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Continental News

Libya government regains full control of Tripoli

Libya's UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) has regained full control of Tripoli after recapturing the capital's airport.

Gen Khalifa Haftar's forces have been besieging the city since April 2019.

But intensified military support from Turkey helped government forces drive Gen Haftar's Russian-backed troops back from the frontlines.

A new diplomatic effort is under way to try to restart talks on a lasting ceasefire in the oil-rich nation.

The recapture of the international airport in Tripoli - long out of use - is the strongest symbolic victory for the Libyan government so far, reports the BBC's Arab affairs editor Sebastian Usher.

Libya has been torn by violence since long-time ruler Col Muammar Gaddafi was deposed and killed in 2011 by Nato-backed forces. Some of the biggest hurdles to resolving the conflict in Libya have been the involvement of a multitude of countries by proxy, the continued arms

flow despite a long-standing UN embargo, and the belief that a military victory allows any warring side to consolidate power.

The internal power shift is often brief until the next battle rolls in.

Libya's short and protracted battles have come and gone over the years and no matter

who claims victory at the end of each one, the essence of the problem remains largely unchanged.

The internationally recognised government and the forces fighting for them never really lost control of Tripoli after Gen Haftar launched an attack on it, but they were struggling to

maintain it over the past year until they received overt military backing from Turkey.

There is a sense of déjà vu over Libya's various conflicts for good reason - time and again, following any respite from war, there is a pause, re-grouping, and political talks, often followed by new armed group alliances and another battle.

A long-term resolution ultimately lies in Libyan hands and a resolve to put an end to the bloodshed and power grabs - everything else is secondary. A military source with Gen Haftar's forces, whose base is in the eastern

city of Benghazi, said they were pulling back from all of Tripoli's suburbs, reports the Reuters news agency.

The GNA advance follows reports last month that mercenaries from the Russian Wagner Group, who had been fighting with Gen Haftar, were evacuating from Libya, although this was never confirmed.

In early May, a leaked UN report said that hundreds of mercenaries from the Wagner Group - run by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a close associate of President Putin - were operating in Libya.

Gen Haftar is also backed by the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, while the GNA enjoys the support of Turkey, Qatar and Italy. BBC



Soldiers are celebrating after recapturing Tripoli airport

New bus rules in Uganda leave many stranded

Hundreds of people in Uganda's capital, Kampala, have been left stranded on the first day of the resumption of public transport since coronavirus restrictions were lifted.

There appears to be a shortage of buses and mini-

bus taxis following new regulations introduced by the government.

Passengers started arriving at public transport terminals at the crack of dawn. Some were carrying mattresses, bags and other belongings hoping to leave the city after two months

of a strict lockdown.

But by the afternoon many were still waiting for vehicles to arrive.

Authorities have asked operators of long-haul buses and mini-bus taxis to register afresh and be assigned specific routes.

The exercise started a week ago and one association of taxi owners in the capital says only 10% of its members had completed the process.

Public transport in Kampala is known to be crowded and chaotic, the government says it's trying to manage the sector better especially in light of Covid-19.

New guidelines to prevent the spread of coronavirus state that public transport vehicles can only carry half their capacity. In addition, passengers must wear face masks and hand sanitiser must be provided.

Fares have also gone up, which has made it more difficult for people to travel. BBC



Kenya officer faces murder charge over curfew killing

Two Kenyan police officers will be charged with murder after investigations by the country's police watchdog, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) said in a statement.

Duncan Ndiema Ndiwa is accused of shooting dead a 13-year-old boy Yassin Hussein Moyo who was on the balcony

western Kenya.

The IPOA also named four other police officers who will be charged over an assault on a man in Garissa, in the east of the country.

On Wednesday, the watchdog body said that 15 people had been killed police and 31 injured since coronavirus measures were introduced on 25 March.



of his home in a suburb of the capital, Nairobi, according to the IPOA. The shooting happened while the police were enforcing a curfew order in place to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Lotugh Angórita killed a teacher, Colleta Amondi Ouda, while responding to a report of a burglary in Siaya county,

The IPOA said it had received 87 complaints from the public, including assaults resulting in serious injuries, robbery, inhuman treatment and sexual assault.

Human rights groups have often complained about police brutality and impunity for the officers involved. BBC

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EDITORIAL

Rescuing our children from rape and sodomy

LIBERIA IS GRADUALLY but seriously descending to moral decadence where family values and societal standards have slipped thru the window, allowing immorality to take its seat in homes, churches, public offices and even market places.

OUR ATTENTION IS specifically drawn to the increasing wave of domestic violence permeating the country, including rape and sodomy of our young girls and boys by men, some time two or three times their ages, resulting to severe injuries and death.

HERE ARE SEVERAL cases: Police in Monrovia are investigating a man for raping and impregnating his 15-year-old step-daughter, while a young man is being held by police for reportedly raping a 12-year-old girl in Tuan town, resulting to death and another male adult is undergoing police investigation for sodomizing a nine-year-old boy near the headquarters of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change in Congo Town, outskirt of Monrovia. Last month, a young man shot and killed his fiancé in Kakata, Margibi County after the latter quitted the relation, while a man killed his lover in Bong County with a machete for suspected unfaithfulness.

VIOLENCE OF ANY kind in homes and communities pose serious risks not just to parents but children as well, who are the most vulnerable in a family. As the first line of protection for the home, parents have a duty to protect wellbeing of children under their care, particularly in the midst of a major health pandemic.

BUT UNDER THE excuse of going out to hustle for food for the family, most parents leave their children vulnerable to evil-minded men, who prey on them to quench their insatiable sexual desires like the case involving the 15-year-old minor who has forcibly become a mother thru the wicked behavior of someone who should have provided guidance over her life.

INSTEAD, HE TOOK advantage of her vulnerability when the mother left her home and sexually abused her with threats not to tell anyone. What about the stories of the nine-year-old lad, who was sodomized and the 12-year-old girl, who died subsequently at the James R. Davies Memorial hospital in Paynesville? The lack of parental care and guidance are responsible.

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS should be reminded in no uncertain terms that providing care and guidance for our children does not stop at putting food on the table or paying school fees, as much as these are important. But it also encompasses overseeing the wholesome wellbeing of the child or children, which includes health, clothes, physical and emotional fitness, among others.

LIBERIA HAS A strong rape law and a fast track court (Court 'E') at the Temple of Justice to specifically try rape cases and bring suspected perpetrators to justice. The Government of Liberia, under former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf enacted a new rape law, amending the Penal Code of June 1976 Chapter 14, Section 14.70 and 14.71, respectively, making the crime nonbailable. According to the Rape Law of January 2006, a person who has sexual intercourse with another person (male and female) without his or her consent, has committed rape that is punishable by 10 years or life imprisonment, depending on the degree of the rape which may be categorized as (rape of a minor, rape resulting in serious bodily harm, rape using a weapon, and gang rape), respectively.

BUT THE LIBERIAN Senate in 2017 amended the new Rape Law, making it bailable. The Senate Judiciary Committee argued that the punishment for rape as provided in the Rape Law is excessive and therefore unconstitutional, citing Article 21 (d) (ii) of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, which states that excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor excessive punishment inflicted on perpetrators.

NOTWITHSTANDING, WE STILL believe strongly that though the law is on the book or it may have been modified as per the Senate's amendment, the first line of defend for children is parents. If parents truly care and love their children, they would go extra mile in ensuring their wellbeing, and by extension reducing domestic and sexual violence in our communities.

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COMMENTARY

By Ian Buruma

Another Long, Hot Summer in America

Many Americans are clearly horrified by President Donald Trump's crass and incendiary words in response to the protests sweeping the country's major cities. But will age-old racial prejudices, often unspoken, or even acknowledged, still make them vote for the false security of a coarse white bully?

NEW YORK - Could the United States be facing a reprise of the summer of 1968? Then, too, the world saw images of popular rage boiling over in America, as mostly African-American inner cities went up in flames, and young people were tear-gassed, charged at, and often brutally beaten by riot police and National Guardsmen.

The result of the civil disorder was what some liberals in America fear will happen later this year. The Republican presidential candidate Richard Nixon promised the "silent majority," the "non-shouters," and the "non-demonstrators," that he would restore law and order with force. Devastated, mostly African-American urban areas were starved of federal funds and further isolated, white suburbanites bought more guns, and police forces were armed as though they were a branch of the military.

The trouble in 1968, like the protests today, also started with anger against the oppression of black people in America. A day after Martin Luther King, Jr., declared that "the nation is sick," he was shot dead by a white racist criminal. The protests that followed were not just an expression of anger at King's murder, but also the lack of economic and educational opportunities that were the result of a long and often violent racist history.

Despite an African-American's two terms in the White House, conditions today are hardly better - and in some ways worse. King's violent death was echoed this year by that of George Floyd, the defenseless 46-year-old black man in Minneapolis killed by a policeman who kneeled on his neck for almost nine minutes.

Moreover, COVID-19 has hit African-Americans with particular fury, because many lack financial savings and are forced to work in risky areas, as nurses and other "essential workers," often without proper health care. Once the global depression sinks in, many won't be cushioned by anything at all.

