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The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

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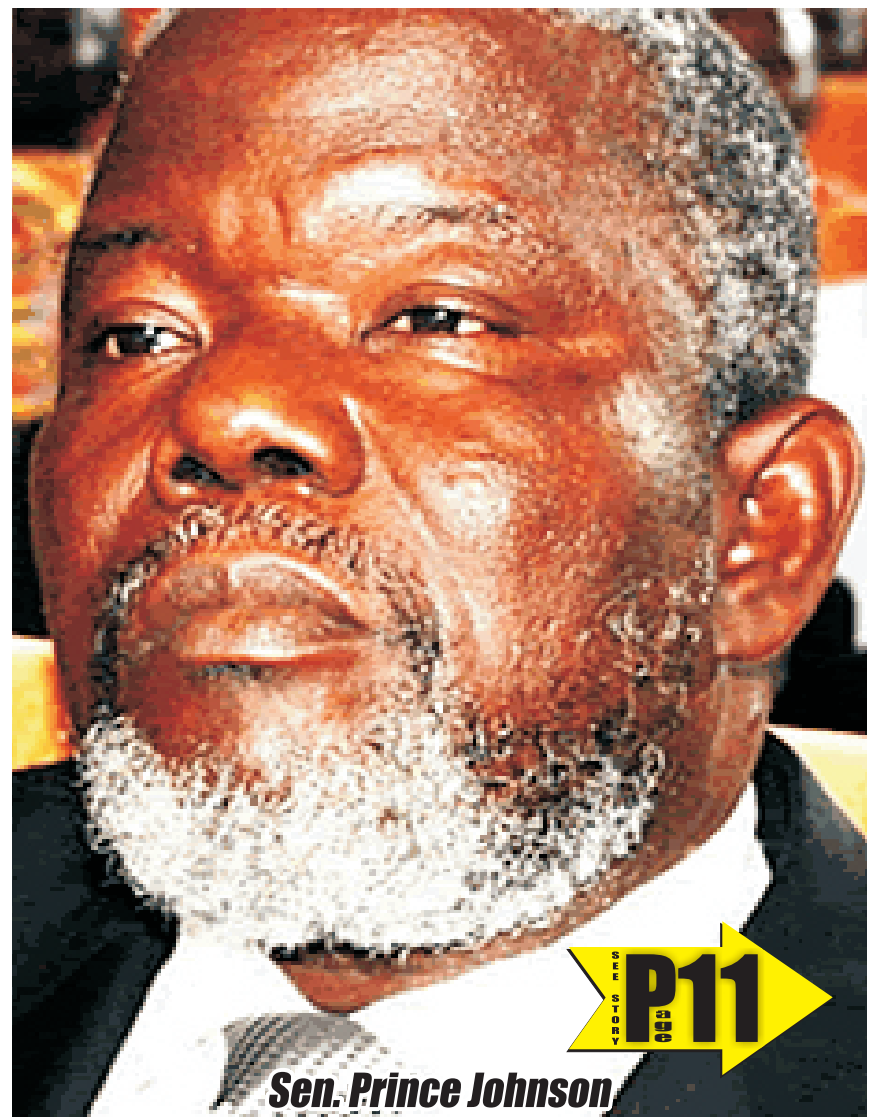
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Sen. Prince Johnson



Continental News

Seeking justice: the long hunt for Rwanda's killers return

The houses along the quiet tree-lined street look just like the normal homes found all across the Rwandan capital.

But behind the walls of the three adjoining villas in Kigali are the headquarters of a global operation involving investigators and prosecutors who are working to track down the very worst killers of Rwanda's 1994 genocide.

Inside, French investigators have come to talk to witnesses and to gather evidence. A Norwegian team is also on site.

All are supported by Rwanda's Genocide Fugitive Tracking Unit (GFTU), a special team created in 2007 to prosecute the architects behind the slaughter of some 800,000 mostly Tutsi victims.

"The mandate was to investigate and compile case files for the fugitives who were still at large," said Faustin Nkusi, spokesman for the National Public Prosecution Authority, which oversees the unit.

After the bloodshed, many perpetrators escaped.

Some were arrested and taken to the UN-backed International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), based in Tanzania. That court closed in 2015 after several dozen convictions. For many of those who carried out the killings, justice has been at a local level through community tribunals known as "gacaca"

courts. Between 2005 and 2012, these courts put nearly two million people on trial, with some two-thirds of cases resulting in a conviction. But the search for justice continues. A quarter of a century after the genocide, Rwanda is as determined as ever to make sure the key suspects are arrested and put on trial over the

killings. Many are still at large, scattered all over the world.

The GFTU has issued 1,012 international arrest warrants for suspects in 32 countries.

Several are in neighbouring nations like Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Tanzania. Others are further afield in places like Kenya, Malawi and Zambia. And still others fled to Europe, North America or even Australia.

Key suspects on the run include Felicien Kabuga, once one of Rwanda's richest men who is accused of financing the genocide, who was reportedly spotted in Kenya.

Another is Augustin Bizimana, a former defence minister believed to be hiding in DR Congo.

The team is having an impact: 19 people who were allegedly involved in plotting the genocide have been arrested and returned to Rwanda for trial, while 22 others have been tried abroad.

But this is only a drop in the ocean. When the gacaca process closed in 2012, the courts

handed the GFTU a list of nearly 72,000 fugitives who had been sentenced in absentia. And tracking down all those people along with other remaining suspects is tough.

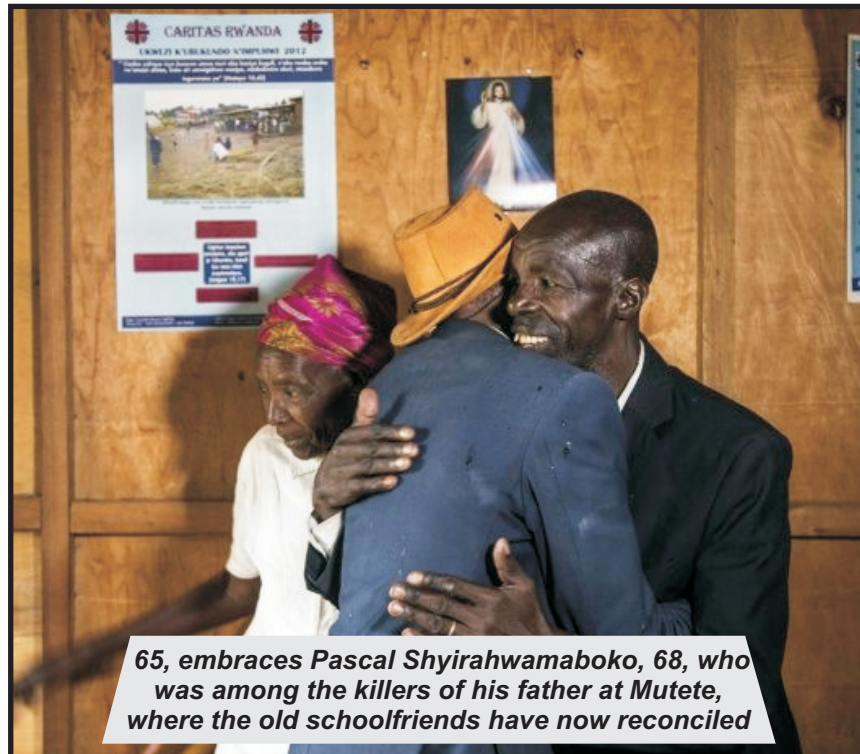
"It's not easy," Nkusi said. "We don't have the upper hand in investigating and arresting. We have to work together with other institutions from those countries." The GFTU team, which involves both investigators and prosecutors, works with teams across the world, including their judicial counterparts in countries where suspects are hiding.

It also works with UN experts and the international policing agency, Interpol.

- 'Justice has to be done' -

Investigators face many challenges: by now, suspects have grown much older and have had years to perfect their changed identity as well as to slip across borders. Some have obtained political asylum.

After Rwanda abolished the death penalty in 2007, countries were encouraged to send suspects home. AFP



65, embraces Pascal Shyirahwamaboko, 68, who was among the killers of his father at Mutete, where the old schoolfriends have now reconciled

Cameroon opposition leader wants to be tried in public

Cameroon's opposition leader Maurice Kamto, who faces several charges including hostility against the homeland and offence against the president of the republic, has asked to be tried in open court.

Mr Kamto was in court on Tuesday to ask for bail but when the judge insisted that

the hearing take place in his chambers, he walked out.

The opposition leader's lawyer, Christopher Ndong, told the BBC that his client is a public figure and the public had a right to witness his judgement.

"Kamto and his entire legal team rejected the in-camera hearing for two reasons. First, the judge's chambers is too

little to accommodate all the lawyers. Secondly, there is no law stipulating that that case be heard in private," he said.

The opposition leader says he won last year's presidential election. His party, the Cameroon Renaissance Movement, plans to carry out public demonstrations on 13 April to call for the release of their leader. BBC



Gettyimages: Opposition leader Maurice Kamto has been charged with incitement to insurrection

One arrest over murder of Ghana journalist



Ahmed Hussein-Suale investigated corruption in Ghanaian football

Police in Ghana have said that a suspect is in custody in connection with the murder of undercover journalist Ahmed Hussein-Suale. Hussein-Suale, who was a member of Tiger Eye Private Investigations and worked on an exposé of corruption in Ghana's football leagues, was shot dead near his family home in the capital, Accra, in January.

