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Continental News

Cameroon separatists jailed for life

A leader of Cameroon's separatist movement, Sisiku Ayuk Tabe, and nine of his followers have been given life sentences by a military court in the capital, Yaoundé. They were convicted of rebellion, among other charges.

Their lawyers accused the judge of bias and withdrew from the proceedings. The English-speaking separatists argue they are marginalised by the bureaucracy and school system in the majority French-speaking country. The defendants had been arrested in Nigeria in January 2018 and deported back to Cameroon. The court session on the verdicts, which started on Monday, went on until 05:30 (04:30 GMT) local time Tuesday morning, reports the BBC's Leoadio Bongben. By that time the defence lawyers had already withdrawn from

the proceedings but continued to stay in the court as spectators. Defence barrister Joseph Fru said there were irregularities in the proceedings, including the judge's biases, but the

military court rejected his evidence.

The long list of charges included rebellion, complicity in terrorism, financing terrorism, revolution, insurrection,

hostility against the state, propagation of fake news and lack of identification.

The court also ordered the 10 to pay a fine of 250bn CFA francs (\$422m; £359m) to the government for civil damages and 12bn CFA francs for court costs. Among the 10 who were convicted was Sisiku Ayuk Tabe, the leader of the so-called Governing Council of Ambazonia - the name separatists have given to Cameroon's Anglophone North-West and South-West regions.

Cameroon's English-speakers say they have been marginalised for decades by the central government and the French-speaking majority.

The current crisis started in 2016 when lawyers and teachers went on strike over the use of French in courts and schools.

In October 2017, activists declared autonomy over the two English-speaking regions - a move rejected by Cameroon's President Paul Biya.

Some took up arms in 2017 and the crisis has forced more than 500,000 people from their homes. BBC



The leader of the self-declared Governing Council of Ambazonia, Sisiku Ayuk Tabe, is among the 10 who have been convicted

Fears over Ghana bank crackdown

Thousands of people in Ghana who deposited their money in some bank accounts are worried they'll never get it back, after 23 savings and loans companies had their licences removed in a crackdown by the country's central bank.

It says these companies are not fit for purpose because they don't have enough cash reserves to meet

hustle under this scorching sun to make money, it's not easy at all. I don't think I will invest in any financial institution again."

When I heard the news I was really worried - I'm a single parent and my rent is due. Now that they have promised to pay, they should pay it quickly. I hustle under this scorching sun to make money, it's not easy at all. I don't think I will invest in any financial



demand if lots of savers want to withdraw their money at once.

Some 70,000 people are affected, with as much as 9bn cedis (\$1.6bn; £1.3bn) tied up.

Here's what one investor told the BBC anonymously:

Quote Message: When I heard the news I was really worried - I'm a single parent and my rent is due. Now that they have promised to pay, they should pay it quickly. I

institution again."The central bank, the Bank of Ghana, has pointed the finger at endemic mismanagement across the sector. But many say the central bank itself is to blame for not carrying out its supervisory role effectively.

Most small businesses and entrepreneurs rely on these institutions for their savings and business loans. BBC

Zimbabwe ex-Vice-President Phelekezela Mphoko 'on the run'

Zimbabwe's former Vice-President Phelekezela Mphoko is being treated as a fugitive after fleeing from anti-corruption officials.

Mr Mphoko was due at a police station to make a statement on allegations being levelled against him but drove away when his car was approached

by the officials, AFP news agency reports. His lawyer said he feared being detained and poisoned.

Mr Mphoko was a co-vice-president under Robert Mugabe.

He served alongside current President Emmerson Mnangagwa when Mr Mugabe was ousted by the military in

November 2017, but the two have fallen out. 'Poison fears' Mr Mphoko was part of a faction that wanted Mr Mugabe's wife, Grace, to succeed him rather than Mr Mnangagwa, the Mail and Guardian reports.

The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) wants to talk to him about alleged abuse of office, the newspaper adds.

Mr Mphoko's lawyer, Zibusiso Ncube, said that his client was willing to answer questions but left when he heard "they [the police] had instructions to detain him", AFP quotes him as saying. Mr Ncube told the Mail and Guardian that his client feared being injected "with a lethal poison". Earlier this month, the president fired Tourism Minister Prisca Mupfumira "for conduct inappropriate for a minister of government" after her arrest over the disappearance of millions of dollars from the country's pension fund.

ZACC alleges the money went missing during her time as minister of labour and social welfare. Ms Mupfumira denies the allegations. BBC



Phelekezela Mphoko was co-vice-president with Emmerson Mnangagwa under Robert Mugabe

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EDITORIAL

GOL should handle foreign assistance well

THE U.S. STATE Department has criticized the Weah administration for not being transparent about foreign assistance receipts, largely project-based, which is not adequately captured in the national budget nor subject to the same audit and domestic oversight as other budget items.

THE U.S. STATE Department 2019 Fiscal Transparency Report (FTR) covering the period, January 1 to December 31, 2018, places Liberia among poorly performed countries in Africa.

IT SPECIFICALLY FROWNS that Liberia's supreme audit institution, the General Auditing Commission, during the period under review did not make its audit reports publicly available within a reasonable period of time, and that criteria and procedures for awarding natural resource extraction licenses and contracts were outlined in law, but there have been reports of corruption and inconsistent application of regulations in practice.

THESE ARE ISSUES that should claim the government's attention, particularly foreign assistance that are directed to specific projects in the country, as they border on trust and integrity, which are very essential for maintaining confidence of our international partners.

A RECENT SCENARIO by the Weah administration of redirecting project-specific funds to something else that resulted to a joint statement by Foreign Missions near Monrovia, demanding restitution, was not only denigrating but embarrassing.

THE GOVERNMENT ARGUED its predecessor (the Sirleaf administration) acted similarly and restituted funds that were directed to other sectors. But the point is, it didn't generate this manner of reaction from Foreign Missions, perhaps due to procedure employed, which speaks to good governance.

WE BELIEVE IF the right thing were done, the Weah administration would not have received such disgraceful public alarm from partners and governments.

THE FTR RECOMMENDS several steps that should be taken to improve Liberia's fiscal transparency among them, ensuring the budget is substantially complete and off-budget accounts are subject to adequate audit and oversight.

IT ALSO SUGGESTS making the GAC audit reports publicly available within a reasonable period of time, and ensuring criteria and procedures used to award natural resource extraction contracts and licenses are consistent with law as well as making basic information on all natural resource extraction awards publicly available.

THEREFORE, WE URGE the Weah administration to heed these pieces of advice which do not only promote transparency, accountability and good governance, but demonstrate international best practices.

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COMMENTARY

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

Europe Must Oppose Trump

European leaders should recognize that a significant majority of Americans reject Trump's malignant narcissism. By opposing Trump and defending the international rule of law, Europeans and Americans together can strengthen world peace and transatlantic amity for generations to come.

NEW YORK - With Donald Trump due to visit Europe again for the G7 summit later this month, European leaders have run out of options for dealing with the US president. They have tried to charm him, persuade him, ignore him, or agree to disagree with him. Yet Trump's malevolence is bottomless. The only alternative, therefore, is to oppose him.

The most immediate issue is European trade with Iran. This is no small matter. It is a battle that Europe cannot afford to lose.

Trump is capable of inflicting great harm without compunction, and is now doing so by economic means and threats of military action. He has invoked emergency economic and financial powers that aim to push Iran and Venezuela to economic collapse. He is trying to slow or stop China's growth by closing US markets to Chinese exports, restricting the sale of US technologies to Chinese companies, and declaring China a currency manipulator.

It is important to call these actions what they are: the personal decisions of an incontinent individual, not the result of legislative action or the outcome of any semblance of public deliberation. Remarkably, 230 years after its constitution was adopted, the United States suffers from one-man rule. Trump has rid his administration of anyone of independent stature, such as the former defense secretary, retired General James Mattis, and few congressional Republicans murmur a word against their leader.

Trump is widely mischaracterized as a cynical politician maneuvering for personal power and financial gain. Yet the situation is far more dangerous. Trump is mentally disordered: megalomaniacal, paranoid, and psychopathic. This is not name-calling. Trump's mental condition leaves him unable to keep his word, control his animosities, and restrain his actions. He must be opposed, not appeased.

Even when Trump does back down, his hatreds seethe. When face to face with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the G20 summit in June, Trump declared a truce in his "trade war" with China. Yet a few weeks later, he announced new tariffs. Trump was incapable of following through on his own word, despite the objections of his own advisers. Most recently, a plunge in global markets has forced him to retreat temporarily. But his aggression toward China will continue; and his intemperate actions vis-à-vis that country will increasingly threaten Europe's economy and security.

Trump is actively trying to break any country that refuses to bow to his demands. The American people are not so arrogant and intemperate, but some of Trump's advisers surely are. National Security Adviser John Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, for example, both epitomize a uniquely arrogant approach to the world, amplified by religious fundamentalism in the case of Pompeo.

