réunification, en grande partie grâce à la garantie de sécurité de l'Amérique et à sa volonté de gérer les affaires sales du pouvoir politique de l'Allemagne son nom. Mais cette division du travail, tout comme l'ordre d'après-guerre sous la direction des États-Unis, ont pris fin avec l'élection de Trump.

Un retour à la tradition politique de la force comporte certainement ses propres risques. Mais l'autre choix possible consiste à maintenir le statu quo et à renoncer à une politique de sécurité et de défense commune de l'UE. Une politique faite de davantage que de nobles paroles implique nécessairement un approfondissement de l'intégration politique au nom de la souveraineté européenne. Sans règles d'exportation communes, par exemple, il ne peut y avoir de coopération significative sur le développement de l'armement de l'Europe, sans parler de projets plus ambitieux et à plus grande portée.

Les Allemands sont actuellement engagés dans un intense débat sur les dépenses de défense, qui doivent être à hauteur de 2 % du PIB d'ici 2024 pour répondre à leurs engagements envers l'OTAN. Compte tenu des risques géopolitiques prévisibles à l'horizon, en l'absence d'une politique de sécurité commune de l'UE, les dépenses de défense allemandes devraient augmenter pour compenser le retrait des forces américaines de l'Europe.

Il va sans dire que le réarmement de l'Allemagne par ses propres moyens soulèverait de nombreuses questions et préoccupations historiques. Cependant, un réarmement avec et pour l'Europe et l'OTAN serait complètement différent. D'une manière ou d'une autre, l'Europe doit se renforcer. Il est dans l'intérêt de tous que l'Allemagne s'engage de manière productive dans ce processus.

FEATURE ARTICLE

In Order to Seriously Confront Terrorism in South Asia, Address Pakistan's Malign Activities

By Max Bone and Abdul Nejrabi

On February 14, twenty-year-old Adil Ahmad Dar drove a vehicle laden with explosive into a convoy carrying security personnel in Indian-administered Kashmir. The collision resulted in an explosion that killed forty security personnel and the attacker himself. This responsibility for this attack was immediately claimed by Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), a terrorist organization based in Pakistan. JeM has a long, and detailed history of carrying out attacks against organs of the Indian government, and citizens of India, having done so in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. Yet, JeM's leader and founder, Masood Azhar, who is on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's list of most wanted terrorists, lives as a free citizen in Pakistan. This immediately led to the government of India stating that Pakistan was at most the orchestrator behind the attack, and at the very least complacent in it. Evidently, Pakistan has vociferously denied such allegations and has condemned the attack. However, this is not the first, nor will it be the last time that such acquisitions are leveled against Pakistan.

Pakistan has a long, and detailed history of both supporting, and granting safe-haven to terrorist groups. One must simply examine the past three decades worth of history in the country's neighbor, Afghanistan. In the mid-1990s, when the Taliban, which is now one of the largest terrorist networks in the world was founded, Pakistan's Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) provided support for its leader Mullah Omar. As the Taliban began to wage war against the internationally-recognized government, the ISI of Pakistan only increased its assistance to the terrorist group. Once the Taliban gained control of the majority of Afghanistan, Pakistan became one of only three countries to recognize its barbaric rule as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. As international concern grew regarding the Taliban harboring transnational terror networks in its territory in the late 1990s, Pakistan neglected to use its influence over the Taliban to expel terror networks such as Al-Qaeda. In fact, Pakistan only increased its assistance to the Taliban. This is underlined by the fact that in 2001 Pakistan was providing hundreds of advisors, and military personnel to the Taliban.

In 2001, following the successful removal of the Taliban from Afghanistan by the United States in cooperation with the Northern Alliance, its leader, Mullah Omar relocated to Quetta, in the Baluchistan province of Pakistan. Despite the commitments made to the international community by then-president of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan did not act to effectively eliminate the Taliban if it attempted to regroup. Ironically, organs of the Pakistani government, particularly the ISI, provided indispensable assistance for the Taliban that allowed the organization to regroup; allowing it to launch an insurgency into Afghanistan in 2004. In fact, a NATO study published in 2012 concluded that the assistance provided by the ISI was imperative for the rejuvenation of the Taliban in the early twentieth centuries just as it was for the group's original formation at the end of the previous century.

