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TRULY INDEPENDENT  
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# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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# Pastor charged for rape



*Alleged rape suspect Pastor James Kollie*



*Sen. Dallas Gueh*



*Sen. Darius Dillon*

# Sen. Gueh counters Dillon's threat

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# Continental News

## Kenya officer charged over teenager's curfew killing

A Kenyan policeman has been charged with the murder of 13-year-old Yasin Moyo, who was shot as he stood on a balcony in March watching police enforce a night-time curfew.

Duncan Ndiema pleaded not guilty.

Outside court, his lawyer said the state would have to prove that the bullet that killed the teenager came from his client's gun.

The case comes amid concern in Kenya over the level of police violence used to enforce coronavirus restrictions.

A night-time curfew was introduced at the end of March, along with other measures, in order to slow the spread of Covid-19. On



Local artists have painted a mural in memory of Yasin Moyo near where he lived in Nairobi

30 March, Yasin was watching from the balcony of his parent's flat in Mathare, a poor neighbourhood in the capital,

Nairobi, as police were checking the street, his mother Khadija Abdullahi Hussein told BBC Africa Eye.

'I've been shot'  
"After a few minutes I heard gunshots, so I told the kids to lie down. I [then] noticed that Yasin had fallen

off the chair where he was standing.

"He told me: 'Mama I've been shot.'"

Mr Ndiema was charged after an investigation by the country's Independent Policing Oversight Authority.

The policeman is now in detention and a bail hearing is due to take place on Wednesday.

Earlier this month, BBC Africa Eye reported on the high levels of anger in Mathare over the way people there have been treated by police.

At least seven people were killed in different parts of Kenya in the first five nights of the curfew, rights group Amnesty International said.

President Uhuru Kenyatta later apologised "for some excesses that were conducted". BBC

## Somalia silent on Trump's 'anarchy' comment

Somalia's ministry of foreign affairs office has told the BBC that they had no comment to make in response to US President Donald Trump's criticism of the country during a campaign rally on Saturday night.

While bashing Ilhan Omar, a Somali-born US congresswoman, Mr Trump alleged that she wanted to reshape the US like the "anarchy" that was Somalia "where she came from":

She would like to make the government of our country

just like the country from where she came. Somalia. No government, no safety, no police, no nothing. Just anarchy. And now she is telling us how to run our country. No thank you."

She would like to make the government of our country just like the country from where she came. Somalia. No government, no safety, no police, no nothing.

Just anarchy. And now she is telling us how to run our country. No thank you." The BBC Somali service asked the ministry of foreign affairs if it

had a response, but it said that it was not making any comments.

Somalia's UN-backed government in the capital, Mogadishu, does not control the whole of the country's territory.

It is battling with militant group al-Shabab and the country is often beset by security problems.

Mr Trump described Ms Omar as a "hate-filled, American bashing socialist" who will be part of deciding the fate of America should the Democrat's presidential candidate, Joe Biden, win the November election.

Ms Omar, who has been targeted by the president before, described Mr Trump's remarks as "racist", adding that he was angry because polls had shown that he was losing to Joe Biden in her state, Minnesota.

Mr Biden is likely to be the president's challenger come November's presidential election. Ms Omar, 37, has been an ardent critic of Mr Trump.

She and her family fled Somalia after civil war broke out and spent four years in a refugee in Kenya before relocating to the US in 1995.

Her father, who had relocated the family to the US, died last week from Covid-19 complications. BBC

## Fire razes Oba market in Benin

It was weeping and wailing, on Monday, by traders who lost goods worth several millions of naira as the popular Oba market in downtown Benin City was razed in a midnight fire.

The cause of the inferno at the market which burnt the ground and top floor of a section of the market is yet to be ascertained but the Chairman of Oredo Local

three months relocation to selected public schools compounds in the state for fumigation and decontamination by the State Government in a bid to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Federal Fire Service Zone K tweeted, "At about 1:00hrs this morning Men of Federal Fire Service Zone K Edo



Government Area of the State, Mr Jenkins Evbareke Osunde, who visited for an on-the-spot assessment to the market on Monday morning however suspected arson. Coming on the heels of the razing of Eki-Osa, Santana and Uwelu markets all in the Edo State capital, no life was lost in the latest inferno.

The traders had returned to the market last week after

command turned out to combat a raging inferno at Oba market ring road Benin city Edo State. In attendance are Nigerian Army, Nigerian Air force, NPDC, and UNIBEN fire service."

Security personnel attached to Oba market division were on ground to prevent looting of shops by hoodlums. AFP



# EDITORIAL

## Back to status quo

**WE MAY HAVE** sounded to some like prophets of doom when we alarmed in a recent editorial that Liberia is seriously slipping into a dilemma, as the country embarks on easing some restrictions, for eventual resumption of normal activities amid a rapid increase of confirmed cases of the coronavirus. Sorry. We are not doom sayers.

**BUT THE REALITY** has set in. Less than a week after we made that alert, the country is returning to the status quo, as President George Manneh Weah has extended the State of Emergency by additional 30 days and reversed the 9:00pm lockdown to 6:00pm with strict mandate for the enforcement of all health protocols, including compulsory wearing of facemasks in public places at all times, constant hands wash and social distancing, among others.

**AS WE FELT** then, and now, not much progress has been achieved that should inform the government it is time to ease restrictions and open up the economy. The authorities had announced resumption of normal flights at the Roberts international Airport as of June 22, 2020 but President Weah has deferred the schedule by one week, setting June 28<sup>th</sup> instead, as the new date for flights to resume at the airport.

**THE GOVERNMENT SAYS** this is necessary to make sure proper measures are put in place to keep travelers and airport employees safe amid upsurge of the pandemic.

**BESIDES, PRESIDENT WEAH** has mandated the Minister of Health Dr. Wilehmina Jallah to announce and make public details of other health measures aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus in the country.

**WE ARE BAFFLE** but not ruffle. In the first place, what really informed the President to have begun easing restrictions when statistics from the National Public Health Institute of Liberia or NPHIL, show clearly and consistently that cases are on the increase since the country's index case was pronounced on March 16, 2020?

**SOMETHING SEEMS FUNDAMENTALLY** wronged here. We suspect that the President is being misinformed about progress from the frontline in the ongoing Covid-19 fight and therefore, misled to taking actions or making pronouncements that he would have to go back on, as in the case instant.

**ARE HEALTH AUTHORITIES** being honest with the President on the health crisis or are they sweet talking in his ears for self-interest, while sweeping the real issues under the rug? Something smells fishy here.

**FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER** Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, recently challenged the Government of Liberia, particularly, health authorities leading the fight against the COVID-19 to provide "Clear, measurable, and easy-to-understand" indicators on progress made in the fight, if there were any justifiable reasons to continue the lockdown.

**NGAFUAN: "RELYING MORE** on the advice of health authorities during a health crisis is the prudent thing to do. However, the Liberian people deserve more concrete and detailed indicators to justify the extension of a lockdown than a nebulous unresolved crisis."

**INDEED, THIS IS** the quandary we seem to find ourselves right now as a people: Forward never; backward to sickness, poverty, misery and death. Only we Liberians can liberate ourselves from this deadly pandemic by putting all hands on deck and strictly observing all health protocols to stay safe.

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# COMMENTARY

By Anne O. Krueger

## What the Global Pandemic Response Is Missing

*While developing countries' debt levels have received ample attention in recent months, little has been said about a more immediate problem: their inability to acquire the medical supplies needed to fight COVID-19. To minimize the negative impact, a non-market allocation mechanism must be quickly established.*

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - After ravaging the developed world, COVID-19 is now devastating developing and emerging-market countries, most of which lack the medical and financial capacity to combat the pandemic and its economic effects.

For advanced economies, the first line of defense has been social distancing, hand washing, face masks, and widespread lockdowns. But for poorer countries, replicating this response is virtually impossible. Housing tends to be overcrowded, and face masks and soap are scarce. Moreover, water sources and sanitation facilities are often shared and situated in narrow alleys, and many poor people must leave their homes daily to access them or to purchase food. Hence, for poor people who live hand to mouth, an enforced lockdown amounts to a sentence of penury and possibly starvation.

Conditions in many parts of India illustrate the catastrophe that has been unfolding across developing and emerging markets. When Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared a sudden lockdown in late March, millions of migrants lost work and were forced to return to their villages hundreds of miles away. With no means of transportation, they simply started walking, spreading the virus as they went.

Now that India's lockdown has been lifted, and, with hospital capacity having reached its limits, even people presenting with severe COVID-19 symptoms are being turned away. The Washington Post reports that, "Before the pandemic hit, India had only 0.5 hospital beds per 1,000 people, ... compared with 3.2 in Italy and 12.3 in South Korea." Mumbai, a city of 20 million, has just 14 intensive-care-unit beds available for COVID-19 patients. And yet, by the end of July, India is expected to have at least 500,000 cases, up from an estimated 30,000 today.

The circumstances are just as dire in many other developing countries. In addition to lacking hospital capacity, most have little or no productive capacity for personal protective equipment (PPE), medicines, and other critical supplies. And while advanced economies and international institutions are coordinating financial support and debt relief for developing countries, this shortage of essential goods has yet to be addressed.