Bolton visited London recently to encourage the United Kingdom's new prime minister, Boris Johnson, in his determination to leave the European Union with or without a Brexit deal. Trump and Bolton don't give a whit about the UK, but they ardently hope the EU fails. Any enemy of the Union - such as Johnson, Italy's Matteo Salvini, and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán - is therefore a friend of Trump, Bolton, and Pompeo.

Trump longs to topple the Iranian regime as well, tapping into anti-Iranian sentiment that dates back

to Iran's 1979 Revolution and the lingering memory in US public opinion of Americans being taken hostage in Tehran. His animus is stoked by irresponsible Israeli and Saudi leaders, who loathe Iran's leaders for their own reasons. Yet it is also highly personal for Trump, for whom Iranian leaders' refusal to accede to his demands is reason enough to try to remove them.

Europeans know the consequences of American naivete in the Middle East. The migration crisis in Europe was caused first and foremost by US-led wars of choice in the region: George W. Bush's wars against Afghanistan and Iraq, and Barack Obama's wars against Libya and Syria. The US acted rashly on those occasions, and Europe paid the price (though, of course, the people of the Middle East paid a much higher one).

Now Trump's economic war with Iran threatens an even larger conflict. Before the world's eyes, he is attempting to strangle the Iranian economy by cutting off its foreign-exchange earnings through sanctions on any firm, US or otherwise, that does business with the country. Such sanctions are tantamount to war, in violation of the United Nations Charter. And, because they are aimed directly at the civilian population, they constitute, or at least should constitute, a crime against humanity. (Trump is pursuing essentially the same strategy against the Venezuelan government and people.)

Europe has repeatedly objected to the US sanctions, which are not only unilateral, extraterritorial, and contrary to Europe's security interests, but also explicitly in contravention of the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran, which was unanimously endorsed by the UN Security Council. Yet European leaders have been afraid to challenge them directly.

They shouldn't be. Europe can face down the threats of US extraterritorial sanctions in partnership with China, India, and Russia. Trade with Iran can easily be denominated in euros, renminbi, rupees, and rubles, avoiding US banks. Oil-for-goods trade can be accomplished through a euro-clearing mechanism such as INSTEX.

In fact, the US extraterritorial sanctions are not a credible long-term threat. If the US were to implement them against most of the rest of the world, the damage to the US economy, the dollar, the stock market, and US leadership would be irreparable. The threat of sanctions is therefore likely to remain just that - a threat. Even if the US were to move to enforce sanctions on European businesses, the EU, China, India, and Russia could challenge them in the UN Security Council, which would oppose the US policies by a wide margin. If the US were to veto a Security Council resolution opposing the sanctions, the entire UN General Assembly could take up the matter under the "Uniting for Peace" procedures. An overwhelming majority of the UN's 193 countries would denounce the sanctions' extraterritorial application.

Europe's leaders would endanger European and global security by acceding to Trump's bluster and threats vis-à-vis Iran, Venezuela, China, and others. They should recognize that a significant majority of Americans also oppose Trump's malignant narcissism and psychopathic behavior, which has unleashed a contagion of mass shootings and other hate crimes in the US. By opposing Trump and defending the international rule of law, including rules-based international trade, Europeans and Americans together can strengthen world peace and transatlantic amity for generations to come.

OP-ED

By Anne O. Krueger

Trump's War on Evidence

WASHINGTON, DC - Decision-making based on evidence rather than superstition was a driving force behind the Industrial Revolution, and the collection of statistics has, accordingly, become a hallmark of the modern age. In the twenty-first century, businesses and governments alike are finding that data are more valuable than ever.

There are cases where data should be - and, indeed, are - collected by the private sector. But given their broad applications, many data sets are public goods, and thus should be gathered by governments. One of the factors behind America's economic dominance is that the US government has long collected statistics that are universally regarded as trustworthy and impartial. These data have played an indispensable role in driving innovations in technology, medicine, social policy, and many other fields.

US President Donald Trump's administration, however, seems to believe that experts and evidence are irrelevant. For example, it has starved the US Census Bureau of funds, precisely when the agency is in the process of conducting the decennial census, as mandated by the US Constitution. An internationally respected institution, the Census Bureau usually benefits from a sharp funding increase in the years leading up to the census (followed by a decrease in the years immediately thereafter). But under Trump, the agency's budget has been held relatively flat, leaving it without the means to test different survey questions or various cost-saving techniques.

The census is far too valuable to receive such short shrift. US businesses rely on the data collected by the Census Bureau to make decisions about future output, hiring, and investments. The government itself needs accurate and comprehensive census data to forecast future revenues and the costs of major programs such as Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare. And independent researchers and academics use census data to improve our understanding of political, economic, and social behavior.

Sadly, the Census Bureau is not the only victim of the Trump administration's war on evidence. Others include two highly respected agencies within the Department of Agriculture (USDA): the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. In June, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that both the ERS and NIFA will lose their independent status within the department and be relocated from Washington, DC, to Kansas City.

The administration's attack on these agencies will have far-reaching implications for the US economy. Farmers rely on ERS data to assess crop prospects, international market conditions, weather patterns, and problems stemming from pollution, soil runoff, and other factors. And NIFA is a major funder of agricultural and environmental research at US land-grant universities. Taken together, these two agencies - along with competition between states - are a major reason why US farmers are among the most productive in the world. And given the ongoing disruptions to agricultural exports as a result of Trump's trade war, the analyses these agencies provide are needed even more now.

Make no mistake: by relocating the ERS and NIFA, the Trump administration is effectively gutting both agencies. Around 500 staffers have been told that their jobs are moving to the Midwest this year. The administration's rationale for this decision - that the relocation will bring ERS and NIFA staff closer to their clients - beggars belief. Agriculture and research are nationwide activities, and ERS/NIFA staffers must interact closely with others at the USDA and abroad to furnish the reliable data upon which so many American farmers rely.

Most of the ERS/NIFA staffers who have been told to relocate are career civil servants, scientists, and researchers with roots in the Washington, DC, area. Although they have mortgages, working spouses, children in schools, and friends there, they were given just 33 days to decide whether they would move or quit. So far, about two-thirds have chosen the latter option. And those who have said they will move still do not know exactly where the new offices will be located.

Obviously, this is no way to treat employees, let alone run a government. But, as with so much else the Trump administration does, mis-governance seems to be the point. No private company would even contemplate a move of such magnitude without having more concrete plans in place, for fear of mass attrition and inflicting lasting damage on the firm's ability to function. One cannot help but suspect that the Trump administration's intent is simply to destroy the two agencies.

According to a recent report by the USDA's Inspector General, the administration's plans violate the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act, because it has not obtained congressional budget approval to relocate the ERS and NIFA offices. Such legal questions will need to be resolved. But one hopes that, in the meantime, Trump will rethink and rescind a decision that will hurt American farmers even more than his trade war already has.

OPINION

By Silvia Ribeiro

A Geoengineering Trojan Horse

MEXICO CITY - Although the effects of climate change are becoming increasingly apparent, the progress toward reducing greenhouse-gas emissions remains as disappointing as ever, leading some to tout new technological solutions that could supposedly save the day. Harvard University's David Keith, for example, would have us consider geoengineering - that is, deliberate, large-scale, and highly risky interventions in the Earth's climate system.

This past March at the United Nations environmental conference in Nairobi, Kenya, the United States and Saudi Arabia blocked an effort to scrutinize geoengineering and its implications for international governance. Meanwhile, Keith's Stratospheric Controlled Perturbation Experiment (SCoPEX) in the US - which aims to test a form of geoengineering known as Solar Radiation Management (SRM) - seems to be moving forward.

SRM depends on so-called Stratospheric Aerosol Injection, whereby a high-altitude balloon sprays large quantities of inorganic particles into the stratosphere with the goal of reflecting some sunlight back into space. SCoPEX would send a balloon equipped with scientific instruments some 12 miles (20 kilometers) above the ground to test the reflectivity of various substances.

But these technical aspects of the experiment are far less important than its political, social, and geopolitical implications. After all, the risks of geoengineering could not be more serious. If deployed at scale, SRM could disrupt the monsoons in Asia and cause droughts in Africa, affecting the food and water supplies of two billion people. The use of sulfuric acid - the most studied option, and the one SCoPEX initially intended to test - could further deplete the ozone layer. (More recently, SCoPEX has been mentioning only carbonates.)

The recent launch of an independent advisory committee for SCoPEX seems to be aimed at lending legitimacy to a kind of experiment that the rest of the world has agreed is too dangerous to allow. Moreover, the panel's membership is exclusively US-based, and mostly linked to elite institutions, which raises questions about whose interests are really being served.

These concerns are reinforced by the fact that the SCoPEX pitch is fundamentally manipulative. The results from a "small-scale" experiment would not amount to a credible assessment of the effects of deploying SRM at the scale needed for geoengineering. As climate scientists have made clear, the only way to know how SRM (or any other geoengineering technique) would affect the climate is to deploy it over several decades on a massive scale. Otherwise, its effects could not be distinguished from other climate variables and "climate noise."

