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VOL.9 NO. 143

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00

War crimes court not possible

-Sen. Wesseh



Sen. Conmany B. Wesseh



Sen. Prince Y. Johnson

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Facts vs. falsehoods

-How a Liberian businessman is being smeared

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Continental News

Sudan general to lead top decision-making body

The leader of Sudan's Transitional Military Council (TMC), Lt-Gen Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Burhan, has been sworn in as leader of the newly established sovereign council. He will lead a group of six civilians and four other military officers as part of a planned 39-month long transition to democracy. There will also be a prime minister and cabinet. The new government comes after Omar al-Bashir was ousted in April. He had been president for nearly 30 years but was removed by the military after months of protests. On Saturday, the TMC and civilian leaders signed a deal that should pave the way to a new democratic dispensation. Under the agreement, Gen Burhan will be in charge of the Sovereign Council, which replaces the TMC, for the first 21 months; a civilian will then take over until elections in 2022. The other 10 members of the council were also sworn on Wednesday.

In addition, respected economist Abdalla Hamdok, who was nominated by civilian protest leaders as prime minister, is due to be sworn in.

The ministers of defence and interior, who will be part of a cabinet, will be chosen by the military. The deal was not



Lt-Gen Burhan will be in charge of the Sovereign Council for the first 21 months

perfect but was an important step, Dr Mohamad Hamid, a spokesman for the umbrella opposition group, the Sudanese Professionals Association, told the BBC.

"We are positive that we are together as Sudanese, a government and people that will together push forward to improve the level of our economy, improve the level of our health system and our education," he added.

Gen Mohamed Hamdan "Hemeti" Dagolo, the second in command in the TMC, has pledged to abide by the terms of

the deal. On 4 August the military and protesters signed a constitutional declaration which paved the way for the formation of a transitional government. A formal signing ceremony took place on 17 August. They agreed on the following:

- Power-sharing will last for 39 months

- Elections to be held at the end of that period

- A sovereign council, cabinet and legislative body will be formed

- A general will head the council for the first 21 months, a

civilian for the remaining 18

Sovereign council will have 11 members (5 civilian and 5 military nominees plus one agreed by consensus)

A prime minister, nominated by the pro-democracy movement, will head the cabinet

The ministers of defence and interior will be chosen by the military

The other positions will be taken by pro-democracy candidates

Sovereign council and cabinet members barred from running for election

The long transition period is

seen as a victory for the pro-democracy movement - the generals had threatened a snap election after the 3 June crackdown, during which more than 120 people were reportedly killed, with many of the dead dumped in the River Nile.

Demonstrators argued that Mr Bashir's regime was so deeply entrenched that it would take time to dismantle its political network and open the way for free and fair elections. It can be traced back to December 2018, when then President Bashir's government imposed emergency austerity measures. Cuts to bread and fuel subsidies sparked demonstrations in the east over living standards, and the anger spread to the capital.

The protests broadened into demands for the removal of Mr Bashir, who had been in charge for 30 years.

In April, the president was overthrown by the military after sit-ins outside the defence ministry, but demonstrators then wanted to ensure authority was swiftly transferred to a civilian administration. A council of generals led by Gen Burhan assumed power, but it has struggled to return the country to normality.

The army is not a unified force in Sudan; paramilitary organisations and various Islamist militias hold some sway. BBC

Uganda abolishes mandatory death penalty

Parliament in Uganda has passed a law that abolishes the mandatory death penalty for certain crimes, amending four different laws that had

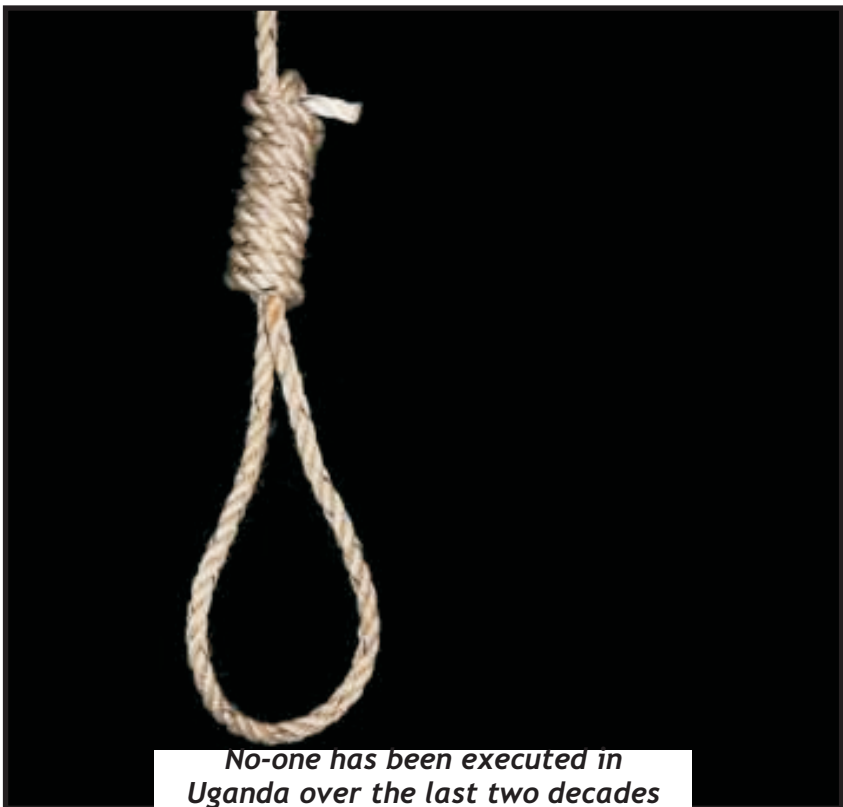
earlier prescribed capital punishment, including the Anti-Terrorism Act.

If approved by President Yoweri Museveni, the amendments will restrict the

death penalty to just the most serious of crimes, only at the judge's discretion. Legislators say it is a step towards the complete abolition of capital punishment, something for which courts have previously voiced support. There are 133 inmates on death row and no one has been executed in the last 20 years. There has been a campaign to end capital punishment, following a 2009 court ruling in favour of then death row inmate Susan Kigula, who had argued that the death sentence was unconstitutional.

The court then ruled that the death penalty should not be mandatory in cases of murder, and that a condemned person should not be kept on death row indefinitely - if a convict was not executed within three years, the sentence be automatically turned into life imprisonment.

The Ugandan Prisons Service has welcomed the move by MPs, saying focus should be on reforming inmates. BBC



No-one has been executed in Uganda over the last two decades

Kenyan row over 'rotten ginger'

A row has erupted in Kenya after 23 tonnes (about 3,610 stone) of fresh ginger imported from Vietnam was released despite being found to be unfit for human consumption. Port authorities in Mombasa discovered that the shipment of ginger was mouldy with 14% moisture instead of the maximum 12%. "The said ginger had failed to comply with the standards and thereby condemned and recommended the same for destruction," Kenya's Daily Nation newspaper quoted Jaji Kombo, public health officer at the port, as saying.

The Standard newspaper quotes official laboratory analysis as saying it was dirty and also "moist, mouldy, was rotting and emitting a pungent smell upon a physical examination".

But the Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs) went ahead



to clear the ginger, saying the port authorities had no right to intervene.

Kebs spokesperson Phoebe Gituku told the Nation that the importers had an official customs form, known as a certificate of conformity, from Vietnam which allowed the ginger to go to market.

Kenya often imports ginger from Vietnam for industrial use because, it is cheaper than locally grown ginger.

The revelations have come as a shock to many Kenyans, judging by reactions on Twitter, who feel let down by Kebs given a number of recent food-contamination scandals. BBC

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.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Shlomo Ben-Ami

Forgetting Palestine

The two-state solution is virtually dead in the water, and the international community has largely abandoned the Palestinian cause. At this point, there is little to stop Israel from cementing the one-state reality that its right-wing government has long sought, regardless of whether that leads to a permanent civil war.

TEL AVIV - Israel is approaching another parliamentary election, and Palestinians have barely been mentioned. The vote comes at a time when the United States is pushing its poorly conceived economy-focused Peace to Prosperity plan. With the Israeli-Palestinian conflict no longer undermining Israel's economic prosperity or global standing, it has all but fallen off the domestic political agenda.

