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VOL.9 NO. 138

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019

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P11

CDC rejects ruling

NEC orders election rerun



Telia Urey



Mr. Abu Kamara

P11

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Continental News

Gunfire hit government military base in southern Somalia

A government military base in the Lower Shabelle region of Somalia was struck by car bombs and gunfire on Wednesday, residents and a military officer said, and the al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab group claimed responsibility for the attack. The military officer said the bombs exploded outside the base, in mid-morning attack in Awdheegle, an agricultural district along the Shabelle River, 70 km southwest of the capital Mogadishu. "The military base is surrounded with heavy sandbags. The two car bombs were fired at and so exploded outside the base," Captain Hussein Ali, a military officer in another town in the same region, told Reuters. "There are casualties from al Shabaab and government forces but we have no exact figure. Al Shabaab cut off some of the private telecommunications." Last week, Somali government forces had captured most parts of Awdheegle district.

"We heard two huge blasts and gunfire from the direction of the Somali military base. I saw several soldiers running away from the base to escape but we cannot know how many were killed," elder Aden Abdullahi told Reuters.

Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it had killed 50 soldiers and two of its fighters had died. "Two mujahideen driving two car bombs, one after the other, entered the Somali base in Awdhigle district today. We killed 50

government soldiers and burnt their vehicles," Abdiasis Abu Musab, al Shabaab's military operation spokesman said. The jihadist group and government officials tend to give sharply differing casualty figures for attacks.

Al Shabaab is fighting the weak, U.N.-backed Somali government and its international allies in a quest to impose a strict interpretation of Islamic law. It was forced out of the capital Mogadishu in 2011 and

has since lost most of its other strongholds. But it remains a threat, with fighters frequently carrying out bombings in Somalia and neighbouring Kenya, whose troops form part of an African Union-mandated peacekeeping force that helps defend the central government. Somalia has been riven by civil war since 1992, when clan-based warlords overthrew a dictator, then turned on each other. AFP



Somalia police and other security officers investigate the scene of a suicide bomb attack in the capital

Kenya police raid mansion in drugs investigation

Police in Kenya are searching the house of tycoon Ali Punjani in Mombasa in an ongoing drug-trafficking investigation that began in the US.

Three people have been arrested at the property including a Nepalese woman who says she is his wife, and two men - one a Nepalese national and the other

allegations against him. The Akasha brothers pleaded guilty last year to several drug violations including a conspiracy to smuggle over 100kg of heroin and methamphetamine into the US.

The offences can lead to a life sentence, but the Akasha brothers reportedly entered a plea bargain in which they

Toll from Tanzania fuel truck blast rises to 82: hospital

The death toll from a fuel truck explosion in Tanzania at the weekend has climbed to 82 after seven more people died from their injuries, a hospital official said Wednesday.

A spokesman for the National Hospital in Dar es

Salaam said 32 others were being treated, including 17 in intensive care, following one of the deadliest oil tanker blasts in Africa in recent years.

"We are continuing to fight as best we can to save those still alive," the hospital spokesman, Aminiel Aligaesha,

told reporters Wednesday. The explosion took place Saturday morning near the town of Morogoro, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) west of Dar es Salaam, the financial capital.

Flames engulfed a crowd trying to collect leaking petrol from a tanker that overturned as it swerved to avoid a motorcycle.

Officials said the explosion was triggered when a man tried to retrieve the truck's battery, creating sparks that ignited the fuel.

An official inquiry was ordered Sunday into the accident, with a preliminary report expected later this week.

It was the latest in a string of such disasters in Africa and at least the third this year.

Last month, 45 people were killed and more than 100 injured in central Nigeria when a petrol tanker crashed and then exploded as people tried to take the fuel. In May, a similar incident in Niger killed nearly 80 people. Reuters



Flames engulfed a crowd trying to collect leaking petrol from the tanker that overturned to avoid a motorcycle



Indian. Mr Punjani is one of four people - including Kenyan brothers Baktash and Ibrahim Akasha - facing drug trafficking charges in New York. The fourth man, Vijay Goswami, identified Mr Punjani as an alleged rival drug dealer in Mombasa.

Mr Punjani has not commented on the

would reveal the identities of their fellow traffickers. Mr Punjani's lawyer, Jeff Asige, told journalists on Monday that his client was in India for medical treatment. His family released a photo which appeared to show him lying on a hospital bed. BBC

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EDITORIAL

Stop the war drum

THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE in Liberia is saturated with violent comments, threats and counter-threats, bordering on results or delay of final results of the recent by-elections in Montserrado County, particularly in District#15 due to dispute by rival candidates over the July 29 poll.

MEMBERS OF THE four collaborating opposition political parties are overly confident they have won the district though six precincts containing 15 polling places have been in dispute and therefore, quarantined by the National Elections Commission.

BUT THE OPPOSITION Alternative National Congress (ANC) vice chairman for interparty affairs Ulysses Barchue said NEC Chairman Cllr. Jerome George Korkoya and co-conspirators will be held responsible for any retrogression of gains this country achieved over the years, threatening to institute radical approaches in line with the Constitution of Liberia.

MEMBERS OF THE opposition are beating war drum here, threatening to bemoan and fiercely resist a “clear deliberate attempt” by the National Elections Commission and the Government of Liberia to circumvent the will of voters in District #15.

THE VIOLENT COMMENTS manifested thru actions Tuesday, August 13, near the headquarters of the National Elections Commission in Monrovia where leaders and supporters of rival parties had gathered to receive findings from NEC hearing officers, when stone battle ensued between rival sides, leading to postponement of the exercise by the NEC.

LIBERIA CANNOT AFFORD another cycle of violence, particularly at a time the country is beset by serious socio-economic challenges characterized by three digits inflation, high prices and exchange rate.

ALREADY, THE COUNTRY is like a time bomb waiting to explode due to the prevailing economic hardship. This is why we caution all sides to be very circumspect in the current election rigmarole to keep the peace.

THE PARTIES SHOULD exercise restraints by waiting on the NEC to release findings into the District#15 investigation. If either side is unsatisfied, there are recourses under the law, including the NEC Board of Commissioners and the Supreme Court that can be explored.

VIOLENCE SHOULD NOT be an option as it could lead to worsening repercussions that this country just might not stomach. We should endeavor to maintain the current peace for the sake of ourselves and our children.

THESE MOMENTS NEED real patriots who will place Country above selfish political interest. The mark of a good leader is to maintain balance in the midst of distraction and provocation. Lest we should forget, voters are intelligent people. They know who they voted at the ballot box.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Elizabeth Drew

What's Behind America's Mass Shootings?

After back-to-back mass shootings this month, even US President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans have expressed support for new gun-control legislation, after years of opposing any such measures. But true reform seems unlikely, given the deep and complex roots of this uniquely American problem.

WASHINGTON, DC - After every mass shooting in the United States, Americans and others around the world are confronted with the question of what lies behind this distinctly American horror. Though total gun deaths in the US have actually declined over time, mass shootings (those with at least four victims) have become deadlier and more frequent. Some have had an especially strong emotional impact on the country.

The back-to-back mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, on the first weekend of August are widely being viewed as the straw that will break the back of the US gun lobby, particularly the National Rifle Association (NRA), which has long stood in the way of congressional passage of gun-control measures. Yet we have heard similar predictions before. After the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut on December 14, 2012, when a 20-year-old man gunned down 20 first-graders and six adults, then-President Barack Obama, wiping tears from his eyes, vowed to take action.

On the face of it, adopting meaningful gun-control legislation after such a horrendous tragedy should not have been a problem. Polls showed that 92% of the public supported closing loopholes in the requirement for background checks - which at present don't include examinations of individuals purchasing firearms at gun shows, privately from another individual, or online - and that 62% supported a ban on high-capacity magazines. It was hard to ignore the emotional appeal of the shattered parents who'd come to Washington to plead their case. Yet, even in the wake of Sandy Hook, the US Senate voted down two measures to tighten gun-control laws.

To understand why, it's important to keep in mind that the politics of gun control emanate from the same counter-majoritarian principle that gave Americans the Electoral College. In the Senate, far less populous western, midwestern, and southern states - home to hunters and conservative-leaning John Wayne wannabes - have the same representation as far larger states like New York and California. So, even when most Americans favor stronger gun-control laws, that majority position isn't necessarily reflected in the makeup of the Senate.