Given that geoengineering is, by nature, not testable, all experiments like SCoPEX can do is create momentum for larger and longer experiments. Once millions of dollars have been sunk into creating the relevant institutions and employing large numbers of people, it becomes easier to argue that even more data should be collected and, finally, that the technology should be deployed.

In this sense, projects like SCoPEX set a new and dangerous precedent for the unilateral implementation of geoengineering technologies by billionaires and vested interests. Indeed, as the Center for International Environmental Law and the Heinrich Böll Foundation's recent report, *Fuel to Fire*, points out, fossil-fuel companies have been investing in geoengineering for decades. For them, the promise of a technological get-out-of-jail-free card is an ideal pretext for continuing their highly profitable, destructive activities.

In fact, Keith's own company, Carbon Engineering, recently received \$68 million from Occidental Petroleum, Chevron, and the coal giant BHP (Billiton) to develop another potentially dangerous geoengineering approach - Direct Air Capture, which takes CO₂ from the atmosphere, to be used or stored. Among the company's original funders is the oil sands financier N. Murray Edwards (as well as Bill Gates).

Allowing such projects to move forward with no political mandate or institutional oversight could entrench a system of self-regulation that is grossly inadequate for technologies as consequential as geoengineering. That is why the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) has asked governments not to allow any geoengineering activities to be carried out until "a global, transparent, and effective control and regulatory mechanism" is put in place - a mechanism that adheres to the "precautionary approach."

The CBD decision made an exception for small-scale experiments, but only under certain conditions, which SCoPEX doesn't meet: among them, carrying out experiments in "controlled settings" and acquiring the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities that may be affected. Furthermore, in the case of SCoPEX, no critical voices from civil society or developing-country governments seem to have been considered.

SCoPEX's promoters appear determined to take advantage of the US's failure to ratify the CBD. The fact that the SCoPEX advisory committee is chaired by a California government official, Louise Bedsworth, also raises the question of whether a state that has positioned itself as a climate leader is now embracing the most controversial form of geoengineering.

Rather than allow fossil-fuel companies that have ravaged our planet for profit to continue to act in their own interest, the world must establish a strong, multilateral democratic regulatory mechanism, which includes the option to ban certain technologies outright. Until such an international system is in place, experiments like SCoPEX - which threaten to act as a Trojan horse for deploying dangerous technologies at scale - must not be allowed to move forward.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Analysis of the Impacts and Intricacies of Liberian Foreign Policy and International Relations over the last 75 Years

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This article evaluates the Successes and Challenges of Liberian Foreign Relations Over the last 75 years, from the regime of ex-president Edward J. Barclay, 1930 to present-the administration of President George M. Weah. It mainly focused on the era of 1930 to current and discussed in detailed its socioeconomic and political impacts on the Liberian society. The article categorized all aspects of Liberia's international relations and foreign policy during each past successive administration of presidents Edwin Barclay, William V.S. Tubman, William R. Tolbert, Samuel K. Doe, Charles Taylor, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and now George M. Weah. Going further, this work discussed how the nation's foreign policy and international relations have helped to impact national development and the country's role among the comity of nations and global organizations. It also describes the considerable economic and political impact, dividends and influence on the domestic fronts and Liberia's interactions with sovereign states, non-state actors and state actors, respect for global governance, and multilateral organizations.

The Dark Days of Liberia

Globally, the Liberian state between the epochs of

enriched their elves. The country was no longer a beacon of hope and was no longer being judged by the world as the pioneer of democracy on the African Continent, despite Liberia being the first to hold a democratic election in Africa on 21 September 1847 when Joseph Jenkins Roberts was elected the first President upon Independence in 1847.

However, conditions became to change for the better due to foreign intervention especially ECOWAS and the UN mediation, and the role of the former president of the United States of America, George W. Bush. But with Ex-president Johnson-Sirleaf's extraordinary display of diplomatic modus operandi, unique international relations backed by admired foreign policy, Liberia has since regained its status among the comity of nations, and role in various international bodies.

Roughly seventy-four 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



The Author

foreign policy, and international relations.

Kenneth (1979) reiterates that the balance of power theory according to the only distinct theory about international politics to date is the balance of power theory. Balances of power prevail when the international order remains anarchic, and its units (states) wish to survive. The theory makes assumptions about the interests and motives of states, and it explains the constraints that confine all states in the system. Perkins (2001) discloses that it is a truism that governments make decisions with regard to foreign policy in the interests of their parent nations. For most nations, their national socioeconomic development policy or equivalent, permits or even fosters a need to maintain. After several years of rising tensions between the Republic of Liberia and its neighboring states including Sierra Leone, Guinea and the Ivory Coast, insurrection broke out with Liberia being accused of influencing the conflict via several initiatives, this resulting to Liberia's isolation and slapped with a debilitating sanction by the United Nations and regional organization, ECOWAS.

Petric (2013) described foreign policy as the means in which the state coordinates with other sisterly republics or other states with the view of keeping the government abreast with global events. It is also a strategy of self-interest adopted by the state to protect national interest and respect for its sovereignty which includes independence, rule, power, authority and influence with the much desirable goal in the international system. Foreign policies generally are designed to help protect a country's national interests, national security, ideological goals, and economic prosperity, and .to achieve a foreign policy, a state must comply with international acceptable norms and standards both written and oral (Petric, 2013). The term "foreign" depicts the policy as targeting actors beyond the borders of the territorial state. Foreign Policies are designed by the head of government with the aim of achieving complex domestic and international agendas. It usually involves an elaborate series of steps and where domestic politics play an important role (Merraim, 2018).

Positively, Liberia has since transcended from war to peace, and conflict to stability, it has become the country of optimism and prospects, with high expectations that the current economic status of the country will positively change and will translate into the creation of jobs, income, quality education and health care delivery system, and irreversible hum an-development gains. Hope, however, is not enough in the absence of harmony and showing care and love



1989 to 2005 was viewed in the international domain by global players and international actors, and non-state actors as a failed state. During the periods, the repute of the state and its people were tainted internationally while those who were in possession of the nation's traveling documents, especially passports, were subjected to inhumane treatments at various ports of entrance. The state was portrayed very negatively with various descriptions, for some Liberia was the epicenter of cannibalism, war, failed state, rebel's paradise, scoundrels, and criminals sanctuary, just to name few. There were increasing calls in the international sphere for the country to be placed under the United Nations Trusteeship, on grounds that Liberians would no longer govern the state and protect their people.

Other nationals and foreign capitalists with criminal propose, took advantage of the nation's ugly dark past to perpetrate distasteful acts, as a resulted of theses ugly practices, countless number of innocent Liberians became victimized, to the extent that some are deceased or sentenced, while others locations still continued to be a mystery.; the country riches were abused by so-called foreign investors, companies and other states while warring factions committed carnage against the population and

individual rights and collective rights, and keeps the society integrated and saved, where love and care are shown to inhabitants of the community of a shared future for mankind.

Kissinger (1994) discloses that in every century there seemed to emerge a country with the power, the will and great influence to shape the entire international system in accordance with its own values. According to Kissinger, France dominated diplomacy in the seventeenth century by introducing a modern approach to international relations. He explains that the French concept is based on the nation-state, and motivated by its own national interests as an ultimate purpose while the British concept dominated diplomacy. According to Kissinger (1994), British dominance was later dismantled by Germany, thus reshaping European diplomacy into a game of power politics. Germany has revolutionized European diplomacy and instituted a foreign policy based on calculations of power and national interests which led to the unification of Germany. But the 20th century saw a new face of American dominance of international relations which greatly influences decisively in global politics. Unlike the United States, no country has been more pragmatic in the day-to-day conduct of its diplomacy,

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Save the Children Liberia launches digital education

Save the Children International Liberia Office launches "Profuturo Education Digital Education Project" aimed at providing equal opportunities for deprived children in the country through digital education.

Profuturo is an educational programme launched in 2016 by Telefónica Foundation and "La Caixa" Foundation, whose mission is to narrow the education gap in the world by providing quality digital education for children in vulnerable environments in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

Speaking at a program held at a local hotel in Monrovia on Tuesday, the senior operation manager of SCI Mr. Charles Sevee explains, the project in Liberia is in line with Goal 4 of the United Nations' 2030 sustainable development agenda on access to equitable and inclusive quality education for all.

He says Profuturo aspires to become a world reference for transformation and innovation in education, improving the education of millions of children through technology.

According to him, the objective is to improve learning process, teaching

methodology as well as improved enrollment and students' attendance into the Liberian school system.

Savee adds the project will also improve students' knowledge in digital education as well as increase Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and children

involvement in the digital world, disclosing that 60 schools are expected to benefit with over 3,600 students expected to be served per year.

Also speaking, Dina Rakotomalala of Save the Children Spain, notes digital education initiatives will significantly contribute to the attainment of the Ministry of Education's objective to ensure quality education to the children of Liberia.

She says the project will allow targeted teachers and students in Bong, Montserrado and Margibi counties to realize

their talents and capabilities in an innovative way in this 21st century where digital knowledge is essential.