Making matters worse, at least 75 governments have imposed restrictions or bans on exports of medical supplies, prompting importing countries to start investing in their own capacity. Already, this is leading to a vicious circle in which export restraints encourage import restrictions and vice versa.

In normal times, markets would allocate these resources efficiently, with rising prices leading to lower demand and more supply. But that cannot happen in a global crisis; nor does it help simply to furnish developing and emerging markets with financing. Fresh funds would allow them to bid for supplies in global markets,

but the effect would be to send prices higher. Ultimately, because the short-term supply of PPE and other products is inelastic, wealthier countries would crowd out the poor.

If distribution of a vaccine is left to the market, there will be an even more intense bidding war. Without some kind of allocation mechanism, demand would initially far outstrip supply, and the price would skyrocket. Moreover, while supply eventually would increase and price pressures would ease, there would still be problems. If export restrictions persisted, the high-cost production facilities now being built would divert precious resources from programs to help the poor. And because these facilities remain under construction, they won't add any productive capacity during the period of acute price increases, just when it is needed most.

In the long run, the completion of these facilities would mean that more efficient producers in advanced economies could not resume the same level of sales to poorer countries. Those countries would have their own less-efficient medical supply industries, exporting countries would be left with excess capacity, and everyone would be worse off.

Avoiding such a wasteful outcome requires a mechanism for rationing scarce medical equipment until supplies have increased. Rich countries should not simply extend cash or loans to poorer countries to purchase what they need, because they will effectively be financing a bidding war against themselves. Instead of money, countries that need medical supplies and equipment should receive goods in kind.

The international community, for its part, will need to agree on the criteria for allocating medical supplies, and then enforce them to prevent black markets from developing. Obviously, infection rates and public-health capacity (or the lack thereof) should be the major factors guiding allocation decisions. But recipient countries also will need to agree to refrain from wasting scarce resources on building their own productive capacity.

Given that it already has most of the necessary data, the World Health Organization should take the lead on coordinating medical-supply allocation. In an ideal world, everyone would receive the supplies they need without regard to their ability to pay. In the real world, vaccine developers and PPE producers must be able to count on some reward for their efforts, or they won't undertake them in the first place.

With an allocation mechanism, at least such rewards would not be supercharged by a bidding war. More important, governments in developing and emerging-market countries would be better positioned to resist protectionist pressures, and to expend their scarce resources on programs to ameliorate the pandemic and recession. If these governments have a voice at the table, the road to recovery will be much smoother, and the global production of medical supplies will be more efficient and equitable both now and over the long term.

**O-P-E-D**

By Nina L. Khrushcheva

# The Long March of "General" William Barr

*US Attorney General William Barr is frequently criticized for corrupting his office to protect President Donald Trump. But something more sinister than personal fealty is at work, because Barr is a true believer in a theory of presidential power that, if implemented, would destroy America's constitutional order.*

**N**EW YORK - The death of George Floyd, an unarmed and handcuffed black man, at the hands - or, more accurately, the knee - of a police officer in Minneapolis ignited massive protests across the United States against systemic racism and police brutality. It also spurred a growing number of people outside the US to confront the legacies of racism and inequality in their own countries. Donald Trump's administration, however, is doing no such thing.

Instead, the Trump administration has continued - even accelerated - its effort to hollow out America's institutions in favor of a nihilistic populism. Its ultimate goal remains unchanged: to create a full-fledged illiberal regime in the US.

No one is more committed to this dream than William Barr, Trump's attorney general. Barr may not have the foggiest idea who Antonio Gramsci was; Trump almost certainly doesn't. But Barr's lust for power and Trump's feral cunning seem to have led the two men to intuit the Italian Marxist philosopher's theory of cultural hegemony: the idea that the ruling class gains society's consent to the status quo by ensuring that a country's institutions embody and promote a legitimating ideology.<sup>1</sup>

Schools, courts, religious institutions, and the media, for example, can play a powerful role in the internalization of norms, values, and beliefs. Trump, Barr, and US Republicans more generally have used all of these institutions. But, in response to the ongoing protests, the Trump administration has gone a step further, deploying law enforcement and even the military to advance their ideological ends.

On June 1, Barr - who, it is said, relishes the "general" in his job title - ordered the expansion of the protective perimeter that had been set up around the White House. Officers fulfilled that mission - which involved clearing peaceful protesters from Lafayette Park, the site of many important protests in America's history - using tear gas, smoke bombs, pepper spray, police batons, horses, and riot shields.

Trump then waddled across the emptied park in order to be photographed awkwardly holding a Bible in front of St. John's Church. Barr stood proudly nearby, alongside a real general, Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who, after a tidal wave of criticism, subsequently expressed regret for having participated. "My presence in that moment and in that environment," Milley acknowledged, "created a perception of the military involved in domestic politics." In fact, it was worse than that: the stunt called into question the US military's 240-year-old tradition of remaining strictly apolitical.

Trump insists that his politicization of the military is a matter of upholding "law and order" - a phrase that harks back to Richard Nixon, another tough-talking US president with autocratic aspirations. Though the demonstrations have been mostly peaceful, Trump claims that using force against protesters is actually an "act of compassion," because it supposedly "saves lives." Antonio Gramsci, meet George Orwell.

Former senior US military leaders see through the Trump administration's deceit and have condemned the Lafayette Square stunt. General James Mattis, Trump's own former secretary of defense, said this "abuse of executive authority" made "a mockery" of the US Constitution. Over 1,000 former justice department officials published a letter requesting an internal review of Barr's handling of the protests.

But both Barr and Trump are as committed as ever to their pursuit of illiberal cultural hegemony. Trump has demonized protesters, including by touting the absurd conspiracy theory that a 75-year-old protester whom police were caught on camera shoving to the ground was an "Antifa provocateur." He also attempted to deploy 10,000 active-duty troops in the streets of Washington, DC, to "dominate" the demonstrators, whom he calls "thugs."

Likewise, Barr has played up the violence, claiming - without any evidence - that "far-left extremist groups" are stoking it. And he actually did deploy his own "army": federal correctional officers - trained in quelling prison riots, not managing peaceful protests - who wore black clothes without badges or other insignia.

There is, however, a key difference between Trump and Barr. The former is a reality-TV autocrat content to think that pretending to be strong makes him strong, even as he hides in a bunker and behind an impossibly high security fence. (Having been born in Russia, I am all too familiar with a president who hides behind high walls that are supposed to symbolize power, but actually betray the state's fear of civil society.)

Barr, by contrast, is a determined apparatchik. While Trump asserts that his authority is "absolute," Barr is dedicated to carrying out the "long march through the institutions" - in the words of Rudi Dutschke, the 1960s German radical leader who studied Gramsci's work - required to make that claim true. This has meant, for example, undermining Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election, and forcing federal prosecutors to drop their case against Trump's first national security adviser, General Michael Flynn. His latest assault on democracy is the dismissal of US Attorney Geoffrey Berman, a Manhattan-based federal prosecutor who has investigated several of Trump's associates.

Barr has not corrupted his office and chipped away at executive accountability and transparency merely out of personal loyalty to Trump. His motivations are ideological. As a staunch proponent of the theory of a unitary executive, he wholeheartedly subscribes to the view that a president's power is all-encompassing. By this logic, Trump has the right to gut any investigation into his actions, and congressional oversight of the presidency should be severely curtailed. Barr's "chilling vision of unchecked presidential power," as the journalist Damon Linker calls it, is akin to that of Carl Schmitt, the Nazis' favorite legal philosopher.

General Barr is thus a true Gauleiter. And, under Trump, he has been given the ultimate opportunity to implement his ideology, whatever the consequences for America's constitutional order. I suspect that even Gramsci would be stunned by how openly Barr has deployed the "apparatus of state coercive power" to enforce "discipline on those groups who do not 'consent'" to Trump's - and Barr's own - hegemony.

# NPA surrenders container after lawyers' detention

By Winston W. Parley

**T**he National Port Authority (NPA) surrendered to the Criminal Court "C" Tuesday, 23 June a 40ft container after two NPA were picked up and confined for several hours in the sheriff's office based on an arrest order issued against NPA Managing Director Bill Tweahway, his deputies, assistant managers and legal counsel.

It follows a writ of arrest issued by the

orders served them, relative to a container, subject of a litigation before this court, thereby subjecting the court to a container, subject of a litigant before this court ..., "the writ reads.

It notes that the NPA officials' action subjects the court to a public ridicule and impeding its tribunal function, thereby instructing that Mr. Tweahway and his deputies be arrested and brought before court to show tangible cause why they cannot be held in criminal contempt.

The container under port security officers' escort landed on the grounds of the Temple of Justice minutes after 2pm Tuesday as Cllr. DempsterTeah and Atty. Lorpu Godfrey remained under court officers' custody.

The container case was taken to Criminal Court "C" on a bill of information filed by the Liberia Swedish Trading Company through its agent John Glayweah and Marcus Juah Roberts, with complaint

that Monrovia City Court Stipendiary Magistrate JomahJallah had failed to hold NPA for its refusal for them to gain access to their container.

They informed Court "C" that in the case at the City Court, they informed Magistrate Jallah that the NPA's Auction Committee was wrongfully and illegally



NPA Managing Director Bill Tweahway

court Monday, 22 June against Mr. Tweahway and his deputies for a charge of criminal contempt of court owing to their "deliberate" refusal and failure to obey citations, writ of summons and court orders served them relative to the container case.