He was shot three times by unidentified gunmen on a motorbike. According to the police, they are still following

up multiple leads to unravel the mystery behind his killing.

The police also said that they had questioned 13 others as part of their investigation. These include his colleague AnasAremeyawAnas, who runs Tiger Eye, former Ghana FA boss KwesiNyantakyi, who was at the centre of the exposé, and MP Kennedy Agyapong, who exposed pictures of the undercover journalist months before he was shot dead.

There is no suggestion that they were involved in the killing. -BBC

EDITORIAL

Grooming surrogate groups undermines peace

A LESS KNOWN group suddenly emerged Monday, 1 April and marched thru the streets of Monrovia before issuing a stern threat to return “fire for fire” against anti-government establishments and those it brands as “lawless lawmakers”, in defense of true democracy and good governance in Liberia.

THE SELF-STYLED Special Taskforce Revolutionary Group or STRONG says it does not take lightly alleged threats by small surrogate groups to overthrow the democratic will of the Liberian people, as expressed through the ballot box a year ago.

ITS SO-CALLED SUPREME Commander, J. Richard Holder, specifically accused leaders of the former ruling Unity Party and its foot soldiers for embarking on a tragic conclusion that the attainment of democratic power through the ballot box is no longer possible, which he says may explain their futile desperation to collapse Liberia’s hard-earned democracy.

THE WIDE ALLEGATIONS and the violent speech used to announce its sudden emergence on the social-political landscape of the country further heightens the already politically-charged and hate-driven atmosphere currently pervading in Liberia.

WE ARE STILL struggling to understand where does the self-styled STRONG get its authority from to come in defense of the current administration, if it is not a state surrogate? We all are aware that state-sponsored surrogates or sponsored violence is counterproductive to sustaining peace and unity, democratic governance and economic development.

TRADING HATE MESSAGES that are saturating social media here is in fact, inflaming the situation, and turning Liberians’ attention from the vital task of nation building. We seem very pre-occupied with condemning and pulling one another down, rather than joining forces to lift Liberia out of its current economic woes.

THE GOVERNMENT IS in the driving seat of the blame-game, accusing the past administration and everyone else but itself, for the dwindling economy exacerbated by lack of transparency and accountability.

AS IF PRONOUNCEMENTS by major concessions, including Firestone Liberia recently to lay off employees or pull out of the country were not enough, ordinary citizens, particularly jobless youth are giving themselves out to politicians from either side to engage in mischief and subterfuge in exchange for little or nothing.

THE TRUTH OF the matter is, this is not the kind of country Liberians envisaged when they went to the ballot box 15 months ago and elected a new President. Instead, the masses elected a government they believe would better their standard of life by keeping inflation and prices down, creating jobs, ensuring security and basic social services.

IN SHORT, GROOMING surrogate groups by both sides to fight proxy wars does not only undermine peace and development, but scares away potential investors and partners, which is not healthy for the Motherland.

The
New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Bill Emmott

Springtime for Nationalism?

Since the United Kingdom's Brexit referendum and the election of US President Donald Trump in 2016, a consensus has emerged that populism - the politics of "us versus them" - is on the rise. But that term does not capture what is really at stake in national and regional elections around the world this year.

LONDON - Is populism still on the rise? That question will be looming over elections in Israel, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Spain, and the European Union over the next two months. Yet it will be misplaced, for the real contest is between nationalism and internationalism.

To be sure, the nationalist-internationalist division is being prized open by populists themselves, particularly US President Donald Trump, whose instinctive disdain for international laws and institutions has long been clear. But it is also being exploited by more mainstream politicians, including some in that most multilateral of institutions, the European Union, which is experiencing a profound change in its internal political dynamics.

The term populism merely describes a campaigning technique used by insurgent politicians of all stripes. Hence, its power as a political epithet has diminished with use, especially in the years since the Brexit referendum and Trump’s election. Once in power, populists still have to govern to voters’ liking, or else risk defeat at the next election.

Consider the Five Star Movement (M5S), which came to power in June 2018 as the senior partner in Italy’s governing coalition, but has since lost a string of regional elections, halving its vote from a year earlier. That decline does not reflect voters’ disillusionment with M5S’s populist policy proposals; after all, it has succeeded in implementing its promised basic income for jobseekers. Rather, M5S’s participation in the coalition has been overshadowed by the strong nationalist rhetoric of its governing partner, the right-wing League party.

Now, consider Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, and that consummate survivor, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Unlike M5S, all three campaigned as populists but have governed as tough-guy nationalists. In elections on April 9 (Israel), April 11-May 19 (India), and May 13 (Philippines), it is that nationalist approach that will be tested.¹

Modi, Duterte, and Netanyahu have each used fear - of terrorist attacks from Pakistan, drug cartels, and Hamas rockets, respectively - and appeals to national pride. Their stated goal is to strengthen the nation-state against threats foreign and domestic, through both economic and political means. They have little regard for international institutions or laws, and if they consider the international context at all, it is usually

through the scope of bilateral relations with the United States and/or China, rather than multilateralism.¹

Similar issues are in play in the run-up to Indonesia’s April 17 presidential election, where the incumbent, President Joko Widodo (“Jokowi”), and his rival, Prabowo Subianto, can both be described as “populists.” The difference is that while Jokowi is running on his five-year record of leadership in both Indonesia and Southeast Asia generally, Prabowo is positioning himself more as a Duterte-style nationalist, as he did in 2014.

In Europe, the politics are different, but the key divisions are strikingly similar. The terms populist and Euroskeptic do not truly capture the rise of far-right parties such as Vox in Spain, the Freedom Party of Austria, and the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) in Germany; nor are they sufficient for understanding the policies of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Poland’s ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party.

To be sure, these parties are all nationalist, conservative, and generally opposed to immigration. But with constant reference to “law and order,” they are exploiting cultural rather than military or geostrategic fears. Hence, should the far-right make significant gains in Spain’s general election this April, and then in the European Parliament elections in May, the right way to think about it will not be as an anti-EU phenomenon.

A rebalancing of power toward the nationalist right would represent a changing view of the EU, but not an outright Brexit-style rejection of it. It would augur a further shift away from integration, and toward a more ad hoc intergovernmental approach for tackling issues related to immigration and the rule of law. The scope for top-down policies issued from Brussels would be significantly narrowed. And as individual EU member states began to pursue their own policies toward Russia, Libya, and other third countries, there would be a broad retreat from efforts to negotiate common foreign and security policies.

So, forget populism. The real contest in elections this year, as well as in the US presidential election in 2020, will be between nationalism and internationalism. Amid rising geopolitical tensions, increased migration flows, and the lingering stresses of past financial crises, the question is whether appeals to a rules-based international order can still win voters’ hearts and calm their fears. In the absence of US leadership to lend that idea credibility, the answer is anyone’s guess.

O-PED

By Slawomir Sierakowski

How to Beat a Populist

WARSAW - There have never been more populist governments in place than today. Until now, populists have not been voted out of power in any Western country. Even though the president of Slovakia has only symbolic power, anti-corruption campaigner Zuzana Caputová's landslide victory over a populist candidate this weekend could signal a change in populists' ability to make the political weather in Europe. At the same time, the apparent victory of TV comedian and political novice Volodymyr Zelensky in the first round of Ukraine's presidential election suggests that the populist wave may not have crested yet.

Populists are capable of being defeated, but only under one condition: a unified opposition. Unfortunately, political divisions most often persist among opposition parties - to the benefit of populist forces. That was the case in Poland as long as the country was unable to buck that trend, and it remains the case in every EU country governed by populists: Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Italy.

In Hungary, for example, the post-communist Socialists and the post-fascist Jobbik party have long shown more contempt for each other than for Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. When they finally started cooperating after years of devastating defeats, it was too little, too late. The country's independent media have since been silenced, and Orbán's power over the state confers such a significant advantage to his own party, Fidesz, that the country's elections are no longer deemed fair by independent observers.

Still, it is worth remembering that on February 25, 2018, an independent candidate with broad support from all of the opposition parties won the mayoralty of Hódmezővásárhely, a Fidesz stronghold. Had the opposition parties not descended into infighting during the run-up to parliamentary elections last April, Fidesz may not have captured nearly 50% of the vote, and Orbán might not have been given the means to consolidate power.

In Italy, there are actually left-right divides within both the ruling coalition and the opposition. To form a government last year, the populist Five Star Movement (M5S) had to come to terms with the nationalist League party. Together, they won some 50% of the vote, compared to nearly 20% for the mainstream Democratic Party and less than 15% for former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's center-right Forza Italia.

Hence, as matters stand, Italy's populists have no one to lose to. But while M5S captured the largest share of the vote in the election last March, the League has since surpassed it in polls and regional elections. This is in keeping with a broader trend: while right-wing populists have remained in favor once in power, their left-wing counterparts have stumbled.

As for Slovakia, the left-wing populist party Smer-SD and its leader, former Prime Minister Robert Fico, have finally been defeated after almost two decades in power. But with over 20% support, Smer-SD remains the country's single strongest party. Meanwhile, there are at least ten opposition parties with a shot at entering parliament in the next election, including Caputová's own Progressive Slovakia, a relatively new party that currently enjoys just 3% support.

Leading a political party in Slovakia is no great feat in itself. The conservative We Are Family party, led by a man who has fathered nine children with eight women, won 6.6% of the vote in the last parliamentary election. Moreover, around 25% of the electorate consistently supports the extreme right, which itself is divided between Marian Kotleba ("Our Slovakia") and the movement around the far-right jurist Štefan Harabin.