Serving as key launcher at the program, Assistant Education Minister for Secondary Education, Felecia Doe Somah lauds Save the Children International Liberia Office for the initiatives in providing equal opportunities for deprived children through digital education and pledges the ministry's willingness in working with the Save the Children for smooth implementation of the project. *-Press Release*



Gray attacks Dillon

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Montserrado County Electoral District #8 Representative Moses Acarous Gray has sharply criticized newly inducted Montserrado County Senator Darious Dillon from the opposition, for terming the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate as "rotten government institutions."

He explains that the description of the first of branch of government by Senator Dillon has the propensity to bring that august body to public dispute and undermine the credibility of the professional men and

women who have dedicated their time in serving the country.

Rep. Gray stresses that if members of the Liberian Senate will take statement of Dillon common and sweeps it under the carpet, he as member of the House of Representatives will constructively engage the senate on the matter.

He promises to write the plenary of the Liberian Senate this Thursday to complain the senator to his colleagues.

Speaking at a news conference in Monrovia, Tuesday, August 20, Representative Gray also claims asset declaration

carried out by Dillon is 'fake' and does not reflect the intent of the Code of Conduct which mandates all public officials to declare their assets upon taking the oath of office.

Gray cites Article 10, of the Code of Conduct which states, all public officials shall declare their respective assets including their current income. But he observes Dillon failed to reveal how much he's earning at the Liberian Senate, which makes the declaration fake.

"For the fact that Dillon could not state how much he's making at the senate makes the declaration fake and unrealistic and has no legal bearing of the opposition senator. This is a law, and every part of it should be followed legally" he stresses.

While declaring his asset in a news conference last week immediately taking office at the Capitol, Senator Dillon said, "While a full declaration of my assets will be made following the due process outlined by law, I publicly declare today, as I present to the secretary of the Senate my asset declaration papers in keeping with law; everything I own is not more than US\$75,000, and the process to commence publishing same starts Monday, August 19, 2019."

But Gray argues that Dillon had promised the people of

Noah Ark's school graduates 314

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Noah Ark's secondary school situated in Gardnersville Township, suburbs of Monrovia graduates 314 students with call by District Education Officer Peter Nordeh to the graduates to go to college and respect those molding their minds for future endeavors.

DEO Nordeh also lauds the school's proprietor Joseph D. Bestman, and the instructional staff for buttressing government's effort in providing quality education for the young people of Liberia.

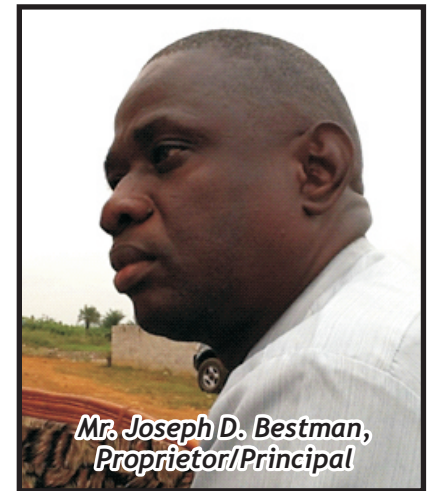
The 17th graduation exercises were held at the Liberty Christian Center Chapel in Johnsonville Township, Montserrado County.

The DEO notes that the performance of the graduates at the ceremony clearly shows that teachers and staff executed their jobs effectively during the academic year.

The guest speaker at the occasion, Rev. Mother TenialWatta Duo, founder of Ward Preparatory School in Gardnersville Township, encourages the graduates to focus on their dreams of who they want to be in society.

She reminds the graduates that if people would respect them tomorrow it will depend on how they present themselves, urging them to be innovative.

In his valedictory address,



Mr. Joseph D. Bestman, Proprietor/Principal

the dux of the school Winner T. I. Gallah, who spoke on the topic: "The Significance of Education in our Society", says acquiring sound and quality education depends on how well students study their lesson.

He warns his colleagues not to compromise their education, but rather maintain focus in their academic sojourn.

Speaking on behalf of proprietor Joseph D. Bestman, Vice Principal for Instructions Harrison Kasay discloses that out of 417 candidates from the school who wrote the West African Senior School Certificate Examination, 314 made a successful pass, which the administration highly appreciates.

He assures parents of administration's commitment to providing quality education to youth of Liberia backed by strong discipline. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Rep. Moses Acarous Gray



Sen. Darious Dillon

Montserrado County in his campaign that upon taking office, he will have declared and published his assets in local dailies, something, he (Gray) notes, the newest senator has begun to renege on.

"Dillon knows very well that the secretary of the senate will not use his personal money to

publish someone's assets and that there is no law that compels the secretary of the senate to publish senators' assets. So, that is a scapegoat tactics he has introduced to avoid proper declaration of his assets," the ruling CDC lawmaker points to. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Avoid hate speech

-Liberians warned

Liberia seems to be attracting global attention again, this time around, not for very good reasons but as a result of waves of political violence in the capital leading to injuries and destruction following the 29 July by-elections in Montserrado County.

The international community had earlier hailed the West African nation for its first peaceful political transition in more than 170 years after elections in 2017. Barely a year after, there is a visible return of tension and violence in the streets involving stone-throwing youth from President Weah's governing Coalition for Democratic Change and supporters of four collaborating opposition political parties here.

In a Joint Statement Tuesday, August 20th the European Union (EU) Delegation and the Embassies

of the United States of America and the EU Member States (France, Germany, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom) condemn the violence that took place on Saturday, 17 August, between

supporters of the Coalition for Democratic Change and supporters of the opposition Collaborating Political Parties, including violent attacks against opposition candidate Telia Urey in Montserrado District #15.

The Joint Statement calls

discloses ends 21 August.

He says the by-election has been scheduled for 5 October, which comes about following

the death of Senator Edward Dagoseh in June as a result of protracted ailment. -Story by Jonathan Browne



UL hails new

Starts from back page

"We are not going to compromise our testing passing threshold just because we want to admit students ... The route to matriculation is sitting and passing our entrance and placement exams," says Mr. Tweah.

According to Mr. Tweah, all the students who have passed the entrance will be admitted for the first academic semester in September 2019 once they meet all of the admission requirements.

He asserts that the students who will be admitted next semester will be part of the centennial class, in terms of the admission process.

UL is observing its centennial commencement convocation this December.

Additionally, Mr. Tweah states that previous exams papers are made available to candidates when they go to register for the exams as a way of encouraging them to study hard.

In a powerpoint presentation, the Executive Director for UL Center for Testing and Evaluation Asst. Prof. Moses S.E. Hinneh, Jr., reports that a total of 4,628 candidates registered for the entrance from the undergraduate colleges, Sinje vocational College and the College of General Studies.

Of this number, he says 4,544 or 98.18 percent candidates turned out while 84 candidates or 1.8 percent were absent.

Out of the 4,544 candidates that sat the exams, three candidates were disqualified for examination malpractices, 1 candidates to sit the exams.

leaving a total of 4,541 candidates to sit the exams.

Of the 4,541 candidates, Mr. Hinneh indicates that 461 or 10.15 candidates made a provisional pass, while 1,521 or 33.49 candidates made a regular pass.

He details that 2,559 candidates constituting 56.35 percent were unsuccessful.

"This also means that one thousand, nine hundred eighty - two candidates (1,982 or 43.65%) candidates either made a Regular Pass or a Provisional Pass," he says.

The head of the Testing Center says 285 candidates registered for the Graduate School Entrance Exams, but 12 of these candidates (4.21%) were absent.

He notes that 273 candidates sat the exams, out of which 178 or 65.20 percent candidates are successful while 95 or 34.80% are unsuccessful.

According to Mr. Hinneh, 112 or 62.92 percent of the successful candidates for the Graduate School are males while 66 or 37.08 percent of them are females.

Mr. Hinneh observes that students have been harboring fears for the entrance exams, especially for mathematics.

However, he reveals that to boost candidates' confidence, the Testing Center has always encouraged students to study test questions from previous exams in preparation for upcoming exams.

"The topics will not change, but the question will change, that's the whole thing from now on as I will continue to be at the testing center. The students, we want to make the students to know that if you study, you will pass," he says

NEC Board begins hearing today

The board of commissioners of the National Elections Commission begins hearing into a bill of exception filed by the governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) against the recent ruling by the NEC hearing officer into an electoral fraud case in Montserrado County District #15.

Candidate Telia Urey of the four collaborating opposition political parties filed an official complaint to the NEC after the 29 July by-election in District #15, alleging fraud in 20 polling places.

As a result of the complaint, the NEC quarantined results from the disputed polling places and announced provisional results from the rest of the voting precincts in the district, which gives Candidate Telia Urey 42.68 percent, ahead of the governing CDC Candidate Abu Kamara's 41.48 percent.

After hearing from both parties, the NEC hearing officer last week called for a rerun in the quarantined centers, but the ruling party excepted to the ruling and subsequently appealed to the board of commissioners.

In his ruling last week at the heavily guarded NEC

headquarters in Monrovia, hearing officer Cllr. Munah Ville said Ms. Urey could not adequately provide pictorial evidence to prove beyond reasonable doubt that there were discrepancies.

