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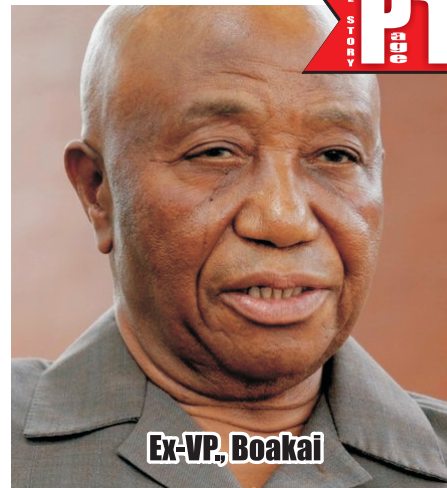
Tension awakens ex-leaders?



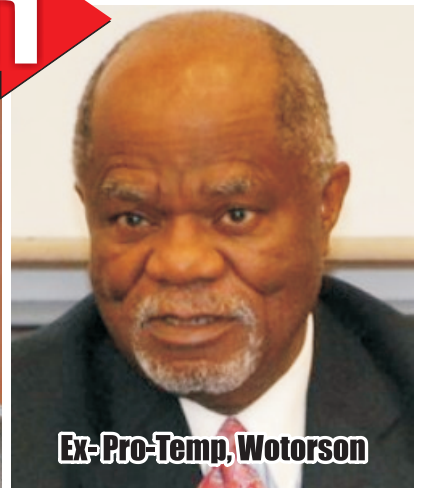
Pres. Weah



Ex-Pres. Sirleaf



Ex-VP, Boakai



Ex-Pro-Temp, Wotorson

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P11

UK issues travel alerts ahead of protest



Continental News

John Onaiyekan: Nigeria 'uninhabitable' for young people

The Catholic Archbishop of Abuja has warned Nigeria's leaders are making the country "uninhabitable", causing young people to migrate illegally to Europe. Cardinal John Onaiyekan said that if he were the president he would resign.

He criticised officials for focusing only on their own lives - building mansions and travelling the world.

The 75-year-old cleric said he felt ashamed when he saw trafficked Nigerian women soliciting on the streets of Rome and other Italian cities.

Cardinal Onaiyekan was speaking to the media ahead of a church gathering to address migration, taking place in the Nigerian capital on Tuesday. In February, President Muhammadu Buhari won re-election in Nigeria, Africa's largest oil producer where about a quarter of the working age population is unemployed.

Many thousands of

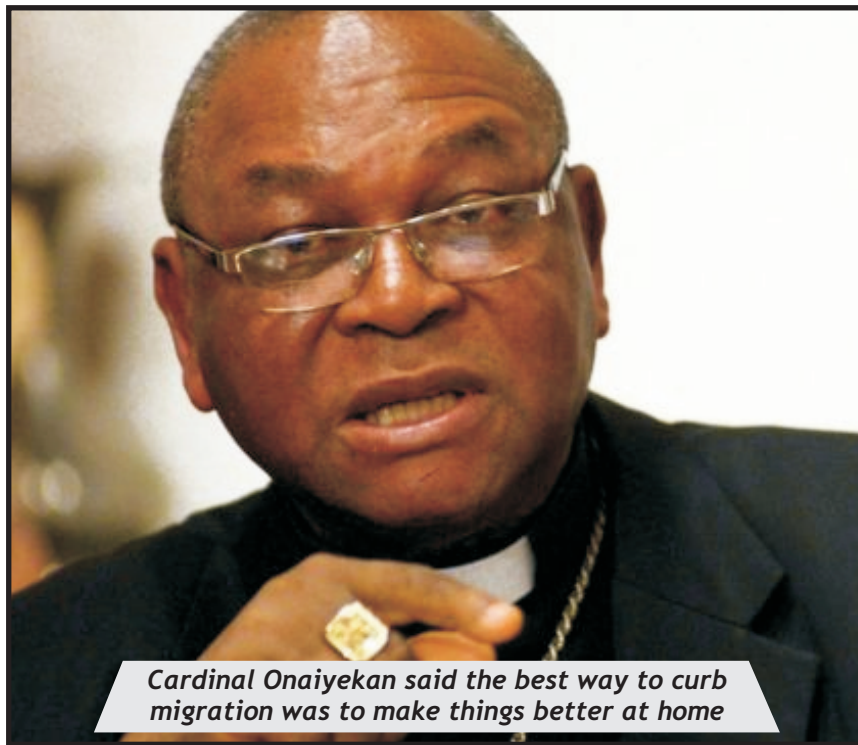
Nigerians have attempted the dangerous journey across the Sahara and over the Mediterranean to reach Europe in recent years. The figures have been declining - from 40,000 arriving in Italy by sea in 2016 to 1,250 last year, but this is partly because of

tougher EU-backed measures to crack down on people smugglers. Many Nigerian migrants come from southern Edo state, which an established base for people smugglers. Women and girls are often trafficked out of the country after being promised a

job opportunity - but many are forced into prostitution.

"To tell you bluntly I'm ashamed, I'm ashamed - big cardinal from Abuja, I'm moving through the streets of Rome, Milan, Naples and I see my daughters on the street on sale," the cardinal told the BBC after the press conference. "I'm ashamed and I stop and even greet some of them - you can't even engage them in conversation because they were brought out of the village illiterates. All they learn and all they know on the streets of Italy is what they need for this business - I'm ashamed."

The senior Catholic cleric hit out at Nigeria's politicians, saying if they had no vision on how to develop the country and provide adequate security they should not go into politics. He urged the government to "repair Nigeria" so that instead of young people emigrating, tourists would flock to the West African nation and Nigerians could travel with dignity. Nigeria is the continent's most-populous nation - and a deeply religious society, with mainly Muslims living in the north and Christians predominately in the south. BBC



Cardinal Onaiyekan said the best way to curb migration was to make things better at home

IS group launches attack on Libya forces

Islamic State group militants say they were behind a Saturday attack on a training camp for the forces of Libyan military strongman Khalifa Haftar. Hospital officials said nine people were killed in the attack in Libya's southern city of Sabha.

Gen Haftar's eastern forces took control of key areas in the oil-rich south during a January offensive.

They are now concentrated in the north west, where they are battling for control of the capital, Tripoli.

In a statement posted online, the Islamic State group said it had killed or wounded 16 people in the Sabha attack, as well as freeing inmates from a prison. A military source confirmed to Reuters that a jail inside the camp had been stormed but gave no further details. Hamed al-Khaiyali,

head of the local municipality, told the news agency that one soldier had been beheaded in the attack, while seven others were "slaughtered" or shot. Sabha Medical Centre later released a statement putting the death toll at nine. Gen Haftar has his powerbase in the east of the country where he is allied to one of two rival governments.

He launched an offensive with his Libyan National Army (LNA) on the south in January, saying he wanted to purge the area of "terrorists and criminal groups".

Then last month, Gen Haftar ordered his forces to advance to Tripoli, where they are now embroiled in a battle with fighters allied to the country's UN-backed and internationally recognised Government of National Accord.

Prime Minister Fayeze al-Serraj has vowed to defend the capital and has accused Gen Haftar of launching a coup.

Libya has been beset by violence and political instability since long-serving ruler Muammar Gaddafi was deposed and killed in 2011. BBC



Members of the Libyan National Army (LNA) commanded by Khalifa Haftar, have been making advances

Body found in hunt for Benin tourists

A body has been found in the search for two French tourists and their local guide who disappeared last week while on safari in north-western Benin. Sources cited in multiple reports say the body was that of the guide, but there has been no official confirmation.

The group disappeared in Pendjari National Park on Wednesday.

The park is on the border with Burkina Faso where Islamist militants have been

eastern Burkina Faso.

The fate of the two French tourists remains unclear, they added. France 24 cited unnamed regional sources making the same claims about the body and car. The sources also said that the two French tourists had been kidnapped.

The BBC has tried to contact Benin's government and African Parks, a non-profit conservation organisation which manages Pendjari National Park, for comment. The French



Pendjari National Park is regarded as the largest remaining intact ecosystem in West Africa

increasingly active in recent months.

The three were last seen driving a rented Ford SUV in the park, which is some 550km (335 miles) north of Benin's capital, Porto Novo.

Beninese and French authorities are investigating the incident. A local official and regional security source told the Reuters news agency that the body belonged to the local guide.

They said the guide was found shot dead, while the car was discovered burned in

government has previously warned citizens against travelling to parts of north-west Benin near the Burkina Faso border because of the risk of kidnapping. However, the case of the missing tourists is rare for the country, which is considered a pocket of calm in West Africa. Pendjari National Park is described by African Parks as the largest remaining intact ecosystem in West Africa and the last refuge for the region's largest population of elephants. BBC

EDITORIAL

A meeting of the mind is necessary

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH WEAH has been sharing thoughts on the current state of affairs with some foreign guests, his predecessor former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former Vice President Joseph NyumahBoakai at his Foreign Ministry Office in Monrovia.