And yet, there are important differences between now and the summer of 1968, apart from the fact that the music was more interesting then, and there were more sexual opportunities. The last point is not entirely frivolous. Being effectively locked up in relative isolation for several months will only have added to the frustrations of many young people, who are only too glad to vent them in the streets.¹

The protests in 1968 were not just about racial inequality, but also about the Vietnam War. The two issues were related. President Lyndon B. Johnson, responsible for escalating that reckless and savage war, was a Democrat, the same man who passed civil rights bills that had actually improved African-Americans' lives, and by doing so provoked the hatred of many Southern voters, who switched their allegiance to the Republican Party, helping to push it further to the right.

The "shouters" and "demonstrators" that Nixon

railed against were not just black people, but also young whites who resisted being forced to fight in a war they considered immoral. Robert F. Kennedy, the candidate who promised to end the war and who visited the burning ghettos to calm African-Americans' fears, was assassinated two months after King.

Nixon won the election that November not only because he soothed the panicked "silent majority" with promises of law and order, but also because Hubert Humphrey, a decent mainstream Democrat, refused to condemn the Vietnam War. Joe Biden, this year's presumptive Democratic candidate, has shown that for all his flaws, he may not be another Hubert Humphrey. His sympathies are clearly with the demonstrators. Biden has publicly recalled many instances of police violence against unarmed black people and promised to reform law enforcement.

In bad times, the challenger has a certain advantage. Just as Johnson was held accountable for escalating an increasingly unpopular war, the current occupant of the White House will have to own the sickness of America today. Donald Trump cannot be blamed for the COVID-19 pandemic, but he can be held accountable for botching the response.²

Likewise, the institutional racism that once again is setting America's streets on fire did not begin with Trump. But he has deliberately fanned the flames by insulting dark-skinned immigrants as criminals and calling armed white supremacists decent, by dismissing angry black protesters as "thugs," and encouraging militiamen, guardsmen, and policemen to do their worst, or as he put it with a snarl: "Please don't be too nice."

While some groups on the far right in the US talk, hopefully, of a coming "race war," Trump does nothing to dampen their violent enthusiasm. On the contrary, he seems to revel in it. Trump's recent tweet that "when the looting starts, the shooting starts" is a direct quote from the police chief of Miami, Florida, who ordered his troopers in 1967 to aim their shotguns at demonstrators from the "negro areas" in his city.

This is called "stirring up the base." And much of Trump's base surely will be stirred up. The big question in November will be what people who voted for him in 2016, but are not as fanatical in their support, will do. What are white suburban women, midwestern blue-collar workers, and elderly southerners (who are among most vulnerable to COVID-19 infection) thinking now?

Many Americans are clearly horrified by their president's crass and incendiary words. But will their disapproval be offset by anxiety about violent social unrest? Will age-old racial prejudices, often unspoken, or even acknowledged, still make them vote for the false security of a coarse white bully?

Much will depend on how hot this summer gets. If people think rationally in November, it is hard to imagine that enough of them would vote to keep this appalling administration in power for another four years. But fear is reason's worst enemy.



Lord, our village has the leadership it deserves-plain and simple

Dear Father:

Hmm, you know, it is so interesting how you wake up every morning in this highly forested village and hear the same things blaring on the airways and splashing in our faces from the pages of the tabloids.

Zealously, like a host of invisible beings, they all sing in unison but with different verses and stanzas, as if they have been assigned to them by a choir master specifically with a dedicated note and pitch. Yet, for whatever reason, the villagers are never tire of listening to these verses days in and days out with excitement too.

One would think that with the kind of responses that come as a feedback from these verses and notes, the villagers would get it right the next time they show up to decide who should lead our village. But unfortunately, they would show up the next time making the same choices that have kept the village in perpetual retrogression.

And come to think of it, these melodious verses and fined tuned notes have been read and sang over and again embellished in them warnings about the choices we make concerning our village. Yet, our people for whatever reason continue to vote the same way as if they have been cast under a spell by a single gift of a bag of rice or a cash of just five dollar Uncle Sam's money.

Ours is a sad story Father. Some people think we are cursed as a people and a village for a sin unknown. But I don't want to think so Father. Yes, I just don't want to think so because we are a village rich in everything.

Our problem has nothing to do with wealth, because we have rich mineral resources which are the envy of other villages. It is a hard thing to imagine a village rich in iron ore, gold, bauxites, soon to find oil, diamonds etc, and could be as underdeveloped as we are.

Father, some people blame it on our leadership. They say our village leaders have brought us here. Yes, they say leaders in and leaders out have failed to deliver. Imagine this Country Boy that was overwhelming voted for quite recently, see how he has and is miserably disappointing the entire village. But come to think of it again, Father, I strongly disagreed that we have leadership drought in our village. Oh yes, I certainly disagreed on this one. The problem of our village is the people. What do you mean by that my son?

Yes, Father, the people are the problems of our village not the ones we select to lead us. When you have a village of gullible people who continue to make the wrong choices despite waking up to these early morning choruses, then the problem is not the leaders rather it is the people who put them there to lead. So, you see, we get the kind of leadership we deserve-plain and simple. Hmmm!

Yes, Father, we get the kind of leadership we deserve in this village. The reason why we as a village and people will continue to repeat the same mistakes year in and year out is because whenever we decide to choose a leader, we don't place the overall general good of our village ahead-rather we think of our personal benefits and not the village.

Uh um. It is about what I stand to gain as an individual when Paul is place in leadership and not what can Paul do for our village.

So, when we decide to choose our leaders based on our personal benefits, like rice, lapa, small cash, then we are simply telling ourselves I have already reaped my harvest, whatever the person does while in leadership is up to him or her.

Now, this is why when the chiefs at the Traditional Council are ask to sign a piece of document, they would first ask what is in there for me? Don't blame them, they have already paid you for the position. You were only seeking your personal benefit when you took those T-shirts, rice, lapa and small cash. Now the chief must get return on investing in you to place him or her there.

And there are some though, who would continue to back these people regardless of the ills. Recently, one of our now much celebrated chiefs received bribe of USD6500 like the rest of his colleagues to sign a certain paper. They coined it as operational fund and defended it to the letter that it was not a bribe. His supporters without a second thought that whenever you are promise a reward to do something, whether that reward is legitimately yours or not-once a promise is made it is a form of inducement for you to act and that is tantamount to a bribe-it is as simple as that.

But they ignored this very moral principle and decided to lynch the messenger-sycophancy. Sycophants, these are the kinds of people prevalence in our village and therefore make the kinds of political actors we have today.

OPINION

By Philip N. Howard

Bending the Curve of Fake Pandemic News

Since 2016, a global community of fact checkers has taken shape to fight fake news and misinformation online, much of which is generated by authoritarian regimes. Now that we are in the grips of a deadly pandemic, these efforts must be celebrated and strengthened.

OXFORD - Would you believe that the coronavirus was developed by a government to weaken its foreign rivals? Or that "patriots" created it to foment a revolution against "big government" and the "deep state"? Sadly, far too many people who have encountered such disinformation online have shared it with their friends and family.

Nonetheless, we are learning more about who produces fake pandemic news, and how to stop its circulation. In addition to the health-care workers risking their own lives and the scientists working on treatments and a vaccine, another branch of the COVID-19 response also deserves recognition. Over the past few years, the world's fact checkers have developed a capacity to spot and label lies circulating in the public sphere. Now, they have turned their attention to junk news about the COVID-19 crisis, helping social-media platforms move more quickly to dispel and discourage rumors, misinformation, and conspiracy theories.

At the Oxford Internet Institute, we are tracking the large-scale, multi-platform flood of COVID-19 misinformation produced by authoritarian regimes. State-backed news outlets in China, Iran, Russia, and Turkey have substantial global audiences, and theoretically could reach one billion social-media accounts with English-language content. Although some of these accounts are fake, the content is being shared across networks of tens of millions of real users.

The disinformation outlets tend to produce less content than independent, professional news outlets do, but they can attract as much as ten times the effective engagement with the material they turn out. Unlike more responsible publishers, they are actively politicizing health news and information to tap into pre-existing fears and frustration. By criticizing democracies as corrupt and incompetent, praising authoritarian leaders' global leadership, and promoting conspiracy theories about the origins of the coronavirus and the motives of international health agencies, they are trying to shape - or at least muddy - the global narrative as much as possible.

Of course, similarly distracting narratives are also emanating from the world's democracies. In the United States, the Trump administration has emphasized the fact that the virus originated in Wuhan, China - a point that is largely irrelevant to finding a cure or organizing a public-health response. The only reason to fixate on the Wuhan connection is to politicize the crisis or promote stereotypes about ethnic Chinese.

That's the bad news. The good news is that we now know where the disinformation is coming from. By analyzing a large sample of health-related COVID-19 lies, we found that one in five can be sourced to politicians, celebrities, and prominent public figures, and that a huge proportion of the misinformation is being propelled by media agencies controlled by authoritarian governments.

We also know that the civic response has been aggressive. A global community of fact checkers that came together after the United Kingdom's Brexit debate and the US presidential election in 2016 has rapidly pivoted to checking health information. While volunteers in the UK track misinformation through the Infotagion project, their American counterparts are developing a database of legitimate COVID-19 testing sites. With many credible fact-checking organizations cataloguing lies, there was a ninefold increase in health-news fact checks between January and March of this year.