The communication director at the National Elections Commission Henry B. Flomo, told OK Fm radio Tuesday that today's hearing begins at 11:00 in the morning, and is open to the public.

He says the board will hear both parties to make a determination whether to up the ruling from the hearing officer or to sustain the appeal from the ruling CDC.

However, the appeal party has one more step under the law to go to the Supreme Court if it is still not satisfied.

In its exception, lawyers representing Candidate Abu Kamara of the CDC argues that the hearing officer erroneously ignored and refused to consider certain relevant and material evidence adduced during the investigation as fact finder.

"Defendant say the said illegal, erroneous, prejudicial and bias ruling is a fit subject for a reversal because the evidence you disregarded have the tendency to change your holding on the questions of annulment of the aforesaid election result", the lawyers wrote in the bill of exception filed Friday, August 16, 2019.

Meanwhile, the NEC

announces that Candidate Nomination for the Grand Cape Mount County Senatorial By-election continues at the Commission.

Henry Flomo calls on aspirants to go to the Commission to pick up forms for the exercise, which he

discloses ends 21 August.

He says the by-election has been scheduled for 5 October, which comes about following the death of Senator Edward Dagoseh in June as a result of protracted ailment. -Story by Jonathan Browne



Français

Côte d'Ivoire : Charles Blé Goudé veut incarner l'héritage politique de Laurent Gbagbo

Le Congrès panafricain pour la justice et l'égalité des peuples (Cojep) de Charles Blé Goudé, ex-ministre de Laurent Gbagbo, a tenu ce week-end son premier congrès et affûte sa stratégie politique, à quatorze mois de l'élection présidentielle d'octobre 2020. Décryptage.

Des centaines de supporters de Charles Blé Goudé s'étaient donné rendez-vous samedi 17 août sur la place CP1 de Yopougon, grande commune d'Abidjan et fief de l'ex-président Laurent Gbagbo. L'occasion ? Le premier congrès du Cojep. Dans la foule, Kouadio Konan Bertin (KKB), ex-président de la Jeunesse du Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI), candidat indépendant malheureux à la présidentielle d'octobre 2015.

Avec Charles Blé Goudé, qu'il a rencontré alors qu'il était à la prison de Scheveningen, ils préparent une action commune. Pour l'heure, les deux hommes

refusent d'en dévoiler le contenu. « Charles Blé Goudé et moi-même sommes en train de construire une relation qui, j'espère, va sauver la Côte d'Ivoire de demain, révèle KKB. Nous sommes en train de poser les jalons pour le futur. » Une coalition de quadragénaires de la politique ivoirienne, ex-leaders de

mouvements estudiantins, intégrant des mouvements proches de Guillaume Soro ? Peut-être.

Hyactinthe Nogbou, premier secrétaire du Cojep qui gère le parti en l'absence de son président-fondateur, avait déjà participé à des réunions sur la question de la réforme de la Commission électorale

indépendante (CEI), dans le cadre de la plateforme de l'opposition qu'annonce depuis un an Henri Konan Bédié. Réservé sur les méthodes des responsables du PDCI, auxquels il reproche un manque de démocratie, le Cojep s'était finalement retiré des discussions.

« Rien contre les intérêts de Gbagbo » Pour l'heure, la formation de Charles Blé Goudé tente de s'organiser en l'absence de son charismatique leader. Le congrès de ce week-end, qui a vu la réélection de ce dernier à la présidence, vise à préparer le parti - qui ne compte officiellement aucun élu - à aborder « avec efficacité » l'échéance de la présidentielle de 2020.

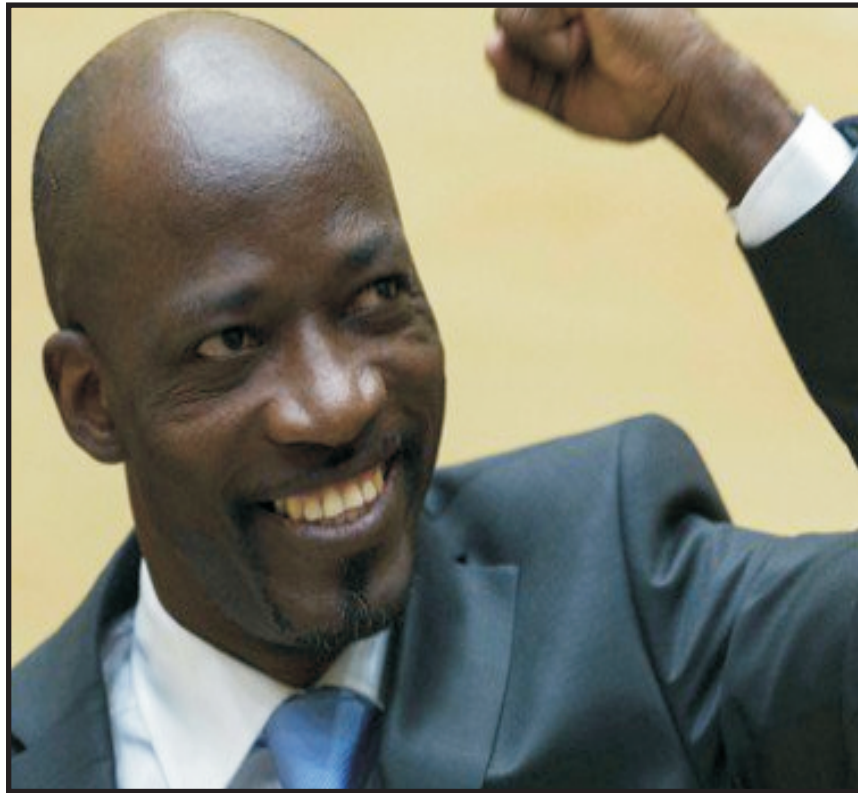
Pour l'universitaire Geoffroy-Julien Kouao, l'ex-ministre de la Jeunesse ivoirien défend une posture réaliste. En effet, la popularité de Laurent Gbagbo reste intacte dans les bases qui l'ont soutenu durant son mandat. « En stratège politique, Blé Goudé veut incarner, voire personifier l'héritage politique de Laurent Gbagbo. Y parviendra-t-il ? Difficile de le prévoir », note Kouaho.

Charles Blé Goudé candidat à la présidentielle de 2020 ? Rien n'est moins sûr, si on en croit le décryptage de l'universitaire, pour qui le Cojep est un instrument entre les mains de Laurent Gbagbo, au même titre que le Front

populaire ivoirien (FPI) et Ensemble pour la démocratie et la souveraineté (EDS, coalition de mouvements et partis politiques pro-Gbagbo).

« La posture politique de Charles Blé Goudé dépendra de celle de son mentor. Il ne fera rien contre les intérêts de Gbagbo ; or, personne ne connaît aujourd'hui les ambitions de celui-ci pour 2020 », insiste l'analyste politique Sylvain N'Guessan. Depuis l'hôtel de La Haye où il observe sa liberté conditionnelle imposée par la Cour pénale internationale (CPI), le codétenu de Laurent Gbagbo ne cache certes pas son ambition présidentielle, mais sans doute pas pour 2020, alors que l'ex-chef d'État, fondateur du FPI, n'a pas encore officiellement annoncé son retrait de la course.

En effet, dans son habituel langage imagé, Blé Goudé coupe court à toute rumeur sur ses rapports avec l'ex-chef d'État en liberté conditionnelle à Bruxelles (Belgique). « Ce qui me lie au président Gbagbo, c'est une cause noble. Et cette cause engage la vie de milliers d'Ivoiriens. Il faut savoir que quelle que soit la longueur des oreilles, elles ne dépasseront jamais la tête. La tête ici, c'est Laurent Gbagbo et jamais je ne me comparerai à Gbagbo parce que c'est mon père, c'est mon maître », affirme-t-il. Précisant qu'il n'est « pas pressé, la Côte d'Ivoire n'est pas de passage ».



Tellia Urey accuse des partisans de George Weah d'avoir tenté de l'assassiner

Une candidate de l'opposition à un poste de député au Liberia a accusé lundi des partisans du président George Weah d'avoir attaqué samedi une de ses réunions électorales et tenté de l'assassiner, des violences dénoncées par le chef de l'Etat.

Tellia Urey est la candidate d'une coalition de quatre partis d'opposition, The

Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), lors d'une élection législative partielle dans une circonscription de la capitale Monrovia prévue prochainement.

C'est aussi l'une des quatre filles du magnat des télécoms Benoni Urey, qui a dirigé le Bureau des Affaires maritimes sous l'ancien chef de guerre et président Charles Taylor (1997-2003) et qui a été battu

lors de la présidentielle de 2017 par George Weah, icône du football mondial des années 1990.

"J'étais en réunion avec mes partisans samedi quand des supporters du CDC (la formation de George Weah) ont commencé à lancer des pierres sur notre bâtiment, à briser les vitres", a raconté lundi devant la presse Mme Urey, dont le véhicule a été détruit.