"The Defendants named herein above have refused and failed deliberately to obey citations, Writ of Summons and Court

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## First Anniversary

In loving memory of our beloved

### CYNTHIA ANN MAINOO GREAVES

Died on June 25, 2019 and Buried on July 13, 2019

*You've been gone a slow and sad year. We miss your joie de vivre, we miss your hugs and kisses; we're all together in loving memory of you.*

*We remain thankful to God. Your strength, courage and perseverance throughout life's trials and hardships were awe-inspiring. Rest in Peace. Till we meet again, we love you.*

*Fondly remembered by your mum, children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters, the Hyde family, the Greaves family and the S.K. Mainoo family.*



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# SG interfering with trial?

By Winston W. Parley

Assistant Justice Minister for Litigation Cllr. Wesseh A. Wesseh terms as interference, Solicitor General Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus' comment that an alleged theft case being pursued by two Czech Republican brothers against several accused had

weekend ..., once you're in Lofa you will not monitor the stations except someone call you. So I cannot speak to the fact," Cllr. Wesseh says.

"But as far [as] I'm concerned, the Solicitor General, the Minister of Justice/Attorney General of Liberia and the County Attorney for Montserrado County, three of them are recused from this case,"

The indictment against Nanborlor Singbeh and the rest of the defendants was issued on 8 June by Criminal Court "C," following which the LACC in a communication dated 10 June 2020 informed the Ministry of Justice that it was retrieving cases it forwarded to the ministry, including Singbeh's case. The indictment accuses the defendants, along with former National Investment Commission (NIC) Executive Director George Wisner of allegedly conspiring to commit economic sabotage in violation of the Penal Law. They face charges of economic sabotage, theft of property, forgery and criminal conspiracy.

Speaking Monday, Cllr. Wesseh said he believes that someone is misinterpreting the law, noting that the Justice Ministry has taken substantial stance by reviewing the witnesses before drawing indictment after receiving the case from LACC. Dismissing Cllr. Cephus' claim that the matter is a case between two corporate partners, Cllr. Wesseh notes that if an investor brings US\$5m in the country and it gets stolen, it amounts to theft against the public interest and therefore requires government's intervention.

"Even though it derived from a commercial transaction, but the issue is that the money ... was allegedly in the bank and the money got missing. So who do we hold?" he asks.

Liberia's Justice Minister Frank Musah Dean, his deputy Solicitor General Cllr.

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# Gov't rejects CBL officials' bond

By Winston W. Parley

Prosecutors here have rejected a bond filed by several ex-officials indicted for their alleged roles in the LD\$16 billion scandal that has rocked the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) for years, saying the bail bond posted for David M. Farhat, Elsie DossenBadio and KollieTamba is utterly defective.

According to the prosecution, the defendants' surety Accident and Casualty Insurance Company (ACICO) has filed numerous bail bonds to secure the release of defendants amounting to US\$1,805,433.18 and those cases are still pending before courts in the country.

The prosecution therefore requests the Criminal Court "C" at the Temple of Justice to set aside the bail bond filed for

Sirleaf, all his alleged accomplices are reindicted.

The government here indicted the officials in 2019 for their alleged roles in the misapplication of \$16 billion Liberian Dollars printed and shipped to Liberia to replace old local currency after a series of mass protests led local and international institutions to investigate a claim that the money had gone missing.

The billions of Liberian dollars scandal emerged at the CBL when Mr. Sirleaf served as CBL's Deputy Governor for Operations, just as the other defendants did in working in their various positions which they held before their indictment.

Last month prosecutors nolleprosequi (drop charges



Solicitor General Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus

been withdrawn by the Liberia Anti - Corruption Commission (LACC), despite an indictment drawn already.

Cllr. Wesseh told journalists at his office in Sinkor Monday, 22 June that Cllr. Cephus should have nothing to do with the matter because he has recused himself from the trial, saying

"Well, uh, that is interference of the case, but I was in Lofa County over the

he adds.

Several persons including Senate Secretary Nanborlor F. Singbeh have been indicted here for multiple charges for allegedly dubbing two Czech Republican brothers Pavel and Martin Miloschewsky of US\$5,062,419.10 under the pretense of establishing a rock crushing company MHM Eko - Liberia in which the victims retained the largest share of 70 percent.

# Cummings Africa Foundation distributes 1,000 bags of rice

By Patrick N. Mensah, from Maryland

The Cummings Africa Foundation has donated 1,000 bags of 25kg rice to citizens and residents of southeast Liberia.

Distribution of the rice began on Monday, June 22nd in Maryland County, southeast of the country, covering four districts, namely; Harper, Pleebo, Karluway and Barrobo, respectively.

The Foundation is owed by the political leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) Alexander Cummings.

Mr. Cummings, a former presidential candidate, currently chairs four Collaborating Political Parties here, CPP that seeks to defeat President George Weah's governing Coalition for Democratic Change at the next poll in 2023.

In district one, Harper City, the Foundation identified with



citizens of Pullah, Middle Town, Little Wlebo, New Harper, Bishop Hill and J.J. Dosson.

In PleeboSodoken district, (district#2) beneficiaries include members the Group of 77(disable)

Blind Association of Maryland, Pleebo Town, Old Sodoken, New Sodoken, Gedetarbo, Gbolobo, G b l o k e n ,

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David M. Farhat, Elsie DossenBadio and KollieTamba and order their re-arrest until the surety can remedy the defects in the bond.

David M. Farhat, Elsie DossenBadio, KollieTamba and Melissa A. Emeh were listed in the third indictment drawn by prosecution against multiple members of the CBL's Board of Governors and officials for alleged economic sabotage surrounding the \$16 billion Liberian Dollars scandal.

Former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's son and former CBL Deputy Governor for Operations Charles E. Sirleaf was not included in the third indictment.

The other defendants are former CBL Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks; Dorbor M. Hagba, former Director of Finance; Richard H. Walker, former Director for Banking and Joseph Dennis, former Director for Internal Audit. The new indictment contains seven charges which are higher in number compared to the five charges levied against the defendants in the previous indictments, and except for Mr.

against) Mr. Sirleaf "with prejudice," and nolleprosequi Hagba, Walker and Dennis "without prejudice" as Mr. Weeks remained on separate trial. Meanwhile the \$16 billion local currency which prompted their indictment remained a mystery.

While Mr. Weeks was being nolleprosequi on Monday, 8 June for the previous indictment, the prosecution issued a new indictment against him, three of those earlier nolleprosequi and the CBL's Board of Governors for theft of property; economic sabotage; fraud on the internal revenue of Liberia; misuse of public money, property or record; theft or illegal disbursement of public money; criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation.

The defendants are accused by prosecution of flagrantly violating Chapter 15, Section 15.51 of the New Penal Law of Liberia.

According to the indictment, the CBL Board of Governors in exercising their corporate power and authority, passed a

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**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**WFP will leave no stone unturned**

**-says Head of Support Services Aaron Sleh**

By Lewis S. Teh

The World Food Programme Head of Support Services in Liberia, Aaron Sleh, said no matter the controversies that surround the Coronavirus stimulus food package, WFP will leave no stone unturned in the food distribution exercise.

"We understand there are serious controversies about our role in the food distribution

Addressing reporters recently at the Ministry of Health in Oldest Congo Town, outside Monrovia, he said the WFP was contacted by the Liberian government to implement the distribution based on its world class expertise, and long-standing experience in relief food, including here in Liberia.

He recalled that WFP started its operation since 1968, saying our role in this exercise is to deliver cost effective,

according to WFP rules, including our procurement rules, and that all operations regarding the execution of the program were made by WFP, and had been in compliance with WFP", Aaron assured Liberians.

The UN agency says it independently manages resources from the Liberian Government's COVID-19 Household Food Support Program (COHFSP) budget, not the government itself.

Recently, WFP issued a statement, detailing that total budget for the COHFSP is US\$30 million, comprising cost of the food basket (rice, beans and vegetable oil) as well as costs of storing, transporting and delivering the assistance to vulnerable households targeted through this program.

The WFP's statement comes at a time the chairman of the COVID-19 food distribution steering committee, Commerce Minister Prof. Wilson Tarpeh denied telling the Liberian Senate that WFP charged the Government of Liberia US\$9 million in "administrative and operational cost" to distribute food to vulnerable Liberians across the country.

Prior to the clarification, there have been public condemnations of the alleged US\$9 million "administrative and operational costs", with some Senators terming as wasteful, the alleged proposal by the Executive Branch allotting such amount for food distribution cost. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



exercise, but today I want to commit WFP's fullest support to leaving no stone unturned in this exercise; We will make sure designated communities receive their share of this distribution", Aaron said.

transparent, and accountable program within the parameter that has been provided by the Government of Liberia.

"We have an agreement with the Government of Liberia to implement this program,

**NPA surrenders**

Cont'd from page 4

withholding their 40ft container marked MRKU-320797 despite satisfying all necessary requirements in keeping with law.