Through the mid-2000s up until this moment, organs of the Pakistani government have continued to support the Taliban. While lesser than the level that it was at the beginning of the century, the ISI of Pakistan continues to assist the Taliban. In particular, it continues to provide the group with funding, and safe haven in the tribal areas of



northwestern Pakistan. In short, the Taliban is given a lifeline of support by a country that is classified as a major non-NATO ally by the United States. It is imperative to note that this assistance is not directed by the civilian government of Pakistan, but by the all-powerful military and intelligence services that control the real levers of power in the country. As the international community, and in particular the United States embarks on an attempt to broker a peace agreement between the Taliban and the Afghan government it is imperative to examine the role that Pakistan will undoubtedly play in it. To that point, it is necessary to assess the likelihood that all organs of the Pakistani government will abide by the commitments that the civilian government of Pakistan may, or may not agree to.

One of the core aspects of the Pakistani ethos is an all-encompassing opposition to, and phobia of its neighbor, the Republic of India. This phobia originates from the process by which both Pakistan and India gained independence from the British empire. The British decided that its colony, the Raj, would be divided into two countries; one for Hindus and Sikhs and one for Muslims. The division of the territories was predominantly done on a provincial basis, yet three provinces were divided at the level of districts. This resulted in violence, with each group attempting to kill off the other in various districts. This has led to a fundamental distrust and hatred between the two countries. Specifically, notable swaths of the Pakistani citizenry believe that India does not accept the country's right to exist. Therefore, they are under the impression that India has the desire to isolate and invade the country. Thus explaining the motives of Pakistan to support terrorist groups carrying out attacks against India.

The phobia of India possessed by swaths of the Pakistani government also has a sizable effect on the country's western neighbor, Afghanistan. For decades, Pakistanis have feared that India seeks to gain a "foothold" in Afghanistan that they can use to target their country. Further, Pakistan is currently in a long-running dispute with the Afghan government in Kabul regarding borderlines between the two countries. These two motives have led Pakistan to partake in activities that have inflicted incalculable damage on the stability of Afghanistan. One of the main ways Pakistan works to destabilize Afghanistan is by funding Islamic education centers, or Madrassas

in rural areas across the country. These Madrassas are staffed by radical Imams, who rail against the internationally recognized government of Afghanistan in Kabul, claiming it is nothing but an "American Puppet." The radical message conveyed in such Madrassas has compelled an unquantifiable amount of young Afghans, and Pakistani youth alike to join an array of terrorist organizations, the largest of which is the Taliban. Further, the ISI of Pakistan continues to provide assistance to the Taliban in the form of safe-havens and resources.

Evidently, Pakistan vociferously denies all allegations levied against it regarding its support for terrorism. Further, throughout the twenty-first century, Pakistan has committed to working alongside its international allies to eliminate terror groups from the country. However, history is an indicator that this is nothing but cheap rhetoric from the civilian leadership of the country. Time and again, Pakistan's lifeline of support for terrorist organizations operating in both India and Afghanistan has been proven. Despite the words, and potentially genuine commitment of the elected government of Pakistan to eliminate terror networks from the country, it is evident that organs of the Pakistani government will continue to do so. In short, the ISI and military establishment of Pakistan have the desire, and ability to continue providing support to terrorist networks that are carrying out attacks in India, and destabilizing Afghanistan.

As the international community attempts to facilitate a peace process between the Taliban and the Afghan government, it is critical that the issue of Pakistan is addressed. Even if the civilian government of Pakistan, currently led by Prime Minister Imran Khan, helps facilitate dialogue between the two parties and is party to a peace agreement, it is not indicative of the entirety of the government that he claims to lead. In short, the role of the ISI and the support that it provides to the Taliban must be sufficiently addressed and dealt with if the international community ever hopes to see a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

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Creeping censorship at the Legislature

By Bridgett Milton

A new phenomenal is emerging at the House of Representatives with accredited journalists from independent media institutions being denied access to the chambers to cover regular session.