Next month's parliamentary election will be Israel's second this year. After the first, held on April 9, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - whose Likud party won 35 out of 120 seats - failed to create a governing coalition. Barely a month after the parliament was sworn in, its members voted to dissolve it.

That failure had nothing to do with Palestine. Netanyahu lost the support of part of his right-wing alliance over disagreement on a military draft law (relating to an exemption for ultra-Orthodox Jews). And he was unable to get the main centrist opposition party, Blue and White, to work with him, owing largely to his expected indictment on charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust.

As for the somnolent election campaign that is now underway, its only brief moments of vitality have been brought by corruption-related smears and other ad hominem attacks, mostly relating to Netanyahu and his family's "kingly" behavior. Blue and White - which poses the most serious challenge to Likud's rule - is focusing on the fight against Hamas in Gaza, which it claims it can manage more effectively than Likud. Even the Labor Party, the presumed inheritor of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's peace-building legacy, is running on domestic "social issues."

The Israeli public shares this lack of interest in the Palestinian issue. Last month, Netanyahu's pledge, made at a ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of the Samaria Regional Council, that Israel would "forever control the entire land down to the Jordan River" barely elicited a reaction.

This partly reflects disillusionment with the peace process: a 2018 poll found that 81% of Israeli Jews do not believe a two-state solution is viable. But it also underscores the extent to which Israel has escaped any consequences for its treatment of the Palestinians, including its cavalier defiance of the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative.

As Europe remains preoccupied with its own challenges, the US under President Donald Trump has become more uncritically supportive of Israel than ever. At Trump's urging, Israel initially decided to deny entry to two Muslim US congresswomen, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, over their support for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which protests Israel's treatment of the Palestinians.

That decision was perfectly in keeping with Netanyahu's portrayal of BDS. As the movement has gained support in the US and Europe in recent years, Netanyahu has been at pains to portray it

as a global juggernaut hellbent on destroying the Jewish state. Yet, in truth, the movement has had only a marginal effect on Israel's expanding global economic and political clout.

In fact, with its innovative economy and high-tech military industry, Israel has become an indispensable partner for countries in the region and beyond; it is regularly courted by powers like China for its technological prowess. And with the discovery of massive natural-gas fields in the eastern Mediterranean, it no longer has to depend on unstable, largely unfriendly neighbors for fuel supplies.

At the same time, those neighbors are becoming somewhat less unfriendly - or, at least, less interested in the Palestinian issue. Their own formidable challenges - including large and frustrated youth populations, tenacious terrorist movements, and regional proxy wars - leave them with little impulse to fight for the Palestinian cause.

Even Palestinians themselves seem to be losing vigor in the battle against their occupier, their energies drained by the struggle between the Palestine Liberation Organization, which controls the West Bank, and Hamas, which controls Gaza. Uncertainty surrounding the impending end of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' long tenure only weakens the Palestinian position further.

Never before in Israel's history has it been able to develop a foreign policy so free of the Palestinian issue. This could portend a significant escalation in Israel's territorial grabs. In the past, Netanyahu has exercised just enough restraint in approving new settlements to avoid excessive political blowback, even if it meant disappointing his far-right allies, who dream of annexing most of the West Bank.

With the two-state solution virtually dead and the international community having largely abandoned the Palestinian cause, there is little stopping Israel from cementing the one-state reality that its right-wing government has long sought, regardless of whether that leads to a permanent civil war. But that is precisely why the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be at the forefront of the current election campaign. There should be a large-scale effort to educate the Israeli public about the consequences of staying on the current path, and about the quotidian violations of Palestinians' human rights. Politicians should be forced to answer the question US President Lyndon B. Johnson asked then-Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol in 1968: "What kind of Israel do you want?"

Instead, Israel - seemingly convinced that Palestinians will always be history's victims and Israelis its victors - is offering only complacency. Will it take a regional cataclysm to humble the country? With Israel ramping up its challenges to Iran - including by providing the US with intelligence about potential Iranian attacks, and by launching strikes against Iran-backed militias in Syria and Iraq - it might not be long before we have an answer to that question.



By Slawomir Sierakowski

Inside the Hong Kong Protests

HONG KONG - Whether it happens now or in 28 years, when the “one country, two systems” framework is set to expire, millions of people in Hong Kong want to stave off the inevitable: the city’s forced integration into mainland China. And yet there are deep divisions within Hong Kong about how to prevent that outcome. On one side are those, like Hong Kong’s Beijing-backed leader, Carrie Lam, who would prefer to reach some kind of settlement with the Chinese government; on the other are those who have taken to the streets this summer. Each side believes it has grounds to tar the other as traitors.

For her part, Lam is a known quantity: the model imperial governor who wants to do right by the people, but who ultimately must do as she is told by those who appointed her. The young protesters, however, represent something unique. Earlier this month, I was among them during two of the most intense episodes thus far - on August 11, when the police wounded a young woman in the eye, and more recently, when masked protesters occupied Hong Kong’s airport for two days in the face of police brutality.

At first blush, the demonstrators seem to be in a situation similar to that of Ukraine’s Maidan protesters five years ago. Both episodes involve a “province in revolt” and a larger neighbor with the power to overwhelm the demonstrations by force. And in both cases, the government of the larger power hired the local lumpenproletariat and various criminal elements to attack the protesters.

But in more important ways, the Hong Kong protests are nothing like the Euromaidan. Ukraine’s protesters had recognized leaders, an organizational structure, and a clear agenda, which is why they were able to negotiate with the authorities when the time came. The Hong Kong protests, by contrast, are largely leaderless, and have coalesced around an innovative form of civil disobedience bordering on hybrid warfare. Oscillating between non-violence and violence, the protests have taken on a liquid form, and still do not even have a name.

The protesters are known simply as the people in black. Because they wear masks, they are faceless. And because they themselves do not know what they will do next, they are completely unpredictable. They can materialize in multiple places at once, rapidly assembling and then dispersing. The police cannot catch them, let alone count them or detain any identifiable leaders. The authorities can neither negotiate with them nor attempt to divide them, because they are already divided. They are anonymous even to one another. They communicate through the encrypted messaging app Telegram, and make decisions spontaneously on a majoritarian basis.

Still, the Hong Kong protesters have plenty in common. They are mostly twentysomethings who speak Cantonese and grew up in the free world (precisely because undercover policemen do not speak Cantonese, they have been easily unmasked). And they adopted their hybrid-war tactics not as a first choice, but because the peaceful, centrally led “Umbrella Movement” in the city in 2014 yielded no results. Its leaders were arrested, and the movement quickly dissipated.

This time, without leaders to target, the authorities retreated as soon as they saw the rocks in protesters’ hands. But although Lam has suspended the controversial bill that triggered the demonstrations - which would have allowed criminal suspects in Hong Kong to be extradited to mainland China - she has not withdrawn it. Nor can the Chinese government afford to be perceived as having given in, as that would merely invite more “terrorism” from other potentially insubordinate provinces.

Instead, the Chinese propaganda machine, after mostly ignoring the Hong Kong protests, has begun to depict them as a threat, in order to rile up the Chinese people. And on August 17, pro-China activists held a demonstration in Hong Kong that they claim drew nearly 500,000 people (according to the police, the turnout was closer to 100,000). These propaganda efforts have been so outrageous that Facebook and Twitter have closed down some 1,000 mainland Chinese accounts that were generating false reports.

These efforts to foment Chinese nationalism are clearly intended to prepare the ground for an intervention and the use of force. Chinese media have circulated videos of Chinese paramilitary forces mobilizing in Shenzhen, just across the border from Hong Kong. “The chances of [Chinese President] Xi [Jinping] deciding to send in the People’s Liberation Army to quell the unrest are rising by the day,” writes Jamil Anderlini of the Financial Times, “and I suspect are already higher than 50%.”

But even if the Hong Kong protests were to subside, they would soon pick up again. As one protester told the Hong Kong Free Press, “We will continue to cause disturbances and start non-cooperation movements until the government responds.” No one in Hong Kong can even imagine their semi-autonomous region becoming just like any other Chinese city, prosperous but subject to censorship. For the city’s young people in particular, the idea that anyone who wants to get ahead professionally must join the Communist Party of China is absurd.