At the same time, gun-control opponents have benefited enormously from a seemingly nonsensical interpretation of the Second Amendment. Adopted in 1791, the Second Amendment states that, “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” Books have been written about the amendment's true meaning, but to gun-rights advocates, neither the plain text nor the historical context of the amendment matters. By ignoring the governing clause - “a well regulated Militia, being necessary” (an awkward comma, to be sure) - they assert an individual “right to keep and bear arms” as if it had been handed down from Mount Sinai.

In reality, the Second Amendment is a product of its time, reflecting the former colonies' perceived need to protect themselves from a standing government army. Moreover, the weapons of the time were simple objects compared to the deadly semiautomatics and magazines that the NRA tries to convince “sportsmen” they must have, and for which there is no appropriate civilian purpose. (Needless to say, gun manufacturers have contributed millions of dollars to the NRA.)

Arguments over the meaning of the Second Amendment remained at an impasse for over two centuries. Then came the Supreme Court's landmark 5-4 decision in District of Columbia v. Heller (2008), which invalidated the District of Columbia's ban on privately owned handguns in the nation's capital. With the Court having become even more conservative

since then, new gun-control laws that come before it may well suffer a similar fate, especially if President Donald Trump wins re-election.

The last major gun-control legislation enacted in the US was the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, which included a ban on assault weapons. As a compromise, that provision came with a number of loopholes, as well as a “sunset” clause requiring that it be explicitly renewed after ten years. In the event, the ban was allowed to lapse in 2004, during George W. Bush's presidency.

The prevailing evidence shows that mass-shooting deaths fell during the years when the assault-weapons ban was in place, and then rose after it lapsed. If a tightened new ban were enacted, along with a reduction in the legal magazine capacity to ten (from as much as 100 now), that would be a sign that Trump and Congress are serious about curbing mass slaughters. But there is little likelihood of it happening.

Still, in the wake of the El Paso and Dayton shootings, Trump has begun to strike a somewhat different tone on the issue, indicating that he would support “very meaningful background checks.” But Trump talked the same way after a gunman murdered 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, in February 2018. He soon backed off under pressure from the NRA (which, it is worth remembering, was implicated in Russia's efforts to help Trump in the 2016 election).

Following the latest two massacres, Trump also called for a “red-flag” law, which would allow courts temporarily to confiscate firearms from individuals deemed to be a danger to themselves or others, following notification by a family member or law-enforcement official. Such laws are already on the books in more than a dozen states, but many conservatives oppose them on the grounds that they deny due process. Nonetheless, some prominent Republicans, such as Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, feel they have to do something about the mass shootings, and are now championing red-flag legislation.

Of course, neither background checks nor a red-flag law would have prevented the slaughter at Sandy Hook (the guns, after all, belonged to the shooter's mother, whom he killed first). But such measures would allow Trump and his fellow Republicans to claim that they have “done something” about the problem. Hence, even Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell - who chronically obstructs anything supported by the Democrats, but wants the Senate to remain in Republican hands - has said that he might consider legislation on background checks and red-flag laws.

Trump has once again painted himself into a corner. Since the latest massacres, he's been at pains to present himself as a reasonable fellow who can get behind gun reform (and perhaps mollify suburban women, his most dangerous foes on this issue). But he's also noticeably (and typically) anxious to maintain the loyalty of the rural voters who form an important part of his base. Trump has also taken the gamble of using racial politics and white supremacy as instruments for winning in 2020. When faced with the dilemma of trying to assuage suburban voters or keeping the base close, time after time his instinct has been to shore up the base. (That didn't work very well in 2018.)

Whatever happens in the next few months, the fact that there are more privately owned guns than people in the US means that any new gun-control law would have only a marginal effect, at best. Despite the American public's urgent and desperate demand that lawmakers “do something,” Trump is currently on a ten-day golfing vacation, and Congress is on its annual August recess. A lot, including a change in the national mood, could happen before it reconvenes.

O-P-E-D

By Jayati Ghosh

The IMF's Latest Victims

NEW DELHI - The process of selecting the International Monetary Fund's next managing director must change. In particular, the tradition of choosing a European for the post - based on an unfair and anachronistic "gentlemen's agreement" reached with the United States when the institution was established 75 years ago - needs to be discarded. But even more important, the IMF's longstanding approach to lending should be transformed.

The Fund has a long history of policy mistakes. Yet, as Christine Lagarde's just-completed tenure showed, it has learned little from them. Consider the case of Argentina. In mid-2018, the IMF agreed to provide the country with a heavily frontloaded three-year loan worth nearly \$57 billion - the largest in the institution's history - following a series of reckless decisions by President Mauricio Macri.

One such decision, made soon after he took office in 2015, was to strike a deal with the holdout creditors who were still fighting in US courts to be repaid in full, following Argentina's 2002 debt default and subsequent restructuring. Another was Macri's subsequent borrowing spree, which caused public debt - mostly denominated in dollars - to swell by more than one-third, to \$321 billion in 2017.

By last year, Argentina's fiscal and current-account deficits exceeded 5% of GDP. In the ensuing economic and financial crisis, public debt ballooned to nearly 90% of GDP, capital flight caused the peso's value to collapse, and inflation soared. So, under pressure from US President Donald Trump (who had business ties with Macri), the IMF stepped in - with Lagarde's active support.

The loan may have been unprecedented in size, but it had all the familiar characteristics of past IMF financing programs. In exchange for the cash, Argentina was to implement massive budget cuts, in order to balance its primary budget in 2019 and significantly reduce its external deficit. Argentina complied - and the economy steadily deteriorated.

Today, inflation is running at over 55%, the poverty rate has surpassed 30%, and output and employment are shrinking. Argentina is nowhere near the IMF's targets for investment and GDP growth, which have already been revised twice. More downward revisions are undoubtedly coming.

The IMF has been here before. In 1998, when East Asia was in the throes of financial crisis, the Fund had to sign no less than five Memorandums of Understanding with Thailand, precisely because fulfilling all of the austerity requirements the Fund had imposed on it meant missing its macroeconomic targets.

Yet, far from learning from its mishandling of the 1990s Asian financial crisis, the IMF made the same mistakes in Europe after the 2008 global financial crisis sent the eurozone into a tailspin. In particular, instead of allowing Greece to default on its massive debts to private creditors, the IMF - together with the European Central Bank and the European Commission - lent it the money. The accompanying austerity conditions made repayment of those debts - now held by official creditors - impossible. Greece continues to struggle to this day.

In 2013, the IMF produced a report acknowledging that it had "underestimated" the effects austerity would have on Greece's economy. It seemed like a promising portent. Yet, a mere five years later, the Fund's apparent realization was not reflected in its deal with Argentina. Nor is it reflected in a more recent financing deal with another Latin American country.

In March, the IMF approved a \$4.2 billion, three-year loan for Ecuador, as part of a plan to reduce public debt and reform the economy. In exchange, the Fund is predictably demanding rapid fiscal consolidation, through cuts to wages and public-sector jobs, hikes in energy prices, new charges for government services, and higher indirect taxes. As Mark Weisbrot and Andrés Arauz note in a report for the Center for Economic and Policy Research, these steps will likely lead to an immediate drop in GDP and cause the current recession to persist for the four years of the program.

Yet the IMF has somehow convinced itself that growth will decline only mildly in 2019, before recovering in 2020, as a huge boost in private-sector confidence - naturally brought about by fiscal restraint and privatization - leads to a surge in inward foreign investment. According to the Fund's logic, even if employment and consumption are falling, and the economy is in recession, net capital outflows of 1.9% of GDP will turn into net private capital inflows of 4.9% of GDP in 2020.

As usual, the folly of this logic will become apparent in due course. (A floundering economy, it should be clear, is not attractive to private capital.) In the meantime, the people of Ecuador will suffer greatly, owing to rising unemployment, declining living standards, widening inequality, and greater poverty.

The IMF's bizarre belief in "expansionary austerity" would be laughable if it were not so damaging. How can the IMF justify an approach with such a poor track record? One explanation could be a lack of accountability that permeates the institution's bureaucracy, right up to the very top. If that's the case, boosting accountability should be the next IMF managing director's first order of business - that, and aligning the Fund's lending approach with economic realities.