Several accredited journalists were on Tuesday, February 26, prevented from covering the session of the House of Representatives under the pretext of lack of seating capacity.

The decision comes barely few days after that body revoked the

accreditation of four Legislative reporters, including the President of the Legislative Reporters Association or LEGISPOL, Musa Kenneh, for their reportage.

In his letter announcing the revocation last week, the director of press at the House Isaac G. Reed, said as a matter of improving relationship with



media institutions and inviting quality to the output of coverage to the public and the Legislature, they have adopted a policy to infuse new reporters and remove those who were redundant and

repetitive in their reportage.

He said they have observed over past time that some reporters have overstayed at the Capitol and adapted a redundant style of reportage, repeating one thing over and

over that does not make any sense to the public, so based on feedback, they took the decision to revoke accreditation of four reporters.

On Tuesday, assigned reporters had gathered to provide coverage for the session, but shockingly, they were prevented by security assigned at the Chambers of the House of Representatives.

A guard at the entrance of the Chamber told this paper he had received straight instructions to only accept four assigned reporters along with two representatives from IREX and the United States Embassy, near Monrovia.

Media institutions allowed to cover Tuesday's session included the State Broadcaster ELBC, the Liberia News Agency, and Prime FM along with representatives from the House of Representatives Press

Bureau.

Independent media institutions such as The New Dawn, News Public Trust, The Hot Pepper, OK FM, Truth FM, Capitol Times Newspaper, The Inprofile Daily and Frabric Radio, among others.

Meanwhile, the affected reporters are calling for intervention of the Press Union of Liberia and international partners to ensure journalists are not restricted or discriminated against in the discharge of their duties.

They said the latest posture by the House is a clear contradiction to the recently passed Kamara A. Kamara Act, protecting Press freedom. The Law was passed enacted by both chambers of the Legislature and is currently before President George Manneh Weah for signature and printing into handbill. -
Editing by Jonathan Browne

Sacked!

Cllr. James Verdier has been sacked. The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) Chair received the marching order on Tuesday, February 26, days after he wrote what appear to be a demeaning response to a request by the office of the president to furnish it with the list of public officials who had filed their assets declaration.

A brief communication issued by the office of the President Tuesday, instructs Cllr. Charles Gibson to take over LACC as Officer-In-Charge (OIC) "until further notice."

Cllr. Gibson, was President George Weah's first pick to head the country's Justice Department but allegations of fraud force the president to

with draw his appointment.

However, President Weah as per the communication has instructed Cllr. Gibson to ensure adherence to Section 10.1(d) of the National Code of Conduct.

The provision referenced states that "Every Public Official and Employee of Government involved in making decisions affecting contracting, tendering or procurement, and issuance of licenses of various types shall sign performance or financial bonds and shall in addition declare his or her income, assets and facilities prior to office and thereafter; (d) upon retirement or resignation."

The directive suggests that Cllr. Verdier will now have to declare his exit assets as per

the above mentioned provision of the code of conduct.

Cllr. Verdier's office and the office of the Minister of State have had exchanges of communications over the battle for assets declaration, with the former appearing to dish out a lesson.

This came days after President Weah told a BBC interview that his assets have not been made public to the Liberian people because "he wants to protect his children's privacy."

The President's interview was followed by an interview with the LACC Chairman, Cllr. James N. Verdier Jr., who indicated that the integrity institution has not been given the necessary support to function.

This may have apparently erupted the cloud of smoke on Thursday February 19, 2019 when the Executive Mansion wrote the LACC requesting the agency to furnish the office of the President with the list of all individuals within government who have declared their assets as required by law.

But Cllr. Verdier responded in a manner like providing a tutorial for the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs.