Still, Caputová's victory has lent momentum to opponents of populism elsewhere, not least in the Czech Republic, where her campaign was supported by Tomáš Halík, a prominent Catholic priest and philosopher, and Karel Schwarzenberg, a former Czech minister of foreign affairs. In the October 2017 general election, Czech voters apparently decided that their happy and peaceful country could afford a little madness, so they handed a plurality of votes to Andrej Babiš, a scandal-plagued billionaire of Slovak origin whom many have described as a "Czech Trump."

The Czech presidency is currently occupied by Miloš Zeman, a Social Democrat-turned-nationalist with a soft spot for Russian President Vladimir Putin. Zeman and Babiš both act as though they are competing for the title of Europe's most embarrassing politician. Zeman, for example, once held a ceremonial burning of a giant pair of red underwear that had previously been used by the artist collective Ztohoven to mock him. For his part, Babiš allegedly had his own son kidnapped and sought to commit him to a psychiatric hospital in Russian-occupied Crimea to prevent him from testifying about his father's corrupt business dealings.

So, if Polish politics is currently mimicking the cinema of moral anxiety of the 1970s, our southern neighbors are in the midst of an absurdist comedy. For now, however, the fractured opposition - comprising the center-right Civic Democratic Party, the techno-liberal Pirate Party, the far-right anti-immigrant Freedom Party (led by the half-Japanese businessman Tomio Okamura), and the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia - has failed to carry through votes of no confidence in the prime minister.

Finally, in Poland, opposition parties have united against the populist Law and Justice (PiS) party government. This is a notable achievement, given that the Polish opposition is divided between Civic Platform, the agrarian Polish People's Party and the post-Communist Democratic Left Alliance, the neoliberal Modern party, the leftist Polish Initiative, and the Greens. According to the latest polls, this so-called European Coalition has around 38-42% support, which means it could beat the PiS in the parliamentary election in October.

Much will depend on what happens in next month's European Parliament elections. But uniting has proved to be easier for Poles than for anyone else in Europe. That means Poland could become the first EU country to overthrow a populist government - on the 30th anniversary of the fall of communism, no less. It would be only fitting for Poles to trigger a wave of democratic renewal across Eastern Europe, just as they did in 1989.

OPINION

By Daoud Kuttab

No Country for Palestinians

AMMAN - A bizarre election campaign is heating up in Israel. The incumbent prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, has become the first candidate in the country's history to seek reelection while facing criminal indictments. Meanwhile, the most important topic - the occupation of the Palestinian territories - has not been mentioned, with candidates instead competing over who can be tougher on the Palestinians.

The biggest threat comes from Netanyahu. As he fights for his political life amid charges of fraud, bribery, and breach of trust, fears are rising that he will misuse the enormous power he wields (he also serves as defense minister), escalating tensions both within and around Israel in order to strengthen his own position.

Far from quelling these fears, Netanyahu has been stoking them. He has once again ordered the closure of Bab al-Rahmeh in the Al-Haram Al-Sharif/Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem, Islam's third-holiest site. Part of a UNESCO World Heritage site, the compound has been administered by Muslims for more than 14 centuries.

There is no legal justification for closing Bab al-Rahmeh. The building was sealed off in 2003, because it was being used as a headquarters for the Islamic Heritage Committee, led by a hardline Islamic sheikh (and Israeli citizen), Raed Salah. But that reasoning is no longer relevant: Salah hasn't set foot in Al-Aqsa for more than a decade, and the Islamic Heritage Committee has long since been disbanded.

For Netanyahu, however, any flimsy excuse will do. His radical supporters want to take Israel one step closer to building a synagogue on the site of Bab al-Rahmeh. Netanyahu is acquiescing to these extremists in an effort to boost his political capital among a key bloc of voters. In the same vein, Netanyahu may find it politically convenient to trigger conflict in other areas, such as Gaza, south Lebanon, or with Iranian or Iran-backed forces in Syria.

Unfortunately, Netanyahu's main challenger, Lieutenant General Benny Gantz, is not a much more desirable option. The former head of the Israeli Defense Forces, Gantz leads a right-of-center coalition. But he has also touted his anti-Palestinian credentials, such as how in 2014, under his command, the IDF sent parts of Gaza "back to the Stone Age" during a campaign that left thousands of Palestinians dead, injured, or homeless.

Then there is the recently created Hayamin Hehadash party, co-chaired by the outgoing education and justice ministers, Naftali Bennett and Ayelet Shaked, respectively. Bennett has declared that he wants to annex over 60% of the occupied West Bank. Shaked also wants to annex most of the occupied West Bank. And, in a bizarre attack on supposed judicial activism by Israel's Supreme Court, she recently released a mock advertisement for "Fascism" perfume, which she declares "smells like democracy to [her]."

All of the main parties running in Israel's election seem to know what they do not want: an end to the occupation, the division of Jerusalem, Palestinian statehood, and the right of Palestinian refugees to return. But beyond intensifying the occupation and annexing territories, none of them has offered any vision for the region's future, let alone a road map for peace with the Palestinians.

This plays into the hands of those who never want the conflict to be resolved. After all, while government policy can diverge from campaign promises, winning an election based on hawkish one-upmanship could tie the hands of the eventual prime minister, even if he did decide to pursue peace.

Israeli leaders are not alone in their lack of interest in, let alone vision for, ending the decades-long military occupation of nearly four million Palestinians. The United States under Trump has decided, for the first time in over five decades, to drop the term "occupied" from references to Gaza, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights in its annual human-rights report. These territories are, the US government now claims, simply "controlled" by Israel. This approach will only further weaken Israeli leaders' motivation to find solutions. By recognizing Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, Trump even went further and legitimized, for the first time since World War II, the acquisition of land by force.

The Israeli general election should have given Israelis an opportunity to choose between war and peace. Instead, Israelis will have a choice between war and more war, between occupation and more occupation, even if the candidates avoid using those terms. And the fact remains that, without a two-state solution or a power-sharing deal within a single state in which all citizens have equal rights, the region is doomed to remain locked in its cycle of violence.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Democratic Governance and National Development in Post-war Liberia: A Lesson for Nigeria

By: Josephus Moses Gray

Assistant Professor of International Relations

CONT'D FROM LAST EDITION

However, following the end of the 14-year war and the signing of the comprehensive Accra peace Accord in 2003: The country with the helped of Liberian development partners and foreign nations has had Three Successful Presidential Elections and a number of Special and By-elections. Kindly permit me to briefly discuss circumstances surrounding these elections.

The Elections of 1870

For instance, the 1870 election ended with the undemocratic removal of former President Edward J. Roye through mob action and Roye's tragic death. He was the first president of then governing True Whig Party (TWP) to be forced from office.

The Elections of 1871

After the forceful removal of Roye from Office, elections were planned in 1871 with former President Joseph Jenkins Roberts who and Roye have often been at loggerheads was the opposition candidate; Robert was named the victor of the election.

The Elections of 1927

The 1927 general elections in Liberia made history as the most fraudulent election ever held. With only about 15,000 registered voters, the incumbent Charles D. B. King garnered 243,000 votes against his opponent who received 9,000 valued votes (GC, 2017). The 1927 election result is recorded in the pages of the Guinness Book of Records as one of the most fraudulent elections in human history.

The Elections of 1951

The 1951 elections in the country is one of the historical democratic elections to be held in Liberia. It was during this exercise that women were allowed to vote and the indigenous people were granted right to own property and also vote. This decision, according to Governance Commission (2017), took effect through a referendum in 1946.

The Elections of 1955

The elections of 1955 were the showdown between the TWP, the Tubman group and Edwin Barclay of the newly formed Independent TWP (GC, 2017). Tubman's response was to crack down on civil liberties; he used state resources as carrots and sticks to expand his political base and punish his detractors. Just before elections took place, there was an assassination attempt on Tubman's life. His administration brought treason charges against the Chairman of Independent TWP Didwho Twe, forcing him to flee the country (Kieh, 2008).

The 1975 Election

Following President Tubman's death on July 23, 1971 his successor, William Tolbert, had been Vice President for nineteen (19) of Tubman's 27-year rule. Much of the Tubman's regime was characterized by suppression of opposition. But the Tolbert's regime provided the opportunity for opening up political space. (GC, 2017). But Tolbert was to get caught between two forces: the old order (old guards) of the TWP of which he was a part and which he sought to reform, on the one hand, and consortiums of youth, intellectuals, workers and others. The progressive and pro-democracy movements, especially the Movement for Justice in Africa (MOJA) and the Progressive Alliance of Liberia (PAL) were the torchbearers of the change enhancers of multi-Party Democracy. The Tolbert's regime was toppled on April 12, 1980 through a blooded military coup.

1985 Elections

Another interested case of a democratic election in Liberia was the 1985 election which was marred by allegations of vote fraud and rigging. The 1985 General elections were invented as a path of the much awaited evolution from military rule to democracy (GC, 2017). The post-election era witnessed rampant abused of state's resources and gross human rights violations. Perhaps, the violence was major causes for the Liberia's senseless bloodbath which claimed about two hundred and fifty (250,000) thousand lives.