**Liberia Airport Authority
Roberts International Airport**
Lower Margibi County

**Request for Expression of
Interest for Prequalification**

REF#: RIA/PREQ/SBA/RB/002/2019/2020
Release Date: August 12, 2019

1. This Expression of Interest for Prequalification follows the general procurement notice that appeared in the local newspapers and the market on August 7, 2019.
2. The Liberia Airport Authority/ Roberts International Airport from its internal generated revenue intend to apply part of its funding to contract the services of a firm to provide **Cleaning, Janitorial and Hygiene services** to the new terminal Building and all other offices within the Airport.
3. In view of the above, LAA/RIA is seeking expression of interest from service providers in the category as stated above. Firms will be selected in accordance with the Amended & Restated Public Procurement & Concession Commission Act, 2010 qualification criteria for bidders/service providers, Part IV, Section 32.
4. Firms that meets the below requirements for shortlisting or pre-qualification will be placed into the Liberia Airport Authority/ Roberts International Airport Data Base for fiscal year 2019-2020 who will be invited to participate in the Restrictive Bid as the need arises:
 - a. Company Profile
 - b. Current Business Registration & Tax Clearance
 - c. Evidence of Past Performance records of at least three (3) assignments executed (Copy of Contract, Purchase Order, Invoice & Delivery Note)
 - d. List of at least Five (5) Clients & their contacts
 - e. Proof of Business Insurance (Corporation only)
 - f. Proof of PPCC Vendor Registration
 - g. Knowledge in handling office equipment and furniture.
 - h. Capable of cleaning all fixtures and furniture safely.
5. Interested firms/suppliers can now submit an expression of interest, no later than September 2, 2019 at 2:00pm. All Expression of Interest must be dropped into the tender box situated at the procurement department at the Roberts International Airport.
6. Only shortlisted firms will be invited to participate in subsequent tender in the course of the fiscal year.

All submission must be sealed and clearly marked as seen below:

**Attention: Procurement Unit
Liberia Airport Authority/ Roberts International Airport
Ref: RIA/PREQ/SBA/RB/002/2019/2020**

Press forward

-Doctor Wulu urges graduates

American-based Liberian medical doctor, Jacqueline A. Wulu challenges graduates of the Richard M. Nixon Institute in Monrovia to keep pressing forward to become who they want to be in life.

Serving as guest speaker during the school's 54th annual commencement ceremony recently in Monrovia, Doctor Wulu called on the graduates to

suffer. That is the phrase that the late John Wulu, Sr. would say. In life, we should all have choices. You all made a choice to go to school and get an education. Don't stop now; keep rising to the top. Make smart choices and decision and do not be distracted by those around you who may not want you succeed. Push yourself always to be great because I know you all can be great."

Doctor Jacqueline Wulu is daughter of Dr. John and Josephine Wulu, Chairpersons of the John & Minnie Wulu School System (JMWSS), parent body of the Richard M. Nixon Institute.

In her motivational speech, she lauds the graduates for their exceptional performance in the West African Secondary Senior Certificate Exams (WASSCE) and calls on them to emulate her by always striving for excellence.

"Continue pressing forward to become who you want to be. Do not doubt that you are smart enough. I have to convince myself to be who I am today. You also have to convince yourself. You are more than enough. If I can make it, you too can make. Use your head always, never give up.

Try again and again no matter how long it takes. Life is not a race; it is a journey to be enjoyed. And to enjoy, always make the right choices," she asserts.

She is Chief Resident Physician with specialty in Otolaryngology or



Dr. Jacqueline MD, M.Sc.

determine their future by making right choices.

"Do not give up. Life is all about choices. Make the best decision for yourself. Make the choice that you will be proud of," she further urges.

Referencing her late grandfather's favorite quotation, she notes: "If you don't use your head, your body will



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Citizens want Phebe's chief doctor quit

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong

Several residents of Bong County and some workers at the Phebe Hospital are calling on the Medical Director at the hospital Dr. Jefferson Sibley to resign his post with immediate effect so as to save the image of the institution.

Dr. Jefferson Sibley who succeeded Dr. Garfee Williams in 2012 as Medical Director at Phebe Hospital is said to be falling into trouble over his alleged defense in favor of four individuals suspended for alleged corrupt motive.

The concerned citizens and the health workers have stressed the need for Dr. Sibley to resign and depart the Phebe compound while the audit is ongoing to discourage coercion of the auditors.

Under the stewardship of Dr. Sibley, there have been claims of alleged corruption scandals at the only referral hospital in central Liberia, leading to the suspension of

four senior staff from the hospital.

Some of the citizens are expressing fear that the presence of Dr. Sibley at the hospital will undermine the audit that is being conducted by the General Auditing Commission (GAC).

"For me I want to call on Dr. Jefferson Sibley to step aside until the audit is conducted,

because I know among those who were indicted, he has his interest," one of the professional nurses who begged not to be named told our Bong County correspondent.

Another eminent resident of Gbarnga, Alexander S. Koromah says he wants Dr. Sibley to immediately resign on grounds that there has been

some level of alleged mismanagement under the Chief Medical Doctor's watch.

At the same time, some of the health workers are questioning the role of Rev. Victor Padmore, the Chaplain of the hospital as acting administrator.

Rev. Padmore was appointed by the Board of the Hospital to serve as Acting Administrator following the suspension of Mr. Kerson Saykor.

The citizens claim that Rev. Padmore does not have the qualifications and human

relations to lead the institution as acting administrator.

They describe his appointment as a total attempt to undermine the progress of the hospital.

As Champlain, Mr. Padmore earns US\$733 dollars while professional nurses at the hospital make below US\$200, a situation many have described as bad for health practitioners.

However Mr. Padmore says he was appointed to serve, but not to be rebutting lies spread by citizens.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Weah signs Domestic Violence Bill into law

President George Manneh Weah has signed into law the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) following its passage recently by the Legislature.

On July 19, the Liberian Senate concurred with the House of Representatives in passing the Act which was introduced during former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's term during the 53rd Legislature.

The Executive Mansion says in a press statement issued Wednesday, 14 July that the law comes into full force when printed into handbills by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It adds that the signing of the DVA into law by the President comes amid growing violence against women and children and entrenched gender inequality practices.

By and large, the law will promote gender equality, women and children protection, among other things.

The Act makes domestic violence, which includes physical or mental abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation, a serious crime against the individual and society.

Appending his signature, President Weah hailed stakeholders and foreign partners, as well as the Legislature, for efforts put into developing the Domestic Violence Bill which has now become law.

He says the days of domestic violence perpetrators are numbered because the DVA will be fully and appropriately enforced under his leadership.--*Press release*

UN envoy bids farewell to VP Howard-Taylor

United Nations Resident Coordinator in Liberia Amb. Yacoub El Hillo has bided farewell to Liberia's Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor.

According to a press release, Amb. El Hillo noted during the visit that Liberia has made tremendous progress over the last decade in peace building initiatives, making specific mention of the much publicized June 7 protest.

He observes that the country has also registered progress, as it has now moved from a recipient country of

peacekeepers to a recognized donor country of peacekeepers.

Amb. El Hillo points to the peacekeeping mission of Liberian troops in Mali where personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) are serving.

He indicates that Liberia is on the right trajectory, saying the country has assumed a far better position among the comity of nations.

Amb. El Hillo is being reassigned as Deputy UN Representative in Libya where he will also serve as National Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator.

For her part, Liberia's Vice

President Jewel Howard-Taylor has expressed the gratitude of the Liberian people to the outgoing United Nations Resident Coordinator in Liberia, Amb. El Hillo, for being real partner to Liberia.

VP Howard-Taylor acknowledges that Amb. El Hillo, leaves behind a legacy of true and dedicated service in support of Liberia and in service to the Liberian people.

She recounts the many programs and interventions made by the Out-going UN Resident Coordinator in Liberia, including the UN's support to the Government's Pro-poor Agenda for Propensity and Development.

Amb. El Hillo succeeds Maria do Valle Ribeiro of Ireland, to whom the Secretary-General expressed gratitude for her outstanding contribution and dedicated service in supporting the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in Libya.

Recently the Ambassador was instrumental in mediating alongside ECOWAS, AU and other international bodies to bring the Council of Patriots and the Liberian Government together in coming to terms to ensure the peacefulness of the June 7 protest.--*Press release*



Amb. Yacoub El Hillo

GJRP launches "Cartooning for Justice"

Global Justice and Research Project (GJRP) an advocacy group in collaboration with Geneva-based CIVITAS MAXIMA and LivART launch two months art exhibition here under the banner, "Cartooning for Justice."

According to a press release, the exhibition feature cartoons by Liberian high school students at the Liberia National Mesuem on Broad Street, Monrovia.

The event held Wednesday,

14 August featured cartoon drawings by Liberia high school students about their impressions of the two Liberian Civil Wars and the quest in pursuit of justice for victims, as the Country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report clocks one decade.