Unlike in 2016, social-media platforms are responding. The majority of social-media posts that fact checkers have deemed false have either been removed or affixed with a warning label. But the response has varied widely across the major platforms. According to a study (of which I was a co-author) from the Reuters Institute at the University of Oxford, 59% of Twitter posts rated as false remain up, compared to 27% of false postings on YouTube, and 24% on Facebook.

For the individual user, the longstanding advice for newsfeed hygiene remains the same. Don't forward, like, or share information unless you've spent some time inspecting the source and thinking about the claims. When you engage with friends and family, share only what you know to be factual, and avoid sensationalist, conspiratorial content or commentaries posing as news stories.

You should also diversify your information sources, and avoid overloading on political commentary. We should also all be mindful of the panic-inducing effect that comes with constant consumption of COVID-19 news. Undue anxiety can send us searching for hidden and speculative explanations, which we will then be more likely to share. You are better off checking just once per day for updates from a few trusted authorities. If you are looking for public-health advice, consult the websites of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization.

As we fight the virus, we also must battle junk pandemic news and misinformation. The dissemination of politicized health messages is especially dangerous, as are attacks on credible public agencies and trustworthy, professional news organizations. We need to do everything we can to ensure that people are making the best choices for their own health and the health of those around them.

If you are healthy and confined at home, consider joining the resistance. The simple act of not sharing junk health news that pops up in your feed is already a major contribution. The more people help to bend the misinformation curve downward, the healthier we and our societies will be. www.project-syndicate.org

PERSPECTIVES PERSPECTIVES

Public Policy. Economics. Democratic Politics. Political/Economic Decentralization. Public Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship

LEADERS OF THE UNION OF LIBERIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN THE AMERICAS (ULAA) MUST BE ONLY LIBERIAN CITIZENS PART ONE

The Reasons for this Requirement are crucial and critical because:

- ULAA was founded, organized and incorporated by *Liberians for Liberia and Liberians at home*, in the Americas and elsewhere, and chartered by the sovereign State of the United States of America not only as a socio-cultural fellowship forum/organization, but also, mainly, as a political advocacy/action institution, designed and dedicated to seek, secure, protect and preserve the political well-being of Liberians through defined, peaceful activities for democratic, socio-economic and political transformation of Liberia;
- That such individuals seeking election of and appointment to ULAA leadership positions must be only Liberian citizens, given the scope, level and political nature of their required duties and responsibilities, particularly, during these critical, rapidly-changing, 21st century, socio-economic and political conditions now prevailing in Liberia and the World; and
- Now, some 14 years later in 2020 those discussions/arguments have become passionate, divisive and demands/proposals tearing the nation apart and on the brink of political, economic collapse, as shown during the 2017 elections.

Our position is in support of and draws upon ULAA's historical, socio-political evolution, including World political development with profound impact on our country, Liberia.

Response to our Position

The responses to our position were many, as expected - supportive/encouraging as they were vicious, false, and irrelevant to our argument and disappointing. Disappointing and unfortunate, because traditional Liberian political culture and some members of its intellectual members, apparently, tend to dishonor nor observe the doctrine of rational debate - **relevance, truth, logic & civility** - by not restricting critical analysis to the issues raised or "at hand", but resort to convenient approaches of **personality attacks** - *character assassinations, falsehoods and ethnic/tribal profiling robed in the discredited "guilt-by-association"*, also, linked to convenient *ethnic/tribal considerations*.

Elsewhere, we observed that we welcome, indeed, encourage comments, including criticisms/critiques of our ideas/opinions and public policy behavior because such intellectual, logical analysis contributes refinement of thought to the development, formulation and exposition of ideas in terms of logic, coherence and clarity. But, "we are disappointed and painfully troubled by the digression . . . of some of the responses". We submit that **BaiGbala** is not on trial here; **it is the issue of Liberian citizenship, non-citizenship and dual citizenship for ULAA leadership that is the defendant in the dock.** "Therefore, the compelling obligation is on the prosecution and defense to present a convincing case against or for the defendant so that the judge or jury may decide the outcome, rather than engage in irrelevant, illogical, false, divisive and destructive personal attacks against each other".

And lastly, on the issue of the allegation that "BaiGbala is a naturalized, United States citizen", Mr. Garnett Gbarmokollie and associates failed to provide support for their allegation. Therefore, we

challenge Mr. Gbarmokollie and company to present the supporting evidence. In that, the USA being a country of records, it can be shown whether or not BaiGbala is such a citizen. The Liberian "they say" approach will not play here without validated evidence.

ULAA Historical Perspective

In our Remarks at the October 2006 ULAA National Conference we stated that the founding and establishment of the ULAA was in response to several and compelling, critical needs.

First and foremost, at the time and period, was the *need for socio-cultural fellowship forum for many young and older Liberians - men and women - who found themselves in a distant, foreign land in search of education. Second, this forum was or is to provide access for academic/intellectual fellowship with other Liberians through debates, presentations and exchanges of ideas, views and experiences gained from their various, respective communities, schools, colleges and universities, in the USA. The need was felt, also, for a program of financial aid to assist needy, qualified Liberian students in order to succeed in school.* All of these, basically then, were social needs.

Liberians - students as well as non-students - then in the



USA, though individually-committed to educational goals, but were loosely held together and in **need of political ideological clarity**. It is important to note that they were, mostly, the descendants of indigenous, Liberian citizens who were excluded, historically and systematically, from political participation, denied access to basic constitutional rights - health, education, civil liberties, protection of the law, and viciously suppressed and oppressed.

This group of Liberians included, also, the descendants of some of the "unconnected Congo- and Americo-Liberians" - *poor, un-educated, un-represented, voiceless and disadvantaged*. These citizens were subjected, also, to socio-economic class discrimination and exclusion, with all the political ills and tyranny that were meted out by the Congo- and Americo-Liberian ruling groups. Both elements of the disadvantaged and oppressed Liberians "fled" our country for the same reason - *to seek and acquire quality education, training and experience in preparation to challenge the status quo and to build a democratic nation for a better life than that of their parents.*

Increase of Liberians, USA

As time went by during the 1970's, more and more Liberians - students and non-students - arrived in the United States; more and more Liberians studied, including the academic requirement of *comparative, analysis of*

world political systems and graduated from some of the prestigious colleges and universities of the United States; they also observed and experienced the efficient/effective management of advanced and progressive, democratic political systems of the developed West. These Liberians observed, experienced and noted, further, that their home Nation, the **Republic of Liberia**, was or is a founding, member-state of the World Body, the United Nations, a high-profile position on the world stage with leading, progressive western nations that advocate the principles of democratic governance.

Significantly, these Liberians noted that the United Nations Charter to which Liberia is a willing signatory, prescribes, among other provisions, that member-states adhere to the principles and values of democratic practice, *including non-discrimination against race, tribe, gender, age, religion, national origin, etc.* But our nation, in flagrant violation of this provision of the UN Charter, continues to discriminate against non-Negroid descendants from acquisition of Liberian citizenship solely on the basis of race.

Liberia's Political Tragedy

Simultaneously, during this period of the early '70s, "adding insult to injury", if you will, the winds of political change that engulfed the political world turned its spotlight on Liberia. The 27-year reign of Dr. William V. S. Tubman as President of our country ended by his death at a London Clinic in the United Kingdom in 1971. His 19-year Vice President, Dr. William R. Tolbert, Jr., ascended to the presidential throne as President of Liberia.

An ordained minister of the Gospel, Vice President, Dr. Tolbert was viewed as the proper agent for political reform and change by political observers/analysts and the newly-organized and budding, pro-democracy groups in Liberia. But noting the Unitary Structure of the Liberian Government defined by rigidly-enforced constitutional prescriptions, Liberian political observers/analysts reasoned that there would be no real, meaningful change or reform by the conservative, True Whig Party policies which characterized Liberia's turbulent, historic past since independence in 1847 and the Tubman Era.

Pro-Democracy Groups organized in Liberia

This reasonable/expectation that there will be "no real, meaningful change" came to pass, unfortunately, although Dr. Tolbert, now President of Liberia, went through series of persuasive, propaganda motions by preaching political slogans of "higher heights, from mats to mattresses", etc., to signify reformed, policy plans and action for social, economic and political developments.

Notwithstanding these political propaganda obstacles, Pro-Democracy Groups active on the ground in Liberia - Susu-Ku, Movement for Justice In Africa (MOJA), the Liberian Student Union (LINSU) of the University of Liberia, The Progressive Alliance of Liberia (PAL), the legendary Public School Teacher, Mr. Albert Porte, a socio-political activist and pamphleteer, others and ULAA advocacy activities USA, took the proverbial "bull by the horns". Together, they undertook and continued concerted political action for change which was rapidly gaining ground. *These actors were, in fact, the children of the older generation, a different breed of political animals as compared to their parents who, apparently and painfully, accepted their fate by their failure to challenge their despotic rulers.*

Please stay tuned for Part two, the conclusions of our analysis in this newspaper.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MRU, UNDP supply COVID-19 materials at borders

The Mano River Union (MRU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) turn over an assortment of supplies to be used in border Counties as part of the fight against #covid19.

MRU and UNDP are collaborating under a project title: "Support to the Mano River Countries in COVID-19 response at the borders"

The project focuses on support to health systems, border awareness and sensitization to enhance prevention and response, and improve cross border surveillance and cooperation among MRU Countries.