1997 Elections

In an effort to return the nation to democracy,

something which has not happened since 1985 general elections, ECOWAS with support from the United Nations organized a special election which was won by former president Charles Ghnkay Taylor with 75.3% valid votes (NEC, 2005). The election was also marred by allegations of voters' intimidation while the issue of fear factor played a major part to the advantage of Mr. Taylor. He defeated former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf who came second with 10% of the valid vote (NEC, 2005).

2005 Elections

After twenty years, the Liberian nation in 2005 held an international acclaimed democratic elections with 22 Liberians vying the for the presidency. At the end of the highly contested democratic exercise, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was elected. She won with 59% of the vote in the run-off poll (NEC, 2005). The election result was rejected by the current ruling CDC, once an opposition political party.

2011 Elections

he 2011 general election went into a run-off since none of the candidates obtain a threshold of 50 plus one vote. In the run-off poll, Sirleaf obtained 90 % valid vote cast against Cllr. Winston Tubman's CDC which pull from the exercise (NEC, 2005).

2017 Elections

Interestingly a poverty-stricken state of Liberia is noted



for history making and never in the 170-year of the nation's existence that stakes in the past presidential races had captivated deep national and global interests with observers as being experienced in the recent October 10, 2017 presidential election. The presidential race was reduced to crowd race among the main political parties, the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), Unity Party (UP), Liberty Party (LP), Alternative National Congress (ANC) and All Liberian Party (ALP).

Instead of maneuvering in order to undercut the other parties to win more votes, the various parties were preoccupied with pulling huge crowds in the various streets as a means of displaying their political authority over the others to prove that they have the numbers to win on the first ballot. The various streets were overwhelmed by mammoth crowds and displayed of numbers in Monrovia and other cities across the country, unfortunately, these gigantic crowds apparently driven by monetary gains or allegiance, failed to translate into actual votes on October 10 as evidenced of the official results of the presidential election released by NEC. The 2017 elections were highly challenged by 20 candidates with one female presidential candidate and six female vice presidential candidates (2017).

Candidates Breakdown

The total candidates were 1024 candidates registered to 5 representing 51% were male;

contest the poll; Male candidates registered 861; Female candidates registered 163; Out of 984 candidates for Representative slots; 96 were independent aspirants and; 928 political parties' aspirants. While registered voters as concerns, out of 2,183,629 registered voters; 1,119,355 representing 51% were male;

While 1,064,274 accounts for 49%. Youth age between 18-22 accounts for 11 and; other age of 23 to 27 carried 9%; While Liberian age 18(first time voters) were 15% (NEC, 2005).

Why governance matter in post-conflict Liberia?

Governance matters in several ways: Governance plays an important role in implementing successful economic policies and sustaining inclusive growth; it provides transparency and predictability in policymaking, efficiency and equity in access to government services and resources, governance also leads to better and more efficient decisions and gives the local community confidence in its council, but improves the faith that elected members have in their own council and its decision making processes (World bank, 2008).

CONCLUSION

Dr. Ophelia Inez Weeks, President of the University of Liberia and the university family, I am honored so dearly for the courtesies that you have accorded me to share with you some of my thoughts concerning the practices of democratic

governance and national development in the country. Many of you covered long distances and left your busy schedules. This reminds us of the significance that you all have attached to this occasion.

This is always a unique opportunity to share a few convictions and understanding of the topic as previously discussed. Finally, let me conclude with these words: We must collectively with determinations in the spirit of African solidarity and Pan Africanism to protect the democratic gains, values, and norms; and give due respect to governance processes and institutions.

About the Author: Josephus Moses Gbala-hinnih Gray is an Assistant Professor at the University of Liberia Graduate Studies Program. He is a native born Liberian, hails from the Southeastern village of Kayken Chiefdom in Barclayville, Grand Kru County. He is an author, professor, diplomat and scholar with a wealth of rich credentials including a doctorate in International Relations and Foreign Policy Studies from Paris, France. He has authored two books, published Two Graduate Theses and a 600-page Doctoral Dissertation on the theme: "Geopolitics of African Oil and Energy: China and America New Strategic Interests in Africa". He has written extensively and published over 70 articles on variety of contemporary issues. He can be contacted at Email: graymoses@yahoo.com/ Mobile (231) 880-3302-99 or (231) 0776824437

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Food shortage hits Gbarnga Regional Hub

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Officers assigned at the Gbarnga Regional Hub in Bong County are abandoning their assignments due to food shortage at the Hub.

Our correspondent says on Thursday, 28 March, scores of Border Patrol Unit (BPU) officers including the Police Support Unit (PSU) of the Liberia National Police (LNP) took appeals to eminent business people and authorities in Gbarnga to beg for food and other needs.

The officers were led by the commander of the Hub, Jackson Pah.

Officers at the Gbarnga Regional Hub speaking to a team of journalists recently in Gbarnga, Two of the officers Emmanuel K. Weah and Harris Tokpah told reporters in Gbarnga recently of the shortage of food, electricity, safe drinking water and security materials.

They complain of major factors undermining their operations in the central region.

When contacted in Monrovia Monday, 1 April,

Police Spokesman Moses Carter says the regional Hub in Gbarnga had just been supplied with 100 bags of rice ahead of this paper's inquiry with him for a comment.

Mr. Carter admits that the entire police force has logistical issues, but he notes that those problems are being addressed gradually, including the case at the Gbarnga

Regional Hub.

The Gbarnga Regional Hub was established lately in 2014, under the administration of ex-President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf as part of efforts to provide maximum security for inhabitants of Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties.

The Hub which is presently accommodating the state securities, is managed by

TogbahGowee and is gradually declining since his narrow ascendancy as manager after the death of the Hub's former manager, Hezekiah Siakor.

Report says, upon the inauguration of President George Manneh Weah, the securities' hub has been faced with several challenges in Bong County.

Emmanuel K. Weah and Harries Tokpah also states that they lack security materials in order to safeguard the Regional Hub and citizens of Bong County and its environs.

The officers used the occasion to call on the government of Liberia to assist officers at the regional Hub with food to improve their welfare as members of the security sector.

The officers appeal that if

government wants safety to be provided for Liberians, securities must be given the necessary materials for the overall improvement of the security sector in the Country.

"When we came newly, we used to eat three times a day, but it has drastically dropped to one. And secondly, we do not have food presently on the compound since the past one and the half month," Emmanuel K. Weah laments.

Earlier, the Gbarnga Regional Hub Manager TogbahGowee had promised to address the press in the soonest possible time when he was contacted by our correspondent on the issue.

TogbahGowee says he needs to schedule time to officially respond.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**



Govt., partners launch early warning, early response project

The Ministry of Internal Affairs launches 'Early Warning and Early Response', County Peace Committees, District Level Political Reconciliation Dialogues and Civic Engagement Project.

H.E. Ingrid Watterquist, Ambassador of Sweden, for providing the needed financial support to implement this flagship project of the Government of Liberia", says the Minister of Internal Affairs,

objectives of Pillar Three of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

According to the Minister, there are evidenced based reports and policy documents including the PAPD, the Opportunity Mapping for Peace Consolidation, the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index Survey (SCORE) as well as the Strategic Roadmap for national healing, Peacebuilding and reconciliation, respectively among others.

Minster Sirleaf notes this intervention was designed based to strengthen government's capacity and ability to respond to these issues which will inherently help in a tremendous way to ending fragility during the period of implementation of the PAPD, while promoting the culture of non-violence.

He says focus of the project is sustaining government peace agenda, while creating an enabling environment for socio-economic development.

"We believe, the early identification of potential triggers of conflicts and their positive transformation are vital for preventive responses and would stop escalation of violence thereby maintaining peace and security and this project is set to deliver on such outcome."

The Internal Affairs boss



Min. Varney A. Sirleaf

According to a press release, the project will be implemented by the Liberia Peace-building Office and partners, including the charity, ZOA.

"Thanks to the Government and people of Sweden through

Varney A. Sirleaf.

He similarly thanks the UN family and other potential donors, including IRISHAID for supporting government's efforts towards conflict prevention and transformation in meeting some

Lawmaker wants university status for Stella Maris

By Bridgett Milton

Maryland County District #1 Rep. P. Mike Jurry has written the House of Representatives, craving its indulgence to amend the act that established Stella Maris Polytechnic to elevate it to Stella Maris Polytechnic University.

According to Rep. Jurry, since the establishment of Stella Maris Polytechnic, the institution has been doing

He wants Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the statute known as an Act to dissolve the Arthur Barclay Technical Institute and to grant a Charter to the Don Bosco Polytechnic and to further dissolve the Don Bosco Polytechnic to a charter to the Monsignor Stephen Kyne Technical College, to amend them to the extent set forth.

He notes that immediately upon the passage of the Act, the institution called Stella



Rep. P. Mike Jurry

well. He tells his colleagues at the House of Representatives that products of Stella Maris Polytechnic are prepared and are seen everywhere.

Rep. Jurry continues that one of the colleges at Stella Maris is giving out degrees in health sciences, adding that Stella Maris has more staff and has constructed more buildings, putting it in a position to get university status.

Maris Polytechnic and Monsignor Stephen Kyne Technical College shall accordingly operate in the name of "Stella Maris Polytechnic University," (SMPU).

Meanwhile the full plenary has instructed the Committee on Education to review the bill and report in two weeks.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah unifies more than Ellen -Kimmie Weeks

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

A former official of ex-President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's regime Mr. Kimmie Weeks says President George Manneh Weah is more of a unifier than former President Sirleaf.