The exhibition was made possible through funding provide by the United Nations Office of the High Commission for Human Rights in Monrovia. - *Press Release*

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National Elections Commission



Annual Report 2019

Form 1

Republic of Liberia
Montserrado County



Office of the Notary Public
Monrovia, Liberia

NOTARY CERTIFICATE

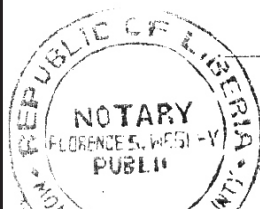
Personally appeared before me, in my office within the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, this 14th day of August A.D. 2019, a duly qualified Notary Public, for and in the County of Montserrado and the Republic Aforesaid the Parties to the attached document (s):

SIX (6) SHEETS OF ANNUAL REPORT OF MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE CHANGE, AIRFIELD-SINKOR, MONROVIA, DULY EXECUTED BY ITS AUTHORIZED OFFICIALS ON THE 13TH DAY OF AUGUST 2019

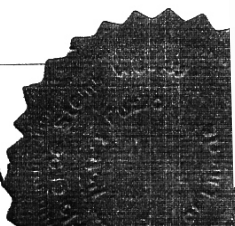
And did in my presence and in the presence of each other execute and signed their genuine signatures on the said instrument (s) to be the person (s) they represent and that the same was made in my presence and declared by each of them to be their voluntary acts and in their own hand writing.

Therefore, I Florence Stemm Wesley, Notary Public aforesaid, have attached my official signature and Notary Seal to avail when and where Necessary.

I have affixed my genuine signature attesting to this Transaction by the power vested in me on this 14th Day of August A.D. 2019



Florence Stemm Wesley
NOTARY PUBLIC, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, R.L.
\$5.00 REVENUE STAMPS AFFIXED ON THE ORIGINAL



Form 1, Designation of Treasurer and Political Party Bank Account

A. Political party/Alliance/ Coalition

1	Name of Political Party/ Alliance/Coalition	MOVEMENT FOR PROGRESSIVE CHANGE
2	Address	Airfield - Sinkor - Monrovia
3	Telephone	0775095990
4	Email	INFO-MPC162017@gmail.com

B. Treasurer

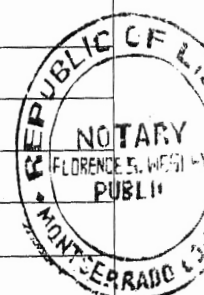
1	Name of Treasurer	MRS. Helen Taylor
2	Address	Airfield, Sinkor, Monrovia
3	Telephone	0775095990
4	Email	INFO-MPC162017@gmail.com

C. Details of all party Bank Accounts

1	Name of Depository Bank	Liberian Bank for Development & Investment
2	Address	Ashum & Randall Streets, Monrovia
3	Telephone	
4	Email	WWW.LBDI.NET
5	Account number	002 USD 21920500501
6	Signatories	O'neal Passawe

1	Name of Depository Bank	Liberian Bank for Development & Investment
2	Address	Ashum & Randall Streets, Monrovia
3	Telephone	
4	Email	WWW.LBDI.NET
5	Account number	002 USD 21920500501
6	Signatories	Simeon Freeman

1	Name of Depository Bank	
2	Address	
3	Telephone	
4	Email	
5	Account number	
6	Signatories	



O'neal Passawe
Name of Party/Coalition/Alliance Chairman

Helen Taylor
Name of Party/Coalition/Alliance Treasurer
H Taylor 13/08/2019
Signature & Date

National Elections Commission

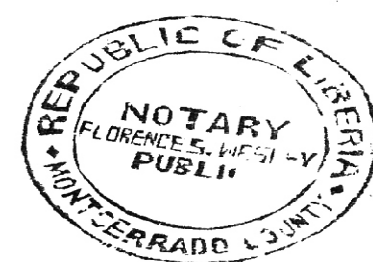


Annual Report 2019

Form 3

Form 3, Assets and Liabilities

1	Name of Political Party/Alliance/Coalition	Movement For Progressive Change
2	Dates of Assessment of Assets	August 20, 2019



If any section does not provide enough space, attach a separate sheet to continue.

Assets List all monies, balance of bank accounts, business documentation, stocks, securities, bonds, real estates, vehicles and any fixed assets of the Political Party/ Alliance/ Coalition.

Description of asset	Location of asset	Current market value
Office Building - Headquarters	Airfield, Sinkor - Monrovia	\$40,000
" " " "	Buchanan - Grand Bassa	\$10,000
" " " "	Kakata - Margibi	\$10,000
" " " "	Bharnga - Bong	\$10,000
Toyota Land Cruiser	Airfield - Sinkor - Monrovia	\$12,000
Pathfinder Jeep	Airfield - Sinkor - Monrovia	\$5,500
Toyota Pick up	Airfield - Sinkor - Monrovia	\$9,000
Computers & Internet Accessories	Headquarters - Airfield - Sinkor	\$400
Generators & Creative	" " " "	\$350
Desks (10 pcs) & chairs (50 pcs)	" " " "	\$780
Flags (5 pcs) Poles (5)	Monrovia, Buchanan, Bharnga & Kakata	\$500
Bill Boards (4)	" " " "	\$1,000
Bank Balance	LBDI	\$10,015

National Elections Commission



Annual Report 2019 Form 3B

National Elections Commission



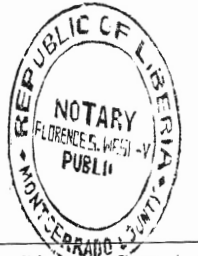
Annual Report 2019 Form 4

Liabilities: State all debts, obligations, promissory notes, credits and guarantees for such liabilities.

Type of liability	Creditor	Terms of repayment	Value

Form 4, Itemized contributions (Due or Donation)

1 Name of Political Party/Alliance/Coalition	Movement For Progressive Change	
2 Report period	From: 08-28-18	To: 08-20-19



Note all monetary and non-monetary contributions and donations

Name	Address	Occupation	Description of contribution	Value	Date received
Hon. Simon Freeman	Brewerville	BUSINESSMAN	Political Party Logo	\$14,500	15-08-17-08-20
"	"	"	Payment for offices	\$9,000	01-15-19
"	"	"	chairs & Bill boards	\$1,200	10-28-18
"	"	"	Cash	\$3,000	02-04-19
"	"	"	Payment for Headquarters	\$6,000	02-31-19
Membership	Airfield, Sinkor		Due payment	\$500	01-26-06-10
Hon. Simon Freeman	Brewerville	"	STIPEND (Official)	\$2,500	10-10-18

Income: State all incomes realized during the last twelve (12) months (from business transactions)

Income (in US\$/LDS)	For period	Source of income

We, the undersigned do hereby certify that we have read the information on this form and it's supporting regulations and that the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge.

Daniel Passawe
Chairman of Party/Coalition/Alliance (print name)
Helen Taylor
Name of Party/Coalition/Alliance Treasurer (print name)
[Signature]
Signature & Date
H Taylor 13/08/2019
Signature & Date

We, the undersigned do hereby certify that we have read the information on this form and it's supporting regulations and that the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge.

Daniel Passawe
Chairman of Party/Coalition/Alliance (print name)
[Signature]
Signature & Date
13/08/2019
Helen Taylor
Political Party/Coalition/Alliance Treasurer (print name)
[Signature]
Signature & Date
13/08/2019

National Elections Commission



Annual Report 2019 Form 2

Form 2: Financial Summary

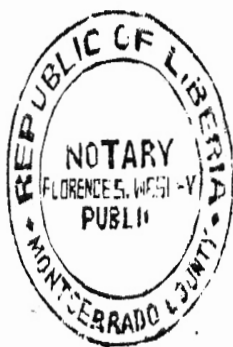
A. Financial Summary

1 Reporting period	08-28-18-08-20-19
2 Amount on hand at start of reporting period	\$10,015
3 Contributions received (from form 4) Summary	\$12,500
4 Expenditures Made (from Form 5)	\$12,500
5 Balance at the end of reporting period	\$10,015
6 Total Assets at the end of reporting period (from Form 2)	\$110,515
7 Total Liabilities at the end of reporting period (from Form 2)	NONE

We, the undersigned do hereby certify that we have read the information on this form and it's supporting regulations and that the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge.