Glawayeh and Roberts filed summary proceedings against Magistrate Jallah before Court "C" for failing to hold Mr. Tweahway after NPA's failure to respect the court's order despite the port allegedly admitting that the complainants are the rightful

owners of the container and that they had satisfied all necessary requirements.

Before issuing the writ of arrest against Tweahway and his deputies, the Criminal Court "C" on 11 June ordered the port to deliver the container to the court on Monday, 15 June at 10am, warning that failure to do so would have been treated as a criminal contempt.

**Gov't rejects CBL**

Cont'd from page 5

resolution dated 28 April 2016 for the purpose of selecting and subsequently selected Crane Currency as the vendor to print the Liberian banknotes.

Defendant Weeks and the Board of Governors including Farhat, Emeh, Badio and Tamba are accused of deliberately failing to revert to the Legislature in line with a communication that demanded that appropriate details of the amount or quantity and denominations of the replacing banknotes be submitted to the Legislature prior to the printing and minting of coins.

Additionally, the Board is accused of mandating defendant Weeks to enter into a contract on June 12, 2019 with Crane Currency to print L\$10,000,000,000 banknotes at the cost of US\$10,121,689.20 before receiving the July 19, 2017 communication [from the Legislature].

At the time of selecting Crane Currency to print L\$5,000,000,000, the indictment says the quantity of Liberian banknotes in circulation at the time was L\$9.940 billion and that

a significant number of the banknotes had worn out and mutilated, prompting the need to replace L\$5,000,000,000 approved as the objective of legislative joint resolution.

The indictment says it is demonstrably inconceivable for the CBL Board of Governors to have requested the printing of L\$10,000,000,000 to replace all legacy notes when they knew that the total amount in circulation that should have been replaced was L\$13.792 billion.

The indictment alleges that the defendants conspired to willfully conceal the actual amount in circulation for the purpose of committing theft, depriving the Government of Liberia of its resources.

Further, the indictment notes that defendants Weeks, Hagba, Walker and Dennis knew or had reasons to know that from packing lists reviewed by the investigation, the total amount printed was L\$13,004,750,000 and not L\$15,506,000,000, but "they maliciously and purposely concealed and understated the actual amount..." because they had criminally connived.

**Cummings Africa Foundation**

Cont'd from page 5

Gbaken, Witehoken, Muslim community, Friends of Giko and the entire 15 communities which contain both A and B in Pleebo City.

The exercise also covered Karluway, District#3 extending to Gbaken, Gbon, Karloken, Manolu and Nyeworkon.

In Barrobo, District#4, food reached Cavalla, Glofeken, Rock Town and Teaken besides River Gee and other counties in the southeast.

Presentation the food rations to citizens on behalf of the Cummings Foundation, a senatorial aspirant of the ANC, Eric Wleagiko, said the gesture is the Foundation's way of identifying with them during the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to him, the Cummings Foundation had previously promised the people of Maryland County, but a boat bringing food was grounded in Grand Bassa County, something that delayed the entire process.

Eric assured the residents the Foundation will not leave anyone out when the bigger consignment comes late but "I think you guys should receive this want, while awaiting the



bigger want."

"This donation is more symbolic, even if we have brought two thousand bags of rice for each of you, it will not still be enough; we try to show to our people that we are with them during this time of the crisis though everybody cannot get it."

He expressed joy that Maryland is getting something about this time and the beneficiaries should appreciate the Cummings Foundation,

because there has been no donation from the Government of Liberia.

Receiving the rations several beneficiaries lauded the Cummings Foundation for identifying with them during this health crisis.

The Group of 77(disable) in Pleebo, Maryland County, said the donation is welcome and its members are glad to be counted among the recipients. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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# Pastor charged for rape

By Ben P. Wese

The Liberia National Police (LNP) has charged a 50-year-old pastor identified as James Kollie for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl his Community Revival Church compound in Logan Town, Bushrod Island. According to the police charge sheet, on 9 June, a

this paper, narrated that upon his niece's arrival at home, she told her parents that Pastor Kollie had sexually abused her repeatedly.

Police say their interview with the victim discovered that the pastor had been having sex with the victim since 2019.

During interview with the victim, police indicate that she

lie over her and sexually abuse her.

At night, she claimed that Pastor Kollie also kissed her in the mouth and further threatened that he will not buy her anything to eat if she told anyone about his action.

The police disclose that the victim explained that Pastor Kollie has sex with her several times both in his bedroom and bathroom while she was at the church undergoing deliverance.

"During the investigation, it was established that the victim was ten years old in 2017 when her mother carried her to Pastor James Kollie church in Logan Town," the police say.

Pastor James Kollie is the founder and overseer of the Community Revival Church and the victim allegedly stayed with him from 2017 to June 6, 2020, according to police.

Police say that there is clear evidence of penetration of the victim from the report that was provided from the Hope for Women International One Stop Center.

The investigators charged suspect James Kollie with the commission of the crime rape in violation of Section 14.70 (a), (i), (b) of the New Rape Law of Liberia pending trial by court.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



relative of the alleged rape victim reported at the LNP's Women and Children Protection Section on Capitol Hill that his niece had been sexually abused by Pastor James Kollie.

The police continue that the victim's relative whose name has been withheld by

narrated to the investigator that in 2017, her mother Elsie carried her to Pastor James Kollie's church because she was sick.

She told police that while at the church, Pastor Kollie will most time at night take her from the church, carry her in his room, take off her clothes and

# SG interfering

Cont'd from page 5

Saymah Syrenius Cephias and Montserrado County Attorney Cllr. Edwin K. Martin recused themselves from the economic sabotage trial predicated upon the fact that they represented the private prosecutor in private practice.

According to Cllr. Weseh, at the end of January this year, the case was turned over to his office to continue with trial after Dean, Cephias and Martin's recusal, saying prosecution already had a copy of the indictment by February Term of Court.

He argues that substantial action was taken in the case after LACC presented it to the Ministry of Justice, contending that the issue of LACC is moot.

There have been several persons ordered to be arrested for their alleged roles in this case, including defendants Othello Z.B. Karr, Karel Socher, Ales Sranmek, Sherman Longan, Jan Holask, Barry F. Tequah and Ousman Fofana.

Others include Gloria Cain, Sylvester Selvkpoh, Patrick Saah Siaphia, Mulbah Kenneh and Patrick Siaphe. Prosecution claims that defendant Singbeh used his official position to conspire and connive with Gloria Caine, George Wisner, Othello Z.B. Karr, Prince A. Saysay and

others to obtain faked and fraudulent "Investment Incentives" for duty free privileges.

The defendants allegedly obtained the faked "investment incentives" for duty free privileges in spite of the fact that MHM Eko - Liberia was due to engage in crushed rocks and related businesses with US\$7,616,152 capital investment.

According to the indictment, defendant Singbeh opened two bogus accounts in the name of MHM Eko-Liberia, conspired with Karel Socher, Ales Sramek, Peter Pesek, Jan Holaseh and Gloria Caine by convincing the Czech nationals to transfer US\$2,495,109 and US\$102,000,000 to pay custom duties on equipment imported, employees' salaries and other running cost.

The indictment notes that the total value of properties including cash and equipment stolen directly from the Czech nationals by the defendants is estimated at about US\$5,062,419.10. British national Hans Armstrong has been the Attorney-In-Fact of the two Czech brothers at the rock crushing company that was situated in Margibi County.

# Sen. Gueh counters Dillon's threat

By Bridgett Milton

Rivercess County Senator Dallas Gueh says Montserrado County Senator Darius Dillon's threat to oppose the extension of the State of Emergency by 30 days is dead upon arrival, because the Senate will not debate the extension because the lives of the Liberian people is important more than any other thing.

Instead, he says Sen. Dillon should be in more support of the SOE because the county he represents is highly hit.

On Monday, June 22, opposition Collaborating Political Parties' lawmakers vowed to resist the extension by President Weah.

The group of opposition lawmakers led by Senator Dillon at the All Liberian Party headquarters in Monrovia said, there is no need for the extension of the State of Emergency.

Dillon on behalf of his colleagues argued that the Weah government should



Sen. Dallas Gueh



Sen. Darius Dillon

make use of the Public Health Law of Liberia, instead of a prolonged State of Emergency to fight the virus.

But the Rivercess County lawmaker says he supports the extension of the State Of Emergency because members of the senate saw this coming

that the previous 60 days endorsed in a joint resolution was not possible and that is why their recommendation to the executive was 90 days because amid the normal challenge of the health system, the country could not fight this virus within 60 days.

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Gueh explains the extension of the SOE is to keep the number of the virus down and the health system, in his words, is doing its best to keep the numbers down by stepping up public testing.

He notes that majority of the people, who are getting infected with virus are high profile individuals rather than ordinary citizens, so Liberians should support preventive measures announced by health authorities.

At the same time Senator Dallas Gueh is calling for postponement of the impending midterm senatorial elections due to the current health crisis.

He argues that the government took an oath to protect lives and property, stressing that in the wake of the pandemic, it would be bad to have election.

He made the call in a live

talk show here Tuesday, saying that government should take every necessary measure to curb the virus before proceeding with the polls.

The midterm senatorial polls are scheduled for December 8, 2020 to elect 15 of the 30 senators at the Capitol.

Gueh argues further that if elections were postponed, the Constitution would not be violated because in 2014, elections were to be conducted in the midst of Ebola, but the polls were postponed, so there is precedent.