Mr. Weeks, one of Liberia's leading youth activists, worked in former President Sirleaf's administration as board chair at the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC).

He told the Prime Morning Drive, a live program hosted on local broadcaster Prime FM on Tuesday, 2 April in Monrovia that President Weah is one of the most popular presidents in recent history of the country.

He believes that President Weah's popularity testifies to being a unifier, noting that the president can use his popularity to bring the people of Liberia together.

Weeks suggests that there are few simple things that President Weah needs to do to reduce the bitterness and anger on the faces of Liberians.

He recommends that since the people love President Weah, the president should have community engagements in slum communities.

He urges the government to closely relate to the people in the form of having agencies and ministries of government

releasing their respective short and long term plans on a monthly basis.

Mr. Weeks believes that close communication with the people can give hope and will help to build the expectation of the people. He observes that the failure of the government to talk to the people will leave them with no option but to live on speculations that may come

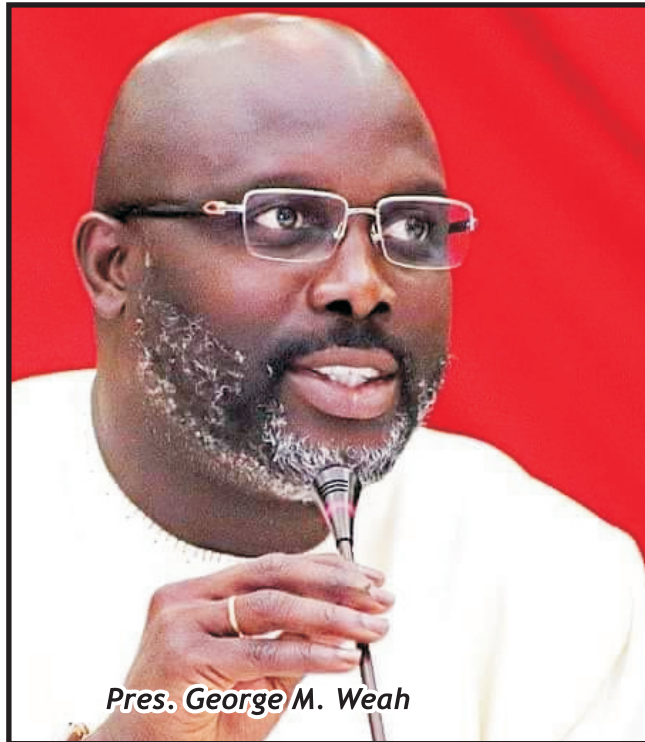
to them. According to him, the Weah led - administration should closely concentrate on reducing the high cost of living here, adding that empowerment of the people is very cardinal to the peace and stability of the state.

He stresses that government should now be considering creating jobs for the young unemployed

Liberians in order to reduce the economic tension that is reportedly building on a daily basis. The former LWSC official, Mr. Weeks emphasizes that the economic challenges facing Liberians are something that should draw the attention of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) led - government to strengthen the people's confidence in the government.

Mr. Weeks states that with the measures being put in place, the governance process will flow in the direction that will have positive impact on every Liberian. Mr. Weeks has worked to alleviate poverty and human suffering in Africa and around the world since he was fourteen years old.

Over the years, Weeks has formed partnerships and led organizations that have provided education to thousands of students in West Africa, lobbied the disarmament of over 20,000 child soldiers, and provided health care and recreation supplies to children. --Edited by Winston W. Parley



Pres. George M. Weah



Ex-Pres. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Senate Secretary faces protests

By Winston W. Parley

Two groups including company workers and a family that claims a leased property have held separate protests outside the Legislature, demanding Senate Secretary Nanborlor F. Singbeh to pay them different sums of money allegedly owed them.

Mr. Singbeh is said to be the president and Board Chair of

protested for US\$77,300, representing 17 months' pay.

The two separate protesting groups all carried computerized well - printed and giant - sized banners with inscriptions and photos of Mr. Singbeh, as they stood at the entrance of the Capitol Tuesday.

The protesters departed from the usual posters that are

In a letter of complaint to Margibi County Sen. Oscar Cooper, the Lorwoe Family allege that MHM Corporation had allegedly signed an agreement to pay US\$5,000 annually to the head of the family in honor of Mr. Lorwoe.

They alleged that the late Lorwoe only received payment for one year, and no other pay has been made since.



MHM - Eko Liberia, a company that allegedly leased 50 acres of land from the late James D. Lorwoe.

The late Mr. Lorwoe's wife Mrs. Gartee Lorwoe and other family members held protest Tuesday, 2 April demanding US\$20,000, representing four years lease payment; while MHM - Eko Liberia workers also

usually written on with ink and chose to use expensive giant size printed posters, while others carried Mr. Singbeh's photo inserted on a huge banner.

Mrs. Gartee Lorwoe, a mother of four children, alleges that Mr. Singbeh has refused to pay the family four years money for a leased property, and he doesn't respond to their calls either.

"He leased land from [my] late husband ..., he leased 50 acres of it," she narrates.

According to her, this transaction took place in 2013, during which time Mr. Singbeh made a down payment for the first year, at the time Mr. Lorwoe was still alive.

Since her husband's death, Mrs. Lorwoe claims that Mr.

Singbeh has refused to make further payments in honor of the lease agreement to the family to whom he owes US\$20,000.

For their part the MHM workers, informed Sen. Cooper in a separate letter that the company general manager Mr. Karel Sophor told them to stay home for administrative reason, but promised to pay them a monthly salary of US\$100.00 each. After paying them for three months from June to August 2017, the workers claim that the company refused to make further payment.

Earlier, the workers' spokesperson Mr. Francis G. Kerkulah claimed that Mr. Singbeh has refused to pay workers for 17 months.

He says Mr. Singbeh has been the president for the company since 2013, but he often allegedly snubs workers each time they engage him for their pay and benefits. According to him, about 21 persons are affected, and they are claiming US\$77,300 from Mr. Singbeh.

He says the workers include rock miners, carpenters, and machine operators, among

others.

Mr. Kerkulah says they do not have the financial strength to fight Mr. Singbeh in court.

In responding to claims made by the protesters at his office on Capitol Hill Tuesday, Mr. Singbeh says if the company is owing the Lorwoe family, it should be for 2017 and not the number of years claimed by Mrs. Lorwoe.

Further, he notes that he should not be the one owing the family, but the company.

In relations to company workers' claims, Mr. Singbeh says he has his employees that he pays.

Mr. Singbeh believes that the protest is being allegedly stage managed, pointing accusing fingers at Justice Minister Frank Musa Dean and a foreign national that he claims want his company turned over to them.

He raises concern over the kind of expensive banners that the protesters carried, which he believes are a testament that somebody is behind the protests. Mr. Singbeh says the way forward is for the court to give its decision on the matter.

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Français

Naissance d'un groupe de soutien à la mouvance présidentielle

Le Task Force Revolutionary Group (STRONG), un groupe local de soutien proche du pouvoir, menace de mener une riposte sévère contre les groupes de jeunes de l'opposition et contre ceux qu'il qualifie de législateurs « hors la loi » pour la défense de la démocratie véritable et de la bonne gouvernance.

Après un défilé dans les principales rues de Monrovia, le lundi 01 avril, avec des membres issus de tous les horizons politiques, y compris de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, à savoir le parti de l'unité, le groupe a dit qu'il n'hésiterait pas à se dresser contre tous les projets néfastes conçus pour plonger le Libéria dans des bouleversements inutiles, alors que la nation a déjà du mal à se remettre des maux dont il a hérité de l'exploitation de sa richesse nationale.

"Il est regrettable que les dirigeants et les fantassins de l'UP semblent avoir sauté à la conclusion tragique selon laquelle il n'est plus possible

de prendre les rênes du pouvoir démocratique par le biais des urnes, ce qui peut expliquer leur détermination désespérée de détruire la démocratie durement acquise, » a déclaré J. Richard Holder, qui se présente comme étant le soi-disant commandant suprême de l'organisation.

S'exprimant lors d'une

conférence de presse devant le monument commémoratif du premier président du Libéria, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, près de l'hôtel délabré Docur Palace à Monrovia, il a dit ne pas prendre à la légère les menaces proférées par de petits groupes minoritaires de renverser la volonté démocratique du peuple

libérien, telle qu'exprimée dans les urnes il y a un an.

Il regrette que les dirigeants de l'Assemblée législative n'aient pas du tout agi contre certains législateurs qui ont déclaré soutenir et planifier un soulèvement populaire dont le but serait de renverser par la violence l'autorité constituée. Ils se vanteraient d'être des planificateurs et des organisateurs de la campagne qui viserait à modifier la volonté de l'électorat.

M. Holder appelle le Parti de l'unité et ses "collaborateurs violents" à désister, ajoutant : "sachant que la campagne de l'UP visant à renverser l'ordre démocratique, quand bien même qu'il n'en ait pas les moyens, est une distraction et détourne l'attention du peuple de la lutte louable contre la corruption, dans laquelle il doit être tenu pour responsable et coupable du pillage massif du trésor national."

STRONG appelle par conséquent le gouvernement dirigé par le président George Weah à prendre des mesures strictes et nécessaires pour récupérer les fonds dont a été spolié le Libéria dans le cadre des efforts qui visent à améliorer les conditions de vie des masses.