It is aimed at significantly reducing cross border transmission of COVID-19; and strengthening risk communication, community engagement and awareness.

The assortment of materials include thermometers, PPEs, hand washing buckets, hand sanitizers, face shields, nose mask, alcohol, awareness materials, protective hand gloves, clorax, mega phones etc.

They were turned over to the Government of Liberia through the office of the National Response Coordinator of the Executive Committee on Coronavirus (ECOC) at the GSA compound.

Madame Broh extolled the role of UNDP and other partners in the Covid-19 fight, stressing accountability and transparency in the distribution of the supplies.

"we remain committed to ensuring that these materials reach the targeted beneficiaries, and we say a big thanks to UNDP for leading the charge in helping the government fight this disease," said Madame Mary Broh.

Earlier, the Resident Coordinator of the MRU Christain Jallah, Sr. described UNDP as a "True Development

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UL expresses gratitude to late Dr. Ben Roberts' family

The University of Liberia on Thursday signed the Book of Condolence for the late Dr. Ben Augustus Roberts, the institution's 11th president, with gratitude expressed to his family for providing for the Republic of Liberia a citizen and a patriot who served the university during Liberia's challenging and difficult time.

The president of the University of Liberia (UL) Rev. Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson led his team of administrators, faculty, alumni and students at the signing ceremony held in the auditorium of the university's Capitol Hill campus on 4 June.

The ceremony follows the demise of the UL former president in Maryland, the United States of America on 21 May this year. From 1999 to 2003, Dr. Roberts served as UL's 11th president.

UL Board of Trustees' Chairperson Rep. Matthew Zarzar says it is a very sorrowful moment "in our lives," referencing their assembly at the university Thursday morning to endorse

the book of condolence of the manifestation of their empathy for the bereaved in honor of a great man, humanitarian and academician.

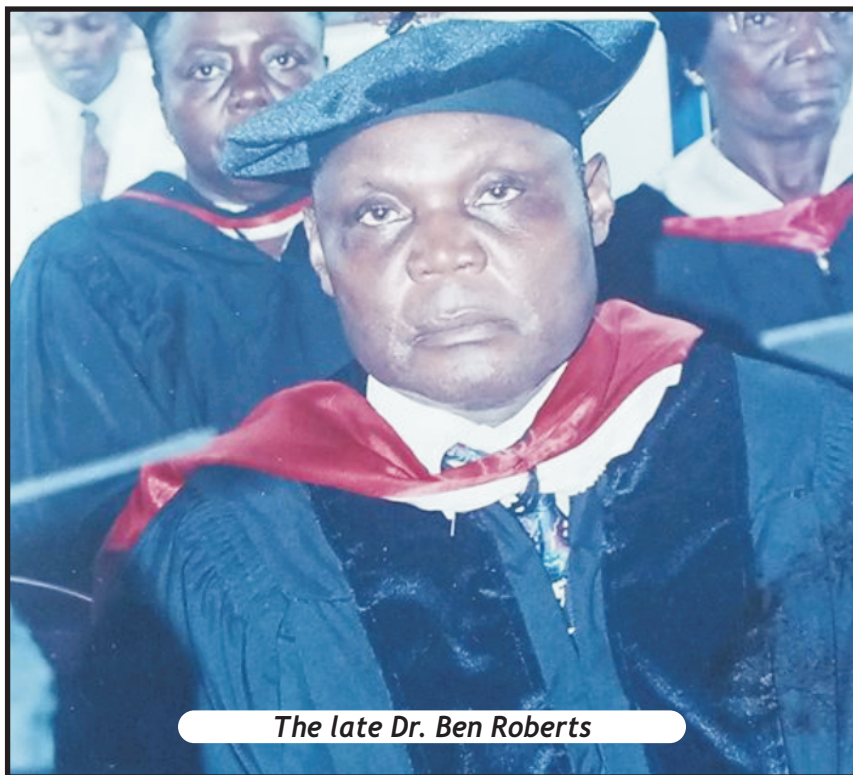
He notes that Dr. Roberts will always be remembered, though he has physically departed the world.

During the signing, UL president Dr. Nelson expresses gratitude to the family of the

late Dr. Roberts for providing for the country a citizen and a patriot to serve the university at a challenging and difficult time not only in the history of the university, but of the country.

He states that the institution finds itself in a time when it has to give honor

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



The late Dr. Ben Roberts

MNG resumes clinic construction

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Mining company MNG Gold has resumed the construction of a modern clinic in Kokoyah District in an effort to provide proper health care for residents.

Several projects initiated by the mining company came at a standstill in Sayweh Town, as a result of the coronavirus crisis in the country.

Speaking to journalists at the project site, Lloyd Ngwayah, the Public Relations Officer of the company, says despite the challenges in the procurement process of the necessary construction materials and observing all the

Administrative District. Road connectivity remains a major challenge in Kokoyah and other districts in Bong.

Our correspondent says when rehabilitated, the road will create free movement of goods and services in that part of the county.

Lloyd Ngwayah then notes that the reconstruction of the vocational school will start very soon. The school initiated by MNG Gold will help many young people in Kokoyah and Bong County as well.

"You know we don't just want to be here working without help to provide some vocational opportunities for



health protocols, the institution has resumed normal works on the clinic.

He reveals that the Turkish mining company is wielding all efforts in order to fulfill promises made to the company's affected communities in the district of Representative Albert Hills.

At the same time, Mr. Ngwayah confirms that the company is expected to embark on construction and rehabilitation of several feeder roads linking Dolo and New Town, U-lah as well as Camp -2 Town in Boinsin

our people, so the company deemed it necessary to build the school," Lloyd adds.

The vocational school which was almost at the stage of completion, gutted fire last year and the cause of the fire has not been fully established.

Even though the MNG PRO did not state when the two projects will be completed, he tells journalists that all the necessary materials are available and there will be no standstill of the projects until they are fully completed and dedicated.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

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EPA nets US\$8.9m for Sinoe coastal defense

The Government of Liberia through the Environment Protection Agency with support from the United Nations Development Programme has secured US\$8.9 million for a coastal

rise and other life-threatening climate change impacts

A press statement from the EPA says the Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved Wednesday, June 3, US\$8.9 million in new grant funding from the Least

sources. The United States Agency for International Development will provide US\$28 million in co-finance, while the World Bank will provide US\$15 million, and Conservation International will provide US\$500,000 of in-kind contributions through ongoing work in Liberia and West Africa. It also builds on earlier and ongoing projects funded by the GEF and the Green Climate Fund.

“Climate change is undermining our goals to build peace and prosperity for our people. Taken together with other actions, this innovative project protects vulnerable coastal residents from sea-level rise and supports our global vision to end hunger and poverty by 2030,” said EPA Executive Director, Randall Dobayou.

An estimated 64 percent Liberians live below the poverty line, with 1.3 million living in extreme poverty. Food insecurity affects four out of 10 people, and chronic malnutrition is high. The Ebola Virus and COVID-19 pandemic have put even more Liberians at risk.

The economy is still unable to generate sufficient employment, especially for

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resilient project that would benefit 80,000 residents in Sinoe County, southeast Liberia.

The project includes building climate resilient livelihoods, protecting communities from sea level

Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for the coastal resilience project that would also rehabilitate 20,000 hectares of degraded coastal habitats.

The seven-year project brings together co-financing and support from a number of

Soniwein community blames Rep. Gray -for leadership crisis

By Emmanuel Mundaye

The head of grievance and ethics in Soniwein Community, Central Monrovia Stephen Papa Cooper has blamed Montserrado County District#8 Representative, Moses Acarous Gray for the long-running leadership crisis in the community.

Presently, there are three individuals fighting over the

community chairmanship, including Lusine Teah, Mabeyan Kanneh, and Tarley Johnson.

Addressing reporters recently in Monrovia, Mr. Cooper disclosed that in 2018 after the community leadership elections, which pronounced Mr. Tarley Johnson as winner, confusion ensued.

He explained that two other contestants from the race namely; MessrsTeah and Kanneh

challenged the poll results on grounds that Tarley Johnson did not win fairly.

According to them, ballot papers from the poll were taken to the headquarters of the Liberia National Police (LNP) in order to investigate the matter and make findings to the National Elections Commission (NEC), the body that is charged with the responsibility of conducting free, fair, and transparent elections, including national and local elections.

He continued that at the end of the LNP counting the ballots, the elections commission of Soniwein Community declared Tarley Johnson as winner.

Mr. Cooper said since the end of the elections, the leadership has written Representative Gray to intervene and reunite the residents, but the call has fallen on deaf ears.

He said as a result of Gray's alleged failure to settle the leadership crisis, the community is being denied several opportunities, including the recent rice distribution to some slum communities by Liberia's

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Representative, Moses Acarous Gray

Bong reports Covid-19 related death

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

There is fear in Bong County following a pronouncement by the County Health Team that there one person confirmed to have coronavirus has died in the county.

According to an official of the County Health Dr. Adolphus Yeiah, Bong County has confirmed its first case of coronavirus but he did not identify the victim.

Dr. Yeiah however told a

specimens were taken to Monrovia for testing and were proven positive of the virus by the National Public Health Institute (NPHIL).

Dr. Yeiah explains that eight persons who had contact with the victim have already been quarantined at their homes where they will be monitored by health officials in the county.