THE MEETINGS COME in the wake of heightened tension in Monrovia and rest of the country about the deteriorating economic situation and a pending mass protest by citizens.

SITUATIONS GENERALLY, WHETHER political or economic, are becoming gloomier by the day characterized by anxiety and uncertainty, with basic commodity prices skyrocketing, including food and petroleum.

ADDITIONALLY, THE GOVERNMENT is barely struggling to pay salary, which is no longer current anymore, just two years in the Weah administration.

THE AUTHORITIES SEEM to be exerting effort to addressing the economic challenge that has sprung up across all levels, including the private sector, but the key concern right now appears to be the planned protest, which the government does want.

PRESIDENT WEAH ASSURED four visiting female Nobel Peace Laureates last week that he's willing to sit and talk with the protest organizers, for the sake of peace.

FORMER PRESIDENT SIRLEAF reportedly paid a courtesy visit Friday, 03 May at the Foreign Ministry and met with President Weah during which they both shared perspectives on prevailing situations in the country, including sustaining the peace.

PRIOR TO FRIDAY'S meeting with Madam Sirleaf, President Weah had earlier met with former Vice President Boakai during the week and exchanged ideas with the man who was his main challenger in the 2017 race.

WE BELIEVE THESE are welcome attempts by the President, as he navigates the State to peace, stability and economic recovery. But in these exchanges, President Weah should be willing to listen and gracious enough to make amends.

HE SHOULD REALIZE that he is President for all Liberians, including protesters, opposition politicians, his immediate predecessor and ordinary citizens. Therefore, the concerns, no matter how unpleasant, should be considered for the forward march of the country.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Joschka Fischer

The Commercial Case for EU Solidarity

In the 15 years since the European Union expanded eastward, cultural, political, and historical divisions between East and West have continued to stand in the way of genuine solidarity. But the continent's integrated industrial ecosystems - the value of which even staunch nationalists cannot ignore - still gives reason for hope.

BERLIN - The European Union's great eastward expansion in 2004 was a moment for hope and optimism. After 15 years, however, Eastern and Western Europe are culturally and politically divided as ever.

Though the Eastern European countries have enjoyed greater prosperity since joining the EU, they are falling ever further behind their Western counterparts in normative and material terms. They have experienced mass emigration, particularly among young people. And while remittances from those working in Western Europe have contributed to rising living standards in the region, depopulation has generated its own problems.

Today's East-West rift was foreseeable. When EU member states began discussing an eastward expansion in earnest - first at a 1997 summit in Amsterdam, and then at a follow-up meeting in Nice in 2000 - they found it extremely difficult to get their heads around the idea. Specifically, many delegates seemed to be in denial about the need to adjust common institutions and increase financial transfers to integrate new members and maintain cohesion within the bloc.

A similar form of skepticism exists today, only now it affects both old and new member states. Nonetheless, before 2004, the EU was still sustained by a shared hope for a common European future. In the decade following the end of the Cold War, both East and West were eager to pursue unification, confident that it would bring peace and prosperity.

That firm conviction has been eroded by doubt, stemming from fundamental disagreements over values and worldviews. Today's East Europeans feel like second-class citizens, and they have come to regard West Europeans as arrogant, self-serving custodians of their own narrow interests. At the same time, West Europeans think their Eastern counterparts should be more grateful, and should show more solidarity, particularly when it comes to accepting migrants and refugees.

More to the point, West Europeans fear that their counterparts are increasingly treating the rule of law and the separation of powers not as fundamental pillars of the European project, but as Western institutional quirks. After all, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán openly dreams of establishing an "illiberal democracy" in which a majority can run roughshod over the rights of minorities. Worse, he seems to believe that autocratic majoritarianism could serve as the basis for EU solidarity. Here, he is deeply

mistaken.

Orbán and his fellow populists' perverse ideas about democracy - not to mention their attempts to undermine judicial independence and the free press - are at the center of the new East-West rift. At issue is not one specific policy, but a deeper conflict over foundational values. Resolving this normative controversy will take a very long time. The EU's challenge is to develop a new mutual understanding without giving an inch when it comes to upholding its core principles.

The EU cannot survive as a nationalist project, given that nationalism is precisely the impulse it was established to thwart. Those who insist on interpreting the European project differently are sowing the seeds of its destruction. With the world undergoing a geopolitical and economic shift toward the Asia-Pacific region, a breakdown of European unity now would relegate the continent to the sidelines for generations to come.

Fortunately, beyond a shared respect for democratic values, European solidarity also benefits from commercial unity. One result of the post-Cold War enlargement was the creation of many new jobs in Eastern Europe, owing to foreign direct investment by West European companies, particularly in the automotive industry. In addition to strengthening economic conditions in the new member states, these investments gave rise to a supranational European auto industry on which East and West have come to depend in equal measure.

That industry is now embarking on a significant structural adjustment as it pivots from carbon-emitting internal combustion engines to electric vehicles (EVs). Yet outside observers could be forgiven for thinking that the overhaul is strictly a West European - and particularly a German - initiative. In reality, the coming changes will affect jobs across Europe, particularly in the Eastern member states. It is a shared challenge that demands a common solution. If Eastern Europe's current leaders do not recognize that, their countries will pay a high price.

The challenge facing the European auto industry is also an opportunity to close the East-West divide. The collective effort needed to sustain Europe's competitive edge in EVs, digitalization, and other commercial areas could transcend and render irrelevant the resentments and suspicions of the past 15 years. It could put Europe back on the path to shared prosperity. Even someone as blind to the EU's benefits as Orbán should be able to see that.

O-PED

By Irena Grudzinska Gross

A Life in Solidarity

WARSAW - There are very few people whose death can mark the end of an era. Karol Modzelewski was one of them. A historian and founding member of the Polish trade union Solidarity, Modzelewski died on April 28 in a Warsaw hospital. Sadly, he leaves behind a country in the grips of a populist government whose accession to power might have been averted if his own earlier warnings had been heeded.

Modzelewski was what the philosopher Hannah Arendt would call an actor - both a "doer" and a "sufferer" - in many of the key political movements of the last 80 years. His life could fill at least one chapter in any European history textbook.

He was born as Kirill Budniewicz in Moscow at the height of Stalin's Great Purge, which took both his maternal grandfather and father. His Jewish-Russian mother later married the Polish communist Zygmunt Modzelewski, whom she fought alongside in World War II while little Kirill sheltered with other children.

In 1945, Modzelewski was brought to Poland, where he received his new name, along with a new alphabet and culture. Though a transplant, he was not out of place in a time of mass migration. By the time he was nine, he had become a Pole.

He got his first real taste of political activism just ten years later, during the de-Stalinization period. Charismatic, handsome, and extremely intelligent, he was also a great orator, and commanded the stage at rally after rally. After participating in the mass protests against Poland's communist government in 1956, he was disillusioned by the subsequent lack of change. In 1964, he joined another young leader, Jacek Kuron, in publishing an "Open Letter to the Party," criticizing the system from the left. The move immediately landed both men in prison.

The release of Modzelewski and Kuron in 1967 came just in time for them to lead the mass student demonstrations in Poland that year. That got them sent back to prison, but by this time, their "Open Letter" had been read widely in the West. When asked to identify himself before a Paris judge, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, one of the French student activist leaders of les événements de mai 1968, replied: "Kuron-Modzelewski."

During his second imprisonment, Modzelewski returned to studying history, and devoted himself fully to the discipline after his release in 1971. He became an established authority on medieval Europe, and the author of books that Russian, French, and Italian historians regard as classics.

But twentieth-century history wasn't through with Modzelewski. His academic work was soon interrupted by the mass labor strikes of August 1980. Playing the role of doer and sufferer once again, Modzelewski furnished the incipient Solidarity movement with its name. Yet, as always, his main political concern was with egalitarianism, and he was soon marginalized within the movement. After the Polish government cracked down and declared martial law in December 1981, he found himself in prison once again.

The partly free election in June 1989 marked the beginning of the end of communist rule in Poland - and in Eastern Europe generally. Modzelewski was still doggedly pursuing his study of history, but so exhilarating was the political moment that he could not stay away. He was elected as a senator in the new parliament, where he supported left-wing parties. That made him a relic of the past for Poland's post-communist political leaders, who had no time for humanistic intellectuals. With Central and Eastern Europe's political landscape undergoing rapid change, they looked to Western Europe and the United States for a new model. Private property would become the guarantor of freedom, and inequality would be tolerated as a necessary price to pay.