Il conseille au gouvernement de faire appel à l'expertise des partenaires locaux et internationaux pour mener un audit complet des activités de l'ancien gouvernement dirigé par Mme

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf depuis 12 ans, afin de déterminer dans quelle mesure la corruption et les crimes économiques ont été perpétrés, puis punir les coupables.

Il souhaite également que le gouvernement actuel prenne immédiatement des mesures afin de poursuivre les anciens responsables accusés de corruption dans plus d'une soixantaine d'audits effectués par la Commission générale des audits.

Il souhaite que le ministère de la Justice soit immédiatement saisi afin d'empêcher ces anciens responsables présumés de voyager hors du pays, et que la session plénière de la Chambre des représentants procède à une enquête et suspende certains de ses membres qui seraient connus pour être les sponsors et les architectes des groupes violents dont le rêve est d'ébranler l'état de droit en menaçant de renverser violemment l'ordre démocratique actuel.

Pendant ce temps, STRONG a annoncé la tenue d'une manifestation non violente à l'échelle nationale pour demander au gouvernement dirigé par Weah d'arrêter et de poursuivre en justice tous les accusés de l'administration Sirleaf et de faire pression sur la 54^e législature libérienne pour qu'elle suspende les législateurs « sans foi ni loi » qui, affirme-t-il, se sont alliés aux forces anti-démocratiques pour porter atteinte à l'état de droit et à la gouvernance démocratique au Libéria.



C'est officiel, Kaba remplace Ja'neh

Le président George M. Weah a nommé le juge Yussif Kaba juge associé de la Cour suprême du Libéria, sous réserve de la confirmation du Sénat. Après sa confirmation, le juge Kaba remplacera le juge associé Kabineh Ja'neh destitué par le parlement libérien.

Le juge Ja'neh a été

destitué vendredi dernier par le Sénat libérien pour conduite présumée, abus de pouvoir, abus de pouvoir discrétionnaire, fraude et corruption.

Un des cas ayant déclenché son procès en destitution concernait un litige foncier impliquant une certaine Mme Annie Yancy Constance.

Les juges l'ont accusé d'avoir exercé son influence en qualité de juge adjoint pour obtenir de la Cour suprême une décision en sa faveur lui permettant de prendre possession de ladite terre. Mais lui a nié toutes les allégations.

L'ancien juge associé Ja'neh est originaire de l'ethnie Mandingos et est un dirigeant clé de la communauté musulmane. Son successeur, le juge Kaba, est également issu de la même tribu et est également une figure clé de la communauté musulmane.

Les membres du Sénat libérien ont voté massivement pour sa destitution le vendredi 29 mars, une initiative qui a mis fin à des mois de batailles politiques et juridiques engagées en 2018 par la Chambre des représentants sur la base de plusieurs chefs d'accusations.

Le Sénat a voté vendredi 29 mars en faveur de la destitution du juge Ja'neh pour avoir donné un verdict



Newly appointed Associate Justice Yussif Kaba

Articles traduits
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en faveur des entreprises privées qui étaient opposées au gouvernement dans une affaire d'une taxe imposée aux entreprises pétrolières et gazières pour financer un projet routier. Le juge avait fait valoir que la taxe était illégale car elle n'avait pas été imposée par un acte législatif.

Après sa destitution vendredi, l'un de ses avocats, Me Lavalasuwood s'est dit

insatisfait de la décision, annonçant qu'il interjetterait appel devant la Cour suprême.

D'après les avocats du juge Ja'neh, la décision qu'il a prise dans l'exercice de ses fonctions constitutionnelles a été ensuite validée par les cinq juges de la Cour suprême, dont le juge en chef Francis S. Korkpor, qui a présidé le procès en accusation.

Français

Innis a rejoint sa dernière demeure

L'ancien cadre de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL), le regretté Matthew Innis, a été inhumé au cimetière de Brewerville, à la suite des funérailles grandioses qui ont eu lieu le samedi 30 mars 2019 à la cathédrale de l'Eglise Bethel Outreach à Sinkor.

En hommage à la mémoire de feu Matthew Innis, la CBL l'a décrit comme «un pionnier de la supervision du bureau de change ; le pionnier du secteur des assurances; et un fer de lance pour la réforme de la microfinance».

Cet hommage, lu par le directeur adjoint de l'Unité de développement du secteur financier (FSDU), M. George Gould, a qualifié de dévouées et désintéressées les contributions de feu Innis à la Banque au cours de ses 19 années de services. « Il n'ya pas de mots pour vous dire ce que nous ressentons à l'intérieur, car la mort d'Innis a été un choc et un coup dur pour nous tous », a déclaré la CBL. Présentant ses sincères condoléances à la famille endeuillée, la Banque a exprimé l'espoir que Dieu continuera à renforcer la famille.

« Vous avez laissé une marquedans nos mémoires que

même le temps ne peut effacer ; un vide qu'aucun ne peut combler », selon une déclaration du département Régulation et supervision, où feu Innis avait occupé les fonctions de directeur adjoint de la Macro-finance jusqu'à sa mort. L'hommage a été lu par M. Jedidiah S. Lawubah, contrôleur principal du Groupe de la lutte contre le blanchiment d'argent et du terrorisme lié au financement, au nom du Département de la réglementation et de la surveillance.

Le regretté Matthew Innis travaillait à la CBL le 4 avril 2000 en tant que contrôleur subalterne au service de la réglementation et de la supervision ; Il a ensuite été promu au poste de responsable de la section des assurances en mars 2012. Il a ensuite été promu au poste de directeur adjoint du département de la supervision. Le 2 janvier 2016, feu Matthew Innis a de nouveau été promu au poste de directeur adjoint au Département de la réglementation et de la supervision.

Le regretté Matthew Innis a été tué dans un accident de circulation un dimanche matin, le 3 mars 2019 à Monrovia.

Burkina Faso : au moins sept morts lors d'un affrontement intercommunautaire

Un nouvel affrontement communautaire a fait au moins sept morts, dimanche et lundi, au Burkina Faso. Les événements ont eu lieu vers la commune d'Arbinda, dans la province du Soum, au nord du pays. Tout a commencé par l'assassinat d'un chef religieux. Alors qu'ils se trouvent dans leur

pensent identifier les agresseurs de la veille et les tuent. C'est alors que tout s'accélère. La ville d'Arbinda connaît une flambée de violence où s'affrontent les communautés. Regain de tension

« Il y a trop de tensions, explique Boubacary Diallo, secrétaire général des Rougas,



village d'Hamkane, à sept kilomètres d'Arbinda, le cheikh de la localité, son fils aîné et son cousin sont attaqués et tués par des hommes armés. Une quatrième victime est retrouvée dans un village voisin, selon le gouverneur de la région du Sahel, le colonel Peguy Hyacinthe Yoda.

Durant l'inhumation du cheikh, ce lundi, des habitants

les éleveurs de la région. Les gens se battent pour les terres, et s'en prennent aux Peuls qui doivent fuir dans les grandes villes. Depuis Yirgou, c'est la prime à l'impunité », conclut-il.

Début janvier, 48 personnes ont été tuées lors de représailles contre la communauté peule, après une attaque jihadiste dans le village de Yirgou. Depuis lors,

COMMENTAIRE

Par Bill Emmott

Le printemps du nationalisme ?

LONDRES - Y a-t-il une montée du populisme ? La question va se poser avec les élections qui se dérouleront dans les deux prochains mois en Israël, en Inde, en Indonésie, aux Philippines, en Espagne et dans l'Union européenne. Mais ce n'est pas la question la plus pertinente, car la vraie bataille aura lieu entre nationalisme et internationalisme.

Néanmoins les populistes instrumentalisent la polarisation nationalisme/internationalisme. C'est notamment le cas de Donald Trump dont le mépris instinctif à l'égard du droit et des institutions internationales est évident. Mais c'est aussi le cas de dirigeants politiques plus classiques, dont certains se trouvent dans la plus multilatérale des institutions, l'UE, dont la dynamique politique interne est en pleine mutation.

Le terme de populisme décrit simplement une manière de faire campagne utilisée par certains politiciens extrémistes. Son impact en tant qu'épithète politique a diminué, en particulier depuis le référendum sur le Brexit et l'élection de Trump. S'ils ne veulent pas risquer de perdre lors du prochain scrutin, une fois au pouvoir, les populistes doivent gouverner conformément au souhait de leur électorat.

Considérons le Mouvement cinq Etoiles (M5S) arrivé au pouvoir en juin dernier en Italie, qui était dans sa phase initiale la principale composante de la coalition gouvernementale. Mais il a perdu depuis plusieurs élections régionales, la moitié de son électorat l'ayant abandonné. Son déclin ne traduit pas la désillusion de ses électeurs à l'égard de son programme populiste, car il a appliqué sa promesse d'un revenu de base pour les chômeurs. C'est plutôt la rhétorique nationaliste bruyante de son partenaire au pouvoir, la Ligue, parti de droite, qui l'a fait passer au second plan.

Tournons maintenant notre regard vers d'autres dirigeants : le Premier ministre indien, Narendra Modi, le président philippin Rodrigo Duterte et le Premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu, un politicien consommé. Contrairement au M5S, après avoir fait une campagne populiste, ils mènent une politique nationaliste dure. C'est sur cette politique que les électeurs vont se prononcer lors des prochains scrutins (le 9 avril en Israël, du 11 avril au 19 mai en Inde et le 13 mai aux Philippines).