Before the press conference



press conference Thursday, 4 June that the case is a 52 - year - old man who died recently.

Dr. Yeiah details that the virus was brought into the county by the 52 - year - old man who was a resident of the Millionaire Quarter Community in Gbarnga, Bong County.

He continues that the 52 - year - old died in the community, adding that his

on Thursday morning, Dr. Yeiah had earlier complained of the lack of ambulances in the county.

He states that the health team is currently challenged when it comes to vehicles to transport patients to the various hospitals in the county.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

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Daily

Français

Les entreprises GSM luttent contre des taxes supplémentaires

Une autre tentative d'Orange Liberia d'obtenir la suppression des taxes réglementaires dites excessive n'a rien donné de concluant.

Il y a environ une semaine, Orange Liberia avait saisi la Cour suprême pour contester une ordonnance de l'autorité de régulation du secteur des télécommunications du Libéria portant augmentation des taxes et l'annulation des trois jours d'appels gratuits.

Il convient de rappeler qu'en 2018, la Liberia

Telecommunication Authority (LTA) a publié l'ordonnance 0016-02-25-19 imposant des prix planchers et des taxes supplémentaires sur les appels et les données internet. Avant de rendre l'ordonnance, la LTA a impliqué toutes les parties prenantes et leurs contributions ont été prises en considération.

La LTA a également mené des consultations publiques afin de pouvoir prendre des décisions éclairées. Par la suite, l'ordonnance a été finalisée et est entrée en vigueur.

Ce quotidien a appris qu'un

des principaux points de l'ordonnance LTA était d'interrompre les fameux appels gratuits de trois jours, comme l'avait spécifiquement demandé Orange Liberia et d'autres parties prenantes.

Orange Liberia et les parties prenantes auraient fait valoir à l'époque qu'il était nécessaire de mettre fin aux appels gratuits de trois jours car ils pensaient que cela n'avait aucun avantage économique.

Notre enquête a révélé que les fameux appels gratuits de trois jours ont été introduit par Celcom avant son acquisition par Orange. C'était probablement une stratégie commerciale employée par Celcom pour augmenter ses clients afin d'attirer des acheteurs potentiels comme Orange.

Les trois jours d'appels gratuits ayant duré des années, les clients de Celcom ont donc nettement augmenté et Celcom a été vendue à Orange Liberia. Entre autres, la gratuité des appels provoqué une concurrence déloyale et une instabilité entre Celcom et LonestarCell MTN. Par conséquent, la LTA, en tant qu'organe régulateur, a pris l'ordonnance dans le but de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Côte d'Ivoire : Elections 2020, il est encore temps de se parler et de se réconcilier, par Anaky Kobena

Au moment où les Ivoiriens se réjouissent, avec les autres Africains de vivre l'épilogue du procès de Gbagbo Laurent à la CPI, ils ne peuvent s'empêcher d'être traversés de menus questionnements qui, parfois, dérangent.

Ainsi, que compte la Côte d'Ivoire et que pèsent les Ivoiriens en ce monde pour qu'après une guerre civile, qui aura coûté officiellement 3 000 vies, (mais réellement jusqu'à 15 000), il ait été décidé d'engager hors du territoire, une action judiciaire qui, après dix longues années, se délite d'elle-même aux yeux de tous ?

Cette surpuissante autorité mondiale pourra-t-elle annoncer bientôt l'ouverture de la seconde phase du procès, celle de toutes les forces politiques et militaires qui, lors de cette crise post-électorale, ont eu à faire face au camp Gbagbo-LMP ?

Et si cela arrivait, pendant combien d'années pourrait-on encore servir des épisodes et les rebondissements de roman feuilleton à une opinion générale qui, à coup sûr, s'en désintéresserait bien vite, plus d'une décennie après les faits ?

La Côte d'Ivoire retiendra-t-elle gloire ou humiliation, dans les livres de son histoire,

d'avoir eu un de ses anciens chefs d'état placé en détention et jugé sur dix longues années, sans qu'il puisse sortir de cette montagne politico-juridique un message fort pour la suite de son destin ?

Peut-on imaginer de voir se

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Protégeons nos enfants contre le viol et de la sodomie !

Le Libéria descend certes lentement, mais sûrement vers une décadence morale, où les valeurs familiales et les normes sociales n'ont d'autres choix que de céder la place à l'immoralité qui, gaillardement et progressivement, s'installe dans les foyers, les églises, la fonction publique et les lieux de commerce.

Nous portons notre attention particulièrement sur la vague croissante de violences domestiques qui gangrènent le pays, notamment le viol et la sodomie de nos jeunes filles et garçons par des hommes, deux ou trois fois plus âgés que leurs victimes, entraînant des blessures graves et parfois la mort.

La police de Monrovia a placé en garde en vue un homme qui est soupçonné d'avoir violé et enceinté sa belle-fille qui est à peine âgée de 15 ans. Un autre jeune homme est détenu dans les locaux de la police pour avoir prétendument violé une fille de 12 ans à Tuan Town.

La victime serait morte. Un autre homme fait l'objet d'une enquête policière pour avoir sodomisé un garçon de neuf ans près du siège de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir à Congo Town, dans la banlieue de Monrovia. Le mois dernier, un jeune homme a tué par balle sa petite amie à Kakata, dans le comté de Margib. Un homme a tué sa femme dans le comté de Bong avec une machette après l'avoir soupçonnée d'avoir des relations extra-conjugales. La liste des cas pareils est très longue.

Les violences sexuelles de toute nature sont devenues récurrentes aussi bien dans les foyers que dans les communautés, ce qui représente un danger gravenon seulement pour les parents mais aussi pour les enfants, qui sont les plus vulnérables dans les foyers. Les parents sont la première ligne de défense et de protection pour les enfants. Ils ont le devoir de protéger leurs enfants et de veiller au bien-être de ces derniers, surtout en ces temps pareils où la pandémie mondiale continue de faire des ravages.

Mais malheureusement, les parents, obligés de sortir tous les jours pour chercher à manger pour la famille, abandonnent leurs enfants qui finissent par être livrés à la merci de quelques gens qui sont sans foi ni loi. Ces ours abusent de leurs proies faciles pour étancher leurs désirs sexuels insatiables. C'est en effet le cas d'une mineure de 15 ans qui est obligée de devenir une mère après avoir été violée par quelqu'un qui, dans les conditions normales, devrait lui servir de guide pour réussir dans la vie.

Mais hélas, celui-ci a profité de sa condition de vulnérabilité à l'absence de la mère qui avait quitté son domicile. Il l'a agressé sexuellement, tout en prenant le soin de l'interdit d'en parler à qui que ce soit. On se souvient aussi du cas d'un garçon de neuf ans qui fut sodomisé, et de la fille de 12 ans qui est décédée à l'hôpital James R. Davies Memorial de Paynesville après avoir été agressée sexuellement.

Nous pensons que les parents ont leur part de responsabilité car ils sont incapables de prendre soin et d'orienter leurs progénitures.

Il convient donc dire aux parents et aux tuteurs que prendre soin de leurs enfants ne se limitent pas au fait de s'assurer qu'il y a de la nourriture sur la table. En plus de la nourriture et des frais de scolarité, il faut les protéger, les surveiller, leur prodiguer des conseils et veiller à leur bien-être social.

Les lois libériennes sur le viol sont strictes. Le tribunal « E » situé au Temple de la justice juge spécifiquement les cas de viol. Sous la direction de l'ancienne Présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, le gouvernement du Libéria a promulgué une nouvelle loi sur le viol, modifiant respectivement le Code pénal de juin 1976, chapitre 14, articles 14.70 et 14.71, faisant de ce crime, un crime de premier degré. Selon la loi sur le viol de janvier 2006, une personne qui a des rapports sexuels avec une autre personne (homme et femme) sans son consentement, a commis un viol qui est passible d'au moins 10 ans de prison ou parfois la perpétuité, selon le degré du viol qui peuvent être classés comme (viol sur mineur, viol entraînant des lésions corporelles graves, viol à l'aide d'une arme et viol collectif).

Mais le Sénat libérien a amendé en 2017 la nouvelle loi sur le viol, et l'a rendue un peu flexible. La commission judiciaire du Sénat a fait valoir que la sanction relative au viol comme prévue par la loi est excessive et donc inconstitutionnelle, citant l'article 21 (d) (ii) de la Constitution du Libéria de 1986, qui stipule qu'une caution excessive n'est pas exigée, ni excessive amendes infligées, ni punition excessive infligée aux auteurs.

Néanmoins, nous croyons toujours fermement que, bien que la loi soit en vigueur ou qu'elle ait été modifiée conformément à l'amendement du Sénat, la première ligne de défense des enfants est celle des parents. Si les parents prennent vraiment soin de leurs enfants et les aiment, ils feront un effort supplémentaire pour assurer leur bien-être et, par extension, réduire la violence domestique et sexuelle dans nos communautés.

Français

Les entreprises GSM luttent contre

garantir la stabilité, la coordination et l'efficacité dans le secteur.