When Modzelewski spoke out against the liquidation of the industrial labor force, cuts to the welfare state, and the general disdain of the capitalist political class for those left behind, he was dismissed as a hopeless romantic. His warnings now seem prescient, given the changing political mood of the past few years. The chauvinistic nationalism now ascendant in Poland, the US, and other Western democracies is the collateral damage of a political era that prized free markets over free people.

Modzelewski was an old-fashioned public intellectual, devoted to the life of the mind and to practical politics in the name of social justice. If I sound sympathetic to that way of being in the world, it is because I learned it from Modzelewski himself. I was among the students waiting anxiously for his and Kuron's release from prison in 1967. We felt called to rebel, but we needed leaders who were prominent public personae, rather than professional politicians. The activist Kuron and the intellectual Modzelewski made for a perfect team of mentors.

In the end, the long, periodic stints in prison wrought havoc on both men's health. Kuron died in 2004, and now the world has lost Modzelewski, too. I was lucky enough to spend a few days with him and his wife last spring in Turin, where we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the 1968 revolts. I remember discussing his excellent autobiography and thinking, that in his life, there was nothing of which to be ashamed. It was an honorable life, and when he died, he must have been at ease.

OPINION

By Denise Y. Ho

China's Selective Memory

NEW HAVEN - This is a big year for anniversaries in China. On May 4, the People's Republic will commemorate the centennial of the May Fourth Movement, the student-led protests in front of Beijing's Tiananmen Gate in 1919 that marked the birth of Chinese nationalism. And then, one month later, on June 4, will come the 30th anniversary of the violent suppression of pro-democracy student protests on the same site. This milestone, by contrast, will not be officially acknowledged, much less commemorated, in China.

The 1919 demonstrations are immortalized in stone on the Monument to the People's Heroes in Tiananmen Square. Referring to the same ideals of science and democracy, the protesters in 1989 also presented themselves as loyal to the nation. But the 1989 movement ended in what is known outside China as the Tiananmen Square massacre, and within China as the "Tiananmen incident." The events of three decades ago are a taboo subject in China, scrubbed by the authorities from the Internet and largely unknown to the country's younger generation.

It is a persistent contradiction that the Chinese state claims the mantle of May 4 while repressing the memory of June 4. The students of 1919 are celebrated as outspoken patriots, in keeping with a long Chinese tradition that places the intellectual in a role of social responsibility. The ideal scholar of imperial times took great risks to speak truth to power, in order to expose official corruption and spur reform.

University students in the early twentieth century inherited this legacy. In fact, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has its roots in the May Fourth Movement: student periodicals spread Marxist ideas, a Marxist study group was founded at Peking University, and Mao Zedong himself embraced Marxism-Leninism as a student worker in the library.

Because May Fourth has broad and popular resonance in China, the student protesters of 1989 - sporting long hair and blue jeans rather than long gowns and pleated skirts - consciously referred to it. And, like their predecessors, they emphasized their patriotism, pointing out official corruption and the economic inequalities that had resulted from the post-Mao economic reforms.

Yet the Chinese state branded the 1989 Tiananmen protest a "counterrevolutionary riot," and blamed a handful of conspirators for misleading the people. Despite the world's attention, the movement ended in a crackdown, followed by official silence and a public amnesia that deepens by the year.

The June 4 anniversary nonetheless remains politically sensitive, and the Chinese state always goes into high alert in the lead-up to it. In what has become an annual ritual, foreign journalists in China are blocked from covering the anniversary - as Louisa Lim, a former BBC and National Public Radio Beijing correspondent, has pointed out.

Since 1989, the CPC has made every effort to bind young people to the Chinese state and its priorities. Children take lessons in "patriotic education," fidelity is cultivated through the Young Pioneers and the Communist Youth League, and universities have developed elaborate systems to guard against political deviance and reward political loyalty with jobs. To a large extent, such efforts have made Chinese youth apolitical. The May Fourth legacy has effectively been divided, with patriotism cleaved apart from protest.

But the state has not entirely succeeded in coopting China's students. In 2018, students who support the CPC's own Marxist ideology became the latest generation of protesters to run afoul of the authorities. Last summer, groups began organizing factory workers in southern China, calling attention to abuses and helping workers to form an independent labor union. Presenting themselves as loyal to Chinese President Xi Jinping, the students launched campaigns in the field and on their university campuses.

The state has detained dozens of them. Videos show Peking University officials attempting to block student organizations, and witnesses have confirmed the disappearance of Marxist student leaders at the hands of plainclothes police.

The irony is that China is repressing leftist students whose words and deeds embody the CPC's original ideals. Just like the party's earliest leaders, including Mao, they champion exploited workers and seek to organize them, sometimes even engaging in factory work themselves. As their classes in Marxism and Mao's writings have taught them to do, they investigate social conditions and question China's deep inequalities. And, like their May Fourth forebears, today's young Marxists see themselves as loyal students speaking truth to power.

This year's anniversaries of the 1919 and 1989 movements will therefore carry particular weight.

The May Fourth legacy is one of patriotism and enlightenment. Born of those claims, Tiananmen in 1989 ended in violence and silence. Foreign observers will doubtless point to the Chinese authorities' contradictory attitudes toward May 4 and June 4, and conclude that China now has the power to shape its own historical narrative.

But the case of the Marxist students last year highlighted the continued potential for a loyal opposition. As the People's Republic looks ahead to the 70th anniversary of its founding this October, it must continue to reckon with its own history.

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Sen. Wesseh extols Liberian youth, but

River Gee County Senator Comany B. Wesseh, extols youth of Liberia for their role in society, but warns against allowing themselves to be used by politicians at the expense of national interest.

He notes that Liberian youth have played significant role in the development of the country in all sectors, stressing that they must continue doing things that are in the interest of the society rather than destroying it.

He gave the advice while speaking Thursday, May 2, 2019 at a one-day national youth policy consultative meeting held at the Paynesville City Hall, outside Monrovia.

The overall goal of the engagement, which brought together youth from across the country, is intended to ensure that a framework is put in place for the National Youth Policy (NYP), adopted by the 53rd National Legislature.

The document in question is in accordance with the



Sen. Wesseh speaks to an array of Liberian youth

African Youth Charter, geared to supporting long-term development of the young people of Liberia.

Accordingly, Sen. Wesseh wants youth to remain focused, as he pledges the Liberian Senate's commitment to passing the policy document into law.

"Something good can come from here. Your youth policy document must bring

confidence and hope. This policy document has been sent to the Senate and we are going to pass the youth act so that we can have something that is legislated," he says.

"By that, we can put money into the youth program. But again, you must be non-political. I know you; youth groups, especially for groups like Liberia National Student Union (LINSU) and Federation

of Liberian Youth (FLY), are not meant to be members of political parties. Those in leadership of these youth organizations must redefine their programs and actions of these groups," the River Gee County lawmaker urges, among other things.

In remarks, Youth and Sports Minister D. Zeogar Wilson, asserts that the revision of the National Youth Policy document and the development of an action plan are critical activities.

Minister Wilson indicates that the meeting underscores the importance President

George Manneh Weah attaches to the development of Liberian youth.

He adds that the Ministry of Youth and Sports, being the principal arm of government that spearheads youth activities, is also committed to giving attention and promoting activities of Liberian youth.

"In order to promote peace and enhance social cohesion and set the foundation of this country on the path of strong and inclusive development, it is important that we give adequate focus to the affairs of the youth of this country," the Minister notes, and continues, "This is our commitment and that is what we are continuing to do."

Meanwhile, the two leading youth organizations, LINSU and FLY, pledge their support to the national youth policy document.

"We call on the young people to make their own contribution to scrutinize the document. We support this document and we call on our development partners to support it. The [document] will not solve the problem, it is the implementation that will solve the problem," Mr. Mohammed Gandi, President of LINSU underscores. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Deputy Health boss stresses primary healthcare

Liberia's Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. Francis Kateh says, the Ministry cannot build a strong and vibrant health care service here without focus on primary health care.

He says Liberia health service cannot be resilient when the primary health care system, which is the first place of encounter, is not strong, adding, "So we have to begin to build the capacity at that level."

Doctor Kateh made the emphasis in Monrovia recently at program marking National Health Fair 2019 organized by the Ministry of

Health through its Health Promotion Division on collaboration with partners.

The program was held under the theme, "Accelerating Maternal and New Born Health; Stop Baby and Mama from Dying."

"We have started so many things and few years ago, we trained our own physician assistants, midwives and nurses to become nurse practitioners", he says.

"We need to continue to build their capacities at that level, but to do that we need every necessary medical supply that is needed to

build that level, because when the people come there

and do not see what is expected, it signals negative feedback to them, "he cautions.

The Chief Medical Officer notes that it is true that Liberia needs medical doctors, but primary health care services are essential and rely on physician assistants, nurses and midwives.