But the CPC cannot simply give in. Hong Kong may serve China’s business interests and attract foreign investors, but as long as the city is free, it will be an unacceptable temptation to mainlanders. Hence, the Chinese government has tried to smear the protesters as “terrorists.” Yet anyone who has observed the demonstrations firsthand knows that this is cheap propaganda. The overwhelming majority are young idealists who would rather be doing something else, but have been forced into the streets by the Chinese government’s increasing authoritarianism.

In 2014, Hong Kong’s youth demonstrated peacefully and were ignored. Now, they sometimes reach for stones. If the Chinese government continues to give them no other choice, its false claims about them might just become a self-fulfilling prophecy. That is what happened with the Irish Republican Army in Northern Ireland and the Basque separatist group ETA in Spain. If something similar happens in Hong Kong, the CPC will have only itself to blame.



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

- This Expression of Interest for Prequalification follows the general procurement notice that appeared in the local newspapers and the market on August 7, 2019.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:
 - Company Profile
 - Current Business Registration & Tax Clearance
 - Evidence of Past Performance records of at least three (3) assignments executed (Copy of Contract, Purchase Order, Invoice & Delivery Note)
 - List of at least Five (5) Clients & their contacts
 - Proof of Business Insurance (Corporation only)
 - Proof of PPCC Vendor Registration
 - Knowledge in handling office equipment and furniture.
 - Capable of cleaning all fixtures and furniture safely.
- 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.
- 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**



NATIONAL STANDARDS LABORATORY Republic of Liberia Ministry of Public Work's Compound Lynch Street, Monrovia, Liberia



LABORATORY TEST REPORT

Test Report No:	NSL/OS/1164	Laboratory:	Food Chemistry
Report Type:	Test Result	Lab Code:	CHM 1164
Date of Issued:	12/07/2019	Sample Intake Date:	04/07/2019
CUSTOMER INFORMATION			
Customer's Name:	E. Robert's Distilleries	Customer Contact Person:	Cyrus S. Morgan
Customer Contact Address:	Boy's Town Junction, Marshall, Margibi		

DATA						
Sample Name:	LEGACY					
Sample Type:	Liquid					
Sample condition:	Ambient					
Test Condition:	Normal Room Temperature 25°C and RH 55%					
Parameter	Unit	Average	Producer's Claim	Method	Ref. Standard	Comment
Alcohol content	%	24	24	Ebulliometric	N/A	Same as producer's claim
Volumetric	ml	200	200	Graduated Cylinder	N/A	Same as producer's claim
Sensory	Taste	Typical of an alcohol				Accepted
Physiochemical Analysis	Sample was properly sealed with clear labeling indications, free of foreign matter(s) and has pale pink coloration					Accepted

Note: This test report reflects condition of received sample as at the time of analysis. It is not a certificate of quality assurance and is not a legal document in the court of law. This report shall not be reproduced in any form.

AOAC = Association of Official Analytical Chemist
cfu/ml = colony forming unit per milli-liter
ISO = International Standards Organization
mg/l = milligram per liter

VALIDITY OF TEST RESULT: July 12, 2019 – October 12, 2019

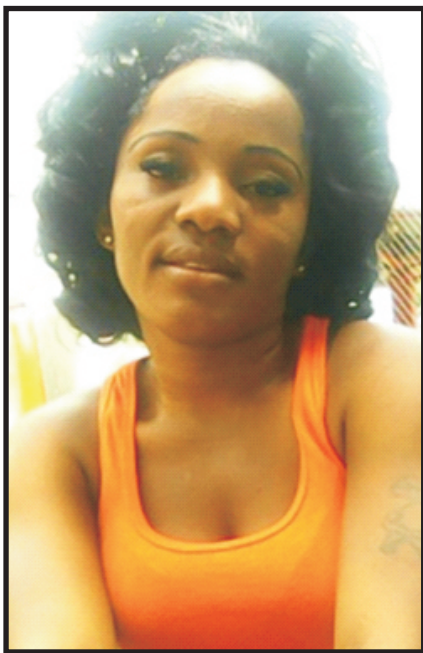
AUTHORITY
Reviewed: Sunday J. Kerkuba
Name: Sunday J. Kerkuba
Laboratory Coordinator
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 12/07/19
Approved: Pius O. Adjaho
Name: Pius O. Adjaho
Technical Manager
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 12/07/19

Copy 1
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LIBERIANS DEBATE

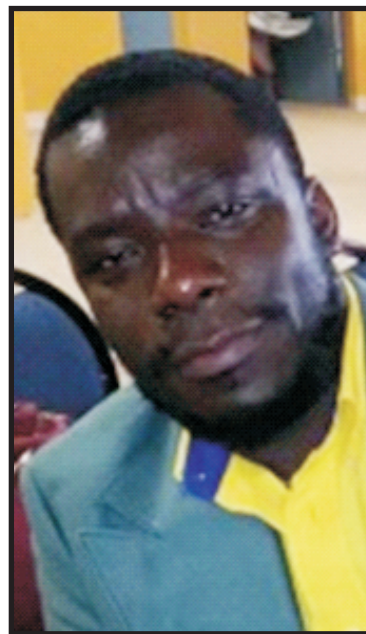
With Sally Gaye

A group of Liberian women protested here Wednesday, 21 August before President George Manneh Weah's temporary official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia, demanding his intervention into growing violence against women in the country. The attacks are characterized by rape and other domestic abuses and murder. The protesters forced the President to leave his office and come down to receive a petition from the women. The New Dawn solicits views of some Liberians in Monrovia about Wednesday's protest before the Office of the President.



Decontee Paye

"Why you didn't do this for women that were murdered under this regime in cold blood without justice like Odell Sherman and others but only for women in politics. This advocacy is selective, insincere and belly-driven. Our mothers should stop being used by power-greed and selfish politicians. This is so sad and shameful ...Odell Sherman died and these so-called mothers never called for justice."



Peter Tweh

"We want to thank our mothers, sisters and daughters who are out there at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning to defend our country and stand up against all forms of violence that is being perpetrated against them. You are fulfilling the dream that our parents and grandparents struggled for but could only imagine - and that is living our lives in a free and independent and democratic Liberia. The ruling establishment needs to understand that power is derived from the

consent of the governed and there are things that fear, police sticks and tear gas can not destroy, and that is when ordinary people stand together against injustice and inequality, great change is possible."

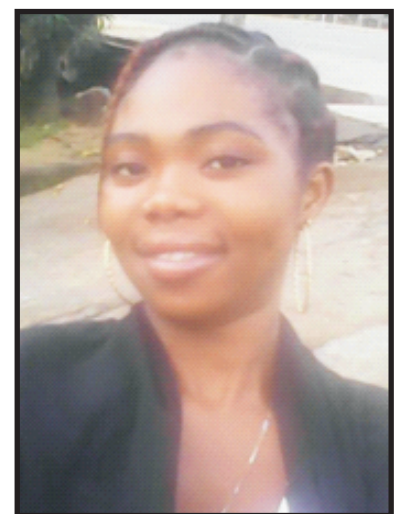
Prince Teah

"You're one of the dummies that Pres. Weah needs to get out of his party. This is the same thing some of your kinds did to the late Samuel K. Doe; fooled him and told him that he was the best president and everyone else was fool. Keep fooling yourself and think Weah will go down the line for some of you sycophants; they're not only protesting against political violence, do you know how many women lost their lives in the last 8 months? You are a mistake to humankind. When will you guys stop politicizing everything? How about the rape cases and beating of females in the country."



Christiana Kamara

"I just can't understand us Liberians, and up to now I don't know what we want. The domestic violence act that our mothers and sisters been crying for has passed under this government; few days ago we did not see one women group to thank the President, but see what's going on today under the rain, just for money. This is the



only gov't to mainstream action against women; the President is even preparing a bill for 15 seats exclusively for women in the Legislature. Let be appreciative and stop being used by greedy politicians!"



Watson Chelley

"We did not see them on Odell Sherman death issue. We did not see them when Dillion massively flogged his wife. We have not seen them protesting against rape. I really want more rain to fall today so they will use their 5USD to go get treatment as a result of cold. Let be appreciative and stop being used by greedy politicians!"

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senate cites joint security heads -over District 15 violence

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate has unanimously agreed during its Tuesday, August 20, 2019 session to cite the heads of the joint security apparatus in the country to appear before full plenary on Thursday, August 22 to give reasons for recent electoral violence here.