Tous trois jouent sur la peur (peur du terrorisme au Pakistan, des cartels de la drogue aux Philippines et des rockets du Hamas en Israël) et sur le nationalisme. Leur objectif affiché est de renforcer l'Etat-nation contre les menaces intérieures et extérieures, avec des outils économiques et politiques. Ils n'ont guère de considération pour le droit international et les institutions

internationales, et quand ils prennent en compte la politique étrangère, c'est en général dans le cadre de relations bilatérales avec les USA et/ou la Chine, plutôt que du multilatéralisme.

La situation est similaire en Indonésie, à l'approche de l'élection présidentielle du 17 avril. Tant le président actuel, Joko Widodo (surnommé Jokowi) que son rival, Prabowo Subianto, peuvent être considérés comme des populistes. Jokowi cherche à obtenir un deuxième mandat de 5 ans, tandis que Prabowo adopte une posture plus nationaliste (qui se rapproche de celle de Duarte), comme il l'avait fait en 2014.

La situation est différente en Europe, mais il est surprenant d'y observer des clivages analogues. Les mots de "populiste" ou "d'eurosceptique" traduisent mal la montée des partis d'extrême-droite, Vox en Espagne, le parti de la liberté en Autriche et l'AfD (Alternative für Deutschland) en Allemagne ; et ils ne permettent pas réellement de comprendre la politique de Viktor Orban en Hongrie ou du parti Loi et Justice (PiS) en Pologne.

Ces partis sont tous nationalistes, conservateurs et hostiles à l'immigration. Mais en faisant constamment référence à "la loi et à l'ordre", ils exploitent davantage des peurs de nature culturelle que militaire ou géostratégique. C'est pourquoi si l'extrême-droite fait une percée significative lors des élections législatives espagnoles fin avril et ensuite aux élections pour le Parlement européen fin mai, il ne faudra pas y voir un phénomène anti-européen.

Un rééquilibrage des pouvoirs au bénéfice de la droite nationaliste constituerait un changement de point de vue sur l'UE, mais non son rejet brutal comme a pu l'être le Brexit. Cela pourrait augurer un abandon de l'intégration, au profit d'une stratégie intergouvernementale pour traiter de l'immigration et de l'état de droit. Ce serait un coup de frein aux mesures décidées par Bruxelles. Les pays membres de l'UE auraient leur propre politique à l'égard de la Russie, de la Libye et d'autres pays. Cela en serait fini de la recherche d'une politique étrangère et d'une politique de sécurité communes.

Oublions le populisme, car la véritable bataille se livrera entre nationalisme et internationalisme lors des élections de cette année, comme dans l'élection présidentielle américaine de l'année prochaine. Les tensions géopolitiques vont croissantes, les flux migratoires sont à la hausse et les répercussions des crises financières passées se font encore sentir. Dans ce contexte, un ordre international fondé sur des règles peut-il encore séduire les électeurs et apaiser leurs craintes ? En l'absence du leadership américain pour crédibiliser cette idée, il est difficile de répondre à cette question.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

A New Chapter of Liberia-China's Relations: What Does It Mean for Liberia's International Image?

By: Josephus Moses Gray Assistant Professor of International Relations,
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The Chinese government has captured the attention of many African governments and states with Liberia being no exception due primarily to Beijing's reasonable approaches towards infrastructural development and foreign aid assistance policy in which the Chinese government practices win-win diplomacy. Beijing's "win-win" diplomatic style has featured greater accommodations with several African countries, but what is the new chapter of friendship subsisting between the two countries-Liberia and China. An Assistant Professor of International Relations at the University of Liberia Graduate School, Josephus Moses Gray, offers insight into the new chapter of Liberia-China relations. But what does it mean for Liberian government global image and national development?

The Chinese government new diplomatic ties with African states and governments present a unique opportunity for Liberia-China new chapter of relations that bordered on south-south cooperation especially in the areas of national Interests, socio-economic growth, and infrastructure development. Whilst other powerful states continue to debate the merits of aid to Liberia, China continues to fill a major gap in several areas of interventions, even though it is too early to predict precisely whether Chinese long-term rendezvous in Liberia will produce a positive influence, the impact of China in the country is highly visible in several developmental areas including roads rehabilitation, constructions of bridges, hospitals, schools, sports stadium, agriculture facilities, and investments projects.

This article which is one of series to be published assesses the new chapter of Liberia-China relations with several suggestions as relates what the current administration need to do to adequately benefit from the mutual ties to help achieve the president pro-poor philosophy. It exclusively detailed all aspects of Liberia's international relations to help impact national development. Waltz (2007) discloses explained that states should emulate the successful policies of others; in this case, Liberia must carefully replica the Chinese development agenda. Firstly, it discussed the issues of unemployment, poverty and poor educational system in the country, followed by Liberia-China's relations, while part two of this article will delve into Liberia-America new relation with focused on the U.S. foreign aid assistance towards Liberia social economic development.

Karpeh (2009) explained that a few years back Liberia's globally status as a failed state during the 14-year darker day has improved immensely and became the country of hope and opportunities. According to Karpeh, the nation's successful transition was a result of the workable foreign policy and international relations with countries instituted by the former regime of ex-president Johnson-Sirleaf, the status inherited by President Weah's administration. He further indicated that Liberia would not have received the worldwide benevolence it got during the former leadership, if not for apt diplomatic initiatives by the Foreign Ministry, and had serious negotiations not taken place sometimes long hours into the night.

The new chapter of friendship subsisting between the two countries should move forward against all odds, build on open and inclusive friendship with mutual understanding based on political and economic benefits, by fostering partnerships grounded on competing for national interest through non-confrontation diplomatic engagement. Recent trends confirmed that China-Liberia relations are moving ahead in a very positive way, based on a vision of the community of a shared future, mutual support and equality grounded on a common historical struggle

against imperialism and national independence. Closer strategic alignment between China and Liberia and in areas of main focus such as economic cooperation will produce win-win cooperation for both nations.

Unlike the Western donors who tend to impose Western values like democratic ideas on Africa, China invests and provide aid without much preconditions and interference in their internal affairs, therefore, it is not unimaginable that China is regarded by Africa as a more cooperative and valuable partner to the West. Besides providing loans, China also invests in infrastructure development and many high-visibility projects, that the African leaders generally in favor. Physical infrastructure constructions have been long neglected if not avoided, by Western donors.

Unlike the pre-war era where unemployment, poverty and poor education were low, the nation's current perils of huge joblessness, miserable poverty, and gloomy education called for national concern to remedy hazards. According to UNMIL (2016), situation report described the colossal unemployment of Liberian youth as a potentially major threat to democratic governance and stability to the nation's democracy and co-existing. The report further revealed that unless some tangible actions are taken to address the current perils unemployment, the threat could see the return of conflict.

The World Bank in its 2016 report pointed out that extreme poverty remains unacceptably high, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, the region that now has the largest number of extreme poor in the world; with 389 million accounts for half of the total number of extreme poor in the world and more than all the other regions combined.

The reports also state that one out of in 10 persons in the world lives under \$1.90 a day, and half of the extreme poor lives in Africa which contains 55 states split into five complicated regions; with Central and West Africa being the less developed and most regions on the continent. The youth population on the African continent is rapidly increasing with nearly one in four persons in the world lived on the continent, or about 297 million, is between the ages of 10 and 24, by 2050, the age group is projected to nearly double to about 561 million.

As one of the several Liberians who are honored to have traveled abroad to earn advanced education with sophistication in a specific academic discipline, I feel indebted as a national obligation to advance my scholarly opinions and candid views to project possible suggestions aimed at complementing to existing efforts of president Weah's administration in the obtainment of foreign aid assistance from Liberian development partners as proposed in this article.

Although unemployment, poverty and pitiable education are not only unique to Liberia since these perils vary from one country to another; these perils stand as the major problems plaguing the international economy on the African continent. They are still a menace in the world particularly countries suited in the under-developed regions of Africa. While these global threats which have a negative impact of Liberia's growth are not the direct creation of the President Weah administration but let it be cleared that government is continuity, until these national melanomas are properly handled, the government will always be answerable to the people.

The President's pro-poor doctrine which is built on five pillars-agriculture, job creation, infrastructure development, improved education, and health delivery systems and pave roads across the country should strongly consider other values and support reform at all levels of the public sectors. This will help to ease the magnitude of poverty in the country, and at the same time attract quality education; reduce unemployment in the country to an appreciate levels.

As concerns, these three menaces, if alleviated to some greater level would plausibly lead to socio-economic availability and growth from one city to another and from town to villages across the country. In this case, no segment of the Liberia society will be isolated; development would cut across the entire country, as it has been done in other countries.

The alarming rate of criminalities in the country can be blamed on numerous factors exclusively the absence of employment for the larger population especially the youth since the lack of employment leads to poverty which gives rise to unbearable lives.

According to studies, poverty persists not only because of a scarcity of resources, but lacks ineffective economic structures, or lacks natural resources. Besides, bad governance has been perpetuated by past regimes, corrupt political bureaucrats and elites, and foreign capitalists.

Five years ago, precisely in 2013, I was privileged to have visited the Shushan village in China through the altruistic assistance of the Chinese Embassy in Paris, France. The research studies tour helped to widen my understanding of China's development agenda and 50 years of opening up; it was a great experience and praise-worth exercise, but an intensive one. It also contributed greatly towards my successful doctorate dissertation research project titled: The Chinese Energy Interest in Africa.