"We need to invest in them, and that should take precedent over everything we need to do, if we do that, we can change the country's health care services."

Also speaking, the Dean of the Mother Pattern College of Health Science, Sister Barbara Brilliant, proposes introduction of Life Skill education to be taught in all Liberian schools.

Serving as keynote speaker, Sister Brilliant says the teaching of Life Skill education in schools will help in developing young people to take greater responsibility for their own lives and to practice healthy behaviors.

She notes that Life Skill education is important because it gives people the skills and tools they need to navigate the world.

She says without education, people would not be able to read, write, calculate or communicate; they would also not be able to perform jobs competently, accurately and safely.

Press Freedom a key component of democratic governance

-U.S. Embassy

The United States Government says it values freedom of the press as a key component of democratic governance, noting that where a free press flourishes, citizens are more informed, active and engaged in political decision-making, and can better hold their governments accountable.

A World Press Freedom Day statement issued by the United States Embassy near Monrovia notes that as part of the U.S's commitment to supporting an independent media, the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, through USAID's Liberia Media Development program, has worked to increase citizen access to independent and

reliable information.

"We have worked with independent media outlets to develop business models which promote financial sustainability and independence, and provided training to journalists which could enhance investigative reporting. We have also supported the creation of a Code of Ethics for journalists - as well as a National Media Council to monitor and enforce that Code", the statement details

It says the United States honors the many journalists and media actors who have dedicated their lives to promote transparency and accountability



"The commitment to skills-based health education as an important foundation for every child is shared across the supporting agencies", she points out.

Also speaking, Liberia's

Cultural Ambassador Julie Endee appeals to the Liberian government to increase the budget of the Ministry of Health to enable the institution provides more health services for the public.



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MCC signs Sister City agreement

The agreement will further enhance friendship and cooperation between the two metropolitan cities.

The volume of trade between the Chinese port city and Liberia is said to have exceeded US\$20 million in 2018.

According to a dispatch from the Liberian Embassy near Beijing, on Thursday, 2 May 2019, Monrovia City Lord Mayor, Mr. Jefferson Kojee, signed on behalf of the Monrovia City Government, while Qingdao's Mayor, Mr. MengFanli, signed for the Qingdao Municipal Government.

The ceremony took place in the port city of Qingdao, Shandong Province.

The release says the two mayors agreed to make concerted efforts aimed at promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of the economy and trade, science and technology, culture, education and people-to-people exchanges, among others.

They also agreed to organize high-level visits and participate in important events in each other's city to forge efficient and pragmatic cooperation, while officials and related departments from both sides will communicate on a regular basis, consult and discuss on bilateral exchanges and

cooperation as well as other matters of mutual interests.

Welcoming the Liberian delegation to Qingdao, the mayor, Mr. MengFanli highlighted the close cooperation already existing between both cities in the areas of trade, investment,

Qingdao Committee, indicated that since his country rolled out the Belt and Road Initiative a few years ago, his city has placed a lot of attention on enhancing trade and investment cooperation with countries in Europe, Asia and Africa.



The Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) and the Municipal Government of Qingdao have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a sister-city relationship, the Liberian Embassy in China says.

marine shipping activities, among others,

He noted that figures for 2018 showed that the trade volume between the port city and Liberia exceeded US\$20 million.

Mr. Meng, also Vice Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC)

He hoped that the new sister-city relationship established will be further enhanced to promote trade and investment opportunities between both countries in general.

Responding, the head of the Liberian delegation, the Minister of State for

Presidential Affairs, Mr. Nathaniel Farlo McGill, reiterated Liberia's commitment to the "One-China Policy," adding that the Liberian government will ensure that its relationship with China grows from strength to strength.

He stressed the importance of establishing a sister-city relationship between Qingdao and Monrovia which will further boost economic and trade relations.

He signaled out Mr. Yao Cunzhi, a son of Qingdao, who's company, ZhonghuiTaifu Investment Co., Ltd., is investing significantly in the Liberian economy.

Mr. McGill said establishing this relationship will be a big opening for the Liberian economy and noted that the government of President George Manneh Weah is interested in making sure that the relationship between both countries is further strengthened.

He stressed that the occasion is an opportunity for most Liberians who want to do business in China and vice-versa.

He used the occasion to disclose that government is exploring plans about opening a Consulate in Qingdao, considering the increasing volume of trade between China and Liberia and Mr. Yao.

Mr. Yao, referred to as Liberia's envoy to Qingdao, is assisting that effort, working with the Liberian Embassy near Beijing, and the Liberian and Chinese Foreign Ministries.

Mr. Meng, welcomed the idea and promised his full support to ensuring that this plan becomes a reality.

Speaking later, Monrovia City Mayor Kojee said he attaches serious importance to the relationship because it will

benefit citizens of both cities. He extended his deepest appreciation on behalf of the people of the city of Monrovia.

Liberia's Ambassador to China, Mr. Dudley McKinley Thomas, in an interview later, stressed that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding is another building block in strengthening cooperation and working together for the shared future that is "win-win" for Liberia and China.

He said the exercise will go a long way in setting up a new platform for cooperation in keeping with the goals of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation as well as with Liberia's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative which calls for people-to-people exchanges and cooperation so that both countries can build a shared future which is mutually beneficial to both countries.

Qingdao is one of China's first coastal cities opening to the outside world. As of today, the city has established sister-city relations or friendly-cooperative relations with 74 cities of other countries.

More than 2,000 international trading companies, businesses and financial institutions have opened permanent branches or offices in the city.

In 2018, Qingdao's imports and exports totaled 531.61 RMB (yuan), and the paid-in foreign exchange direct investment rose to US\$8.6 billion.

Qingdao, is one of China's regional economic centers, one of China's top five seaports for international trade, and a maritime transportation hub.

In 2018, its gross domestic product exceeded 1.2 trillion RMB yuan (about US\$185 billion) and its public budgetary revenues amounted to 123.19 billion RMB yuan (about US\$19 billion).--Press release.

British envoy pays courtesy call

Liberia's Foreign Minister Gbehzohngar Milton Findlay Friday, received in audience the British Ambassador accredited to Liberia, H. E. Mr. David Belgrove when the British Envoy paid him a courtesy call at the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, on the Capitol Hill.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, the two officials met in the Holding Room on the 4th floor of the ministry.

During their interaction, the two officials also expressed optimism on the upcoming EU-Liberia political

dialogue which will be held on Monday May 7.

The two officials expressed confidence that the upcoming deliberation at the EU-Liberia Political Dialogue will highlight critical areas of engagement that would be mutually beneficial and rewarding.

"We are pleased to note that the Political Dialogue is being held frequently between the Liberian Government and the EU as compare to other countries", the British envoy stressed.

During the meeting, Ambassador Belgrove extended invitation to the Liberian Government to participate in a media free society conference jointly organized by the UK and Canada. The conference, he said, is expected to take place on July 10th to 11th 2019.

The British Ambassador further hailed Liberia's efforts in encouraging and protecting a Free Media Society aimed at

enhancing democracy.

The British Envoy said the conference will be followed by a ministerial meeting to be attended by selected countries and encouraged the Liberian Foreign Minister to be in attendance.

He disclosed that at least 50 bilateral scholarships will be offered for media professionals from the participating countries adding "we want Liberia to benefit from the scholarship scheme".

For his part, Foreign

Minister Findley expressed deep gratitude to Ambassador Belgrove for the visit and hailed the excellent bilateral ties of friendship between Liberia and Great Britain.

He also commended the British Ambassador for the invitation extended to him and the government of Liberia, and assured him of Liberia's commitment and readiness to attend such a laudable conference on media free society.--Press release



Foreign Minister Gbehzohngar Milton Findlay receives in audience British Ambassador to Liberia H. E. David Belgrove

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By-elections due July 2

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has set July 2, 2019 as the date for the conduct of Montserrado County Senatorial and Representatives by-elections.

The two by-elections result from the death of Senator Geraldine Doe - Sheriff following a prolonged illness, and the death of Montserrado County District #15 Rep. Adolph Lawrence who died in a car crash on his way to Monrovia from Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

NEC Chairperson Cllr. Jerome G. Korkoya has mandated the Commission's Clerk of Election Writs to conduct the District #15 Representative and Senatorial By-elections in Montserrado County.

The Commission says in a release that the NEC's mandate to the Clerk of Writs, Madam Antoinette B. Johnson was done Friday, 3 May by Cllr. Korkoya.

The press release indicates that Cllr. Korkoya in his election mandate commanded the Chief Clerk of



Election Writs to further issue elections writs to the Elections Magistrates of lower and upper Montserrado County to conduct a by-election in their respective areas on the 2nd day of July 2019 from the hour of 8:00 Ante Meridian to 6:00 Post Meridian.