La police, arrivée sur les lieux, n'est pas intervenue, laissant les incidents se poursuivre pendant plus d'une heure, a-t-elle affirmé, en précisant que "des personnes ont été blessées".

"L'un d'entre eux est rentré avec un couteau et a essayé de m'atteindre, mais il a été repoussé par mes partisans", a-t-elle affirmé.

Les assaillants ont ensuite "commencé à répandre de l'essence autour de la maison en disant qu'ils allaient la brûler", a ajouté Tellia Urey, selon qui la police était alors toujours inactive.

"On a eu la vie sauve grâce à un sympathisant qui a réussi à

faire rentrer sa voiture et à nous escorter jusqu'à elle", a estimé la candidate, en disant renoncer à poursuivre sa campagne électorale.

Mme Urey a accusé le président Weah d'avoir encouragé ces violences en déclarant en juin que "sous (sa) présidence, aucun Urey ne gagnerait une élection".

La présidence du Liberia a qualifié lundi dans un communiqué d'"épouvantables" les violences de samedi "entre supporters du CDC et des quatre partis d'opposition", en précisant qu'une enquête avait été ouverte et que les "coupables devront répondre devant la

justice, indépendamment de qui il s'agit".

Elu fin 2017 sur un programme de lutte contre la pauvreté, l'ex-star du PSG et du Milan AC est confronté à une opposition croissante en raison de la dégradation alarmante de la situation économique dans ce pays pauvre d'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Lors d'une réunion de deux jours à huis clos le week-end dernier avec les principaux responsables politiques du pays, George Weah a demandé aux deux chambres du Parlement d'accélérer l'adoption des réformes qu'il entend mettre en oeuvre pour redresser la situation.



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Français

Éditorial

Pourquoi c'est le CDC tout le temps ?

Les violents affrontements récurrents entre partisans de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir et les partisans de l'opposition et des candidats indépendants ne font pas que miner la force de notre démocratie croissante, menacer aussi la paix et l'unité du Libéria et fragiliser ainsi l'économie.

Les militants du parti au pouvoir et ceux de l'opposition se sont affrontés à coups de pierres et de projectiles maintes fois à divers endroits à Monrovia. Plusieurs personnes ont subi des blessures et des biens ont été détruits.

Les dernières violences ont eu lieu le samedi 17 août dans le district 15 du comté de Montserrado, après que la Commission électorale nationale ait annoncé la reprise de l'élection partielle du 29 juillet dans 20 bureaux de vote à la suite d'une enquête qui a été menée par les enquêteurs de la NEC sur des plaintes pour « fraudes électorales présumées ».

Plus précisément, la communauté de Broad Street de Logan Town dans le district 15 était devenue une zone interdite samedi lorsque des partisans des partis rivaux se sont affrontés à coups de pierres, entraînant des blessures et de la destruction de propriétés privées. Les violences auraient eu lieu entre les partisans du candidat parti au pouvoir, Abu Bana Kamara, et les partisans du candidat vécu, Kelvin Baryoh.

Pour des raisons inexplicables, il semble que les membres de la coalition au pouvoir estiment que les menaces et la violence sont de nouvelles stratégies pour gagner des élections ou réduire au silence leurs opposants. Hélas la violence va toujours à l'encontre des principes de la démocratie.

Les affrontements du week-end à Logan Town Broad ont été précédés d'autres affrontements qui avaient éclaté entre les partisans du candidat du parti au pouvoir Kamara et ceux de la candidate de l'opposition Mme Telia Urey plus tôt la semaine dernière au siège de la Commission électorale nationale à Sinkor, Monrovia. Mlle Telia Urey est membre de L'ALP (All Liberians Party) qui est membre de l'alliance des principaux partis politiques de l'opposition.

Ces affrontements ont également entraîné de graves blessures de part et d'autre. Des innocents ont également subi des blessures et des propriétés privées détruites malgré l'intervention de la police. Certaines des victimes pansent encore leurs plaies dans des hôpitaux.

Le Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC) du président George Weah rejette le verdict de la Commission Electorale qui appelle à une reprise de l'élection législative partielle dans les 20 bureaux de vote dont les résultats avaient été gelés par la Commission pour se pencher sur des allégations de fraudes. Le parti au pouvoir avait indiqué qu'il ferait appel de la décision devant le Conseil des commissaires de la NEC.

Nous ne sommes pas du tout surpris de la focalisation du parti au pouvoir sur la violence, car les hiérarchies du parti avaient déjà mobilisé des partisans zélés, la majorité des jeunes, pour faire face à une opposition aussi déterminée.

Cependant, le parti au pouvoir devrait comprendre qu'il se tire une balle dans la jambe en adoptant la violence comme stratégie pour garder le contrôle du pouvoir, car cette approche est contre-productive. Il s'en rendra compte tôt ou tard.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jeffrey D. Sachs

L'Europe doit s'opposer à Trump

NEW YORK - À l'approche du retour de Donald Trump en Europe ce mois-ci, à l'occasion du sommet du G7, les dirigeants européens ont épuisé toutes les options dans leur manière de manœuvrer le président américain. Ils ont tenté la séduction, la persuasion, l'indifférence, l'approbation, le désaccord. En vain. La désobéissance de Trump est sans limite. La dernière alternative possible consiste désormais à s'opposer au président américain.

La question la plus immédiate réside dans les échanges commerciaux entre l'Europe et l'Iran, une problématique non négligeable, et une bataille que l'Europe ne peut se permettre de perdre.

Trump est capable d'infliger de lourds dégâts sans le moindre scrupule, ce qu'il fait actuellement par voie économique ainsi qu'à travers ses menaces d'intervention militaire. Le président américain invoque des pouvoirs d'urgence économique et financière pour pousser l'Iran et le Venezuela vers l'effondrement économique. Il s'efforce par ailleurs de ralentir voire de stopper la croissance de la Chine en fermant les marchés américains aux exportations chinoises, en limitant la vente de technologies américaines aux entreprises chinoises, ainsi qu'en accusant la Chine de manipulation monétaire.

Il est important de décrire ces actes comme ce qu'ils sont : les décisions personnelles d'un individu incontrôlé, et non le fruit d'un processus législatif ou d'une quelconque délibération publique. Songez que 230 ans après l'adoption de leur Constitution, les États-Unis subissent le règne d'un seul homme. Trump a limogé de son administration tous ceux qui revêtaient une certaine stature indépendante, tels que l'ancien secrétaire de la Défense, le général à la retraite James Mattis, et rares sont les Républicains du Congrès à murmurer leur désaccord vis-à-vis du président.

Trump est à tort décrit par beaucoup comme un politicien cynique dont les manœuvres auraient pour objectifs le pouvoir personnel et le profit financier. La réalité est encore plus catastrophique. Trump est tout simplement instable mentalement : mégalomane, paranoïaque et psychotique. Il ne s'agit pas ici d'insulter gratuitement. L'instabilité mentale de Trump le rend incapable de tenir ses promesses, de contrôler son animosité, et de faire preuve de réflexion dans ses actes. Il ne doit plus être question de l'apaiser, mais désormais de lui tenir tête.

Même lorsqu'il lâche du lest, Trump ne cesse de bouillonner de colère. Face au président chinois Xi Jinping lors du sommet du G20, au mois de juin, Trump avait déclaré une trêve dans sa « guerre commerciale » contre la Chine. À peine quelques semaines plus tard, il annonçait de nouvelles taxes douanières. Le président américain a été incapable de respecter sa propre parole, malgré les objections de ses conseillers. Dernièrement, la chute des marchés mondiaux l'a contraint de faire provisoirement marche arrière. Son œuvre agressive à l'encontre de la Chine est toutefois vouée à se poursuivre, sachant par ailleurs que ses comportements irréflectifs vis-à-vis du pays menaceront de plus en plus l'économie et la sécurité de l'Europe.

Trump s'efforce activement de mettre à mal tous les pays qui refusent d'accéder à ses exigences. Cette arrogance et cette intempérance ne se retrouvent pas dans le peuple américain, mais certainement chez certains conseillers du président. Le conseiller à la sécurité nationale John Bolton et le secrétaire d'État Mike Pompeo incarnent par exemple parfaitement une vision du monde extraordinairement méprisante, amplifiée par un fondamentalisme religieux dans le cas de Pompeo.

Bolton s'est récemment rendu à Londres pour encourager le nouveau Premier ministre du Royaume-

Uni, Boris Johnson, dans sa détermination à quitter l'Union européenne, avec ou sans accord de Brexit. Trump et Bolton se moquent bien du Royaume-Uni, mais espèrent ardemment voir l'UE échouer. Tous les ennemis de l'Union - Johnson, Matteo Salvini en Italie, le Premier ministre hongrois Viktor Orbán - sont ainsi les amis de Trump, Bolton et Pompeo.