The Chinese development agenda has helped to improve the nation's infrastructure construction and built new homes for Shushan villages and other populations - for free. Electricity and telecommunication connections to the village have also been made. Now local people no longer have to worry about being affected by natural disasters.

Another example is Hainan in China; which stands as a symbol of an important historical testimony of positive China's reform and opening up; as Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed out during the opening ceremony of the 2018 Boao Forum for Asia (BFA). President Xi Jinping since 2012 to present has more than 68.5 million rural people lifted out of poverty in China over the past six years, that means 37,000 people escaped poverty every single day in China while the national poverty rate falling from 10.2 percent to 3.1 percent.

The Chinese government has succeeded to remove people from their shabby thatched or wooden houses to new apartments. China has made great leaps in reducing poverty and reaching the benchmarks laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals, according to the United Nations Development Program. The Weah's administration can gain lots from the China-Liberia new diplomatic ties if attention is given the Chines development model if the right policies by the right people at the right time and the right place are considered,

The Chinese Nation Bureau(2018) statistics have shown that China's industrial output expanded 6.8 percent in May 2018 while its data also showed that country's GDP rose to 80 trillion yuan (about 12.3 trillion US dollars), over 13 million jobs were created, more than 700 million of which 10 million rural residents were lifted out of poverty.

The situation confronting the nation can be overcome by the Weah's administration if the government replicates the Chinese successful development model which has lifted out of poverty about 600 million Chinese and transformed the Chinese state into the world economic power. But one may ask: Can the Weah's erudite economic team take advantage of the new chapter of Liberia-China's relations to boost the nation's under-privileged livelihood. The path towards economic growth and industrialization in the country need a painful decision that might become unpopular but can achieve the needed result to remove thousands of Liberians from poverty and lead to economic growth.

Empty Chambers after impeachment

By Ethel A. Tweh

A vast majority of Senators abandoned session at the Senate on Tuesday, 2 April, their first sitting since the controversial impeachment of former Associate Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh on Friday, 29 March.

Our correspondent at the Liberian Senate says just 10 senators were seated for their first session on Tuesday, while the rest of the 19 Senators could not be seen anywhere on Capitol Hill.

Most of the absentee Senators appear to have granted themselves holidays without first being granted permission by authorities, as the Presiding Officer for Tuesday's session Maryland County Sen. H. Dan Morrais complains that only seven senators were granted excuse.

He says he didn't hear from the other [12] senators. The scene at the Liberian Senate was as if the Senators had



taken an agriculture break following the controversial impeachment.

However Sen. Morrais finds that those who gave excuses could form part of the quorum to conduct session for Tuesday,

2 April.

He stated that the 10 Senators that were present along with the seven excused Senators totaled 17, meaning they could have quorum.

While the Sergeant - At -

Arms toured Senators' offices in search of them, our reporter observes that there was a break in time to wait and see if other senators could be seen and reminded that they needed to go for session.

This effort only saw Nimba County Sen. Prince Y. Johnson showing up, stepping the number of senators present to 11.

River Gee County Sen. Commany Wesseh, opted that there should be no session

because the Senate rules do not give account of absent senators.

He warns that he would walk out if the presiding officer insisted on conducting session.

As he walks out of the Senate Chambers, Sen. Wesseh reminded the Senators that their action to hold session in the absence of a physical quorum violates its own rules, adding that it wasn't strange since they had already violated the Liberian Constitution, apparently reminding them of the impeachment trial of former Associate Justice Ja'neh.

"I cannot sit here while the Senate's Standing Rule 7 is violated," Sen. Wesseh says. He notes that there is no quorum but the presiding insists on conducting session.

"This is a situation of lawlessness and this lawlessness must stop, it is not good for our country," he continues.

Sen. Wesseh continues to lash the Senate. He also said that the Senate, saying the impeachment of former Justice Ja'neh was illegal and unconstitutional. --**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

PYJ wants trial by ordeal in Nimba

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

Controversial Nimba County Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, discloses plan to

shortly introduce practice of traditional oath taking in Nimba in the wake of alleged increased witchcraft activities among the population.

The Government of Liberia has since declared trial by ordeal illegal, but Senator PYJ, ex-warlord and preacher says, traditional oath will help in combating wave of witchcraft activities in his native, Nimba.

Making the pronouncement on Radio Kerghemahn FM 94.5 in Ganta, Nimba County, he

notes that citizens now live in constant fear due to said demonic practices. The senator's pronouncement comes in the wake of a bill being drafted by Nimba County District #8 Representative Larry P. Youngquoi, seeking reintroduction of trial by ordeal to bring to book, people involved in ritualistic killing.

Over 20 people have reportedly lost their lives in the county as a result of alleged witchcraft activities with several persons making confessions. Few months ago, news emerged in Nimba from the region inhabited by members of the Gio ethnic tribe near the Liberian-Ivorian border where Senator PYJ hails from about young people in the area reportedly crossing into neighboring Ivory Coast and bringing in a witchcraft practice known as 'nine months.'

According to reports, the practice involves implanting charms into their spouses intended to kill men who have sexual relationship with them after nine months. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Local musician initiates peace concert



Veteran Liberian musician James Coco Chea, Head of Harmonizers Entertainment Group Inc.

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The United Nations Mission In Liberia or UNMIL has since left Liberia, but consolidating the peace here rests on the shoulders of all well-meaning Liberians. It is against this backdrop that a veteran Liberian musician James Coco Chea, and other local artists embark on community for peace and security campaign

thru music, to conscientize residents about the need to maintain peace and security. Mr. Chea, brain behind the advocacy, says he decided to undertake the exercise to remind fellow Liberians about the collective responsibility to maintaining peace and security fought for by the regional body ECOWAS, in collaboration with UNMIL.

Govt., partners launch early warning,

Cont'd from page 6

maintains government believes conflict early warning is a sound policy and a right socio-political move for maintaining peace and security, noting that it is a strategy that defines interventions that are designed to prevent resumption of violent conflict by creating sustainable Peacebuilding activities to address root causes or potential causes of violence.

"In this public manner, we would like to challenge the Liberia Peacebuilding Office and Office of the National Peace Ambassador and ZOA-Liberia, to ensure that the different project outputs and outcomes are achieved by further ensuring effective implementation of

project activities, coupled with the efficient management of project resources," he stresses.

He discloses the Project which has two phases, runs up to October, 2021, with phase I costing over US\$500,000. **Press Release**

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Arsenal rise back into top four



Arsenal moved up to third in the Premier League table and boosted their chances of a return to the Champions League as they beat Newcastle 2-0 on Monday night.

Aaron Ramsey, who will leave for Juventus in the summer when his contract expires, tucked away the opener before Alexandre Lacazette made sure of the points with a lofted finish in

the closing stages.

The victory takes Unai Emery's side above both Tottenham and Manchester United in the top-four race and extended their run of home league wins to 10.

In moving on to 63 points, the Gunners have equalled their tally from the whole of last season - Arsene Wenger's final campaign at the helm - and given themselves a good opportunity to end a two-year

hiatus from Europe's elite club competition.

Only reigning champions Manchester City can boast a better record in front of their own fans this season - but Arsenal have only two home games remaining and need to add to their five wins on the road if they are to maintain their top-four position.

Newcastle defended well but rarely got in behind an Arsenal defence which did not include captain Laurent Koscielny, who missed out due to a foot injury.

Ramsey finished well at the back-post but saw his effort chalked off as referee Anthony Taylor noticed Sokratis Papastathopoulos tugging back Florian Lejeune in the build-up.

The Wales international did not have too long to wait to toast his fifth goal of the season as Lacazette broke into the box and the ball deflected off DeAndre Yedlin - with Ramsey slotting home off the post.

Solskjaer makes bold statement regarding Pogba's future

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has defended Paul Pogba's latest comments about joining Real Madrid in the future.

Pogba was asked about joining Zinedine Zidane at Real during the international break and he said it would be a "dream" for anyone to play for Real under the mercurial Frenchman.

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comments about joining Real Madrid in the future.

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Newly-appointed United boss Solskjaer responded to those comments at today's new conference ahead of Tuesday's Premier League game with Wolves and cooled the talk.

Solskjaer said: "I don't like to talk about other teams players of course but this is another challenge with international breaks.

Players are available all the time as well and it's a different environment, a general talk."

Solskjaer then claimed he has every intention of building a team around Pogba and does not intend to let the midfielder leave Old Trafford.

Know your former lawmaker

Counsellor Kuku Y. Dorbor, former lawmaker, entrepreneur and humanitarian served in many capacities in the former 53rd Legislature besides lawmaking and providing oversight.

From 2006 to January 2011 she served as member of the Bureau of State-owned Enterprise, overseeing government-owned and private corporations dealing with the supply and sale of electricity, water and sewer and petroleum products; government-owned enterprises engaged in produce marketing, port and harbor management, government-owned enterprises engaged in wood-processing, hotel, printing, small business and housing, liaising with the Executive.

She was also members of the Judiciary Committee during the same period, providing oversight for the The administration of justice in the Republic of Liberia; judicial proceedings - civic and criminal, generally, constitutional amendments (s) and constitutional matters, courts and judges of the Republic of Liberia; repeal, amendments, revision and codification of status and other legal matters; prisoners, prison houses and prison reforms; protection of trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies; bankruptcy, mutiny, espionage and counterfeiting; inter-and-intra-country boundary disputes; court martial law and military law; civic rights and code of ethics and conduct; the Liberia National Police and private security institutions.



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