The Senate's decision to cite the security chiefs comes after deadly political violence between the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and Collaborating Opposition Political Parties representative candidate Ms. Telia Urey in Montserrado County District #15 on Saturday, 17 August.

The Senate indicates that failure of the security chiefs to appear, they will be held in contempt.

In a communication written by Senators NyonbleeKangar Lawrence of Grand Bassa County, Abe Darius Dillon of Montserrado County and Conmany B. Wesseh of River Gee County, they asked plenary to invite

the security apparatus for the incident that occurred in District #15 that injured citizens.

In the wake of the violence in District #15, Sen. Karnga - Lawrence recalls writing a communication to plenary few months ago about electoral violence in Montserrado District #13, where Monrovia City Mayor and CDC Youth

League Chair Jefferson Kojjie and his men attacked opposition representative candidate Ms. Cornelia Kruah - Togba and her supporters.

According to Sen. Lawrence, there has been no report from the Senate committee room up to present.

Concerning the incident in District #15, Sen. Lawrence indicates that she spoke with a high ranking police officer via

mobile phone to please move Teila from the violence scene.

Sen. Lawrence indicates that she had asked the officer to put Telia in the police vehicle, yet she reveals that the officer said no.

She narrates that they had to get another person to get in and escape with Teila in another vehicle.

"It is very bad for our country; it is a very bad precedence we are setting as leaders not to exercise our oversight responsibility where we should as a Senate," Sen. Lawrence laments.

For his part, River Gee County Sen. Conmany B. Wesseh says there is something that needs to be done now to stop the violence in the country.

He recalls that the 1989 war started with violence, warning that violence now should not be taken lightly.

According to Sen. Wesseh, after the 1985 elections, those that were not satisfied decided to resolve their problem through violence.

In that time he notes that the security forces became the private security of the president.

"We can't be paying the security apparatus with taxpayers' money for them to be regime security. They shouldn't force people to find their own security," Sen. Wesseh cautions the Weah led -regime.

Also speaking, Montserrado County Sen. Abe Darius Dillon warns that the economy can never be good if Liberians continue to allow lawlessness, violence and chaos in the country, smiley backed by the Executive.

Dillon asserts that the government cannot meet payroll because the economy is very bad, children have been raped and killed and there is no justice system.

He adds that nobody will bring their money here because the economy is bad.

The Montserrado County lawmaker expresses concern that the securities that are tasked to intervene in crisis are the ones that stand when violence is going on, thus sending a clear picture of the wave of insecurity in the country.

"We are here to protect the people and we must protect them," Sen. Dillon concludes.

Additionally, Margibi County Sen. Oscar Cooper indicates that there is something that needs to be done to people that think that they can terrorize innocent citizens.

He notes that where Liberia is now is a clear present danger

to the security and the safety of the people of this country.

The Margibi County Senator wants top police chief (Unit - 105) to appear because he was on the scene of the violence.

Sen. Cooper wants 105 to explain why he didn't rescue Teila and those Liberians that got injured.

According to Sen. Cooper, President George Manneh Weah needs to take the lead in bringing peace in the country.

He observes that nothing came out of the case from District #13, the destruction of the Unity Party car in front of the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the flogging of Deputy Police Inspector General for Operations (Unit 102) by supporters of the ruling CDC. Cooper notes that these are the small things that bring war in a country, adding that if the Inspector General of Police Col. Patrick T. Sudue and the Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean cannot do their work, let them be removed because Liberians' lives are at stake.

"If you can't trust the Liberian police anymore than everyone start to recruit their own security, lead to a breakdown of law and order," Sen. Cooper continues.

According to him, President Weah's statement that no Urey will take position in this country will make people think that the president is behind the District #15 violence, whether he is part of it or not.

Bomi County Sen. Sando Johnson says if any Liberian dies in that form and manner of violence in District #15, they will fight back.

Sen. Sando Johnson believes that everyone needs to be their own security now by keeping rocks in their cars incase anything sparks up.

Grand Cape Mount County Sen. Cllr. Varney Sherman urges the need to amend the Constitution and provide that any appointed official that goes through the Senate for confirmation, the Senate should have the power to remove that official if he or she is not working. He also wants the Senate to have the power to impeach such appointee, saying by that means, officials will work properly.

Meanwhile, Bong County Sen. Henry Yallah urges government to pay employees, noting that if workers are paid in time, no matter how much they are making, they will be able to feed their families.

He believes that paying salaries will also help to stop the many violence in the country.--Edited by Winston W. Parley



MOE sets for nationwide data collection

The Ministry of Education has announced that it will begin the collection of a nationwide data collection exercise from August 27 to September 25, September 2019.

The exercise is expected to affect all schools in the country excluding universities, colleges and post-secondary schools.

The ministry said principals and registrars are encouraged and urged to be on their campuses from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM daily to

respond to the data collectors' questions.

The data collectors, using a digital platform through a tablet will require all School Principals to have a summary of statistics on enrollment, by class, age group, gender, gross and net enrollment for the year 2018/2019, names of teachers (full time and part time, qualification, salary structure in effect, volunteers, cleaners, security, registrar, vice principals, and other related academic and instructional facility details, including curriculum in

operation, electives, Computer Laboratory, Science Laboratory, Arts and Craft Classrooms, and etc.

Other information to be required are the type of School building, Bricks, Mud, Zinc round, to constitute makeshift, solid structure and Simi-solid solid structures. Additional information requested are: number of chairs, number and type of bathrooms, sporting ground/playground and other recreational facilities. It is our expectation that all school secretariats and Principals are having the above records of their respective schools. The data collectors will also request and ascertain all privately owned/faith based operated schools permits for the levels at which they operate. A complete record of Tuition and Fees, and Teachers Compensation Structure will be very useful for the Ministry of Education and the School system, in developing a range of tuition for each Grade.

The MOE Data collections using the consolidated tools will cover the school census, the grading of all schools and the school quality assessment. All schools in the 16 Education boundaries and 127 education districts will be covered.



Facts vs. falsehoods

A Liberian businessman John Gbedze is the latest victim of what appears to be a smear campaign following an unannounced Hollywood style inspection carried out few days ago by Liberia's Inspector General of Commerce Josephine Davies at his son's company, E. Roberts' Distilleries.

E. Roberts' Distilleries, runs by Mr. Cyrus S. Morgan, is own by John W. Gbedze Jr., not the father John W. GbedzeSnr., who owns and operates Gbedze Beach and other hotels in the country, as is being speculated on social media and other liquor joints.

The case in question is that Commerce officials carried out an inspection at the E. Roberts' Distilleries few days ago on grounds that the company did not obtain permit to produce the various brands of alcoholic beverages under the brand name Legacy drinks and E. Roberts' drinks.

According to documents in the possession of this paper, the company did registered as a business to produce the afford mentioned drinks and other drinks under the Legacy Brand following a fallout with its parent company in Ghana, who gave the initial authorization.

Therefore upon registration Mr. Morgan, who manages the business was



Amb. John W. Gbedze

asked to submit his products for testing at the National Standard Laboratory situated at the Ministry of Public Works and further testing by health officials.

The company submitted its samples for testing on July 4, 2019 and on July 12, 2019, the National Standard Board issued E. Roberts' Distilleries a certificate qualifying its drinks.

What did John Gbedze and his company E. Roberts' Distilleries do wrong?

Upon receipt of the Standard Board Certificate that its products had passed the quality test, the company

did not go back to the Ministry of Commerce to present these test results to obtain their permit to begin full scale operation, something which may have prompted the Hollywood style inspection of Commerce Inspector General Davies.

Secondly, the company as at the time of registration used its future home address at Marshall Junction in Margibi County, which is current under construction, while it used the Gbedze multipurpose resort for its temporary production site.

What Happened when the Commerce team arrived at the

Company's temporary site at Gbedze resort on SKD Boulevard?

The entire inspection began at the behest of some Ghanaians who had informed Commerce Ministry officials here that there is a local company which is reproducing their drinks and they had come to seek those behind the production.

On the first day of the team's arrival with the visiting Ghanaian, it was established that the company is dully registered under that laws of Liberia and that it was a legitimate business.

However, on the second day after the previous visit, according to the Commerce Ministry Public Relations Director Mr. Jacob Parley, the commerce team visited the site and quarantined the temporary offices of the E. Roberts' Distilleries on grounds that the environment on unsanitary.