Trump espère également depuis longtemps renverser le régime iranien, s'alimentant d'un sentiment anti-iranien qui remonte à la Révolution iranienne de 1979, et du souvenir persistant dans l'opinion de citoyens américains retenus en otages à Téhéran. Cette animosité est elle-même attisée par des dirigeants israéliens et saoudiens irresponsables, qui haïssent le régime iranien pour leurs propres raisons. Mais c'est aussi une affaire personnelle pour Trump, que le refus des dirigeants iraniens face à certaines de ses demandes suffit à motiver dans sa quête de renversement du régime.

Les Européens connaissent les conséquences de la naïveté américaine au Moyen-Orient. La crise migratoire en Europe est principalement la conséquence de guerres décidées et menées par les États-Unis dans la région : celles de George W. Bush en Afghanistan et en Irak, celles de Barack Obama en Lybie et en Syrie. L'Amérique y est intervenue sans aucune prudence, et l'Europe en paye le prix (le tribut subi par les populations du Moyen-Orient étant bien entendu beaucoup plus lourd encore).

Voici désormais que la guerre économique menée par Trump contre l'Iran menace de dégénérer en conflit encore plus important. Sous les yeux du monde entier, le président américain s'efforce d'étrangler l'économie iranienne en épuisant ses revenus de change, au moyen de sanctions contre toute entreprise, américaine ou autre, qui commercerait avec Téhéran. Ces sanctions équivalent à une guerre, et s'inscrivent en violation de la Charte des Nations Unies. Dans la mesure où elles ciblent directement une population civile, elles constituent par ailleurs - ou devraient constituer - un crime contre l'humanité (Trump applique pour l'essentiel la même stratégie contre le gouvernement et la population du Venezuela).

L'Europe s'est régulièrement opposée aux sanctions américaines, qui non seulement sont unilatérales, extraterritoriales et contraires aux intérêts sécuritaires du vieux continent, mais qui contreviennent également à l'accord de 2015 sur le nucléaire iranien, adopté à l'unanimité par le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU. Pour autant, les dirigeants européens ont jusqu'à présent peur de remettre directement en cause ces sanctions.

Ils ne devraient pas. L'Europe peut tenir tête aux sanctions extraterritoriales américaines, en coopération avec la Chine, l'Inde et la Russie. Les échanges commerciaux avec l'Iran peuvent aisément être libellés en euro, en renminbi, en roupie, en rouble, et ainsi éviter les banques américaines. Les échanges de type pétrole contre biens manufacturés peuvent s'effectuer dans le cadre d'un mécanisme de clearing en euro comme INSTEX.

Les dirigeants européens mettraient en péril la sécurité européenne et mondiale s'ils se contentaient de rester passifs face au déchainement et aux menaces de Trump vis-à-vis de l'Iran, du Venezuela, de la Chine, et d'autres. Ils doivent intégrer qu'une majorité significative d'Américains désapprouve elle aussi le narcissisme destructeur et les comportements psychotiques de Trump, qui engendrent une contagion de tueries de masses et autres crimes de haine aux États-Unis. En s'opposant à Trump et en défendant la primauté internationale du droit, y compris un système de commerce international fondé sur des règles, Européens et Américains peuvent ensemble renforcer la paix mondiale et l'amitié transatlantiques pour les générations à venir.

Analysis of the Impacts

Cont'd from page 5

to one another, particularly exercising patriotism and nationalism. Interestingly this unique history of Liberia started in the 60s when the nation produced the Second female President of the United Nations General Assembly, a distinguished and esteemed diplomat, Mrs. Angie Brooks Randall. Liberia has exceptionally changed the political pages of modern democracies by being the first sovereign state in contemporary history to elect and sworn in office an acclaimed international soccer legend as President of the Republic, while in 2005 Liberia became the first African nation to elect a female president on the continent.

The foreign policy initiatives of Liberia have seen a major boost as Africa's first independent country pick up the pieces from war to peace. This sad period in Liberian life also witnessed uncertainty in the Mano River Basin comprising Liberian neighbors: Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, and Guinea and the African continent in general. Liberia's Foreign Policy is firmly rooted in its political ideology of liberalism and democracy while the guiding principles of Liberia's foreign policy has been the maintenance of national security and the preservation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country, the promotion of peace and harmony based on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.

The fundamental thrust of Liberia's foreign policy objective before the mid-1960s was predominantly the maintenance of national independence, due to threats posed by the former colonial powers to the Lone Star of freedom and Liberia's support to the independence movement in Africa. The foreign policy objective, during colonialism, was the independence of African states and devotion to economic, social and political development across the continent. Foreign policy takes into consideration emerging events across the globe since foreign policy formulations and implementation takes into consideration the domestic policy of a state because politics deals not only with government or state but also several dynamics that occurring at other state levels. Let us not forget that foreign policy and domestic policy are both interconnected because foreign policy formulation is originated from the inner of state programs that determine government developmental priorities based on budgetary appropriation.

Liberia's ties with countries of the world, especially neighboring countries demonstrate the cordial and unique friendship the country attached to governments, regional and continent bodies and members of the international community. Such unique international relations and diplomacy have given rise to the nation's foreign policy objectives, with the visible dividends including international goodwill, developmental programs, and constructions of multimillion public facilities such as newly constructed RIA terminal and Ministerial complex by the People's Republic of China. The former government of Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and President Weah's administration desired credit for the unique displayed of diplomacy. These core issues of international goodwill and development projects are linked to general domestic policy for their pursuit is dependent not only on Liberia's foreign policy with her neighbors and countries which Liberia maintained its diplomatic ties with, but also Liberia's internal political stability and security. While there are several challenges, the impacts of Liberia's foreign policy include restoring of certain basic social services through foreign aid assistance.

On January 22nd 2018 Liberia was the focus of international attention, not just the focus of global arena, but was captured on the front pages of global leading newspapers and in the headlines of top television and radio stations across the globe when power was peacefully transferred from one democratic leader to another, something that hasn't been done in Liberia in seven decades of the nation's past.

The Dynamic of Sirleaf's Foreign Policy

In order rebuild the fragmented and dysfunction system, Ex-president Johnson-Sirleaf was seeded as a magic touch in the body politics of Liberia in 2005, one who with the political and economic chemistry to repair the broken system and create prosperity for the poverty-stricken and destitute population of Liberia since she was well seated in politics and fought bad governances in the past. The successes of the nation's international relations and foreign policy put into motion at an accelerated pace need to be firmly protected and needs a sober reflection on the nation's ugly and darker past of "April 14, 1979"; "April 12, 1980" coup and "April 6, 1996" Factions Fighting in the country.

Let us also be reminded of the three major events in the nation's history were all characterized by violence, mayhem, anarchy, death, and destruction in Monrovia and its environs. The protest came about as a result of the backdrop of a proposed increase in the price of a 100lb bag of rice. The demonstration drew a massive crowd for the first time in many decades, that Liberians had seized the opportunity to stay national protests against the government-Talbert regime. According to several researchers, the miss information was that rice-the nation's staple food could be imported and sell for US\$9.00 per 100lb bag. Such political rhetoric and sugar-coated statement persuaded many Liberians to buy the sentiments of these "progressive" political leaders. The hostilities of 14 years warfare in the country, from 24th December 1989 to 18th August



2003, in which insurgent groups killed thousands of persons, ruined the various sectors and destroyed billion dollars' worth properties across the country, have also witnessed 17 years of an uninterrupted peace across country guns have fallen silent since the Ceasefire and Cessation of Hostilities triggered by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on 18 August 2003 in Akosombo, Accra Ghana.

But the 17 years of an uninterrupted peace across the country which has witnessed three successive politically-driven democratic exercises of 2005, 2011 and 2017 General Elections which came about on the back of the assurances and commitment by Liberians to bury their differences and demonstrate the will-power in resolving all trials and tribulations in order to protect the years of fragile peace and co-existence in the interest of genuine peace and sustained stability.

In 2005 the people of Liberia needed a leader who could pass the ball around to the rest of the team mates and keep the spectators in a happy mood, not a meditative disposition, therefore during the 2005 president election, Johnson-Sirleaf was considered a people person who many believed came with the reservoir ideas to fix the stagnated economics, reduce poverty and unemployment in the country, create enormous jobs and provide security for the entire population, ensure quality educations and unique health delivery system booming in the country. To address all of these problems, the Johnson-Sirleaf has to embark on a diplomatic campaign across the global, knocking at the doors of powers states and regional and continental institutions and multilateral

organizations, including the world body-the United Nations.

Few years back, what was termed "the hopeless country or failed state", during the dark pried of the nation's history, no longer existed, Liberia has since transcended from war to peace, and conflict to stability, it has become the country of optimism and prospects, with high expectations that the current economic status of the country will positively change and will translate into the creation of jobs, income, quality education and health care delivery system, and irreversible human-development gains. Hope, however, is not enough in the absence of harmony and showing care and love to one another, particularly exercising patriotism and nationalism. Besides, former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Foreign Policy focus was development diplomacy agenda, aimed at securing the much needed strategic partnership to support Liberia's post war reconstruction and development pursuits, thus setting forth its foreign policy and domestic agenda constructively. The importance of Liberia and her African brethren thereof is to inspire and expand the ideas of a free society for all of its people,(Geeplay , 2011). President Sirleaf also try to balance Liberia's foreign policy between the WEST and the EAST.