According to him, even if it meant the country going into constitutional crisis, the senate will support that cause because the lives of the people matter more than a man getting power. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# Français

## COVID-19 : L'état d'urgence prolongé de 30 jours

Les Libériens qui rêvaient de reprendre leur vie normale à compter du 21 juin 2020 devraient encore continuer à faire preuve de patience, car, vu l'augmentation rapide du nombre de nouveaux cas de coronavirus mortel, le président George Weah a, par Ordonnance, prorogé l'état

d'urgence de 30 jours en consultation avec le pouvoir législatif libérien.

Le président Weah s'est dit convaincu que cette décision donnera à son gouvernement l'occasion de réexaminer sa stratégie de réponse au COVID-19.

Le pouvoir de Monrovia indique que la proclamation, qui a été publiée le 22 juin

2020, malgré les mesures qui ont été mises en place pour freiner la propagation du virus dans le pays, parmi lesquelles le port obligatoire de masques faciaux, le lavage des mains et la distanciation sociale, les cas et les décès dus à la maladie continuent de croître.

Le gouvernement du Libéria a déclaré l'état d'urgence en avril en réponse à la pandémie mondiale de coronavirus. À l'époque, les mouvements étaient limités et le commandant en chef (le président George Weah) avait donné l'ordre aux forces de sécurité de faire respecter l'ensemble des mesures barrières recommandés par les autorités sanitaires. Ces mesures devaient normalement expirer le 21 juin 2020, conformément au calendrier de l'état d'urgence.

Le président Weah a déclaré que la prolongation prend effet immédiatement, en attendant la confirmation par l'Assemblée nationale



▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Elections sénatoriales : La coalition au pouvoir organise bientôt des primaires

En prélude aux élections sénatoriales prévues pour le 8 décembre 2020, la Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir envisage d'organiser des élections primaires sur toute l'étendue du territoire national pour choisir ses candidats.

S'exprimant lors d'une conférence de presse au siège de la Coalition à Congo Town, le président national Mulbah Morlu a déclaré que le Comité exécutif national, en consultation avec le Conseil d'administration de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique, a décidé de l'organisation des primaires dans les 15 sous-divisions politiques du pays.

Il a déclaré que les activités prévues sont conformes à une résolution unanime du Conseil des présidents, qui exige des primaires, étant convaincu que c'est le moyen le plus viable pour le choix de ses candidats aux élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat de décembre 2020.

«De manière cohérente, un comité d'organisation des primaires a été formé et

constitué. Le partisan Jefferson T. Koijsa a été désigné président, le partisan Alexander Saydee, coprésident, le partisan Eric Kpayea, secrétaire, etc. L'ensemble du processus, qui commencera le 15 et prendra fin le 30 Juillet 2020, prendra en compte tous les quinze comtés qui seront regroupés en six régions », a-t-il déclaré.

Selon lui, la région I, qui est composée des comtés de

Montserrado et de Margibi, organisera des primaires à Montserrado du 15 au 21 juillet 2020, sous la présidence du partisan Ronald K. Mendscoble, tandis que dans la région II, qui regroupe les comtés de Rivergea et de Maryland, les primaires auront lieu à Harper City, Maryland du 22 au 23 juillet 2020, sous la supervision du partisan Andrew Peters.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Mali : Crise politique au Mali : La Cedeao à la rescousse

La Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cedeao) est au chevet du Mali pour aider à apaiser la situation suite aux rassemblements pour demander la démission du président Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, les 5 et 19 juin 2020.

Conduite par Kalla Ankourao, ministre des Affaires étrangères, de la Coopération, de l'Intégration africaine et des Nigériens à l'extérieur de la République du Niger, président du Conseil des ministres de la Cedeao, la délégation arrivée à Bamako, le 18 juin comprenait Ally Coulibaly, ministre des Affaires étrangères de la République de Côte d'Ivoire et Geoffrey Onyeama, ministre des Affaires étrangères de la République fédérale du Nigeria. Jean Claude Kassi Brou et Francis Behanzin, respectivement

recommandations pour une sortie de crise juste, légale et équitable.

La mission note que l'Arrêt rendu par la Cour constitutionnelle dans le cadre du contentieux des dernières élections législatives est à la base de la crispation sociopolitique actuelle. Elle invite donc le gouvernement de la République du Mali à reconsidérer les résultats de toutes les circonscriptions ayant fait l'objet de révision par l'Arrêt de la Cour constitutionnelle, en y organisant de nouvelles élections partielles. Et de mettre en place un gouvernement d'union nationale avec comme mission de mettre en œuvre les recommandations du Dialogue national inclusif. La mission de la Cedeao a



Président de la Commission et Commissaire des Affaires politiques, Paix et Sécurité de la Cedeao, ont également participé à la mission.

Elle a rencontré le président IBK, le premier ministre, Dr Boubou Cissé, les représentants du Mouvement du 5 juin, l'imam Mahmoud Dicko et sa délégation, la majorité présidentielle au parlement, le Cadre d'actions, de médiation et de veille des confessions religieuses et des organisations de la société civile, le Réseau des femmes parlementaires, la Convergence des forces républicaines et une délégation d'ambassadeurs accrédités à Bamako (Union européenne, la France, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique). Il en est issu une série de

recommandé l'organisation des réformes institutionnelles et constitutionnelles prenant en compte la révision de la Cour constitutionnelle et la relecture du code électoral. Enfin, la mission a recommandé l'accélération de la mise en œuvre de l'Accord d'Alger, le respect des institutions de la République et l'accession au pouvoir rien que par les voies constitutionnelles.

La Cedeao, tout en invitant les parties prenantes à privilégier le dialogue et la concertation comme mode de règlement des différends, s'est dit disposée à se porter garante du respect des décisions et recommandations afin de trouver une issue à la crise qui préserve la paix et la stabilité du Mali et de la sous-région.



# Français

## COVID-19 : L'état d'urgence

conformément à la Constitution du Libéria.

La proclamation émise ici lundi 22 juin 2020 stipule qu'en réponse à l'effet mondial de la pandémie de Covid-19 et à son impact sur la population et les résidents du Libéria, le président George M. Weah a prolongé l'état d'urgence déclaré le 8 avril 2020, puis approuvé par le parlement dans une résolution commune de la Chambre des représentants et du Sénat libérien le 17 avril 2020. Le document a été publié dans des prospectus le 21 avril 2020.

Cependant, avant l'expiration de la résolution commune susmentionnée (# 002/2020), le président Weah a demandé au Parlement une prolongation de celle-ci, pour des raisons que, nonobstant

toutes les mesures imposées par l'état d'urgence, en particulier les restrictions aux mouvements de personnes et les mesures barrières (rester chez soi, la distanciation sociale et port de masques), le taux d'infection au Covid-19 et le nombre de décès causés par le virus ont augmenté de façon exponentielle.

Dans sa déclaration, la présidence a fait état de 626 cas confirmés, dont 254 guéris et 34 décédés. Elle a informé les législateurs de ce que la prolongation offrira au gouvernement la possibilité de réexaminer sa stratégie de réponse face au Covid-19 et ainsi de mieux sécuriser et protéger aussi bien les citoyens libériens que tous les ressortissants étrangers qui vivent sur le territoire du Libéria.

## Elections sénatoriales :

De même, pour le compte de la région III, qui comprend les comtés de Grand Gedeh, Nimba et Lofa, les primaires auront lieu à Zwedru, Grand Gedeh du 27 au 28 juillet 2020, sous la présidence du partisan Moses Kollie. Pour ce qui concerne la région IV, qui réunit Grand Bassa, Rivercess & Bong, les primaires seront organisées à Buchanan City, Grand Bassa, du 18 au 21 juillet 2020, sous la présidence du partisan Bill Twehway.

Juste après la région 3, la région V qui est composée des Comtés de Grand Kru et Sinoe, rentra dans la danse en organisant ses primaires à Barclayville, Grand Kru du 28 au 29 juillet 2020, sous la présidence du partisan C Mike Doyen. Tubmanburg City, Bomiservira de cadre pour les primaires de la zone 6 qui comprend les comtés de Gbarpolu, de Bomi et de Grand Cape Mount, du 18 au 20 juillet 2020, sous la présidence du partisan Adama Robinson.

## Côte d'Ivoire : CPI, un avocat de Blé Goudé donne plus de précisions sur l'audience des observations à l'appel du procureur

L'audience des observations à appel du procureur Fatou Bensouda à l'acquiescement de Laurent Gbagbo et Charles Blé Goudé s'est ouverte depuis lundi à la Cour Pénale Internationale (CPI) et prendra fin ce mercredi 24 juin 2020.

C'est le dernier baroud d'honneur pour l'accusation dans ce procès débuté en janvier 2016.

Me N'dry Claver, du conseil du président du Cojep donne plus de précisions sur cette audience.

Selon l'avocat, il s'agit de la procédure principale d'appel sur l'acquiescement du Président Laurent Gbagbo et du Ministre Charles Blé Goudé. Madame la Procureure estime que les juges ont commis des erreurs de droit dans le prononcé oral de la décision du mardi 15 Janvier 2019 et dans leur évaluation des preuves versées lors des débats.