"You shall certify to me by endorsement upon this Mandate at the close of counting of votes as to the

form and manner you executed this Mandate" and "this shall constitute your legal and sufficient authority", Cllr. Korkoyah orders the Clerk of Writs.

The release adds that the mandates come after the Commission took administrative notice from two separate notifications from the Liberian Senate, dated 9 April 2019 and from the House of

Representatives dated 29 April 2019 announcing vacancies caused by the deaths of Senator Geradince Doe - Sheriff and Representative Adolph A. Lawrence in the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively.

According to the NEC, the Clerk of Election Writs Madam Antoinette B. Johnson reminded the Magistrates of lower and upper Montserrado County during issuance of the Elections Writs that the last day for nomination of aspirants by duly registered political parties, coalitions, alliances, or independent aspirants for the Senatorial and Representative by-elections shall be the 18th day of May 2019 at 5:00 o'clock Post Meridian.

The release also discloses that Madam Johnson said the issuance of the elections writs are in line with a mandate by

the Board of Commissioners (BOC) of NEC, through its Chairperson to inform the magistrates that pursuant to the notification of letters received from the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate, informing the Commission of the vacancies within the two Houses.

Accepting the elections writs, Magistrate Vopea S. Gongloe promised that they would fully execute the mandate by conducting free, fair, credible and transparent representative by-election in District #15 and Senatorial by-election in Montserrado County without fear or favor.

Magistrate Gongloe said to ensure this, they will need all the necessary logistical, financial and moral support from the Government of Liberia, through the Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission of Liberia and other elections stakeholders and partners.—*Press release*

Press Freedom a key

Starts from page 5

throughout the world. "They are guardians of democratic values and ideals."

Liberia joined rest of the world Friday, 03 May to celebrate World Press Freedom Day, officially commemorated in Rivercess County under the auspices of the Press Union of Liberia.

The day marks the anniversary of the 1991 "Declaration of Windhoek on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press." It

was subsequently proclaimed by the UN General Assembly as "World Press Freedom Day."

The Windhoek Declaration recognized that "Consistent with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the establishment, maintenance, and fostering of an independent, pluralistic, and free press is essential to the development and maintenance of democracy in a nation, and for economic development."

call - off the protest

-Cleric warns

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Bishop of the Faith Worldwide International Ministries (FWIM), Bishop Alfred Dickson Yerkuyah is warning organizers of the planned June 7 protest here to call - off their pending protest, arguing that it will not automatically change anything in the country but rather increase hardship.

FWIM is situated in Battery Factory Community, outside Monrovia.

Critics and opposition of President George MannehWeah's administration are planning a protest due 7 June to demand government's action on status of the economy and other issues of national concern.

But speaking at the close of a week-long fast and prayer for the nation and its people at his Church edifice, Bishop Yerkuyah recalled the

situation of the rice riot in Liberia, University of Liberia students' protest, and several other incidences that occurred in the 70s and 80s.

According to him, those events mentioned did not change a single thing around but carried the country backward with increased poverty and diseases at the detriment of citizens.

The Clergy warns Christians across the country to advice members of their congregations not to be encouraged by anyone to participate in the planned protest.

He challenges those organizing the protest to show to the Liberian people a single incident of protest that brought development to the country, order than increased drugs addiction of Liberian youth, robbery, and poverty, among others.

He used his message under the theme: "Protest Cannot Change Anything in Liberia," to further challenge citizens not to allow any politician to fool them.

"Don't let any politician fool you, because at the end of the day they will run away," Bishop Yerkuyah says.

On the other hand, Bishop



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Yerkuyah calls on the Government of Liberia (GOL) to take every security measure aimed at ensuring peace and security in the country in the wake of the planned protest by people that he claims have "no vision for the country and its people."

Bishop Yerkuyah notes further that should anything go wrong in the face of the protest, the Liberian people will hold President Weah and his Government responsible because the government was elected for six years to adequately govern the country and its people by alleviating

the suffering of Liberians.

For her part, Mrs. Joyce Harmon Whitefield, head of the Church's women department admonished women across Monrovia not to join any protest because doing so will be at their own detriment.

She says no one anywhere can fight government, as she encourages those behind the June 7 protest to negotiate with the government through the appropriate medium for the sake of the country.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Français

Manifestation du 7 juin : les pourparlers s'intensifient en coulisses

Des tractations ont actuellement lieu en coulisses pour emmener le gouvernement à ouvrir le dialogue avec le groupe de libériens qui menacent de descendre dans la rue le 7 juin pour exiger une amélioration des conditions de vie des populations, a appris le New Dawn.

La Prix Nobel de la paix 2003 et professeure de droit, Shirin Ebadi, a fait écho de l'engagement du président George Manneh Weahet de son gouvernement à dialoguer avec les leaders du « conseil patriotique » - une organisation de la société civile - qui organisent la manifestation du 7 juin.

Mme Ebadi fait partie des quatre éminentes lauréates du prix Nobel de la paix originaires de plusieurs pays qui ont séjourné à Monrovia en vue de prendre part à la conférence Nobel sur la femme organisée sous le thème : « Récupérer notre espace ».



La conférence a eu lieu à la mairie de Monrovia en présence du professeur Leymah Gbowee, lauréate libérienne du prix Nobel de la paix. Mme Ebadi a fait part des tractations en cours dans les coulisses lors d'une

conférence de presse organisée jeudi à l'hôtel Belle Cassa de Sinkor, à Monrovia. Elle a fait le constat de l'agrandissement du fossé entre les pauvres et les riches, appelant ainsi le gouvernement à œuvrer au

maintien de la paix et de la stabilité politique dans le pays.

Le Président Weah aurait fait part de ce que son gouvernement était disposé à dialoguer, mais encore faut-il que les organisateurs de la manifestation veuillent coopérer avec le gouvernement. Il aurait ainsi demandé aux Prix Nobel de la paix à intervenir auprès de ces derniers afin qu'ils se joignent à la table de discussion. Mme Ebadi a exhorté le gouvernement à faire des efforts pour résoudre certains des problèmes soulevés par les

Libériens, car c'est le seul moyen sûr de faire avancer le processus de paix. Elle a aussi appelé les manifestants à faire attention car aucun investisseur n'est disposé à venir au Libéria s'il y a des crises dans le pays.

Quant à Mme Tawakkol Karman, qui partage le prix Nobel de la paix 2011 avec l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf et la militante libérienne Leymah Gbowee, elle encourage le gouvernement à se pencher sur certains des problèmes essentiels à la croissance et au développement du pays.

Pour sa part, Rigberta Menchu Tum, lauréate du prix Nobel de la paix 1992, a appelé toutes les parties à prendre conscience de l'importance du dialogue afin de faire avancer le pays.

Pour elle, pour éviter la violence, il faut que ce ne soit que des étudiants qui participent à la manifestation, que les gens ordinaires n'y prennent pas part. elle rappelle au gouvernement et aux citoyens leur responsabilité de rechercher un règlement pacifique et conseille aux manifestants de faire part de leurs griefs dans une atmosphère pacifique et de veiller à ce que la paix recherchée par la communauté internationale ne soit ébranlée de quelque manière que ce soit.

Firestone Liberia au secours de l'école publique de Yowee

Firestone Liberia fait don de matériaux de construction à l'école publique de Yowee. Il s'agit de plus de 160 feuilles tôles, à en croire un communiqué de presse rendu public par la société de production d'hévéa.

Par ce don, la société veut participer aux efforts de

réparation de l'école publique située dans le comté de Bong, récemment endommagée par une tempête ravageuse, selon le communiqué de presse.

Outre les matériaux de construction, Firestone Liberia a fait don des manuels scolaires aux plus de 345 élèves que compte l'établissement. Le don a été

présenté au nom de l'entreprise par G. Rufus Karmorh, directeur de communication et des affaires publiques de Firestone Liberia.

« Firestone Liberia est heureuse de prendre part à ce projet de rénovation en apportant un soulagement aux élèves de cette institution, en particulier pendant la prochaine saison des pluies », a déclaré Karmorh, avant d'ajouter : « Les jeunes de notre pays sont vraiment notre plus grande ressource ». Il a réaffirmé l'engagement de la société en matière d'éducation.

Firestone Liberia gère son propre système scolaire avec près de 12 000 élèves, tous scolarisés gratuitement par la société.

Karmorh a également fait part de la fierté de sa société en tant que partenaire actif pour le développement socio-économique du Libéria. « Ce soutien souligne l'engagement de la société en matière de responsabilité

sociale de l'entreprise, c'est notre façon de servir ».