Daniel Passawe
Chairman of Party/Coalition/Alliance (print name)
Helen Taylor
Political Party/Coalition/Alliance Treasurer (print name)

[Signature]
Signature & Date
13/08/2019
H Taylor 13/08/2019
Signature & Date



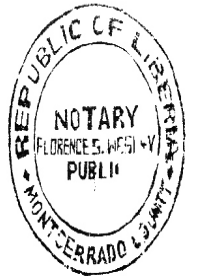
National Elections Commission



Annual Report 2019 Form 5

Form 5, Itemized Expenditure

1 Name of Political Party/Alliance/Coalition	Movement For Progressive Change	
2 Report period	From: 08-28-18	To: 08-20-19



List all expenditure made during the reporting period

Name of recipient	Address	Purpose	Value	Date
O'neal Passawe	Airfield-Sinkor	Rent payment for County office	\$7,500	02-04-19
Mrs. Lehtia Brever	Duport Road	Rent payment for Headquarters	\$6,000	03-31-19
John D. Kadone	Airfield, Sinkor	Purchasing office materials	\$500	01-31-18
John D. Kadone	Airfield, Sinkor	" Flag poles, flags etc	\$500	02-18-19
Cooper Bill	Airfield-Sinkor	Operational funds	\$200	05-20-19
O'neal Passawe	Airfield-Sinkor	Stationary & Operational funds	\$800	10-15-18-19

We, the undersigned do hereby certify that we have read the information on this form and it's supporting regulations and that the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge.

Daniel Passawe
Chairman of Party/Coalition/Alliance (print name)
[Signature]
Signature & Date
13/08/2019
Helen Taylor
Political Party/Coalition/Alliance Treasurer (print name)
[Signature]
Signature & Date
13/08/2019

Français

CDC, les partisans de l'opposition se sont affrontés

Les locaux entourant la Commission électorale nationale ont pris leur envol le mardi 13 août, aux environs de 11h20, et se caractérisent par des combats à mains nues, des jets de pierres et d'autres missiles entre les partisans de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir et les quatre partis politiques de l'opposition qui collaborent.

Les deux parties s'étaient convergées vers le NEC pour entendre la plaidoirie concernant de prétendues irrégularités électorales, la candidature de l'opposition, Mme Telia Urey, mais les commissaires, les acteurs des partis politiques, les employés et les habitants de la 9th Street Community ne pouvaient pas se déplacer aussi facilement que d'habitude bataille de pierre a commencé entre partisans rivaux.

La guerre du rock a duré 10 minutes avant que les officiers de l'unité de soutien de la police et de l'unité d'intervention d'urgence de la

police nationale du Libéria ne retrouvent le calme.

Le porte-parole de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, Mohammed Ali, dont le véhicule a été endommagé lors des violences, raconte qu'il venait d'arriver et qu'il a garé son véhicule alors que des personnes soupçonnées d'être des partisans de la Coalition du

changement démocratique (DRC) ont brisé sa voiture et tenté de nuire lui, mais la police est intervenue.

Tout a commencé lorsque les partisans de la CDC sont arrivés au NEC, où l'audience finale a été programmée. Ils ont rencontré des dizaines de partisans d'Urey se tenant devant le siège de la Banque

libérienne pour le développement et l'investissement (LBDI) sur la 9ème rue. Ils ont immédiatement lancé des pierres, forçant le côté Urey à fuir dans toutes les directions.

Mais les prétendus CDCians les ont poursuivis, endommageant trois véhicules appartenant à la banque, dont le véhicule du porte-parole de l'UP.

M. Ali affirme que trois de ses partisans ont été brutalement blessés, l'un d'eux ayant perdu deux dents dans la bagarre, révélant que la police avait procédé à une arrestation, dont deux présumés « meneurs » de la violence.

La situation a obligé les piétons et les véhicules à contourner l'itinéraire principal vers le centre de Monrovia, en empruntant la route de Jallah Town.

Une situation similaire s'est produite entre les partisans de la CDC et les partis d'opposition Liberty Party (LP) en juillet après l'élection partielle du Sénat, faisant des blessés.

À la suite du combat de mardi, les observateurs locaux et internationaux qui étaient allés surveiller l'argumentation finale n'ont pas pu accéder à la salle de conférence du CEN où l'audience était en cours.

Audience NEC, Atty. Munah Ville préside la plainte pour fraude électorale déposée par Mme Telia Urey des quatre

partis politiques de l'opposition qui collaborent contre le groupe au pouvoir, le CDC, Abu Kamara.

Avant l'affrontement d'hier, les quatre partis politiques qui collaboraient dans l'opposition ont lancé un appel clair au CEN et au gouvernement pour que la volonté des électeurs du district n° 15 du comté de Montserrado l'emporte.

« Laissons le mot à ceux qui cherchent à contourner les résultats de l'élection partielle du district 15 que nous ne prenons pas ce processus à la légère. Nous espérons que le NEC agira comme il se doit en laissant la volonté du peuple l'emporter et en donnant à notre candidate Mlle Urey la victoire qu'elle mérite », a mis en garde lundi le vice-président du congrès alternatif Alternative National, le congrès.

Président du NEC, Cllr. Jerome Korkoya affirme que les résultats définitifs de l'élection partielle représentative dans le district 15 ne seront annoncés que lorsque les plaintes de Mme Urey et d'autres personnes feront l'objet d'une enquête appropriée et que les conclusions de celle-ci seront rendues publiques.

La présidente du CDC, Mulbah Morlu, n'a pas répondu aux appels téléphoniques malgré plusieurs tentatives de ce journal pour le joindre via un téléphone portable. Édité par Jonathan Browne.



NPP se retire de la CDC

Le sénateur du comté de Bomi, Sando Johnson, un pilier du Parti national patriotique (NPP), affirme qu'il fait de sérieuses pressions auprès de ses collègues de l'Assemblée législative en vue d'un retrait possible du NPP de la Coalition pour un changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir.

La CDC est un conglomérat de trois partis politiques,

dont le NPP de l'ancien président Charles Ghankay Taylor, le Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC) du président George Manneh Weah et l'ancien Parti démocratique du peuple libérien (LPDP), président du Parlement, qui a remporté l'élection présidentielle de 2017.

L'ancienne épouse de l'ex-président Taylor, devenue vice-présidente du président Weah,

Mme Jewel Howard - Taylor, dirigeait le NPP jusqu'à ce que celui-ci ait formé des alliances avec la CDC pour les scrutins de 2017.

Le sénateur Johnson s'est plaint, le 13 août, devant la presse dans son bureau du Capitole, que depuis le jour de l'élection du président Weah, la coalition entre le CDC et le NPP aurait cessé d'exister.

Johnson pense que la voie à suivre est que le NPP commence à penser à former une coalition avec un autre parti politique afin d'éviter que la CDC ne détruise l'ancien NPP au pouvoir, qui, selon lui, a une vision et une mission à mettre en œuvre.

Sénateur Johnson affirme que la centrale nucléaire ne peut plus continuer à être avec la CDC, car elle (la CDC) continuerait à violer les droits de l'opposition.

Il note que le pays sous le président Weah revient dans le passé laide.

Les propos du sénateur Johnson font suite à une nouvelle attaque contre les partisans de la représentante de l'opposition, Mme Telia Urey, par des personnes

soupçonnées d'être des partisans du CDC,

au pouvoir, devant le siège de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) à Sinkor.

Mme Urey, qui dirige la candidature de la CDC à l'élection partielle du 15e district du comté de Montserrado,

est saisie par le CND des conclusions de sa plainte pour irrégularités présumées lors des élections dans de nombreux lieux de vote favorables à M. Kamara.

Selon le sénateur Johnson, il s'attendait à ce que le président Weah, après son élection, puisse s'asseoir autour de la table avec les deux autres partis politiques qui composaient le gouvernement de coalition pour discuter de la formation du gouvernement,

affirmant que ce n'était pas le cas.

Il accuse le président Weah de soutenir l'action violente des partisans du CDC en raison de sa récente déclaration de campagne contre les Ureys lors de l'élection partielle des sénateurs et des représentants.

Le président Weah avait promis que les Dames des Ureys et maintenant du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius Dillon, ne pourraient pas gagner les élections ici.

Mais Johnson exhorte le président à exercer sa volonté politique en tant que chef de la branche exécutive du gouvernement pour éviter de conduire le pays à se glisser dans les jours sombres où la paix et la sécurité de la nation ont été laissées en ruines.



Bomi County Senator, Sando Johnson

Articles traduits
Par Valéry G. Gubéna
E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com
Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

Français

Éditorial

Arrêtez le tambour de guerre

L'atmosphère politique au Libéria est saturée de commentaires violents, de menaces et de contre-menaces, limitant les résultats finaux ou les résultats définitifs des récentes élections partielles dans le comté de Montserrado, en particulier dans le district 15, en raison d'un différend opposant des candidats le 29 juillet sondage.