However, during her last years in power, her foreign policy direction was more to the EAST (China) and less to the West (the USA). During here administration, Liberia voted against the USA on the resolution that condemned the US for recognizing Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel. Ministry of Foreign

Affairs (2014), the guiding principles of Liberia's foreign policy has been the maintenance of national security and the preservation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country, the promotion of peace and harmony based on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, and the unity of purpose in the international community. Liberia's Foreign Policy as referred to in the preface to this report is firmly rooted in its political ideology of liberalism and democracy.

The economic thrust that Liberia experienced during the pre-war period was interrupted by socio-political upheavals culminating in an armed conflict reducing Liberia to a failed and State. But with the end of this dismal period and the ascension of Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, to the leadership of Africa's first Republic in 2006, Liberia's stature and standing in the comity of nations have immensely improved. According to the Ministry's annual report, this new status has been made possible due primarily to a radical change in the country's foreign policy orientation adopted by the first democratically Female President on the African Continent.

Foreign Ministry (2010) reports that the pillars of President Sirleaf's new foreign policy orientation consist of a firm recommitment to the principles and ideals of the United Nations, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, and the Mano River Union (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Annual Report, 2010, p. 4). Accordingly, Liberia reaffirmed her absolute adherence to the rules of international

Charles Sirleaf, others rearrested

By Winston W. Parley

Former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's son and Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Deputy Governor Charles E. Sirleaf has been rearrested and jailed along with several other CBL officials including former CBL Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks for alleged money laundering.

Defendants Sirleaf, Weeks, Dorbor M. Hagba, Richard H. Walker and Joseph Dennis are being prosecuted for alleged economic sabotage on account of their alleged roles in the missing \$16 billion Liberian Bank note scandal.

During the time that prosecution claims the crime occurred, Mr. DorborHagba worked as CBL's Director of Finance Department; Richard Walker as Director for Operations; and Joseph Dennis as Deputy Director for Internal Audit.

The defendants were rearrested Tuesday, 20 August for money laundering at the Temple of Justice where they accused had gone for a hearing of the economic sabotage case.

Their rearrest order was issued on Monday, 19 August



based upon an indictment prepared against them by the grand jury for Montserrado County to answer to the charge of money laundering.

Later in the day on Tuesday, 20 August, there were suggestions in some quarters that efforts were being made to release Charles Sirleaf from detention over his health condition, but this could not be immediately verified.

According to the indictment filed before

Criminal Court "C" on 19 August, between April 2016 up to August 2018, the five defendants allegedly deliberately colluded and conspired with a wicked intent to launder money and sabotage the Liberian economy.

In the alleged scheme, the accused allegedly defrauded the CBL and the government when they printed excess Liberian dollar bank notes amounting to LRD\$2,645,000,000 to infuse it

into the Liberian market without authorization.

According to the indictment, the defendants deliberately launder the money to the detriment of the Liberian economy and paid US\$835,367.72 to printing firm co-defendant Crane Currency for the printing of the LRD\$2,645,000,000.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Court "C" presided over by Judge A. Blamo Dixon expresses observation that Crane Currency AB, SE-14782 of Tumba, Sweden had not been brought under the court's jurisdiction.

The judge advises the prosecution to invoke the appropriate law to that effect.

The indictment indicates that based publication by a local daily that a container carrying Liberian dollar banknotes destined for CBL had gone missing, there were public outcry and several street demonstrations.

US funded Kroll Associates and President George MannehWeah's Presidential Investigative Team (PIT) conducted separate investigations in this case.

According to the indictment, from PIT and Kroll's investigations, it was established that on 17 May 2016, acting CBL Executive Governor Mr. Sirleaf made a request through his mother former President Johnson - Sirleaf to the Legislature to print LRD\$5,000,000,000 to

replace mutilated legacy notes.

The indictment says both the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate through joint resolutions granted approval to the CBL.

A contract was executed with co-defendant Crane Currency for the amount of US\$5,210,000 for the purpose of printing LRD\$5,000,000,000.

However, the indictment says co-defendant Sirleaf had earlier executed and entered into a contract with co-defendant Crane Currency on 6 May 2016 11 days before the approval by the Legislature was obtained.

The indictment asserts that this shows that Mr. Sirleaf had taken the decision without any legislative approval.

The defendants are accused of printing \$5,146,250,000 new Liberian dollar banknotes, 146,250,000 in excess of the approved amount.

While the contract amount for the printing of the 5,000,000,000 Liberian dollar banknotes was US\$5,210,000, the indictment adds that co-defendants Weeks, Sirleaf, Hagba, Walker and Dennis allegedly paid to Crane Currency the amount of US\$5,611,469.58, an excess of US\$401,469.58.

The indictment details that there was no signed letters for the extra Liberian dollar banknotes printed as provided for in the contract.

"We need UN tribunal"

By Ethel A. Tweh

Defunct rebel group Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) general, now Nimba County Sen. Prince Yormie Johnson says Liberia needs a UN tribunal instead of a war and economic crimes court.

Sen. Johnson, a key political ally of President George Manneh Weah, has always been uncomfortable with public pressure for the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) led - government to establish a war and economic crimes

court for war lords to answer questions of atrocities allegedly committed during Liberia's brutal civil wars.

He was instrumental in delivering vote - rich Nimba County to the ruling CDC's 2017 presidential candidate Weah at a crucial time of a run - off, but he sounds like he is being intimidated by the regime with a threat of establishing a war crimes court whenever his views become unpleasant.

Speaking in session at the Senate on Tuesday, 20 August, Sen. Johnson complained that in the Weah led - government,

if one speaks the truth, that person is considered an enemy of the state.

Giving an instance, Sen. Johnson notes that Monrovia City Mayor and CDC Youth League Chair Jefferson Kojee recently held a press conference and vowed that CDC supporters will defend the government with their blood.

But Sen. Johnson discloses that when he talks against such utterance coming from the City Mayor, the ruling party would threaten him (Johnson) with plans to establish a war crimes court to prosecute him.

Sen. Johnson indicates that someone who criticizes you is your best friend, but in the Weah led - regime, he observes that if you say the right thing, you are called all kinds of names.

"They have done that to me. They said that the world crime court is not being signed into law because of me. Speaker Chambers told me that," PYJ reveals.

But he brands the regime's alleged threat to establish a war crimes court as "scare tactics," adding that the country doesn't need war crimes court but a UN backed tribunal in Liberia.

Sen. Johnson argues that the Liberian crisis was not only fought by citizens, but alleges that foreign people were also involved.



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"Let the UN bring tribunal, that's the only solution," Sen. Johnson says.

He says people are speaking their minds as a wakeup call for the Weah regime to change its ways of governing.

"If we are doing wrong, let us change. Too many inflammatory statements have been made, some statements from members of this regime,"

Sen. Johnson observes.

The Nimba County Senator indicates that he has advised the regime seriously that things are not right, adding that what occurred in Logan Town, Montserrado County District #15 was so bad.

According to him, it is very wrong to burst people's car and injure others. --Edited by Winston W. Parley

UL hails new entrance results

-Over 43 percent of candidates made pass



Dr. Ophelia Weeks

By Winston W. Parley

The State-run University of Liberia (UL) has hailed as significant improvement, the results of its 2019 second entrance and placement exams with 1,982 candidates making regular or provisional pass from a total of 4,541 candidates that sat the test.

Releasing the report on UL's Capitol Hill campus Tuesday morning, 20 August in Monrovia, UL Vice President for Relations Mr. Norris Tweah said the results could mean that students are studying hard or the education system of the country is getting better.

"There are several reasons

why. I think students are also studying hard and the Testing Center is also making some of the previous exams papers available to test takers who come to register and encourage them to study hard. I mean, also it could be that the educational system of the country is gradually

getting better. I mean we'll need more evidence to showcase," he says.

Mr. Tweah says the University is very pleased for the first time in a long time that it has a passage rate of over 40 percent when the provisional passage and the regular passage are combined.

He states that the results from the last entrance at the University showed that only 13.2 candidates passed, arguing that a 43 percent pass [for the latest entrance] is a significant improvement for UL.



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Juventus head coach Sarri diagnosed with pneumonia

Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri has been diagnosed with pneumonia, the Serie A champions have confirmed, and his status for the club's league opener is unknown.

The 60-year-old Sarri missed Juve's friendly win over Triestina on Saturday due to "the persistence" of flu, which he developed last week.

He returned to the club's training base on Monday but

was unable to oversee preparation work on the pitch due to his illness.

The club conducted further examinations and Sarri has now begun a course of treatment.

A statement released by the club on Monday read: "Maurizio Sarri, after having observed rest over the weekend, was at the JTC Continassa [Juve's training facility] today where he coordinated the work of his



staff.

"Unfortunately, he could not conduct the training on the field due to the persistence of his flu, which struck him over the course of last week.

"In the late afternoon, he underwent further tests that confirmed he has pneumonia, for which specific therapy has been prescribed.

"The coach has authorised the club to communicate his state of health."

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