Le Directeur de l'école, M. Johnson M. Juah, a remercié la direction de Firestone Liberia au nom du corps d'enseignants et des élèves pour l'aide précieuse

apportée par la société aux enfants du Libéria.

Des anciens, des chefs traditionnels et des citoyens de la ville, parents et élèves ont saisi l'occasion pour remercier Firestone Liberia pour son geste.



Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

Français

Éditorial

Les législateurs doivent revenir à la raison

Personne n'aurait imaginé qu'un législateur en exercice aurait proposé la réduction des avantages des législateurs de 10 à 20 pour cent. Eh bien c'est exactement ce que recommande le député Acarous Moses Gray, membre du Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC, parti au pouvoir), compte tenu des réalités économiques actuelles.

Le représentant du district 8 du comté de Montserrado, qui, jusqu'à son ascension à la Chambre des représentants en 2011, avait été un critique acerbe de l'administration de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, veut que ces réductions affectent les primes nationales, médicales, de voyage et autres.

Il a fait cette annonce lors d'une conférence de presse lundi dans son bureau à Capitol Hill, révélant qu'une communication officielle avait été adressée à l'Assemblée plénière. Il recommande une réduction des primes des députés de 10 à 20%. Il se dit convaincu que les revenus générés par ces ajustements contribueront au développement et à l'amélioration des conditions de vie de ses compatriotes.

La réalité est que la situation économique générale du pays est très défavorable en ce moment. Les locataires du Capitol Hill ne peuvent par conséquent tout simplement continuer à faire comme si rien n'était. En tant que membres de la 54ème législature, ils gagnent actuellement des salaires et des avantages fabuleux. Il leur incombe donc de faire preuve de magnanimité en acceptant de partager avec leurs compatriotes qui vivent au plus bas niveau de la société, car ils parviennent difficilement à joindre les deux bouts.

Il est important que les législateurs acceptent les réalités qui prévalent et fassent des sacrifices nécessaires pour permettre au gouvernement et à l'État de fonctionner convenablement. La réalité est que l'État n'a pas les moyens pour maintenir la masse salariale, car avec les recettes actuelles qui s'évaluent à un peu plus de 400 millions de dollars US, il est très difficile, voire impossible, de maintenir un budget national de 570 millions de dollars US.

Les autres réalités sont que les hôpitaux du pays manquent de médicaments, d'électricité, de logistique et de personnel qualifié ; les écoles publiques ne reçoivent plus de fournitures ; les fonctionnaires devront maintenant attendre 60 jours au lieu de 30 pour recevoir leur salaire mensuel ; Les étudiants boursiers à l'étranger sont maintenant livrés à la merci des pays d'accueil car notre gouvernement n'a pas les moyens pour leur fournir des subventions.

Nous pourrions continuer à nommer ou à citer des tonnes de raisons pour lesquelles nous pensons que la réduction des primes est d'autant nécessaire que les autres législateurs devraient se joindre au Représentant Gray pour que cela devienne une réalité dans l'intérêt majeur de notre pays. C'est un leadership mature.

Nous sommes sans savoir que personne ne va empiler de l'argent dans des sacs, les mettre dans un avion et les amener ici pour développer le Libéria. Les partenaires peuvent fournir de l'aide à maintes reprises, mais nous, les Libériens, devons apprendre à prendre le taureau par les cornes. Nous devons devenir les moteurs de notre propre destin en acceptant de faire des sacrifices lorsque les temps sont durs. Et les temps sont durs en ce moment. N'est-ce pas ?

Nous croyons comprendre que le pouvoir exécutif a déjà réduit les salaires des hauts fonctionnaires afin de réorienter ces fonds vers des domaines dont ils ont désespérément besoin. Et cela devrait être recommandé. Lorsque les conditions sont favorables, ces structures salariales peuvent avoir un sens, mais pas dans ces situations où un sac de 25 kg de riz est vendu sur le marché à 2 500 LRD à Monrovia et encore plus cher dans les autres comtés.

On devrait encourager le représentant Grey pour avoir suffisamment fait preuve de courage pour formuler cette recommandation à la Chambre, qui, selon nous, non seulement permettra de sauver des vies, mais également constitue un acte de leadership responsable et exemplaire.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Joschka Fischer

L'argument commercial de la solidarité dans l'UE

BERLIN - La grande expansion de l'Union européenne vers l'est en 2004 a constitué un moment d'espoir et d'optimisme. Quinze ans plus tard, l'ouest et l'est de l'Europe sont culturellement et politiquement plus divisés que jamais.

Bien que les pays d'Europe de l'Est aient bénéficié d'une plus grande prospérité depuis leur entrée dans l'UE, ils s'éloignent de plus en plus de leurs homologues de l'ouest du point de vue normatif et matériel. Ces États connaissent une émigration massive, notamment de la jeunesse. Et si les envois de fonds effectués depuis l'étranger par ceux qui travaillent en Europe occidentale ont contribué à l'élévation du niveau de vie dans la région, le dépeuplement génère ses propres difficultés.

L'actuelle fracture est-ouest était prévisible. Lorsque les États membres de l'UE commencent à discuter sérieusement d'une expansion - dans un premier temps au sommet d'Amsterdam en 1997, puis lors d'un rassemblement de suivi à Nice en 2000 - ils éprouvent les plus grandes difficultés à apprivoiser cette idée. Plusieurs délégués se montrent en particulier dans le déni concernant la nécessité d'ajuster les institutions communes, et d'augmenter les transferts financiers, pour intégrer de nouveaux membres et maintenir la cohésion au sein du bloc.

Une forme similaire de scepticisme existe aujourd'hui, à la différence près qu'elle affecte à la fois les anciens et les récents États membres. Reste qu'avant 2004, l'UE reposait encore sur l'espoir partagé d'un avenir européen commun. Dans la décennie qui suivit la guerre froide, l'est et l'ouest étaient désireux de poursuivre l'unification, convaincus qu'elle apporterait paix et prospérité.

Or, cette solide conviction a été érodée par le doute, issu de désaccords fondamentaux autour des valeurs et visions du monde. Les Européens de l'Est ont aujourd'hui le sentiment d'être des citoyens de seconde zone, et en arrivent à considérer les Européens de l'Ouest comme les gardiens arrogants et autocentrés de leurs propres intérêts étroits. Pendant ce temps, les Européens occidentaux estiment que leurs homologues de l'est devraient se montrer plus reconnaissants, et faire preuve d'une plus grande solidarité, notamment lorsqu'il s'agit d'accueillir migrants et réfugiés.

Les Européens occidentaux craignent plus précisément que leurs voisins considèrent de plus en plus l'État de droit et la séparation des pouvoirs comme ne comptant pas parmi les piliers fondamentaux du projet européen, mais comme des excentricités institutionnelles occidentales. Le Premier ministre hongrois Viktor Orbán rêve en effet ouvertement d'installer une « démocratie illibérale » dans laquelle la majorité pourrait mépriser les droits des minorités. Pire encore, il semble considérer que le règne autocratique de la majorité pourrait servir de fondement à la solidarité dans l'UE. Il se trompe ici profondément.

Les idées perverses d'Orbán et de ses partisans populistes sur la démocratie - sans parler des efforts qu'ils fournissent pour malmener l'indépendance de la justice et la liberté de la presse - se situent au cœur de la nouvelle fissure est-ouest. La problématique ne réside pas dans une politique spécifique, mais dans un problème plus profond autour des valeurs fondamentales. Beaucoup de temps sera nécessaire à la résolution de cette controverse normative. Le défi consiste pour l'UE à développer une nouvelle entente mutuelle, sans céder le moindre centimètre de terrain s'agissant du maintien de ses principes clés.

L'UE ne saurait survivre en tant que projet nationaliste, puisque le nationalisme constitue précisément à l'origine ce qu'elle entend contrecarrer. Ceux qui insistent pour interpréter différemment le projet européen sèment les graines de sa destruction. Le monde opérant actuellement un pivot géopolitique et économique en direction de la région Asie-Pacifique, une rupture de l'unité européenne relèguerait aujourd'hui le continent au second plan pour des générations à venir.

Fort heureusement, au-delà du respect commun de valeurs démocratiques, la solidarité européenne bénéficie également de l'unité commerciale. L'un des fruits de l'élargissement après la guerre froide a résidé dans la création de nombreux nouveaux emplois en Europe de l'Est, grâce aux investissements directs étrangers réalisés par les entreprises d'Europe occidentale, notamment dans l'industrie automobile. En plus de renforcer les conditions économiques dans les nouveaux États membres, ces investissements ont donné naissance à une industrie automobile européenne supranationale, dont l'est et l'ouest sont devenus dépendants dans une mesure égale.