The Commerce Inspector on this second visit took along journalists and Face bookers as is reminiscence of this government and confiscated the ethanol-an alcohol that is used to prepared alcoholic beverages for further testing.

The Hollywood style inspection by Ms. Davies scared

off staff at the company production site and allowed Ms. Davies and her crew mixed with social media savvies to start posting not only misinformation about the entire story but also drawing in Mr. GbedzeSnr.

What are the other allegations?

The company had been accused of buying drinks brew in Ghana, shipping them to Liberia and mixing with water to be sold on the local market, a claim the management has denied and question while would it import a drink sold at US\$40,00 per carton and bring it here just to rebottle it and sell it for USD\$30.00 considering shipping and clearing fees.

Another allegation is that the company is mixing concoction and selling same to Liberians. Meanwhile a simple chemistry will show that in order to produce an alcoholic beverage it requires ethanol, water and the flavor that is being used to produce that particular brand. The company said, its products are freed of any contamination because they have been tested by the National Standard Board of Liberia and considered to be safe for consumption.

See page 4 for lab. test report

Weah declares August 24 National Flag Day

President George Manneh Weah has by proclamation declared Saturday, August 24, 2019 as National Flag Day and is to be celebrated as a

According to a Foreign Ministry release, Government offices, public and business houses are to remain closed during the observance.

The proclamation orders

year as "National Flag Day" to be observed as a National Holiday.

The Day is commemorated annually by citizens of the Republic in testimony of their



National Holiday throughout the Republic.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia Wednesday, 21 August, the observance will be marked by the hoisting of the National Flag from each dwelling and public building across the nation.

the Ministry of Education and other relevant government agencies concerned to design appropriate programs befitting the occasion.

The Proclamation is in consonance with an Act approved on October 25, 1915 by the Legislature of the Republic of Liberia, declaring the 24th Day of August of each

allegiance and loyalty to the National Ensign which is an embodiment of the nation's existence as a sovereign entity and to encourage national pride and patriotism.

The National Flag was designed and produced by a committee of ladies led by Mrs. Susannah Lewis who were talented and visionary citizens

of the Republic at the time.

According to the Proclamation, the making of the National Flag of the Republic was a historic event of great significance for Liberia as Africa's Pacesetter in the struggle for self-determination and inspiration to future African States.

The Proclamation also recounts that the National Ensign of the Republic of Liberia is a visible evidence of the country's sovereignty and independence as well as a symbol of pride and dignity within the comity of nations.

The Liberian Flag consists of six red stripes and five alternating white stripes, totaling eleven stripes, each

representing one of the eleven signers of the Declaration of Independence of Liberia.

The blue field in the upper left corner of a rectangular form with a single white star in the center of the blue field, depicts Liberia as the then only independent state on the continent of Africa.

The color red symbolizes the blood of those who died in the struggle for independence, while the color white indicates the purity of mind of all the fore bearers toward each other.

The Blue stands for the dark continent of Africa as it was then depicted, the proclamation further declares.--Press release

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Français

Des sénateurs s'alarment d'un climat rappelant les prémices de la guerre civile

Des sénateurs libériens se sont alarmés mardi de la montée des violences politiques dans ce pays pauvre d'Afrique de l'Ouest, dressant un parallèle avec celles qui avaient fini par plonger le Liberia dans une guerre civile particulièrement atroce de 1989 à 2003.

Samedi, des partisans du président libérien, l'ex-star du football George Weah, ont encerclé un bâtiment où Tellia Urey, candidate de l'opposition à une élection législative partielle, tenait une réunion, dans la banlieue de la capitale Monrovia. Pendant plus d'une heure, ils ont jeté des projectiles sur le bâtiment, brisé des fenêtres et détruit son véhicule.

L'un des assaillants a essayé de donner un coup de couteau à Mme Urey, a-t-elle expliqué lundi, dénonçant une tentative d'assassinat. Les autorités ont qualifié lundi ces

violences d'"épouvantables" et promis des sanctions sévères. Lors d'un débat au Sénat mardi, la plupart des élus ont exprimé leur consternation, 16 ans après la fin d'une guerre civile qui a fait quelque 250.000 morts et des centaines de milliers de

déplacés dans un pays qui comptait alors moins de 4 millions d'habitants, a constaté un correspondant de l'AFP. "Ce pays va mal et il faut que cela cesse.

Souvenons-nous de notre histoire. La guerre qui a débuté en 1989 faisait suite

aux violences qui ont suivi les élections de 1985", a souligné le sénateur d'opposition Conmany Wesseh, proche de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (2006-2018). "Les gens n'étaient pas contents et petit à petit ils ont décidé de résoudre leurs problèmes par la violence.

Puis la police et l'armée ont été perçues comme les forces du régime et d'autres ont décidé de prendre en main leur propre sécurité", a raconté le sénateur, avant de s'interroger : "Va-t-on rester assis et laisser les choses se reproduire?"

"Nous avons pris part au précédent conflit en raison de la mauvaise gouvernance. Et quand vous critiquez le régime actuel, ils vous traitent de tous les noms", a dénoncé un autre sénateur, le prédicateur et ancien chef de guerre Prince Johnson, qui avait soutenu George Weah lors du second tour de la présidentielle de décembre 2017.

Ni Ellen Johnson Sirleaf,

lauréate du prix Nobel de la paix en 2011, ni son successeur George Weah n'ont fait juger les auteurs de crimes commis pendant cette période. Un très grand nombre de personnalités directement impliquées occupent toujours des positions importantes dans les sphères du pouvoir politique et économique au Liberia.

L'un des principaux acteurs du conflit, l'ex-chef de guerre devenu président (1997-2003), Charles Taylor, a été condamné en 2012 pour des crimes contre l'humanité et des crimes de guerre perpétrés en Sierra Leone voisine, mais n'a pas été inquiété pour les atrocités commises dans son propre pays.

Elu sur un programme de lutte contre la pauvreté, George Weah est confronté depuis plusieurs mois à une opposition croissante en raison de la dégradation alarmante de la situation économique.



La police veut démanteler le Mouvement islamique du Nigeria

Les tensions restent vives entre Abuja et le Mouvement islamique du Nigeria (MIN). Le parti est toujours considéré comme une organisation terroriste. Les forces de l'ordre continuent de poursuivre les membres du MIN responsables d'actes de

violence lors de manifestations.

Deux bulletins officiels affichent le Mouvement islamique du Nigeria (MIN) comme terroriste depuis près de trois semaines. Selon les autorités nigérianes, le MIN appelle à une République islamique et ne

respecte pas la Constitution nigérienne.

En plus, pour Abuja, l'organisation chiite est responsable d'actes de violence dans une manifestation fin juillet. Cet événement avait été marqué par la mort d'un officier de police et d'un journaliste.

Les rassemblements, réunions, processions lancés au nom du Mouvement islamique du Nigeria sont formellement interdits. Alors que le MIN a fait appel de cette mise au ban, la police nigérienne compte strictement appliquer la loi et le démanteler.

Les membres du MIN ont rejoint la liste des ennemis publics du Nigeria. Et de fait, tout policier nigérien a pour mission prioritaire de les neutraliser. Pour l'officier supérieur Frank Mba, porte-parole des forces de police du Nigeria, la loi nigérienne n'est pas plus sévère qu'ailleurs :

« Le MIN a une organisation paramilitaire appelée "les Hurras". Ils sont connus pour

avoir mené des attaques contre des symboles de l'autorité de l'État fédéral. Ils s'en sont pris à des individus. Nos lois ne sont pas différentes de celles d'autres pays. Partout où nous les verrons, nous les poursuivrons dans le cadre des lois anti-terroristes en vigueur ici au Nigeria. »

Point par point, le MIN conteste cette interdiction. Abdurrahman Abubakar, une voix influente du mouvement chiite, mène la bataille judiciaire à Abuja contre le classement du MIN comme organisation terroriste :

« Nous sommes pacifiques et nous allons le demeurer. Aucune intimidation ne va nous faire craquer. C'est pourquoi nous avons fait appel de cette décision judiciaire nous classant en

groupe terroriste. Nous avons préparé une plainte auprès de la Cour pénale internationale. Il y a de nombreuses questions auxquelles le gouvernement nigérien va devoir répondre. »

Abdurrahman Abubakar n'envisage pas d'entrer en clandestinité. Malgré les avis de recherche lancés contre les membres du MIN. Le cheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky, chef du mouvement chiite, est en détention depuis son retour d'Inde sans le moindre soin.