Les membres des quatre partis politiques de l'opposition qui ont collaboré ont trop confiance dans la victoire du district, bien que six bureaux de vote contenant 15 bureaux de vote aient été mis en cause et donc mis en quarantaine par la Commission électorale nationale.

Ulysses Barchue, vice-président des relations entre le Congrès national alternatif (ANC) et les relations interparties, a déclaré le président du NEC, Cllr. Jerome George Korkoya et ses co-conspirateurs seront tenus responsables de toute régression des gains réalisés par ce pays au fil des ans, menaçant d'instaurer des approches radicales conformes à la Constitution du Libéria.

Les membres de l'opposition battent le tambour de guerre ici, menaçant de se plaindre et de résister farouchement à « une tentative délibérée » de la Commission électorale nationale et du gouvernement du Libéria de contourner la volonté des électeurs du district 15.

Les propos violents se sont manifestés mardi, le 13 août, près du siège de la Commission électorale nationale à Monrovia, où des dirigeants et des sympathisants de partis rivaux s'étaient réunis pour recevoir les conclusions des officiers d'audience du CEN. Une bataille a été engagée entre les parties rivales l'exercice par le NEC.

Le Libéria ne peut se permettre un autre cycle de violence, en particulier à un moment où le pays est confronté à de graves problèmes socio-économiques caractérisés par une inflation à trois chiffres, des prix élevés et un taux de change.

Déjà, le pays est comme une bombe à retardement en attente d'explosion en raison des difficultés économiques actuelles. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous recommandons à toutes les parties de faire preuve de la plus grande circonspection dans la rigidité électorale actuelle pour maintenir la paix.

Les parties devraient faire preuve de retenue en attendant que le CEN rende publiques les résultats de l'enquête dans le district 15. Si l'une ou l'autre des parties n'est pas satisfaite, des recours sont possibles en vertu de la loi, notamment du conseil des commissaires du NEC et de la Cour suprême.

La violence ne devrait pas être une option, car elle pourrait aggraver les conséquences que ce pays pourrait ne pas supporter. Nous devrions nous efforcer de maintenir la paix actuelle pour nous-mêmes et pour nos enfants.

Ces moments ont besoin de vrais patriotes qui placeront le pays au-dessus de ses intérêts politiques. La marque d'un bon leader est de maintenir l'équilibre au milieu de la distraction et de la provocation. De peur d'oublier, les électeurs sont des gens intelligents. Ils savent qui ils ont voté à l'urne.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Elizabeth Drew

La réalité institutionnelle derrière les fusillades aux États-Unis

WASHINGTON - Après chaque fusillade aux États-Unis, se repose la question, en Amérique et partout dans le monde, d'un particularisme qui sous-tendrait cette horreur typiquement américaine. Si le total des morts par arme à feu baisse au fil des ans, les fusillades de masse (se soldant par quatre victimes ou plus) sont aux États-Unis de plus en plus fréquentes et meurtrières. Certaines ont sur le pays un impact émotionnel particulièrement fort.

Les tueries consécutives d'El Paso, au Texas, et de Dayton, dans l'Ohio, lors du premier week-end d'août, sont volontiers considérées comme le massacre en trop, celui qui cassera les reins au puissant lobby des armes, et notamment à la National Rifle Association (NRA), qui s'oppose depuis longtemps au vote par le Congrès de mesures restrictives. Des prévisions qui en rappellent d'autres. Après le massacre de l'école primaire de Sandy Hook, dans le Connecticut, le 14 décembre 2012, lorsqu'un jeune homme de vingt ans avait abattu vingt élèves de cours préparatoire et six adultes, le président Obama, ne pouvant retenir ses larmes, avait appelé de ses vœux un changement.

Suite à une telle tragédie, l'adoption d'une législation efficace restreignant le droit de posséder une arme à feu n'aurait pas dû, a priori, poser de problème. La suppression des niches concernant l'obligation des acheteurs de se soumettre à une vérification de leurs antécédents - obligation qui ne s'applique pas, jusqu'à présent, aux individus qui font l'acquisition d'une arme à feu lors d'un salon ou auprès d'un autre particulier ou encore en ligne - recueillait dans les sondages 92 % d'opinions favorables, et 62 % des personnes interrogées s'affirmaient en faveur de l'interdiction des chargeurs de grande capacité. Il était difficile d'ignorer l'émotion provoquée par les parents brisés venus plaider leur cause à Washington. Pourtant, même après Sandy Hook, le Sénat des États-Unis a rejeté deux mesures destinées à renforcer les contrôles sur la possession d'armes à feu.

Pour comprendre pourquoi, il est important d'avoir à l'esprit que la réglementation concernant les armes à feu a la même origine que le principe anti-majoritaire en vertu duquel les Américains se sont dotés d'un collège de grands électeurs. Au Sénat, les États beaucoup moins peuplés de l'Ouest, du Midwest et du Sud - où abondent en revanche chasseurs et conservateurs se rêvant volontiers en John Wayne - ont le même nombre d'élus que l'État de New York ou surtout la Californie, dont la population est beaucoup plus importante. Et même si la plupart des Américains sont en faveur de lois restreignant plus sévèrement la possession d'armes à feu, le Sénat, de par sa composition, n'exprimera pas nécessairement cette majorité.

Dans le même temps, les opposants à la restriction du port d'arme ont tiré un avantage inconsidéré d'une interprétation apparemment absurde du Deuxième Amendement. Adopté en 1791, celui-ci dispose qu'« une milice bien ordonnée, étant nécessaire à la sécurité d'un État libre, le droit qu'a le peuple de détenir et de porter des armes, ne sera pas enfreint. » Des centaines de livres ont été écrits sur le sens véritable de cet amendement, mais pour les défenseurs du droit au port d'arme, ni le texte ni le contexte historique de sa rédaction n'ont d'importance. Ignorant la condition mise à son application - « une milice bien ordonnée, étant nécessaire » (virgule gênante, à vrai dire) -, ils proclament le droit pour tout un chacun « de détenir et de porter une arme » comme s'il avait été gravé sur le mont Sinaï.

En réalité, le Deuxième Amendement est un produit de son temps, traduisant le besoin que ressentaient les anciennes colonies de se protéger d'une armée gouvernementale permanente. En outre, les armes de cette époque n'étaient que des objets rudimentaires en comparaison des fusils semi-automatiques et des chargeurs de grande capacité que la NRA persuade aux sportifs de posséder, comme s'ils étaient une pièce indispensable de leur panoplie, alors qu'ils ne répondent à aucune utilité « civile » - il va sans dire que les armuriers donnent des millions de dollars à ladite NRA.

Les débats sur la signification du Deuxième Amendement sont demeurés dans l'impasse pendant plus de deux siècles. Jusqu'à l'arrêt historique de la Cour suprême, rendu en 2008 à cinq voix contre quatre, dans l'affaire District of Columbia v. Heller, qui invalidait l'interdiction faite aux particuliers de détenir une arme de poing dans la capitale. Étant donné l'évolution de la Cour, aujourd'hui plus conservatrice encore, de nouvelles lois de restriction du port d'arme qui seraient portées à son attention pourraient fort bien connaître un destin similaire, surtout si le président Donald Trump était réélu.

La dernière grande loi restreignant le port d'arme à feu aux États-Unis fut votée en 1994 sous le nom de Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act et disposait l'interdiction des armes d'assaut. Par volonté de compromis, cette disposition s'assortissait d'un certain nombre d'exemptions et comprenait une clause d'« extinction », obligeant la loi à être explicitement renouvelée au bout de dix ans. Sur quoi elle fut autorisée à s'éteindre, durant la présidence de George W. Bush.

Les données disponibles montrent que le nombre de morts dus aux fusillades de masse a baissé durant les années où la loi était appliquée et qu'il a augmenté après qu'elle est tombée en désuétude. Si une nouvelle interdiction était votée, accompagnée d'une réduction à dix munitions (contre actuellement cent) de la capacité autorisée des chargeurs, elle donnerait un signal clair du sérieux de Trump et du Congrès quant à leur volonté d'endiguer les tueries de masse. Mais la chose est peu probable.

Pourtant, à la suite des fusillades d'El Paso et de Dayton, le discours de Trump a pris sur la question une tonalité légèrement différente, le président laissant entendre qu'il soutiendrait des « contrôles des antécédents très efficaces ». Il avait tenu le même genre de propos en février 2018, après le meurtre de dix-sept personnes par un tueur de masse au lycée Marjory Stoneman Douglas de Parkland, en Floride. Pour s'empresser de faire marche arrière sous les pressions de la NRA (laquelle, il n'est pas inutile de le rappeler, fut impliquée dans les opérations russes de soutien à Trump lors des élections de 2016).