Cette industrie entreprend désormais un important ajustement structurel, à l'heure de sa transition depuis les moteurs à combustion interne émetteurs de carbone vers les véhicules électriques (VE). Il est compréhensible que les observateurs extérieurs voient dans cette refonte une initiative strictement ouest-européenne - et notamment allemande. Mais en réalité, les changements prochains influenceront l'emploi partout en Europe, et en particulier dans les États membres situés à l'est. Il s'agit d'un défi commun, qui exige une solution commune. Si les dirigeants actuels des États d'Europe de l'Est ne comprennent pas cela, leur pays en paiera le lourd tribut.

Le défi qui se présente à l'industrie automobile européenne constitue également une opportunité de réduire la fracture est-ouest. L'effort collectif nécessaire pour appuyer l'avantage concurrentiel de l'Europe en matière de VE, la digitalisation, et d'autres domaines commerciaux, pourrait transcender et rendre inopérantes les rancœurs et suspicions des 15 dernières années. Cet effort pourrait replacer l'Europe sur la voie d'une prospérité commune. Même les plus insensibles aux bienfaits de l'UE, tels que Viktor Orbán, devraient pouvoir comprendre cela.

ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS

Analysis of President Xi Jinping's Blueprint for Africa: Provides an Opportunity for Liberia's Development?

Josephus Moses Gray

Africa in recent years has come to be a major geo-strategic importance to the oil-dependent industrialized economies and giving an attention that Africa receives from state actors on the global stage in the context of international politics, the idea of an African rebirth seems to be finding more and more acceptance within the contemporary global politics. But it entails instituting the right policy at the right time by the right people at the right place, while those at the helm of leadership on the African continent must be proactive not reactive and worse of all passive; in paying keen attention to a win-win diplomacy. Unlike other global powers, Beijing's "win-win" diplomatic style has featured greater accommodations with several African states, governments and leaderships including Liberia.

In view of Liberia's current economic situation and development gape, the people-centered policy of one belt and one road initiative which has developed from blueprint to road-map, from concepts on paper to projects on the ground, provides a unique opportunity for the Liberian government to benefit from the Chinese President President Xi Jinping's socioeconomic blueprints for African states' development.

When the Xi Jinping visited Duisburg in March 2014, the phrase 'One Belt, One Road' was a new phrase heard by very few people. Nowadays, this phrase is a buzzword in the media all over the world. Moreover, a glance at the map of the economic corridors reveals that the initiative has expanded from including just 'one' belt and 'one' road, into including many 'belts' and many 'roads' Recent histories have taught us that it takes more to convince people about the benefits of this kind of infrastructure program. In 1949, the birth of new China opened up a new chapter in Sino-African relations.

If African leaders pay keen attention to economic independence, turn from the western concept of development and introduce Africa's own model of development concepts, and ease foreign aid reliance from the western imperialists, focusing on flagship projects and the structure of Community of Shared Future for Mankind, the continent can ultimately overcome abject poverty, wars, political, social and cultural conflicts on the continent. As a Chinese proposition that reflects China's wisdom, this concept is based on the long-standing cultural tradition and the advanced Chinese ideological system, representing a new perspective for international cooperation and international order and the new concepts of development, security and civilization; it offers the right direction for the ongoing efforts to improve global governance.

Unlike the Western donors who tend to impose Western values like democratic ideas on Africa, China invests and provides aid without much preconditions and interference in their internal affairs which in some instances is not wealthy for some democracies and provides room for bad governance. The Chinese Government has captured the attention of many African countries including Liberia due primarily to Beijing's reasonable approaches towards socioeconomic and infrastructural development, and the ways in which the Chinese Government practices win-win diplomacy and its foreign aid's policy.

In several African states, infrastructure development and innovation have compared most African governments to rethink its strategies towards engaging with belt and road, while in Liberia the Government is seemingly becoming more interested due to its enormous developmental needs to achieve its people-centered pro-poor agenda especially road connectivity. For long, China has provided within its capacity foreign aid assistance to the economic development of most African countries. The flexibility of the Chinese model which exemplifies the traditional way of cooperation to western journalists the way through which China promotes multilateral cooperation lacks transparency and is unsustainable because it is not based on codified legal rules.

Let it be known that peace brings the world closure and unite a diverse group of people into a family and community, and can bring a peaceful and stable order to



society, and a beacon for the necessary condition that enhances the survival and development of mankind. A world deprived of peace certainly will be denied itself of being turned into a Building a Community of Shared Future for Mankind where law and justice will protect all; not forgetting that peace is an essential benefit.

Liberia is a case study where China's infrastructures are visible. China has provided aid to hundreds of projects in Liberia which involved road construction, infrastructure development, health and education assistance, security, energy, human capacity development and other sectors; but let me specifically states that America and Europe, in general, have greatly contributed to Liberia's socioeconomic development and stability.

There is no doubt that the Belt and Road Creativity aims to create new networks between Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Asia based on China's innovation of railway connections and resuscitate the historic Silk Road. The initiative, the shift to railways appears to be a great leap backward but modern production chains are heavily reliant upon offshoring and trade in intermediate goods.

Understandably, China and Africa's countries shared a comprehensive consensus on major international issues, common interests and a willingness to deepen their cooperation. China emphasizes the notion of "respect" for African countries, embodied in its policy of noninterference in the domestic affairs of sovereign countries and in an approach to conflict resolution on the continent that is seen as much less confrontational as Western interventions while African countries and governments similarly treat China with greater respect.

The central reason for the formation of the United Nations as entrenched in the UN Charter primary responsibility is: To tirelessly main international peace and security and to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and in the equal rights of large and small nations, to ensure fairness and respect of international law, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

The oath is reflective in this year's General Assembly 73rd Debate under the Theme: Making the United Nations Relevance to All people of the world". If we take our respective time and critically digest the theme; one question that comes up is how the UN can be relevant to all mankind when the world's body lacks geographical and regional balance, and powers only concentrated in the hands of just five states-the Five Permanent members of the Security Council?

Indeed, I believe that the new world order can be significantly better regulated if all nations subscribe to

the principles of building Belt and Roads, and the construction of a Community of a Shared Future for Mankind; with respect to common development based on innovations and industrialization. However, the issue of inequality is a major concern for countries from developed to under-developed, and if not address adequately will endanger world peace; we have a historic role to play in this by promoting a robust, pro-active policy.

Roughly seventy-three years ago, in San Francisco's "the founding fathers" of the United Nations laid down on the negotiating table the basis of new interstate relations under which a political dialogue and cooperation had come to replace the policy of expansion and "civilized war of all against all"; in an effort to safeguard world peace and create a unique forum of goodwill and unattainable goals. The unification of the society and mankind depend on the maintenance and safeguards of global peace and stability, which are the direct opposite of conflict and war, since peace promotes and helps to unify individual rights and collective rights, and keeps the society integrated and saved, where love and care are shown to inhabitants of community of a shared future for mankind.

I am of the opinion that this journey cannot be complete nor can it win this battle by simply theory without being practical and decisive in our deeds and actions. Our presence here demonstrates our commitment to finding an international response to these challenges that stand or tend to stand in the way of the belt and Road and Building of a Community of a Shared mankind. We must firmly uphold the spirit of this gathering and successfully achieve the goal for which we are here. In order to promote an era of common development and the implementation of the Belt and Road, peace should be safeguarded since belt and road requires stability.

The phenomenon of war is as old as history; throughout recorded history political governance has never been there to serve as domain of the civil authorities; history, ancient and modern, furnishes ample proof of Caesar, Cromwell, Napoleon, Garibaldi, Mao, Ataturk, Castro, Franco, Spinola, George Washington and the American Rebels, Lenin and the Bolsheviks, the Sandinistas, the Greek Colonels, and countless military coup-makers in Africa and Latin America.

The only continents that have-not experienced a coup d'état are North America (USA, Canada) and Australia. For instance, in France, First Consul (President) Louis Napoleon Bonaparte carried out a coup d'état in 1802, dismissed the French Assembly and proclaimed himself Consul (President) for life. His new dictatorship was approved by an overwhelming plebiscite. To be Continue

Tension awakens ex-leaders?

The growing political tension persisting in Liberia appears to be awakening Liberia's past leaders from their comfort zones as they have begun providing counselling to President George Manneh Weah and his officials, while efforts are reportedly being made behind the scenes to quell a pending June 7 protest.

The Executive Mansion here says immediate past President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf and her former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai at different dates, met President Weah last week and critical national issues were discussed.

Earlier on Capitol Hill last week, ex-Senate Pro - Tempore Cletus Wotorson similarly met with the Liberian Senate, cautioning it to take on its role as House of Elders and help to calm the tension in the country.