Les deux équipes de la défense s'opposent aux

moyens soulevés par la Procureure en montrant que la majorité des juges de la chambre de première instance n'a pas commis d'erreurs ayant influencé le cours du procès et le jugement.

« La décision sur la levée des conditions de libération concerne l'arrêt qui avait été rendu le 1er Février 2019 par les juges en appel et qui avait limité le déplacement des deux personnes acquittées. C'est pour faire simple que j'ai donné les explications qui ont précédé. Nous sommes dans des débats plus techniques. », relève Me N'Dry.

L'avocat conclu avec cette explication : « Les équipes de défense avaient souhaité le report de ces audiences à cause des conditions de leur tenue. Des audiences virtuelles ne mettaient pas les avocats dans les dispositions psychologiques pour une défense qualitative. Avait-on estimé. Mais nous nous sommes organisés et nous suivons la procédure comme l'orientent les juges.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Anne O. Krueger

## Covid-19 : Pour une répartition juste et efficace des ressources médicales

WASHINGTON - Après avoir ravagé les pays développés, le Covid-19 dévaste maintenant les pays en développement et les pays émergents qui pour la plupart ne disposent ni des moyens médicaux ni des moyens financiers pour faire face à la pandémie et à ses conséquences économiques.

La distanciation sociale, le lavage des mains, le port du masque et le confinement constituent la première ligne de défense des pays avancés. Mais pour les pays pauvres, ces mesures sont inapplicables en pratique. Les habitants y sont entassés dans des logements trop petits et il leur est difficile de trouver du savon ou des masques. En général ils ne disposent pas d'eau courante à domicile, l'accès à l'eau et les installations sanitaires sont collectifs et souvent situés dans de petites ruelles, ce qui impose aux habitants de sortir chaque jour de leur domicile pour s'y rendre ou pour acheter de la nourriture. Aussi pour ceux qui n'ont presque rien, le confinement les condamne-t-il à ne plus avoir de quoi se nourrir.

La situation dans une grande partie de l'Inde illustre la catastrophe qui s'est peu à peu abattue dans les pays pauvres. Fin mars, le Premier ministre indien Narendra Modi a soudain ordonné le confinement généralisé. Des millions de travailleurs migrants ont alors perdu leur emploi, ce qui les a contraints à parcourir des centaines de kilomètres pour revenir dans leurs villages, souvent à pied en raison de l'arrêt des transports. Ils ont ainsi contribué à diffuser le virus à travers le pays.

Le confinement a été levé en Inde. Mais la capacité d'accueil des hôpitaux du pays a atteint ses limites, ils ne peuvent même plus admettre les patients gravement touchés par le Covid-19. Selon le Washington Post, avant que la pandémie ne frappe, l'Inde ne comptait que 0,5 lit d'hôpital pour 1 000 habitants, contre 3,2 en Italie et 12,3 en Corée du Sud. Bombay, une mégapole de 20 millions d'habitants, ne dispose que de 14 places en soins intensifs pour les patients atteints du Covid-19. Or on s'attend à ce que l'Inde compte plus de 500 000 cas fin juillet, contre environ 30 000 aujourd'hui.

La situation est tout aussi critique dans beaucoup d'autres pays en développement. Non seulement leur capacité hospitalière est insuffisante, mais la plupart d'entre eux ne disposent pas des moyens de protection individuelle, des médicaments et des autres équipements d'importance cruciale. Certes, les nations développées et les institutions internationales coordonnent leur aide financière à ces pays, mais il faut encore palier à leur insuffisance en matériel et en médicaments de première nécessité.

Pire encore, au moins 75 pays restreignent ou interdisent l'exportation de matériel médical, ce qui pousse les pays importateurs à développer leur propre capacité. Cela conduit à un cercle vicieux dans lequel les restrictions à l'exportation poussent à restreindre l'importation, et vice-versa.

En période normale, le marché permet une répartition efficace des ressources, la hausse des prix suscitant une baisse de la demande et une offre adaptée, mais les choses ne se passent pas ainsi lors d'une crise. Il ne suffit pas d'aider financièrement les pays pauvres pour qu'ils aient accès au matériel indispensable. Des moyens financiers supplémentaires pourraient leur

permettre d'accéder aux marchés mondiaux, mais cela se traduirait par une hausse des prix. En fin de compte, l'offre à court terme en matériel de protection individuelle ne pouvant augmenter rapidement, les pays riches les obtiendraient au détriment des pays pauvres.

Quand un vaccin sera disponible, si l'on abandonne sa distribution au marché, la concurrence pour l'approvisionnement sera encore plus vive entre pays pauvres et pays riches. En l'absence d'un mécanisme d'allocation, au début la demande dépassera largement l'offre, ce qui entraînera une envolée des prix. Et même si l'offre augmente et les prix diminuent, il restera des problèmes. Si les restrictions à l'exportation sont maintenues, le coût élevé des unités de production actuellement en construction détournera des ressources précieuses initialement destinées aux programmes de lutte contre la pauvreté. Ces unités étant déjà en construction, elles ne contribueront pas à augmenter la capacité de production au moment où ce sera le plus nécessaire, lorsque les prix s'envoleront.

A long terme, l'achèvement de la construction de ces unités dans les pays riches ne permettra pas aux plus productives d'entre elles d'exporter en quantité dans les pays pauvres, car ces derniers auront été contraints de compter sur leur propre capacité de production, souvent peu performante. Les pays riches se retrouveront alors avec une capacité de production excédentaire et tout le monde sera perdant.

Un mécanisme de rationnement de la distribution des ressources médicales permettrait d'éviter un tel aboutissement en attendant que la production n'augmente. Les pays riches ne devraient pas se contenter d'accorder une aide financière ou des prêts supplémentaires aux pays pauvres pour qu'ils achètent ce dont ils ont besoin, car ils financeraient alors une guerre commerciale contre eux-mêmes. Au lieu d'argent, il faudrait fournir aux pays qui en manquent, les ressources médicales qui leur font défaut.

Pour sa part, la communauté internationale devra se mettre d'accord sur des critères d'allocation des ressources médicales ; devraient y figurer notamment le taux d'infection et la capacité hospitalière. Elle devra également surveiller la distribution de ces ressources pour éviter l'apparition d'un marché noir. De leur côté, les pays bénéficiaires devront s'abstenir de gaspiller leurs peu de moyens à développer leur propre capacité productive.

Disposant déjà de la plupart des données nécessaires, l'OMS devrait avoir un rôle essentiel pour coordonner l'allocation des ressources médicales. Dans l'idéal, chaque pays recevrait ce dont il a besoin, indépendamment de sa capacité financière. Mais en pratique, si ce n'est à les démotiver, ceux qui auront développé un vaccin et les fabricants d'équipement médical de protection individuelle devront être récompensés de leurs efforts - ce qui ne devrait pas entraîner une guerre commerciale s'il existe un mécanisme d'allocation.

Élément essentiel, les pays pauvres seront alors mieux positionnés pour résister aux mesures protectionnistes et consacrer leurs faibles ressources aux programmes de lutte contre la pandémie et la récession. Si ces pays ont droit au chapitre, la reprise en sera grandement facilitée et la production mondiale de ressources médicales sera plus efficace et plus équitable - tant à court terme qu'à long terme.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

# Tom Woewiyu: An Ex-Iconic Warlord Laid to Rest

By Moses D. Sandy  
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June 13, 2020, was an unruffled Saturday in Collingdale, a borough based in Delaware County. The County is located in the state of Pennsylvania on the east coast of the United States of Americas (USA). As it is often said in the US, the weather on that Saturday was good; it was mild. The temperature was more than 70-degree Celsius. For many on the east coast, it was a pleasant time for outdoor activities.

Most people were in high spirit, but for Liberians especially the Woewiyu and Dahnsaw families, and the people of Grand Bassa County, June 13th was a gloomy day. It was melancholy; it marked the homegoing of the man they considered their pillar, Jucontee Thomas Woewiyu. Outside of his family life, the late Jucontee was a former iconic rebel; and it was on that Saturday Liberia bade him final farewell. He was one of Liberia's notable and outspoken former warlords. He was past Defense Spokesman of the disbanded National Patriotic Front

worth of properties. As a result of the widespread carnage, thousands of Liberians fled the country and became refugees in West Africa and other countries in the world including the US.

The late Woewiyu, alias, Jucontee Thomas Smith, expired on April 12, 2020, at Bryn Mawr Hospital in Bryn Mawr, Montgomery County after nearly two weeks of struggle with the deadly Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19). He was approximately 75 years old. His death brings to more than 100 thousand people in the US that have fallen prey to the virus since January 2020 when the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in the Pacific Northwest state of Washington.