À la suite des deux derniers massacres, Trump s'est aussi montré favorable à une loi d'« urgence », qui permettrait temporairement aux tribunaux de confisquer les armes à feu des mains des personnes considérées par leur entourage ou par un agent des forces de l'ordre comme dangereuses pour elles-mêmes ou pour autrui. De telles lois sont d'ores et déjà en vigueur dans plus d'une douzaine d'États, mais nombre de conservateurs s'y opposent au nom du droit à un procès équitable. Certains membres de premier plan du parti républicain, comme le sénateur de Caroline du Sud Lindsey Graham, ressentent néanmoins la nécessité de faire quelque chose contre les fusillades de masse.

Bien sûr, ni les vérifications d'identités ni une loi d'urgence n'auraient empêché la tuerie de Sandy Hook (les armes appartenaient à la mère de l'assassin, qui fut aussi sa première victime). Mais ces mesures permettraient à Trump et à ses amis républicains de clamer haut et fort qu'ils ont « fait quelque chose ». Raison pour laquelle Mitch McConnell lui-même, le chef de la majorité républicaine au Sénat - qui refuse systématiquement le moindre projet de loi soutenu par les démocrates, mais souhaite voir la chambre haute demeurer aux mains de son parti - a dit qu'il pourrait envisager de légiférer sur les contrôles d'antécédents et les dispositions d'urgence.

Quoi qu'il arrive dans les prochains mois, le nombre d'armes à feu en circulation aux États-Unis est supérieur au nombre d'habitants, par conséquent une nouvelle législation sur les armes n'aurait, au mieux, qu'un effet marginal. Malgré la demande pressante et désespérée adressée par l'opinion aux législateurs - « Faites quelque chose ! » -, Trump est actuellement en vacances pour dix jours et occupé à jouer au golf, et nous sommes en pleins congés parlementaires du mois d'août. Tout peut arriver, y compris dans l'évolution de l'opinion publique, avant la prochaine rentrée du Congrès.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Affected communities demand forest benefits

The National Union of Community Forestry Development Committee (NUCFDC) calls on government and partners including the EU, USAID, the World Bank to ensure that communities affected by logging operations in Liberia benefit 30 percent shares of land rental fees paid by logging companies, including land rental arrears owed by companies.

The National Union of Community Forestry Development Committee was established 2009 with a mission to ensuring affected communities benefit from their natural resources.

Addressing a news conference Tuesday in Duport Road Community, Paynesville, head of secretariat, Andrew Y.Y. Zelemen said the call is timely and appropriate as the Legislature debates the FY2019-2020 National Budget.

He notes that the NUCFDC represents 23 Community Forestry Development Committees (CFDC) within seven Forest Management Contract (FMC) Areas in nine Counties (Lofa, Gbarpolu, River Cess, Nimba, Grand



NUCFDC head of secretariat, Mr. Andrew Y.Y. Zelemen

Gedeh Sinoe, River Gee, Grand Kru and Maryland) and nine Timber Sale Contracts (TSC) Areas in Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu counties, respectively.

He wants not less than US\$2 million placed in the 2019/2020 National Budget for Affected Communities and US\$1 million transferred to the National Community Benefit Sharing Trust Board by September and the balance US\$1,000,000.00 be provided

by end of January 2020.

He call on the government to ensure no logging company is granted felling certificate for 2019/2020 until it has fully paid all arrears owed the people of Liberia.

Mr. Zelemen recalls that from 2015 to 2017, the former government provided US\$2,622,000.00 as part of the arrears owed affected communities from land rental fees collected since 2009.

He says this amount enable

communities concerned to initiate and implement over 40 projects, including construction of schools, clinics, vocational training centers, road rehabilitation, guesthouses and community halls, among others.

However, he discloses that since the inception of the Weah administration nearly two years ago, not a cent has been provided to communities through the National Community Benefit Sharing Trust Board.

“Record received from the FDA shows that the Government of Liberia owes community a little over three million United State Dollars excluding past arrears owed by companies and the administration of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf”, says Mr. Zelemen

He stresses that they have raised these issues with the Forestry Development Authority times without number, but the FDA responds that it is not responsible for budget appropriation or allocation.

“Based upon this, we arranged a meeting with the Deputy Minister for Budget at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) on May 29, 2019 at the Minister’s office. During said meeting, the Deputy Minister (Madam Tanneh Brunson) told us that it was better for us to

meet the Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs at the Department of Fiscal Affairs in the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.”

Zelemen emphasizes that the NUCFDC alongside the leadership of the National Community Benefit Sharing Trust Board and the NGO Coalition of Liberia wrote a letter to the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, requesting for a meeting with to discuss these issues.

“Like previous attempts made, there has been no respond and all efforts applied to meet authority of the ministry have yielded no positive result.”

He also discloses they took the matter up with the European Union-Liberia Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) stakeholder’s gatherings, including the Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) meetings, the National Multi-stakeholders Committee (NMSMC) meetings; during which time a lot of discussions were held around the issue of community share of the land rental fees.

“Yet still, we have got no redress to our plight despite the involvement of our international partners through consultation at various forestry stakeholders’ meetings”, he notes. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Liberia Feminist Forum ends one-day women interaction

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Over 200 women from across different spectrums of the Liberian society have ended a one-day women forum at the Monrovia City Hall.

The forum, sponsored by a local Liberian women group, called Liberia Feminist Forum highlighted the challenges around women’s access to justice, information and the

implications of seeking justice for women, types of family marriage and inheritance, among others.

Speakers at the forum were Deddeh Kwekwe, Teresa Mugadza, Sussie T. Telleh, Cllr. Deweh Gray, Cllr. Ruth Jappah and Cllr. Abla Williams.

Presenting on the topic: “Marriage Under a Dual Legal System (Traditional and Statutory Weddings), Cllr. Deweh Gray says under the

customary law, women are entitled to one third of property acquired.

She discloses that in the case where a child is not legitimate, that child cannot inherit a property. According to Cllr. Gray, if a woman marries a man that has more than one wife, all the married women are entitled to his properties in case he dies.

She notes that any man and woman who live together for over 15 to 20 years, the relationship automatically becomes legal even if they did not get married in court or through traditional ceremony.

In this case, she says the woman is entitled to the man’s property.

She cautions women to be mindful on how they go about trusting men in the process of acquiring land or properties.

According to her, there are cases where women trusted men and they put all the properties in the men’s name instead of the names of both parties.

Also speaking, Sussie T. Telleh of the Women and Children Protection Section at the Liberia National Police (LNP) discloses that any police

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officer who refuses to his fiancé that bears his child or children will be arrested and prosecuted in keeping with law.

She also emphasizes that men who marry females below the age of 18 will also be held liable and prosecuted because females under 18 are minors.

For her part, Cllr. Ruth Jappah of the Liberia Feminist Forum warns women contemplating on getting marry to ensure that the men they intend to get marry to do not already have marital status.

Cllr. Abla Williams of the Liberia Feminist Forum and the Association of Female Lawyers

indicates that any child that is not legal, but previously given a share of property should continue to benefit from any other property that his or her foster father had acquired.

Meanwhile, some of the women expressed gratitude to the organizers of the forum for enlightening their minds to some of the critical issues regarding their rights.

They promised to make use of all that they have learned, saying they will spread the message to their colleagues who did not have the opportunity of participating in the forum. *--Edited by Winston W. Parley*



CDC rejects ruling

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

President Weah's governing Coalition for Democratic Change out rightly opposes ruling by the hearing officer of the National Elections Commission, calling for rerun in all 20 quarantined polling places in the July 29 Montserrado County Electoral District #15 by-election, terming it as "unacceptable."

Addressing a news conference here Wednesday, 14 August immediately following the ruling, CDC national chairman Mulbah Morlu, said the ruling establishment will resist such unwarranted action by the National Elections Commission.

He claims there are evil people planted at the NEC, who are serving as opposition against the CDC and the will of residents of District #15, who spent hours in queue to cast their ballots in favor of their candidate Abu Kamara.