He told McGill that the president already had what the Minister of State was requesting.

As per the tune of his response, it appears that Cllr. Verdier knew he was not going to be reconsidered for the LACC top job as his tenure comes to an end.



Residents petition superintendent, CEO

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Educational Districts have petitioned the Office of the County Superintendent and the County Education Officer to help improve the County's educational system.

Reading the petition on behalf of the Citizens recently, student Dorris Dolo of the Nathaniel Varney Massaquoi High School in Gbarnga, says they have observed with deep concerns the current deplorable state of the educational system in the county.

Our correspondent says the citizens outlined infrastructure, insufficient furniture for classrooms and offices, limited trained and qualified teachers in the classroom, limited textbooks, libraries, lack of laboratory, very poor supervision and lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms as some of the major challenges facing the Liberian educational sector.

According to the petitioners, in July 2018 the Community Development Research Agency (CODRA) conducted series of engagements with educational stakeholders to identify challenges within the school system in Liberia.

The petitioners recall that the engagement included physical valuation on school facilities, meetings with school authorities and educational administrators at both the districts and County levels in other to identify challenges within the school system in Liberia.

During these engagements, the petitioners say education emerged as the leading priority for socio-economic transformation, along with the economy and roads.

Further, the citizens say the Liberia Accountability and Voice Initiative (LAVI) conducted a political economic analysis on the educational sector in July 2017 which identified poor teaching system and poor classroom management as root causes for problems faced by the Liberian education system.

According to them, these challenges are complex and require a coordinated approach at multiple levels for improvement of the system.

Receiving the petition on behalf of the County, Bong County Acting Superintendent Anthony Boakai Sheriff lauded the citizens for their farsightedness in recognizing some of the challenges facing the county educational system.

Commenting on the construction of a modern library in the county, Mr. Sheriff says the November 2018 County Council Sitting, a sum of US\$75,000.00 was allocated for the construction of a modern library in Gbarnga.

The Acting Superintendent calls on the citizens to remain calm, assuring that he will do everything possible to address the growing concerns under the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.--
Edited by Winston W. Parley

Ja'neh wants impeachment dismissed



Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh

By Winston W. Parley

Lawyers representing Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh have filed a motion, asking Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor to dismiss the bill of impeachment against their client, contending that the instant impeachment

proceeding at the Liberian Senate is "premature, illegal and invalid."

"Movant submits that the two Houses of the Legislature, not having enacted the procedure for and to govern impeachment proceedings, as mandatorily required by Article 43 of the 1986 Liberian

Constitution ..., the instant Impeachment Proceeding is premature, illegal and invalid. Hence, a fit subject for dismissal," Ja'neh's lawyers say in a motion.

Justice Ja'neh is standing impeachment trial at the Liberian Senate for alleged proved misconduct, abuse of public office, wanton abuse of judicial discretion, frauds, misuse of power and corruption.

One of the cases which triggered the Associate Justice's impeachment trial relate to a land dispute involving the embattled justice and a private citizen, one Madam Annie Yancy Constance.

Ja'neh has been accused by lawmakers for abuse of power, using his influence as Associate Justice to secure a ruling in his favor at the Supreme Court to take possession of the land.

But Ja'neh's lawyers have repeatedly



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Rodgers appointed Leicester manager

Brendan Rodgers has been appointed Leicester City's new manager after leaving his job at Celtic.

The Northern Irishman has signed a contract until June 2022 and succeeds Claude Puel, who was sacked on Sunday after 16 months in

charge. It marks a Premier League return for Rodgers, who previously managed Liverpool and Swansea City.

"I'll give my life to make the supporters proud of their club," Rodgers said.

He watched from the stands as the Foxes beat Brighton 2-1 on Tuesday and spoke to the

players in the changing room after the game.

Adding that he was "privileged and honoured" to take on the role, Rodgers said: "Together, we'll be stronger and I'm looking forward to working with the players, staff and supporters to make the right steps forward."



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