Il est toujours considéré par les autorités nigérianes comme le chef d'une organisation terroriste. La Justice nigérienne ne s'est pas encore prononcée sur la poursuite ou non de la liberté conditionnelle du leader du MIN.



Articles traduits

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Français

Éditorial

Nous demandons au gouvernement de bien gérer les aides étrangères

Le Département d'État des États-Unis d'Amérique a reproché au gouvernement Weah de ne pas avoir fait preuve de transparence concernant les aides étrangères au développement qui ne sont pas correctement comptabilisées dans le budget national, ni soumises au même audit et au même contrôle national que les autres postes budgétaires.

Le Rapport de transparence budgétaire (FTR) 2019 du Département d'État américain couvrant la période du 1er janvier au 31 décembre 2018 place le Libéria parmi les pays les moins performants d'Afrique.

Il regrette en particulier que la plus haute institution d'audit du Libéria, la Commission Générale des Audits, n'ait pas rendu publics ses rapports d'audit dans un délai raisonnable au cours de la période considérée, et que bien que les critères et les procédures d'octroi des licences et des contrats d'extraction de ressources naturelles soient inscrits dans la loi, dans la pratique, des cas de corruption et de la mauvaise application des lois ont été signalés.

C'est une question qui devrait interpeller l'attention du gouvernement, en particulier les aides étrangères au développement d'autant plus que ces aides sont conditionnées par la transparence et l'intégrité, qui sont essentielles au maintien de la confiance de nos partenaires internationaux.

L'administration Weah a récemment envisagé de réorienter des fonds destinés à la mise en œuvre d'un certain nombre de projets de développement vers d'autres secteurs. Cela avait poussé le corps diplomatique étranger à faire une déclaration, exigeant la restitution des fonds. Cela est non seulement dénigrant mais aussi embarrassant.

Le gouvernement a soutenu que son prédécesseur (l'administration Sirleaf) avait agi de la même manière et avait restitué des fonds destinés à d'autres secteurs. Mais la réalité est que cela n'a pas engendré ce type de réaction de la part des missions étrangères, peut-être à cause de la procédure employée du point de vue de la bonne gouvernance.

Nous pensons que si la bonne chose était faite, l'administration Weah n'aurait pas reçu une alarme publique aussi honteuse de la part de ses partenaires et des gouvernements.

Le FTR recommande plusieurs mesures à prendre pour améliorer la transparence fiscale du Libéria, en veillant à ce que le budget soit substantiellement complet et que les comptes hors budget fassent l'objet d'un audit et d'un contrôle adéquats.

Il suggère également la publication des rapports d'audit de la GAC dans un délai raisonnable, demande de veiller à ce que les critères et les procédures utilisés pour attribuer les contrats et les licences d'extraction de ressources naturelles soient conformes à la loi et à ce que les informations de base sur toutes les attributions d'extraction de ressources naturelles soient rendues publiques.

Par conséquent, nous exhortons l'administration Weah à tenir compte de ces conseils qui non seulement favorisent la transparence, la responsabilité et la bonne gouvernance, mais reflètent également les meilleures pratiques internationales.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Shlomo Ben-Ami

La Palestine oubliée

TEL AVIV - Alors que de nouvelles élections législatives se profilent en Israël, la question palestinienne n'a pour ainsi dire pas été mentionnée. Ces élections se dérouleront dans le contexte du déploiement par les États-Unis de leur plan Peace to Prosperity (De la paix à la prospérité), un plan mal conçu de renforcement de l'économie palestinienne. Maintenant que le conflit israélo-palestinien ne menace plus la prospérité économique ou la position d'Israël sur l'échiquier international, ce conflit a plus ou moins disparu de l'ordre du jour politique national.

Ces élections législatives anticipées, les deuxièmes de cette année en Israël, auront lieu en septembre prochain. À l'issue des premières, tenues le 9 avril, le parti du Premier ministre Benjamin Netanyahu, le Likoud, avait remporté 35 sièges sur 120. Mais échouant à s'accorder sur la formation d'un nouveau gouvernement de coalition, les membres élus de la Knesset ont voté la dissolution de l'assemblée fin mai, à peine un mois après avoir prêté serment.

Cet échec n'a toutefois rien à voir avec la Palestine. Netanyahu a perdu le soutien de certains partis de droite avec lesquels il avait noué une alliance, en raison d'un projet de loi sur le service militaire des Juifs ultra-orthodoxes qui prévoit une augmentation de leur conscription (alors que les partis ultra-orthodoxes souhaitent qu'ils en soient exemptés). Et le principal parti d'opposition, le parti centriste Bleu Blanc, a refusé de collaborer avec Netanyahu à cause des procédures d'inculpation pour corruption, fraude et abus de confiance lancées contre lui.

Pour ce qui est de la léthargique campagne électorale actuelle, seules des accusations de corruption et à d'autres attaques personnelles visant principalement Netanyahu et le comportement régalién de sa famille l'ont quelque peu ranimée. Le parti Bleu Blanc, le plus à même de contester la mainmise du Likoud sur le pouvoir, met l'accent sur la lutte contre le Hamas dans la bande de Gaza, qu'il estime être plus capable de gérer que le Likoud. Même le parti travailliste, l'héritier présumé des efforts de paix de l'ancien Premier ministre Yitzhak Rabin, fait uniquement campagne sur des « questions sociales » nationales.

L'opinion publique israélienne partage ce manque d'intérêt pour la question palestinienne, comme en témoigne le peu de réactions à l'annonce faite par Netanyahu, lors de la cérémonie commémorant le 40e anniversaire de l'établissement du conseil régional de Samarie, sur « le maintien du contrôle (israélien) sur tout le territoire à l'ouest du Jourdain ».

Cette situation s'explique en partie par la désillusion concernant le processus de paix : selon un sondage réalisé en 2018, 81 pour cent des Juifs israéliens pensent que la solution à deux États n'est pas viable. Elle souligne toutefois également à quel point l'État hébreu a pu échapper aux conséquences du traitement infligé aux Palestiniens, y compris celles liées à son rejet désinvolte de l'Initiative de paix arabe de 2002.

Cette décision s'inscrivait dans le droit fil de la description de BDS qu'en donne Netanyahu. À mesure que la campagne a progressivement réuni des soutiens ces dernières années en Europe et aux États-Unis, le Premier ministre israélien s'est évertué à la décrire comme une force mondiale fermement décidée à détruire l'État hébreu, alors qu'en réalité ce mouvement n'a que peu d'effet

sur le poids économique et politique mondial croissant d'Israël.

À vrai dire, Israël est devenu un partenaire incontournable des pays de la région et au-delà grâce à son économie novatrice et son industrie militaire high-tech. Il est régulièrement courtisé par des grandes puissances, dont la Chine, pour ses capacités en hautes technologies. Et grâce à la découverte d'énormes gisements de gaz naturel en Méditerranée orientale, le pays n'a plus à dépendre de pays voisins, largement hostiles, pour son approvisionnement énergétique.

Dans le même temps, ces pays voisins tendent à devenir moins hostiles, ou plus exactement, moins intéressés par la question palestinienne. Leurs propres difficultés, souvent redoutables - dont une grande proportion de jeunes désœuvrés et frustrés au sein de la population, des mouvements terroristes tenaces et des guerres régionales par procuration - ne les incitent pas vraiment à se battre pour la cause palestinienne.

Les Palestiniens eux-mêmes semblent moins déterminés à lutter contre l'occupant, leur énergie épuisée par le conflit fratricide entre l'Autorité palestinienne, qui contrôle la Cisjordanie et le Hamas, qui contrôle la bande de Gaza. Et les incertitudes entourant la fin imminente du long mandat du président palestinien Mahmoud Abbas affaiblissent encore plus la position palestinienne.

Au cours de son histoire, Israël n'a jamais été aussi libre qu'aujourd'hui de mener une politique étrangère sans avoir à se soucier de la question palestinienne, ce qui pourrait annoncer une escalade substantielle de ses visées territoriales. Par le passé, Netanyahu a fait preuve de juste ce qu'il fallait de retenue quant à l'approbation de projets de colonisation pour éviter de violentes réactions politiques, même si cela signifiait décevoir ses alliés de l'extrême-droite qui rêvent d'annexer l'essentiel de la Cisjordanie.