Quand Orange Liberia a repris Celcom, et avec son seul intérêt de maximiser les bénéfices, il n'a pas aimé les appels gratuits de trois jours car Orange Liberia a estimé qu'il pourrait faire plus en éliminant ces appels gratuits. Le gouvernement a lui aussi salué l'idée, probablement en raison de son intérêt à percevoir des revenus sur les appels payants, contrairement aux appels gratuits. Puisqu'il n'y a pas eu de conflit d'intérêts entre les sociétés GSM d'une part et le gouvernement d'autre part, la LTA a pris l'ordonnance qui impose un prix plancher et une surtaxe en consultation avec toutes les parties prenantes.

Mais ce qui est étonnant,

Côte d'Ivoire : Elections 2020

succéder à la barre, aux lointains Pays Bas, d'autres figures connues, et peut-être même emblématiques pour certaines de la scène publique ivoirienne ?

Et même si c'est la logique dure et implacable du droit universel qui devait l'imposer, que subsisterait-il de l'image de la Côte d'Ivoire que ce procès a déjà classé dans les républiques tropicales auxquelles ce genre de régime mérite d'être infligé ?

Tout cela, Ivoiriennes et Ivoiriens, pour revenir sur l'appel lancinant et inlassable de toutes les bonnes volontés à nous battre pour réaliser notre réconciliation et ne plus revivre, le cauchemar de cette crise de 2010/2011.

L'ordre constitutionnel républicain nous mande de tenir des élections générales fin 2020, et nous nous devons tous de nous y préparer ; ce qui est heureusement en cours pour tous, tous bords politiques confondus.

Mais est-il intellectuellement et pour le simple principe possible d'imaginer que des élections organisées par l'organe qu'est la CEI actuelle puissent aboutir à des résultats de consensus ?

L'avis défavorable de la CADHP, même si, de toute évidence, il ne porte pas force de coercition sur le gouvernement en place, a un relent d'appel prophétique à éviter une autre apocalypse.

L'insistance de tous les partis politiques, ONG et autorités religieuses et

c'est qu'après avoir eu gain de cause « l'élimination des appels gratuits » et engrangé des bénéfices grâce au prix plancher, Orange continue de refuser de payer la taxe supplémentaire au gouvernement du Libéria comme prévu dans la même ordonnance.

Orange Liberia a ainsi intenté une action en justice contre le gouvernement du Libéria. Mais le gouvernement du Libéria a remporté le procès au tribunal de première instance. Insatisfait, Orange a saisi la Cour suprême du Libéria.

Cependant, en dépit du fait de contester l'ordonnance de la LTA qui impose des frais planchers, Orange a supprimé les trois jours d'appels gratuits et continue d'engranger des bénéfices.

traditionnelles, à ne pas sauter ce mauvais pas, ne devrait pas continuer à être considéré par les frères du RHDP comme un signe de faiblesse ou un refus d'engager une compétition perdue d'avance.

Non, c'est simplement par devoir de conscience vis-à-vis du pays et de la nation, toujours en regard de l'intermède douloureux et avilissant de 2010-2011.

C'est le lieu d'interpeller le candidat du bloc RHDP au pouvoir, déjà sonné favori et vainqueur par toutes les trompettes de la République, sur le retard qu'il met à s'imposer à lui-même la réaction barrière de la loyauté positive et de la justice.

Que pourrait valoir une victoire, au niveau politique suprême, si elle devait se bâtir sur un terrain imprégné des cendres de la suspicion, de la frustration, et de la haine ?

Ne serait-ce pas entériner et assumer que la Côte d'Ivoire est désormais constituée de deux blocs engagés en un affrontement irréductible ?

Le Grand Candidat qui est celui qui a conduit les entretiens et les échanges entre pouvoir et forces de l'opposition, n'est-t-il pas le mieux placé pour demander leur reprise quitte à passer le flambeau de leur coordination à d'autres responsables, choisis dans les deux camps, ou sans étiquette ?

En dehors de la CEI et sur un tout autre registre, nous demeurons tous perturbés par le soupçon lourd, et récurrent de fraude organisée à grande échelle sur l'accès à la citoyenneté ivoirienne.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Ian Buruma

Un nouvel été long et suffocant aux États-Unis

NEW YORK - Les États-Unis seraient-ils en train de revivre un été 1968 ? Cet été là, comme aujourd'hui, le monde entier avait assisté à des scènes de rage populaire bouillonnante dans le pays, et la plupart des villes intérieures afro-américaines avaient pris feu, les jeunes subissant les gaz lacrymogènes, les assauts, et parfois les coups violents des forces de l'ordre et de la garde nationale.

Cette agitation civile avait eu pour résultat ce que certains libéraux d'Amérique redoutent de voir arriver plus tard dans l'année. Le candidat républicain à la présidence, Richard Nixon, avait promis à la « majorité silencieuse », à ceux qui n'étaient ni des « criards », ni des « protestataires », qu'il rétablirait l'ordre par la force. Dévastées, la plupart des zones urbaines afro-américaines avaient été privées de fonds fédéraux et encore davantage isolées, les habitants des banlieues blanches avaient acheté encore plus d'armes à feu, et les forces de police avaient été équipées comme si elles constituaient une branche de l'armée.

Les troubles de 1968, comme les manifestations d'aujourd'hui, avaient débuté par une colère contre l'oppression subie par la population noire d'Amérique. Martin Luther King Jr. avait déclaré « la nation est malade ». Le lendemain, il était abattu par un criminel blanc raciste. Les manifestations qui avaient suivi n'étaient pas seulement l'expression d'une colère après le meurtre de Martin Luther King, mais également d'un manque d'opportunités économiques et scolaires, conséquence d'une long et souvent violent passé raciste.

Malgré deux mandats d'un président afro-américain à la Maison-Blanche, les conditions sont aujourd'hui à peine plus favorables - voire dégradées à certains égards. La mort violente de Martin Luther King a eu cette année pour écho celle de George Floyd, homme noir de 46 ans, sans défense, tué à Minneapolis par un officier de police qui a exercé du genou une pression sur son cou pendant près de neuf minutes.

Par ailleurs, le COVID-19 a frappé les Afro-Américains particulièrement violemment, beaucoup d'entre eux ne disposant d'aucune épargne et n'ayant d'autre choix que de continuer à travailler dans des zones à risque, à l'instar des infirmières et autres « travailleurs essentiels », bien souvent sans couverture santé suffisante. Lorsque la dépression mondiale se sera installée, beaucoup ne disposeront d'aucun matelas pour amortir le choc.

Plusieurs différences importantes sont néanmoins à souligner entre la période actuelle et l'été 1968, outre le fait que la musique était beaucoup plus intéressante, et les opportunités sexuelles plus nombreuses. Ce dernier point n'est d'ailleurs pas aussi futile que l'on pourrait le penser. Après un confinement et un relatif isolement de plusieurs mois, les frustrations n'en seront qu'accentuées chez de nombreux jeunes, qui descendront également dans la rue pour les évacuer.

Les manifestations de 1968 ne concernaient pas seulement les inégalités raciales, mais également la guerre du Vietnam. Les deux questions étaient d'ailleurs liées. Le président Lyndon B. Johnson, responsable de l'escalade de cette guerre sauvage et déraisonnée, était un Démocrate, celui-là même qui avait promulgué des lois sur les droits civiques qui amélioraient l'existence des Afro-Américains. Ce faisant, il s'était attiré la haine de nombreux électeurs du sud, qui firent dorénavant allégeance au Parti républicain, contribuant ainsi à le pousser un peu plus à droite.

Les « criards » et les « protestataires » dénoncés par

Nixon n'étaient pas seulement des Noirs, mais également de jeunes Blancs opposés à l'obligation de mener une guerre qu'ils considéraient comme immorale. Robert F. Kennedy, candidat qui avait promis de mettre un terme à la guerre, et qui s'était rendu dans les ghettos les plus explosifs pour apaiser les craintes des Afro-Américains, sera assassiné deux mois après la mort de Martin Luther King.

Nixon remporta l'élection de novembre, pas seulement parce qu'il avait apaisé la « majorité silencieuse » en promettant le rétablissement de l'ordre, mais également parce que Hubert Humphrey, respectable Démocrate du courant dominant, avait refusé de condamner la guerre du Vietnam. Probable candidat démocrate de cette année, et malgré tous ses défauts, Joe Biden a démontré qu'il ne serait sans doute pas le nouvel Hubert Humphrey. Sa sympathie penche clairement du côté des manifestants. Biden a publiquement rappelé plusieurs épisodes de violences policières contre des Américains noirs non armés, et promis de réformer la police.

En période difficile, le challenger jouit d'un certain avantage. De la même manière que Johnson fut tenu responsable de l'escalade d'une guerre de plus en plus impopulaire, l'occupant actuel de la Maison-Blanche devra répondre du mal américain d'aujourd'hui. Si Donald Trump ne peut être désigné coupable de la pandémie de COVID-19, il lui faudra rendre des comptes quant à ses manquements dans la riposte.

De même, le racisme institutionnel qui enflamme à nouveau les rues d'Amérique ne date pas de l'arrivée au pouvoir de Trump. Le président a en revanche délibérément alimenté l'incendie en qualifiant de criminels les immigrants de couleur, de « gens très bien » les suprémacistes blancs armés, et de « voyous » les manifestants noirs révoltés, ainsi qu'en encourageant l'armée, la garde nationale et la police à ne pas y aller de main morte, ou pour citer sa formule brutale : « Ne soyez pas tendres avec eux ».