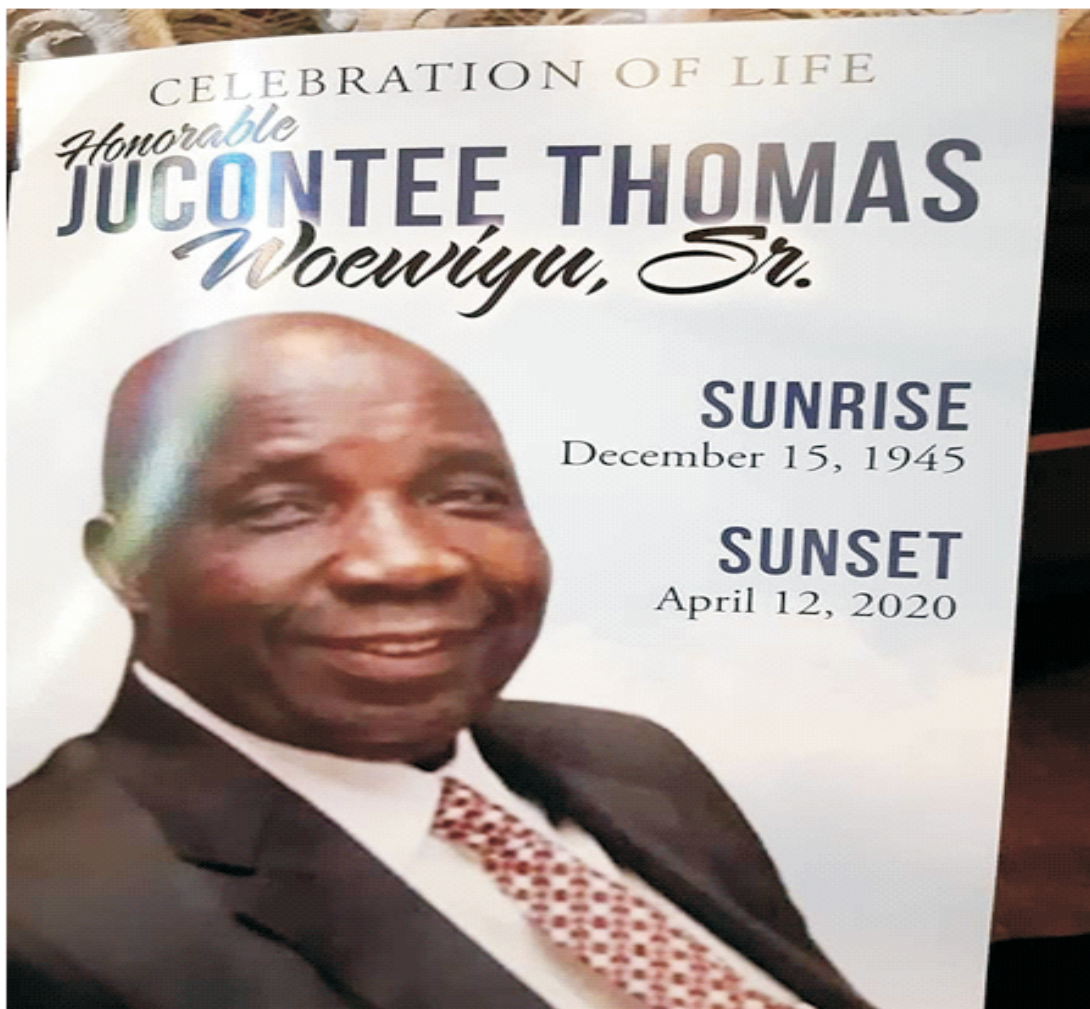
His corpse was interred at the Arlington Cemetery in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, following befitting funeral rites at the Collingdale First Church of the Nazarene in Collingdale. The former NPFL Defense Spokesman died while awaiting sentencing after a federal jury on July 3, 2018, convicted him in Philadelphia for lying to U.S. immigration officials about his role in war crimes committed by the NPFL including acts of torture,

video had something positive to say about their father. She claimed "My father was a guru at putting people together. No matter all the different activities that he had regarding his participation in his country, he never forgot about us. He always had a vision." The deceased was born on December 15, 1945, in Grand Bassa County, Liberia, as Thomas Juncontee Smith.

He was the seventh of thirteen children. He was delivered on a bed of cut banana leaves. "I was born on banana leaves," the late Woewiyu said in the presentencing video produced a year ago by his family. Then he declared "But I've always sworn to myself that my kids would be born on a silk blanket.... I've always tried to do something to be worth the name of my family, my village, my country." He earned an associate of arts (AA) degree from Brooklyn College of CUNY; and later obtained a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University.

NPFL Link

Prior to December 24, 1989, the name, Jucontee Thomas Woewiyu, didn't ring bell in Liberian politics; it was unknown. However, things changed dramatically. Beginning December 24, 1989 to 1994,



of Liberia (NPFL). The NPFL was a ragtag army that gained notoriety globally in the early 1990's for ferocity in the tiny West African country of Liberia. The Front was ruthless and it was credited for initiating Liberia's first civil which lasted from 1989 to 1997.

Liberia is nearly 173 old. The country gained independence on July 26, 1847. It has a population of nearly 5 million people. On December 24, 1989, the NPFL launched an invasion into the country. The rebellion started in Butuo, a town situated at the Republic of Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire border in Nimba County, northeastern Liberia. The military uprising was fixated on the violent overthrow of the late President Samuel K. Doe administration. The late Doe was a despot; and he presided over an autocracy.

The rebellion and other successive civil war lasted for 14 years; and reportedly decimated more than 250 thousand human lives and millions of dollars'

ethnically targeted killings, and the conscription of child soldiers. He was to face 75 years imprisonment.

Life in US

Reportedly the late Woewiyu migrated to the US in 1969; and initially settled in New York. He was a legal Permanent Resident while intermittently serving in the disbanded NPFL and former President Taylor's government. He last lived in Collingdale and reportedly invested in real estate. He was a family man; he was married with children and grandchildren. U.S. Navy Lt. Monconjay Thomas Woewiyu, 34, is one of his children. In a presentencing video reportedly created by the Woewiyu family a year ago, Lt. Monconjay reportedly described his father as a mentor. "It is because of him that I understand what it is to be a man," he said. "His dedication to the community inspired me to join the armed forces," the US Navy Lt. said.

Mrs. Hawa Zoe Dahnsaw is the late Woewiyu's oldest daughter. She like her brother Monconjay in the same

the late Jucontee was a famous man in Liberia. His name resonated with Liberians and many people worldwide. He was respected, adored, and honored by many including world leaders, especially West African leaders given the critical role he played in the advancement of the NPFL's led rebellion against the late President Doe administration.

His name was synonymous to the ex-NPFL. Reportedly the disbanded ragtag army was a brainchild of him, former Presidents Charles Taylor and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Samuel Dokie and others. The late Jucontee was a towering and powerful figure in the Front. As Defense Spokesman, he was a prominent figure in the execution of the NPFL's led anarchy.

Also, he was a confidante of former President Taylor. Before winning the 1997 presidential election in Liberia, Mr. Taylor was leader of the NPFL. The late Woewiyu and many of Mr. Taylor's former foot

# Tom Woewiyu: An Ex-Iconic

Cont'd from page 10

soldiersshuttled the world championing the cause of the NPFL. Also, they justified the Front's maiming and slaughtering of Liberians. They were Mr. Taylor's war heroes.

Tom, as he was popularly known by many of his peers, was brash and merciless in advancing the NPFL's war agenda at international peace conferences held on Liberia. He routinely granted news interviews to the BBC's Focus on Africa, the Voice of America (VOA) and other international media outlets about the disbanded NPFL, its former leader Charles Taylor and the organization's agenda and vision for a liberated and transformed Liberia. The BBC's former West Africa Correspondent, Elizabeth Blunt, in a testimony delivered at the late Woewiyu's 2018 trial in the City of Philadelphia said "He was very articulate-not as flamboyant as Charles Taylor, but in a bit of the same style." She furthered "If you were trying to put someone forward that gives the impression that yours is a serious political movement, he was a good PR man."

During the heydays of the NPFL's self-styled revolution, the fallen Woewiyu and his war cronies lived 'large' while majority of Liberians perished in villages, towns, cities, and refugee camps. They resided in up-scale homes, accumulated material wealth overnight and had regular meals.

Also, they drove flashy cars; and sent their wives and children abroad for education, medical treatment, and annual vacations while war afflicted Liberians at home went scavenging through debris and looted warehouses at the Free Port of Monrovia for grains of rice (Liberia's staple food) just to survive the military onslaught on the country.

## Breakaway

The late Woewiyu severed tie with the NPFL in the later part of 1994. He and two other former executives of the NPFL broke away from Mr. Taylor; and established the Revolutionary Council (NPFL-CRC). The NPFL-CRC allegedly recruited former fighters of the disbanded NPFL to attack Mr. Taylor. However, the late Juontee and Mr. Taylor in 1997 resolved their political differences after Mr. Taylor was elected President. Then former President Taylor appointed him as Minister of Labor. He served from 1997 to 1999.