Maintenant que la proposition de solution à deux États a été à peu près enterrée et que la communauté internationale a dans une grande mesure abandonné la cause du peuple palestinien, plus grand chose n'empêche Israël de consolider la réalité d'un seul État binational, longtemps promise par son gouvernement de droite, même si cette solution devait se traduire par une guerre civile permanente. Mais c'est précisément pour cette raison que le conflit israélo-palestinien devrait être au premier plan de la campagne électorale actuelle. Des efforts devraient être déployés à grande échelle pour informer le grand public israélien des conséquences inhérentes au fait de rester sur la voie actuelle, et des violations quotidiennes des droits des Palestiniens. Les responsables politiques devraient être obligés de répondre à la question posée en 1968 par le président américain Lyndon B. Johnson à Levi Eshkol, le Premier ministre israélien de l'époque : « Quel Israël voulez-vous ? ».

Au lieu de quoi, l'État hébreu - apparemment convaincu que les Palestiniens seront éternellement les victimes et les Israéliens les vainqueurs - fait constamment preuve de suffisance. Faudra-t-il un cataclysme régional pour que ce pays apprenne l'humilité ? Alors qu'Israël multiplie ses ripostes contre les positions de l'Iran - y compris en fournissant à Washington des renseignements sur de potentielles attaques iraniennes et lançant des frappes aériennes contre les milices en Syrie et en Irak soutenues par l'Iran - il est à craindre que nous ayons rapidement une réponse à cette question.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

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

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Cont'd from last edition

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 law, the principles of peaceful coexistence, non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations, respect for the sovereign and equality of all States. The central objective of this new foreign policy orientation is to secure the national interests through the forging and maintenance of closer and stronger ties of friendship and economic partnership with traditional allies and friends, as well as the opening of new avenues of engagement and mutual solidarity with other States.

Karpeh (2009) noted that the national interests are being served through the implementation of Government's Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Program (IPRSP). Essentially, the IPRSP is anchored on four basic pillars; namely, security sector reform; economic revitalization; the rehabilitation of the infrastructure, the restoration of social services; and the pursuit of good governance and the rule of law. Crucial to the successful realization of these reconstructions, development and renewal agenda is the acquisition of a good and appreciable international participation and inputs to supplement domestic resources for sustainable peace building and socioeconomic renewal.

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 a 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 multi million 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 the foreign aid assistance.

Just like his predecessor, Johnson-Sirleaf, the Weah administration has inherited a task of removing a greater number of poverty-stricken Liberians from abject poverty, provide electricity and safe-drinking water to the greater population, ensure paved roads across the country, create jobs and quality education and affordable health care, among other pressing necessities. The Weah's foreign relations has witnessed some dividends including the protection of nation's image abroad that one can present Liberia passport at any port of entry without being discriminating against or harassment, maintains Liberian diplomatic missions abroad and role in international organizations, and the presentations of official letters of credence by foreign states missions accredited near Monrovia.

Other areas on the domestic front include the

ongoing construction of the famous 14 Military Hospital, the Construction of feeder community roads and construction of housing units in Grand Kru County, the continuation of the former regime major projects such a major roads, ministerial complex, the new terminal at RIA, tuition weaver at all public universities and colleges, pavement of WAEC's fees. Other areas of gains including keeping the country stable, peace and security, rule of law and justice and human rights protection.

One political area the president can count on is Liberia's international relations which if effectively carried out, undeniably, will lead to socio-economic growth and an era of a common development across the country since international relations is a strategy of self-interest adopted by a state to protect national interest and respect to its sovereignty including independence, regulation, power, authority, government with the much-needed goal in the international system.

Sirleaf's impact on Liberian foreign relation

Former President Sirleaf's presidency has brought the country international respectability, slow but steady economic growth, and the longest period of peace since a military coup in 1980 that put in place dictator Samuel Doe's corrupt government and eventually devolved into the fratricidal civil wars of 1989-1996 and 1999-2003. Her pitch to voters is simple – her "area" is development: "The construction of roads throughout Monrovia, clinics, schools, and hospitals in this country, that my area (Foreign Ministry, 2012).

The situation context of post-conflict Liberia has played a major role in terms of the strategies and tactics the government has employed to advance the country's domestic and foreign policy objectives. But what is unclear is whether Liberia's foreign policy is informed by a clear understanding of the complexities or intricacies involved in the international environment of the 21st Century. Of particular importance is that there is no grand strategy. The process of formulating, implementing and evaluating the policy of a grand strategy is beyond the scope of this article.

According to Bhatia (2010), as a practical matter, it is an effective grand strategy, coupled with a bold, long-term vision, reason and principle that will determine the destiny of peace, security and prosperity in Liberia. Moreover, the vital role of foreign policy leadership will also be crucial in the balancing act or balance of power relations between America and China, which will be paramount for the promotion of global stability in this century. This would also require the consistency and continuity of foreign policy for the foreseeable future. (Bhatia, 2010)

In the field of international relations, each country is freed to advance its national interests. Of great significance is the fact that the current Liberian government is pursuing her own interests through an economic and development diplomacy aimed at securing much-needed strategic partnerships in support of Liberia's post-war reconstruction and development initiatives Foreign Ministry (2009) Annual Report further revealed that while it is too early to predict precisely whether Chinese long-term engagement in Liberia will produce a positive influence, the recent impact of China is highly visible in infrastructure investments and development projects such as building roads, hospitals, schools, agriculture, and timber industry among others.

China has agreed to rebuild the University of Liberia Fandell Campus, which was destroyed during the civil war. Chinese peacekeepers served in the 15,000-strong United Nations Mission in Liberia. All of these projects create opportunities for the Liberian government to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of a better life for the people. Therefore, the government and people hold positive perceptions and attitudes toward China. However, this belief is based on a false sense of so-called Chinese humanitarian aid and philanthropy Foreign Ministry (2009) Annual Report further revealed that



The Author

President Weah's Foreign Policy and Its Impact

In his thrilling inauguration address as 24th President of Liberia, Mr. Weah said: "I am a humble today to be at this stadium that made me, I have spent many years of my life in stadium, but today is a feeling like no other, I strive to be excellent, and I can be successful." The expectations of Weah's leadership are sky-high among Liberians who believe are positives that the president will deliver on his promises of equality, rule of law, unity and better living standard for the poverty-stricken population. Interestingly, the excitement and enthusiasm that engulfed thousands of Liberians at the Sports Complex in Paynesville and others whose queued for miles to get to the venue signified new dawn in the pages of Liberia. President Weah has risen from the slums of Clara town, outside Monrovia to the nation's highest office after two unsuccessful attempts in 2005 and 2011 for the presidency.

The exciting speech was greeted with thousands of Liberians waving flags and dancing through the various streets and communities across the country while others from the homes and entertainment centers followed the historic occasion via radio and televisions transmission. In an astute speech of optimism, President Weah used the remarkable inauguration to set forth his administration foreign policy and domestic agenda constructively as he reached out to friendly countries and Liberia's international partners especially to Washington, Beijing, European Union, ECOWAS, African Union, United Nations, World Bank International Monetary Fund and Arab League countries, among others.

From an analysis of the speech, President Weah's foreign policy to some degree is contrary to that of former president Johnson-Sirleaf regime's foreign policy. Ex-president Johnson-Sirleaf's doctrine was focused on poverty reduction strategy, while President Weah's major doctrine is the people-centered oriented pro-poor. The deviation of the two leaders' foreign policies is mainly in the areas of implementation, projection and strategic areas of focus. However, both leaders foreign policies centered on the cultivation cordial friendly relations with governments, United Nations, Multilateral institutions, regional and continent bodies and members of the global system.

An analysis of the inaugural address shows that the CDC led-government foreign policy is formulated solely for national interests and its primary and obvious objectives entailed 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 respect for international orders. It also centered on securing the much-needed strategic partnerships with international players.

TO BE CONT'D

War crimes court not possible

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

River Gee County Sen. Conmany B. Wesseh says the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court is not possible for now in Liberia.