President Weah's regime is being pressured by critics and



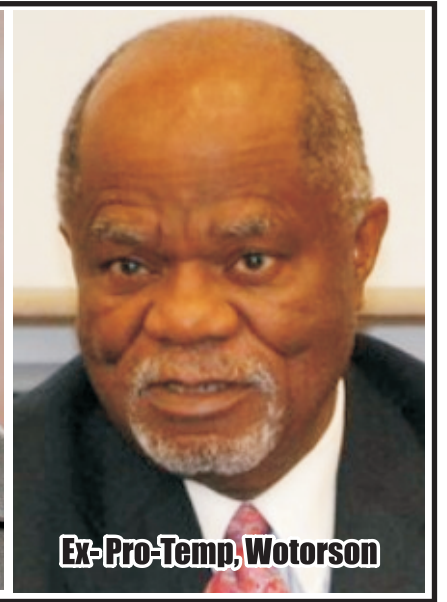
Pres. Weah



Ex-Pres. Sirleaf



Ex-VP, Boakai



Ex-Pro-Temp, Wotorson

opposition members to address the economic woes here, allegations of corruption, doubt over the handling of a controversial US\$25m mop - up exercise and other issues for which a protest is being planned for June 7.

In the midst of the growing tension in the country, the Executive Mansion says President Weah welcomed and

hosted his immediate past predecessor, Madam Sirleaf on Friday, 3 May at his Foreign Ministry office in Monrovia

In a release issued following the meeting of the two statespersons, the Executive Mansion indicates that the meeting was in President Weah's continued endeavor to open his administration to diverse views and counsels from a broad-spectrum of the

national mosaic.

The Executive Mansion reveals that President Weah and ex-President Sirleaf both discussed a range of critical national issues during her courtesy visit to share perspectives on prevailing developments in the country.

They discussed how to sustain the gains made over the years and to preserve the democratic space, the Executive Mansion says.

President Weah emphasized his government's commitment to promoting national development, peace,

reconciliation, unity and growth at every sector of the Liberian society.

According to the Executive Mansion, he assured his predecessor that he would continue regular dialogues with eminent persons as well as ordinary Liberians as a way of ensuring that every citizen's view is factored in his governance agenda.

The visit of the former President came two days following a similar courtesy call on President Weah by former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai.—Press release

UK issues travel alerts ahead of protest

In the wake of the impending 07 June mass protest, the British Government alerts its citizens traveling to Liberia or already in Monrovia about protests and demonstrations in the capital, cautioning British nationals to avoid protests, demonstrations, large gatherings and crowds and follow the advice of local authorities.

The travel alert updated since 22 March 2019 and still current up to 04 May 2019 also warns of indiscriminate terrorists attacks in Liberia, as seen in Mali, Côte D'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

It notes that terrorist groups continue to mount attacks on beach resorts, hotels, cafés and restaurants in these countries, visited by foreigners. "You should be

vigilant in these locations and avoid any crowded places and public gatherings or events."

According to the alert, there are sometimes clashes between armed groups from both sides of the Liberian/Cote d'Ivoire border in some of the more remote border areas of Grand Gedeh and River Gee counties, southeast Liberia, and cautions that to avoid straying into these areas, British nationals should use the main roads when travelling in these counties.

A group of Liberians under the banner, Council of Patriots, announces a planned protest in Monrovia, beginning 07 June and could potentially last several days.

The Council of Patriots or COP had earlier written the government, detailing that

the objective of its planned June 7 assembly is to draw the Weah-led government's attention to alleged bad governance, corruption, mismanagement of state resources and flagrant violations of the Constitution, among others.

Its recent letter dated April 24, 2019, addressed to Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean reads, "We write to inform you of our intention to hold a peaceful assembly scheduled to begin on Friday, June 7, 2019, and potentially last for several days in Monrovia."

But the government is refusing to grant permit to the protesters, questioning the legitimacy of the group and identities of its organizers in what many see here as deliberate bottlenecks being erected by the State to abort the plan, but the organizers vow they would peacefully assemble as scheduled, detailing that mobilization is ongoing in the counties.

The looming standoff is creating panic among the population, particularly in Monrovia and its environs with businesses speculating and raising prices amid hike in the exchange rate and soaring inflation.

However, the UK alert observes that Liberia has become increasingly stable since the internal conflict ended in 2003, noting the Liberian government is working closely with the UN and the international community to provide increased stability and development.

Logging group makes commitment to Bassa

A world class forestry management and logging company based in Liberia, Renew Forestry Group (RFG), LLC, is expected to shortly begin operation in Grand Bassa County District #3-B & #3-C Communities following the signing of a third party agreement with authorities of the forest.

In a news release issued over the weekend, the group says the contract, in accordance with the forestry law of Liberia, will greatly benefit Bassa citizens, residents of Wee Statutory District Community, mostly those within the forest areas.

The logging group says the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), government's umbrella regulator that supervises and monitors forest activities across Liberia has also consented.

According to the press release, RFG secured the contract through the African Trades Entrepreneur Enterprises (ATEE) during a contested bid with rival West Water, a Chinese company.

Among other things, the document talks about the construction of 30 hand pumps, 30 modern pit latrines, 30 palava huts, two central clinics, two central high schools, two modern market buildings, two youth centers,

one community office and scholarship opportunities within three years of operation.

RFG is one of the few logging companies authorized to perform logging activities in Liberia following the moratorium restructuring of the Liberian logging industry in 2015.

RFG is a Liberian Limited Liability Company that is Liberian majority-owned, along with minority owners from the United States.

RFG manages logging activities and works in a sustainable manner with the Liberian communities to help manage forest areas in which it has the authorization to operate.

It has an ongoing mission to help Liberians access and benefit from their natural resources in a responsible, sustainable manner, by constantly engaging new projects being added to the forestry platform.

RFG says it has multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with community forest owners, giving exclusive forestry rights to their territories.

It notes that it is a trusted, capable, and reliable company that desires to provide a mutually beneficial service to communities across Liberia.-- Press release



Man Utd's Champions League hopes ended



Manchester United's hopes of Champions League football next season were ended after an embarrassing 1-1 draw at already relegated Huddersfield on Sunday.

United have now won just two of their past 11 games in all competitions as Huddersfield ended a run of eight straight defeats despite goalkeeper Jonas Lossl's error handing the visitors an early lead through Scott McTominay.

Terrible defending from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men gave the Terriers something to celebrate in their final home game before heading down to the Championship as Isaac Mbenza levelled on the hour mark.

Chelsea's 3-0 victory over Watford means United fall four points outside the top four with just one game of the season to go.

And failure to beat statistically one of the worst teams ever to play in the

Premier League will see further questions raised over the decision to hand Solskjaer a three-year contract in March.

The Norwegian has bemoaned United's lack of goals of late and recalled Alexis Sanchez to his starting line-up for the first time in two months in the search for more firepower.

But the Chilean again failed to live up to his status as the club's highest earner before limping off just before the hour mark.

Instead the visitors had to rely on Huddersfield for a helping hand as McTominay's strike from the edge of the box went straight through Lossl's legs after just eight minutes.

United quickly got the game restarted as they sought more goals to improve their inferior goal difference compared to their rivals for a top-four finish.

However, even against a Huddersfield side that previously registered just 14 points all season, United could not press home their advantage.

The legacy of Ex-lawmaker, Cllr. Kuku Y. Dorbor



Hon. Dorbor (3rd from left) dedicates a hand pump project in Moses Blah Community, behind Coca-Cola Factory, Paynesville

Former Representative Kuku Y. Dorbor of Montserrat County District#6 left her foot-prints not only at the former 52nd Legislature, but in communities across District#6, constructing toilets and hand pumps in Nyon Town (Soul Clinic), Police Academy, Coca-Cola Factory, Outland Community, Old Field Community and Zayzay Community, respectively, among others, effectively utilizing the social development fund.

African trio win Dutch Cup with Ajax

The African stars were on parade at Feyenoord Stadium as the Sons of Gods lifted their ninth Cup title on Sunday

Morocco duo Hakim Ziyech, Noussair Mazraoui and Cameroon goalkeeper Andre Onana helped Ajax win the Dutch Cup with a 4-0 win over Willem II.

Ziyech provided an assist for Klaas-Jan Huntelaar to



double Ajax's lead a minute after Daley Blind opened the scoring in the 38th minute.

After the restart, Huntelaar bagged his brace in the 67th minute before Mazraoui assisted Rasmus Kristensen for the fourth goal in the 76th minute.

Ziyech was later replaced by David Neres in the 58th minute as Onana kept a clean sheet for the Amsterdam outfit.

The trio will hope to maintain their fine form when Ajax host Tottenham Hotspur for the return fixture of their Uefa Champions League semi-final on Wednesday.

Ziyech and Mazraoui are expected to play a part in Morocco's campaign at the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations.

The Atlas Lions have dates set against Cote d'Ivoire, South Africa and Namibia in Group D while Onana's

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