## Political Life

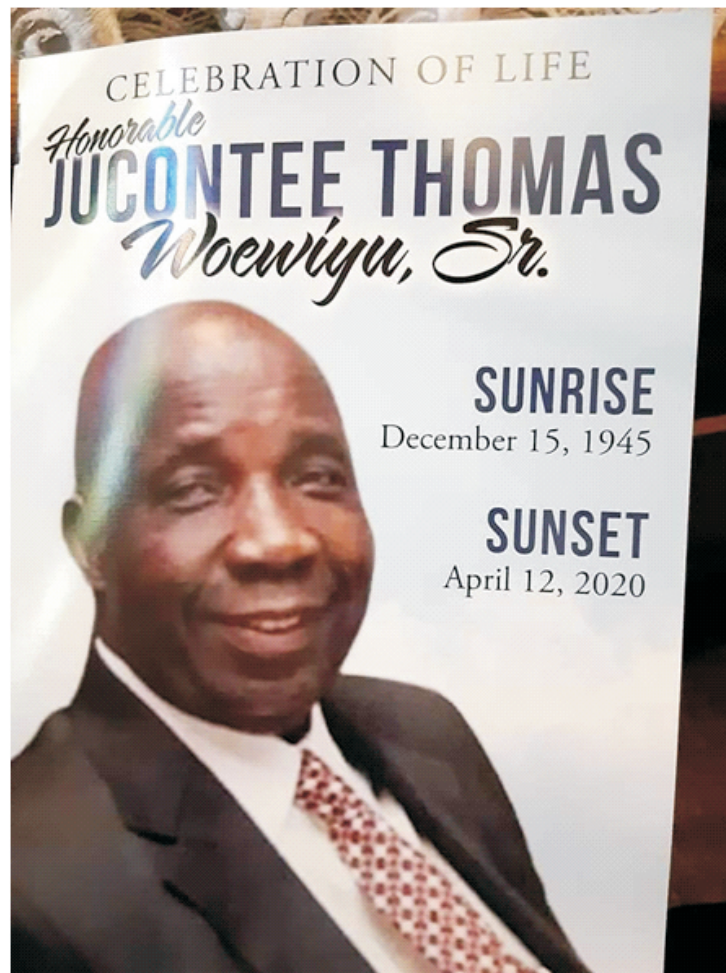
The late Woewiyu was an accomplished politician. Over the years, he rubbed elbows with State Department officials and prominent figures including former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. He was former senior senator of Grand Bassa County and Pro Tempore of the Liberian Senate. Before his arrest by special agents of the US Homeland Security Investigations at Newark's Liberty International Airport in the US on May 12, 2014, he was gearing up for a return to the Liberian Senate.

He was one of Grand Bassa County's senatorial hopefuls in the October 2014 midterm election. In March of that year, he declared "I want to be a senator to perfect and complete the decentralization of Grand Bassa County by ensuring that all political sub-divisions of the county are covered by law and justice".

However, his dream never came to fruition. He was picked up by agents of the US Homeland Security and incarcerated in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on immigration and felony charges. At the time of his arrest and incarceration, the late Woewiyu was 68.

## Immigration Woes

The fallen ex-NPFL's Defense Spokesman's legal



wrangle with the US Homeland Security administration case lasted for more than four years beginning 2014. On May 12, 2014, he was arrested, charged and held on 16 counts; fraudulently attempting to obtain US citizenship-2 counts, fraud in immigration documents-4 counts, false statements in relation to naturalization-3 counts, and perjury-7 counts.

According to the indictment, the former NPFL's war czar was accused of lying about his past with former President Charles G. Taylor, especially his role in the disbanded National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL). On May 16, 2014, he appeared in court for a detention hearing and arraignment. Then he was ordered cuffed without bond while he awaited trial.

US prosecutors then contended that the late Woewiyu, the Liberian politician and one-time ally of the disgraced former President Charles Taylor didn't deserve a bill because he was a 'flight risk'. "Juontee Thomas Woewiyu has every reason to flee this country," the prosecutors insisted.

## Conviction

After years of legal tussle, on July 3, 2018, a grand jury convicted the late Juontee at the Philadelphia based federal court for lying to U.S. immigration officials about his role in war crimes committed by the former NPFL including acts of torture, ethnically targeted killings, and the conscription of child soldiers. He was to face 75 years imprisonment.

He was found guilty on 11 of the 16 counts: 2 counts of fraudulently attempting to obtain citizenship; 2 counts of fraud in immigration documents; 2 counts of false statements in relation to naturalization; and 5 counts of perjury. His sentencing was first scheduled for October 15, 2018, but he was not sentenced. He remained out of prison while awaiting sentencing. His sentence hearing was postponed several times during 2018 and 2019. After the last postponement in April 2019, a new date for the hearing was not set, but was expected in 2020.

## US Citizenship Application

In 2006, the late Woewiyu applied for US citizenship. According to federal authority, the former NPFL guru in his application and subsequent interviews conducted with immigration officers under oath, tried to distance himself from the notorious NPFL that he helped procreate.

Reportedly he denied his involvement with the NPFL. In the application, the late Woewiyu allegedly disowned the Association of Constitutional Democracy in Liberia

(ACDL), a group which he and other Liberians, who resided in the US during the 1980's and 90's reportedly formed for the violent overthrow of the late President Doe administration.

Reportedly the late Woewiyu formed the ACDL. He and other prominent Liberians including the former NPFL leader and President Charles G. Ghankay Taylor financed the NPFL and the Liberian civil uprising. Because of the reported inconsistencies noted in the citizenship application about his role in the NPFL, the Liberian civil war and his reported failure to disclose the 1970's New York State conviction for falsification of business records, the US immigration authority in 2009 denied his application.

Then the US immigration authority declared that the deceased was ineligible for US citizenship because he was reportedly not a person of "Good moral character". However, the late Woewiyu's lawyer, Ray Basso, disputed the claim. According to media reports, he argued that the late NPFL's Defense Spokesman didn't participate in any atrocities.

## Liberian Warlords

The late Woewiyu was one of the very few people held accountable for the widespread carnage that Liberians experienced beginning 1989 to 2003. In March 2012, former Liberian rebel leader, Dr. George Boley was deported from the US over his role played in the Liberian civil conflict. Then a US judge stated that the ex-Liberian Peace Council (LPC) leader's involvement in extra judicial killings and the recruitment of children were grounds for his removal.

Prior to his deportation, Dr. Boley was in US custody for two years. At the height of the Liberian civil wars, there were seven warring factions including the LPC. In 1995, Dr. Boley joined other warlords, including Charles Taylor, to lead an interim council for about a year. After presidential elections in 1997, the conflict resumed. His deportation was followed by the conviction of the disgraced former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, for crimes against humanity. He is now serving a 50 years jail time in Britain.

Mr. Taylor was leader of the former NPFL. In May 2012, judges at the International Court in The Hague convicted him for aiding and abetting rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) of Sierra Leone in the commission of human rights violations. He was accused of giving monetary and material support to the RUF in the destabilization of Sierra Leone, a neighboring country of Liberia.

About the Author: Moses D. Sandy is a US based retired Liberian journalist and a writer. He's immediate past president of the acclaimed Association of Liberian Journalists in the Americas (ALJA); and former Editor-in-Chief of the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS).

In recent years, Mr. Sandy has penned several thought provoking articles on corruption, bad governance, and social issues obtaining in contemporary Liberia. He holds a Master's in Social Work (MSW) from the Philadelphia based Temple University. Also, Mr. Sandy holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Mass Communication with emphasis in broadcast journalism from the University of Liberia.

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## Neymar loses lawsuit with Barcelona over bonus



Paris St Germain and Brazil forward Neymar has been ordered to pay his former club Barcelona 6.7 million euros (\$7.51 million) after losing a lawsuit over an unpaid bonus, the Spanish champions said in a statement on Friday.

Neymar moved from Barca to PSG for a world record fee

of 222 million euros in 2017 but took the La Liga side to court over the terms of the last contract he signed with them a year earlier, claiming he was entitled to 43.6 million euros.

"Barcelona expresses its satisfaction with the verdict announced today in relation to the lawsuit involving FC Barcelona and the player

Neymar Jr regarding the amount of the signing bonus in the final renewal of the player's contract," said the club's statement.

"The ruling has fully dismissed the player's claim for payment of 43.6 million euros, and has accepted a large part of the defence presented by FC Barcelona, as a result of which the player must return 6.7 million euros to the club.

"Since the player's representative is entitled to appeal this decision, the club shall continue to fervently defend its legitimate interests."

Neymar's representatives could not immediately be reached for comment.

Despite their long-running legal dispute, Barca tried to sign Neymar last year and the player even stopped training with PSG in order to try and force through the move, prompting angry protests from the French side's supporters.



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## Three PSG players test positive for coronavirus

The Ligue 1 champions are scheduled to return to training this week ahead of two cup finals and the Champions League's decisive stages

Paris Saint-Germain have confirmed three players and one member of staff have tested positive for coronavirus.

The Ligue 1 champions, who were crowned in April after the remainder of season was cancelled and positions decided on a points-per-game

basis because of the coronavirus pandemic, are due to return to training ahead of the Coupe de France and Coupe de la Ligue finals and the resumption of the Champions League.

Thomas Tuchel's men are through to the last eight of the Champions League, which will be finished in a tournament in Lisbon in August. They sealed a place in the quarter-finals of the European competition prior to the season's interruption in March at the expense of Borussia



Dortmund, joining Atalanta, Atletico Madrid and RB Leipzig as one of the four teams who have already advanced from the last-16 stage. Prior to that tournament PSG are scheduled to face Saint-Etienne in the Coupe de France final on July 24 and then Lyon in the last Coupe de la Ligue showpiece on July 31, which added to Ligue 1 and the Trophée des Champions means the French side remain in the running to complete an unprecedented quintuple.

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