Tandis que certains groupes de l'extrême droite américaine parlent avec enthousiasme d'une « guerre des races » toute proche, Trump ne fait rien pour atténuer cette véhémence. Il semble au contraire s'en délecter. Un récent tweet du président (« Lorsque les pillages commencent, les tirs à balle réelle aussi. ») est directement inspiré du chef de la police de Miami, en Floride, qui avait ordonné à ses troupes en 1967 de braquer leurs fusils sur les manifestants des « quartiers noirs » de sa ville.

C'est ce que l'on appelle « stimuler son électorat ». Stimulée, la majeure partie de l'électorat de Trump le sera certainement. La grande question du mois de novembre sera de savoir ce que feront ceux qui ont voté pour lui en 2016, mais qui ne sont pas aussi fanatiques que d'autres dans leur soutien à Trump. Que pensent aujourd'hui les Américaines des banlieues blanches, les cols bleus du Midwest, ou encore les personnes âgées du sud (qui comptent parmi les plus vulnérables à une infection au COVID-19) ?

Nombre d'Américains sont clairement atterrés par la grossièreté et le caractère incendiaire des paroles de leur président. Mais leur désapprobation sera-t-elle éclipsée par leur inquiétude face à la violence de l'agitation sociale ? Les préjugés raciaux de longue date, souvent non dits et parfois assumés, les conduiront-ils à voter pour la sécurité factice d'un président blanc obscène et brutal ?

Beaucoup dépendra des évolutions de cet été. Si les Américains font preuve de rationalité au mois de novembre, difficile d'imaginer qu'ils seront suffisamment nombreux à voter pour le maintien au pouvoir de cette administration désastreuse pour quatre ans encore. La peur est malheureusement souvent le plus grand ennemi de la raison.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

GOL urged to support clubfoot program

As Liberia celebrates World Clubfoot Day, the head of the Liberia clubfoot program, calls for more support to the program.

Clubfoot is a medical

deformity being in existence for several decades, babies with clubfoot are usually otherwise healthy.

On June 3rd clubfoot families and healthcare workers around the globe

day, the Executive Director of the Faith Clinical Orthopedic Rehabilitation Center (FACORC), Mr. Augustine B. Chiewolo, said Liberia is path of the global clubfoot treatment program.



Director Augustine B. Chiewolo and participants at celebration of World Clubfoot Day

deformity in which the foot appears twisted and even looks as if it's upside down. Despite its appearance, clubfoot itself doesn't cause any discomfort or pain.

Though the cause of clubfoot is still medically unknown despite the

celebrated World Clubfoot Day. The date was chosen to commemorate the birthdate of Dr. Ignacio Ponseti, (1914-2009) developer of the Ponseti Method to treat clubfoot.

Speaking here Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at program marking the observance of the

FACORC is a non-profit humanitarian organization that runs the Liberia clubfoot program through Ponseti Method (non-surgical method).

Mr.Chiewolo said though

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EPA nets US\$8.9m

Cont'd from page 7

young people. More than half of Liberia's 4 million people live within 40 miles of the coast, putting extensive pressure on coastal ecosystems for food, land, mineral extraction, and other resources, resulting to habitat loss and degradation, says the statement.

"The project works toward transformational change by moving away from a 'business-as-usual' model to an integrated approach that combines nature-based interventions, hard infrastructure, gender-responsive approaches, capacity, policy, engagement with the financial services sector, knowledge and information and observational management systems," notes UNDP Resident Representative PaLaminBeyai.

In supporting climate resilient livelihoods, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, and responsible consumption and production as outlined in the SDGs, the project supports business development and training programmes for 70,000 beneficiaries, with targeted approaches for women and youth. It also

targets 30,000 beneficiaries who will benefit from integrated farming systems, fisheries and compressed stabilized 'earth blocks' and their value chains.

The project enhances coastal resilience to storms, coastal erosion and flooding risks while supporting a range of ecosystem service benefits that improve livelihood security and overall climate resilience. These supports will benefit other coastal counties around the country in sea and river defence risk management as well as support climate adaptation livelihood opportunities.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit in Brazil to help tackle the planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided close to \$20.5 billion in grants and mobilized an additional \$112 billion in co-financing for more than 4,800 projects in 170 countries. Through its Small Grants Programme, the GEF has provided support to nearly 24,000 civil society and community initiatives in 133 countries.

CPP denounces Cyril

Starts from back page

together to work toward one goal.

Ms. Telia Urey, former Montserrado County Electoral District #15 representative candidate and daughter of former CPP chairman Benoni Urey says the Collaborating Political Parties' visit to the Capitol is to have a meeting with CPP Legislators in relation to the party's just - ended framework document that has been signed.


Ms. Telia Urey who is also All Liberian Party (ALP's) Vice Chairperson for Political Affairs says they want to strengthen the relationship with the CPP and its lawmakers.

Ms. Urey notes that there are too many things that are

happening in the upper and lower houses of the Legislature that are not right, so the CPP went there to meet with the lawmakers to strengthen them in order to put checks and balances on the errors that are going on Capitol Hill.

She continues that the CPP lawmakers are expected to work in line with whatever legislative agenda that the parties will come up with, noting that always meeting them will help to hold them together.

She concludes that CPP will give bills to its lawmakers with the expectation that the bills will be pushed and passed by the Legislature.--Edited by Winston W. Parley


Reintegration and Recovery Programme Phase IV addendum Ebola Support Programme II, LBR 1053-17 KfW ESP-II

A Development Programme of the Republic of Liberia co-financed by the Federal Government of Germany through KfW, in Collaboration with MoFDP.

Invitation for Bids

Liberia
Reintegration and Recovery Programme - V,
Addendum Ebola Support Programme II
June 3, 2020
LBR1053-17 KfW ESP-II, Tender 009

The Welthungerhilfe Liberia has received financing from KfW towards the cost of the Ebola Support Programme (ESP) Phase II and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract¹ for the construction of incinerators at the Karquekpo Clinic in Karquekpo Town, Dugbeh River District, Sinoe County and Konobo Health Centre in Konobo District, Grand Gedeh County Liberia².

Welthungerhilfe Liberia now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for:

¹ Substitute "contracts" where bids are called concurrently for multiple contracts. Add a new para. 3 and renumber paras 3 - 8 as follows: "Bidders may bid for one or several contracts, as further defined in the bidding document. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so, provided those discounts are included in the Letter of Bid."
² Insert if applicable: "This contract will be jointly financed by Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), Bidding process will be governed by the „Welthungerhilfe guidelines, governing the bidding process.”

BID DOCUMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF INCINERATORS FOR KARQUEKPO CLINIC IN KARQUEKPO TOWN, DUGBEH RIVER DISTRICT, SINOE COUNTY
And
FOR KONOBO HEALTH CENTER IN ZIAH TOWN, ZIAH DISTRICT, GRAND
TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL BID JUNE 2020

Bidding will be conducted by means of a single stage National Competitive Bidding procedure with integrated post qualification (one envelope) as specified in the KfW Guidelines for the Procurement of Consulting Services, Works, Plant, Goods and Non-Consulting Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries ("KfW Guidelines") and in line with Welthungerhilfe Rules and Regulations for Award of Contracts and evaluation and award criteria as set out in this bidding document

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from
Welthungerhilfe Liberia
Jacqueline Harris, Head of Project-ESP-II
Jacqueline.Harris@welthungerhilfe.de

A complete set of bidding documents is available to interested Bidders at Welthungerhilfe Offices in Greenville, Zwedru and Monrovia in soft copies on CDs

The Bidding documents in English are free of charge and will be issued to interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below at section II, B, Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address indicated in the clause ITB 22.1 of the bidding document on or before **4:00 pm Monday, June 15, 2020**. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives who choose to attend at the address below at **10:00am, Friday June 19, 2020**

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security. *n/a*

There shall be a site visit in Sinoe County (WHH Greenville office) between 11:00am and 16:00GMT on the Wednesday, 10th June 2020, Friday 12th June 2020 and dates indicated in the proposed schedule in this notice.

(a) Documents may be inspected at: Welthungerhilfe Liberia Country Offices, Opposite Fish Market, Adjacent the Blue Crest University, Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia. Contact Nasser S. Baki (Head of Logistics),
(b) Documents will be issued from:
Welthungerhilfe Liberia Greenville Office, Sinoe County. C ontact Abraham Raynes (Logistics Administrator),
Welthungerhilfe Liberia Zwedru Office, Grand Gedeh County. Contact James Zekpa (Senior Logistics Officer),
OR
Welthungerhilfe Liberia Country Offices, Opposite Fish Market, Adjacent the Blue Crest University, Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia. Contact Nasser S. Baki (Area Logistics Officer).
(c) Bids must be delivered to: Welthungerhilfe Liberia Country Offices, Opposite Fish Market, Adjacent the Blue Crest University, Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia. Contact Nasser S Baki (Area Head of Logistics),
Welthungerhilfe Liberia Greenville Office, Farmersville, Contact Abraham Raynes (Logistics Administrator),
And
Welthungerhilfe Liberia Zwedru Office, Grand Gedeh County. Contact James Zekpa (Senior Logistics Officer).
(d) Address of bid opening:
Welthungerhilfe Liberia Country Offices, Opposite Fish Market, Adjacent the Blue Crest University, Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia. Contact Nasser S Baki (Area Head of Logistics).
The Planned Procurement Schedule (subject to changes) is as follows:

Activity	Date
a. Publish bid notice	June 3, 2020
b. Site visit where applicable	June 10 to 12, 2020
c. Bid closing date	June 15, 2020
d. Public Bid Opening	June 19, 2020
e. Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice	(Within 5 working days from Contracts Committee award)
f. Contract signature	June 29, 2020

Signatures:
Name: Jacqueline Harris
Position of Authorized Official: Head of Project

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How Pro-temp Chie stabs Weah

By Ethel A. Tweh

Politics in Africa is a nasty game and players or actors go all out in having their wishes, including supporting rival candidates, as the President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate, a senior member of President Weah's ruling Coalition of Democratic Change has disclosed here.