Speaking to the NewDawn on Wednesday, 21 August at his office on Capitol Hill, Sen. Wesseh explained that a full establishment of a War Crimes Court is far from being achieved here, taking into account the current economic situation of the country.

Besides, Sen. Wesseh argues that many are mistaken of the views that the materials gathered during the thematic hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) will be used for prosecution if a War Crimes Court is established.

But he reminds Liberians that the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) which was signed in Accra, Ghana prohibits such action by the Liberian government or anyone.

Wesseh, who was one of the signatories to the CPA, asserts that the peace document totally kicked against prosecuting those made to testify before the



Sen. Conmany B. Wesseh



Sen. Prince Y. Johnson

TRC, detailing that there is a clause within the CPA that says testimonies given during the hearings are for historical facts and healing process, and not for prosecution.

"You think the warlord and war actors will ever agree that materials and testimonies gathered would have been for prosecution? You think they have agreed? never! So, people should stop thinking that way," Sen. Wesseh says.

According to him,

establishing War Crimes Court here requires significant amount because gathering of evidence, facts and materials will be done at the expense of the Liberian government before the international community considers the seriousness of establishing the court.

The River Gee Senator says he does not think Liberia has such money at this time for that purpose.

He suggests that War Crimes

Court is not needed now on grounds that the court cannot put food on Liberians' table or reduce the high cost of living that citizens are facing.

For economic crimes court, he also indicates that there are many good laws on the book as well as courts that can be used to prosecute people.

Commenting on the observance of the 16th Anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Accord, Sen. Wesseh expresses appreciation for Liberians for the level of cooperativeness being displaced by citizens and government since the enforcement of the peace document.

On August 18, 2003, Liberians including warlords, heads of warring factions and human rights activists gathered in Accra, Ghana and signed the Comprehensive Peace Accord which brought the 14 years of brutal civil war to an end.

According to Sen. Wesseh, there were perceptions by many actors that Liberians do not respect peace accord,

But the lawmaker observes that the CPA has since remained vital and a solid foundation for peace and stability that the country is enjoying today.

The former Liberian Ambassador - At - Large intimates that there are sharp

and very upsetting opposition views, but the government should build the courage to exercise a high level of tolerance.

Wesseh tells the interview with this paper that if President George Manneh Weah has ever refused to learn anything from former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf led - administration, the one thing he must continue is maintaining the peace by allowing people to speak their minds.

He urges President Weah to ensure that due respect is accorded people in the opposition.

Commenting on the recent electoral violence here, Wesseh says he is appalled by the recent protests, demonstrations and electoral violence which have engulfed the country especially, its capital, Monrovia.

The River Gee County senator points out that heads of security agencies are being summoned to provide the Senate comprehensive details on how these revolting factors can be handled dedicatory.

Wesseh Concludes that these things must be handled now, stressing that Liberia has become noisy and it appears that the heads of security agencies are sleeping on the job.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

WIPNET receives George Weah Peace Prize

By Ramsey N Singbeh, Jr in Margibi

Women in Peace Building Network or WIPNET, a Liberian advocacy group has been named winner of the George Weah Peace Prize for 2019.

WIPNET won the peace prize at the Administrative Building in Kakata, Margibi County on Sunday, August 18, during the official celebration of the peace festival organized by the Crusaders for Peace headed by Liberia's Culture Ambassador, JuliEndee.

The 2019 winner walked away with a cash prize of 1,000,000 Liberian Dollars.

Speaking after receiving the award, the National Coordinator of WIPNET thanked the organizer and pledged commitment to

promoting the peace of Liberia.

According to her, the group has always promoted the process of peace in the country, noting that they had prayed for Liberia during elections and the Ebola outbreak.

The organization said the recognition came as a surprise because it never crosses its mind it would have received such national award from the President.

Presenting the award, Ambassador Endee said women of WIPNET have always been observed supporting peace processes in Liberia.

She stresses a need to recognize their activities which would encourage them in doing more towards peace.

Explaining the rationale behind the award, she said it is named the George Weah

Peace Prize, owing to the fact that President Weah during his football career flew the flag of Liberia very high around the world.

She said if one travelled abroad and identified himself as Liberian, he is immediately recognized as coming from George Weah's Country.

Ambassador Endee further observed that Mr. Weah during his football career visited Liberian refugees in foreign countries and consoled them during the civil crisis that rooted them out of the country.

She continued that the President now, served as Peace Ambassador under former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf due to his numerous contributions to peace, adding that it was based on these reasons the award is named the George Weah Peace Prize.

The peace festival, which she averred is being celebrated for a second time in 2019 will be celebrated every year whether government supports it or not.

The program attended by national and international partners, representatives of the Government of Liberia, guests from Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Guinea and Liberians in general was supported by President Weah and his government along with partners.

NEC condemns electoral violence

The National Elections Commission (NEC) observes with profound regrets, the current wave of violence related to the ongoing by-election in District #15, Montserrado County.

The NEC says these acts of violence follow similar occurrences perpetrated during the District #13 Montserrado County's by-election, recalling that on these occasions, there were unwarranted injuries to persons and needless damage to properties.

According to a press release issued in Monrovia Tuesday, August 20, prior to the postponement of the July 29 Montserrado by-elections, violence was reported between supporters of the All Liberian Party (ALP) and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) at the close of campaign, which resulted in injury of citizens and destruction of properties.

Again, on August 13, 2019, the day of the final post by-election hearings into complaints from District#15, there were riots in front of the

NEC Headquarters in Monrovia, reportedly between supporters of the two political parties. The Commission condemns in the strongest term all acts of violence related to the electoral process.

The NEC sternly warns all candidates, Political Parties and their supporters against engaging in acts of electoral violence, as it does not only endanger the lives of innocent people but has the potential to create voter apathy.

Therefore, the Commission calls on the ALP, CDC and all other political parties to urge their supporters to desist from electoral violence and to observe the rule of law in the exercise of their democratic right.

The National Elections Commission is charged with the responsibility to regulate the activities of Political Parties in Liberia. The NEC would not hesitate but to apply the law in accordance with Article 80 (a) and (b) of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia in the event of electoral violence, the release says.



Man-U condemn online racist abuse of Pogba



Manchester United are working on identifying individuals who racially abused Paul Pogba online after the midfielder missed a penalty in Monday's 1-1 draw at Wolverhampton Wanderers, the Premier League club said on Tuesday. Pogba won a late penalty

but had his effort from the spot saved by Wolves goalkeeper Rui Patricio. The draw cost United top spot in the Premier League standings, leading to a handful of supporters racially abusing the Frenchman.

"The individuals who expressed these views do not represent the values of our

great club and it is encouraging to see the vast majority of our fans condemn this on social media also," United said in a statement.

"Manchester United has zero tolerance of any form of racism or discrimination and a long-standing commitment to campaigning against it through our #AllRedAllEqual initiative.

"We will work to identify the few involved in these incidents and take the strongest course of action available to us. We also encourage social media companies to take action in these cases."

Defender Harry Maguire termed the abuse "disgusting" and called on social media companies to verify user accounts to prevent supporters from abusing players anonymously.

"Social media need to do something about it," Maguire said in a tweet. "Every account that is opened should be verified by a passport/driving license. Stop these pathetic trolls making numerous accounts to abuse people."

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Ronaldo: Maybe I'll retire next year, or I could play into my 40s

Juventus and Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo remains unsure when he will retire, saying it could be as soon as next year or he could play into his 40s.

Ronaldo, 34, has continued to star after joining Juve last year, scoring 28 goals in 43 games in all competitions and helping the Italian giants win another Serie A title in 2018-19.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner is uncertain when he

will stop playing, although the star forward said it may not be far away.

"I don't think about that," Ronaldo told TVI on Tuesday.

"Maybe I can leave my career next year ... but I can also play up to 40 or 41.

"I don't know. What I always say is to enjoy the moment. The gift is excellent and I have to continue to enjoy it."

Along with numerous individual honours, Ronaldo has won a record five Champions League titles (four



with Real Madrid and one with Manchester United), three Premier League crowns and two LaLiga trophies.

Ronaldo wants to make history and is seemingly motivated by setting records.

"Are there any soccer players who have more records than me?" he asked.

"I don't think there are any footballers who have more records than me."

Ronaldo's Juventus begin their Serie A campaign with a trip to Parma on Saturday.

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