The NEC recently declared opposition Liberty Party (LP's) candidate Abraham Darius Dillon winner of the



July 29 Montserrado County Senatorial by-election, while provisional results put opposition All Liberian Party (ALP) Representative candidate for electoral district #15 Ms Telia Urey 42.68 percent, ahead of CDC's Abu Kamara, 41.48 percent

"This tragedy requires immediate action as we begin the fight to wield out 'Sleepy

Cells' in ministries and agencies actively working against the President's agenda," Morlu further claims without stating clearly the agenda of the President.

But Mr. Weah had vowed that a Urey would never win election in Liberia under his rule. He made the statement at the launch of campaign for now defeated CDC senatorial

candidate Pualita Wie.

According to him, the CDC acknowledges not every opposition member in the government needs to be replaced, since there are few others that are supportive in service, continuing to be productive though they may not be members of CDC.

Morlu maintains they have proof that some of the most serious problems for the new government are traceable to over 60 percent so-called 'technocrats' & senior officials of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's regime, dead-weights & counter-revolutionary forces left in charge before President George Manneh Weah came to the Presidency.

"These so-called 'Technocrats' & senior officials of the Sirleaf era don't have special skills that our partisans lack; they're neither educated than our people, nor are they more experienced," he foams in apparent frustration from being on the verge of losing two by-elections right in the ruling Coalition's stronghold just a year after taking power.

He continues that to the contrary, they're the holes on the ship with 'small small' leakages Unity Party creating at night, while smiling with CDCians during the day to mislead & distract.

"They created this messy economy we inherited, and

they're deepening the mess on a daily basis to keep making our President look bad. This act of Voodoo governance and political witchcraft must be stopped. Notwithstanding, despite the indisputable facts that we inherited a damaged economy, we are nonetheless committed to fixing it to make life better for our people," the angry chairman assures partisans and supporters.

Morlu reiterates recent call for President Weah to re-evaluate his appointment strategies in order to employ more partisans, for he notes that no one can protect his (Weah's) vision for change like CDCeans.

"And the problem is not just restricted to Unity Party people in government, but some of our own officials are also not helping the President, some of their actions giving CDCeans the regrettable basis to wonder whether this is still their own government. How did it come to this that in certain agencies of government, our people are treated as though they're still in opposition, though this is their government! The other day I visited one ministry and learnt that CDCeans are being targeted and subdued in the workplace, and cannot fully express themselves in regards to their membership to the CDC," the ruling party chair concludes. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

NEC orders election rerun

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The National Elections Commission Hearing Officer presiding over the electoral fraud case in Montserrado County Electoral District #15 calls for rerun of the poll in all 20 quarantined centers within 10 working days.

Candidate Telia Urey of the four collaborating opposition political parties filed a formal complaint to the NEC, alleging fraud following the July 29 by-election in the district.

The four collaborating parties including the ex-ruling Unity Party of former Vice President Joseph NyumahBoakai; Liberty Party of Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, Alternative

National Congress of former corporate executive Alexander Cummings, and All Liberian Party of businessman-turned politician Benoni Urey supported Mr. Abraham Darius Dillon, who won the Montserrado senatorial seat, and Ms Urey for District #15.

Provisional results released by the NEC places Ms Urey at 42.68 percent, ahead of CDC's Abu Kamara, 41.48 percent.

In his ruling Wednesday, 14 August at the heavily guarded NEC headquarters in Monrovia, Hearing Officer Cllr. Munah Ville said Ms. Urey could not adequately provide pictorial evidences to prove beyond reasonable doubt, there were discrepancy.

The collaborating parties claimed about 15 polling places were tempered with

and that observers were threw out while the counting of ballots were reportedly done by poll workers of the National Elections Commission.

But Candidate Abu Kamara of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change through his defense council, Atty. Kunkun Yon Wleh has filed a motion against the Hearing Officer's ruling, seeking to take the matter before the NEC board of commissioners for "better legal redress."

Cllr. Ville thanked all parties for their professional conduct and the speed at which they covered 18 witnesses overall during the short course of the hearings.

The hearings into the complaints, which affect 20 polling places in Montserrado District #15, started on August 7, 2019 at the NEC Headquarters.

Following the conduct of the By-election in the District on July 29, 2019, two of the seven candidates, Telia Urey of the ALP and Independent Candidate Bishop Frank, complained against the NEC for "several irregularities", which they claim amounts to electoral "fraud".

NEC immediately quarantined results from the affected 20 Polling places and launched an immediate investigation into the matter through its Hearing Office. Over the period of the hearings, the Petitioners, led by lead counsel Lavalasupuwood, presented 14

Press forward

Cont'd from page 4

Head and Neck Surgery at Boston University Medical Center in Massachusetts, America.

Meanwhile, all 36 senior (12th graders) students who sat the exams this year made a successful pass.

The principal of the school, Aphonso Goll attributes the success to the dedication and exceptional performance to both the students and the teaching staff.

The valedictorian, Ms Joan P. Morgan, encourages fellow graduates to keep aiming high and thanks her parents and teachers for the sacrifice.

Also speaking, the Chairman of JMWSS, Dr. John N. T. Wulu, Sr., reveals plan to reconstruct the Institute within the next two years and pledges to pay registration fees for all of the graduates at any tertiary institutions whether

vocational or academic.

He expresses delight to come to Liberia with his family to witness this year's exceptional commencement exercise, lauding parents, graduates and administrative staff for the 'remarkable' sacrifices.

The Vice President of the Stella Maris Polytechnic University, Dr. Franklin Dalieh, Sr., offered one-year scholarship to the valedictorian, Ms Joan P. Morgan, at any university of her choice in the country.

The Richard M. Nixon Institute, named in honor of former United States President, Richard M. Nixon was founded by the late John Wulu, Sr. and wife Mrs. Minnie Wulu in the mid-1960s. The school is part of the John & Minnie Wulu School System. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Telia Urey

Mr. Abu Kamara

witnesses, while the Respondent, NEC, represented by Atty. TeegeJalloh, produced six witnesses. Jonathan Massaquoi was the lead counsel for the interveners.

The Petitioners' 14 witnesses included candidates

Telia Urey and Bishop Frank, while NEC's six witnesses included its Data Center and Training Directors Floyd Saylor and James Wallace, respectively. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Liverpool beat Chelsea on penalties to win Super Cup



Liverpool won the Super Cup for the fourth time in their history by beating Chelsea 5-4 on penalties after a 2-2 draw in Istanbul.

Goalkeeper Adrian kept out Tammy Abraham's spot kick to secure victory for the Champions League winners.

Chelsea had taken the lead in the first half through Olivier Giroud's clinical strike

but Sadio Mane scored twice to give Liverpool the lead.

Jorginho's spot-kick took the game to penalties, where Liverpool triumphed.

The win comes just two months after Jurgen Klopp won his first trophy as Liverpool boss when he led the Reds to a 2-0 win over Tottenham in the Champions League final.

Games between these two sides in Europe have

historically been tight affairs, with just one of their 10 previous meetings having been won by a margin of more than one goal.

It was the same again on Wednesday night as the two teams tussled for 120 minutes in a game that did not finish until almost 1am in Istanbul.

In the end, it came down to who could keep their cool in the sweltering heat and after nine excellent penalties, Abraham placed his shot too close to Adrian to hand Liverpool their first silverware of the season.

Chelsea lost 4-0 at Manchester United on Sunday and while this was another defeat for the Blues and their new manager Frank Lampard, there were plenty of positives to be taken from Wednesday night's performance.

Lampard fielded a young side at Old Trafford but turned to the older heads in his squad for this game. They added bit of experience and quality showed, particularly in a dominant first-half display.

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Paris St-Germain reject Barcelona & Real Madrid bids for Brazil forward

Barcelona and Real Madrid have made unsuccessful offers for Paris St-Germain forward Neymar, says BBC Radio 5 Live's Guillem Balague.

Neymar's former club Barcelona are believed to have offered 100m euros (£92.4m) plus Philippe Coutinho.

Ivan Rakitic was also discussed with the French club as part of the deal for the 27-year-old Brazil international.



Real have put forward a deal that includes money as well as Gareth Bale and James Rodriguez.

PSG asked for Vinicius Junior but Real did not put his name in the frame.

Neither bid has been accepted, but it is thought PSG would prefer to sell to Real.

Neymar became the world's most expensive player in 2017 when PSG paid him 222m (£205m) so that he could buy himself out of his contract at Barcelona.

The striker has scored 34 league goals in two seasons for the French champions, although injuries interrupted both of those campaigns.

PSG fans held up a banner telling Neymar to "go away" on Sunday as he missed his side's Ligue 1 opener against Nimes after sporting director Leonardo said on the eve of the game that talks about the Brazilian's exit were "more advanced than before".

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