Pro-Tempore Albert Chie disclosed in plenary Wednesday during session that he personally paid poll workers of opposition Senator Abraham Darious Dillon, against the governing CDC candidate Pualita C.C. Wie in the 2019 senatorial by-election

According to final poll results released by the National Elections Commission, Dillon received 55.74 percent of the total votes cast against CDC Wie's 34.77 percent.

Dillon's landslide victory in Montserrado County uprooted the CDC from its once stronghold, a defeat the Coalition is yet to recover from despite its standard bearer, President George Weah lifting the hand of miss Wie to supporters in the campaign.

Speaking in plenary Thursday, Pro-Tempore Chie boasted that prior to the election of Dillon to the senate, he (Chie) paid Dillon from his personal pocket for services rendered and personally contributed to paying his pool workers during the 2019 senatorial by-election that brought Dillon to the Capitol as senator.

Senator Dillon has



admitted that Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie gave him US\$3,000 to pay his poll workers during the 2019 senatorial by-election, which he won against the governing Coalition for Democratic Change.

Senator Dillon's admission came Wednesday, June 3rd, when Pro-Tempore Chie informed plenary that he has no intention of removing the Montserrado County that he personally gave US\$3,000 to pay his poll workers when he (Dillon) wasn't able to pay them after the by-election.

Chie explained that to disprove public perception and belief among some senators that he has motive to boot Dillon out of the Liberian Senate for his critical stance, he and Dillon have had personal interactions and therefore, harbors no intention of removing him, as is being speculated.

The Pro-Tempore also disclosed that he has in his possession a text message from Dillon, asking him for money to pay his poll workers.

Pro-Tempore Chie further explained Dillon had said lot of things in the senate but comes in public and does something totally different, lamenting that it is not honorable for someone to say something different behind people and comes in public and act perfect to gain public sentiments.

He added that since Dillon became Senator, every weekend, he has given him (Dillon) more than US\$15,000 and named Senator Kaipay of Grand Bassa County as witness. "There is no way Senator Dillon can say the Pro-temp has a premeditated mind to expel him from the Senate. Dillon lives a double life." Chie claimed. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MRU, UNDP supply

Cont'd from page 6

Partner " for its unwavering support to Liberia.

Mr. Jallah mentioned that the MRU is deeply concern about cross border transmission and the revival of economic activities of Countries within the MRU basin.

His remarks were also buttressed by the Commissioner of the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS), Robert Budy. He applauded the continued support from UNDP and partners in strengthening the capacity of the LIS to respond to challenges of cross border transmission, trade and restrictions by frontliners deployed at ports of entry.

For his part, UNDP's Deputy Resident Representative for Operations, Mulugeta Abebe, emphasized that the spread of COVID-19 to the Mano River countries presents a challenge for the continued high levels of poverty, inadequate healthcare systems, inadequate funding, as well as their economies.

"The porosity of the borders is a matter of interest especially when the virus is transmitted from human to human. Thus, the need for a regional response cannot be overemphasized," Abebe

noted.

UNDP in the three countries is responding under the leadership of the offices of the Resident Coordinator and World Health Organization. It is also supporting national governments' efforts in developing COVID 19 response strategies that lay emphasis on prevention and mitigating the impact of the shock of COVID19 on households, which is in line with the National Response Plans of the MRU countries and UNCT preparedness, response and recovery plans.

The supplies target 22 border Communities in Maryland, Lofa, Nimba and Grand Cape Mount Counties.

in 2019, the MRU and UNDP signed an MOU based on the core principles of the SDGs to ensure stronger regional cooperation among the MRU Member States and UNDP.

The MRU focuses on areas of cooperation to enhance the effectiveness of their development efforts in the four countries, as well as to strengthen regional integration that seeks to advance peace and security and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Member States.

UL expresses gratitude

Cont'd from page 6

to a lecturer, department chairperson, Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, a vice president for administration and the 11th president of the university.

"What can we say but to remind ourselves that in times like these we need a savior; in times like these we need an anchor; we got to be very, very sure as to the path we live on this other side of the river," he says.

Earlier, UL Vice President for Administration Madam Benetta J. Tarr welcomed everyone at the gathering as the university paid its last respect to a fallen hero who gave so much "to all of us."

Tributes were paid at the signing of the Book of Condolence by the university's administration, faculty and staff, UL Alumni Association and the students, among others.

GOL urged to support

Cont'd from page 10

the program has made enormous gains, as it has been able to treat over 3,000 children, there is a need for government's support or takeover to make its activities more national.

"Liberia is being recognized globally for the program. More than 3,000 have been treated under this program. The goal is to raise awareness for the deformity. It's a congenital deformity; meaning, children are born with it. Those children born with it cannot wear normal shoes or slippers. They are always stigmatized and they don't take part in public activities but the good news is that here in Liberia, clubfoot is treatable free of charge," he said.

"Our only regret is that despite all of these gains, the government has done nothing

to help the program. We have engaged both past and current government, but nothing is being done. But we are not going to get tired. We are again calling the government help. We want the program to be turned over to the government so that we can nationalize clubfoot program. It must be among the health policies of the government so that a greater number is treated."

Mr. Chiewolo disclosed that the program is currently operating in nine of Liberia's 15 counties.

Madam Miraculous K. Kota, who served as guest speaker at the occasion, joined the many voices to call on policymakers, including government to focus more attention to the program so that many children can be treated.

"In a critical time in the history of the world, people

with clubfoot are among the most vulnerable groups who are much more likely to contract the coronavirus; if much care and attention are not given them by governments, and other civil society organizations in ensuring that they get equal treatment, as other non-disabled persons, it would be bad for us," said the guest speaker.

Madam Kota cautioned, "If the virus is to be eradicated, it is essential that people with disabilities especially those who fall in this category be protected and given the right medical care they need."

For his part, Rev. Dr. Shadrack R.A. Bryant, Religious Director of the clubfoot program, like earlier speakers, urged the government to aid the program.

Soniwein community

Cont'd from page 7

biggest GSM Company, Lonestar Cell MTN.

He noted that parties to the dispute community elections are still looking up to Representative Gray for his intervention because it forms part of his responsibility as their direct representative to the National Legislature.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cooper has expressed gratitude to

Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Kojee for providing 100 (50kg) bags of rice to the people of Soniwein Community to help fight the Coronavirus.

He said the rice was presented to the community on behalf of Mayor Kojee by a former representative aspirant in the district, Mr. James N. N. Fallah. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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CPP denounces Cyril Allen's divisive politics



By Ethel A Tweh

Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Chair Alexander B. Cummings has expressed disappointment in ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) stalwart Chief Cyril Allen over the latter's recent Americo-Liberian

rhetoric aimed at the CPP.

Reacting to Allen's claim that the CPP will not be accepted by voters because of its Americo-Liberian biological connection, Mr. Cummings says Chief Allen should stop worrying and leave the decision to the voters to make.

On Thursday, 4 June, the

leadership of the Collaborating Political Parties was seen on the grounds of the Capitol.

This week Mr. Allen said the CPP's leaders will not be accepted by Liberians because of its Americo-Liberian biological connection, claiming that "... this country will not give power to Americo-Liberian descendant for the next 20 years."

But Chairman Cummings notes that the party is engaging the Legislature to get to know the CPP better and to work together.

Mr. Cummings who also heads a constituent party of the CPP, the Alternative National Congress (ANC), maintains that they made mistakes in the past and now they are all working on their errors and moving up to one agenda.

According to him, they are working to shame those who doubted that constituent parties of the CPP could come

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



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Bayern Munich planning protest over George Floyd death

The Bayern Munich squad are planning a joint protest over George Floyd's death, with Joshua Kimmich saying players "feel the responsibility to use their power to reach other people".

Football has been as influenced by the issue as every other aspect of society, and the weekend saw Jadon Sancho, Marcus Thuram, Achraf Hakimi and Weston McKennie all make public

gestures of solidarity with protestors in the US.

The German federation has said it will not sanction players for what would otherwise be seen as political protests, given the context.

Kimmich has revealed that the Bayern players now plan to follow suit, and have discussed the idea as a squad.

"As a football player you have a big power in this world," Kimmich told media in a Zoom interview. "My opinion is we should feel this responsibility



and say something like Sancho did.

"It's good that it's not just one player. Maybe it is also an option to say something as a team. Football is like a role model because normally in normal life but especially in football it is not possible that there is something like racism.

"We are one world, one club, one football team. It doesn't matter if you are black or white. We as footballers, like with Sancho, have a lot of power to reach other people, to be role models and to say something. What we say to people outside gives us a big chance to make a statement.

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