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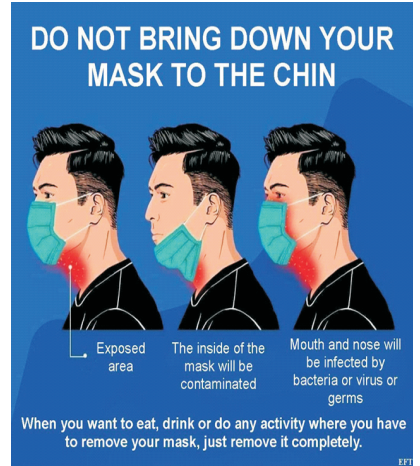
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# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



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# Ellen joins anti-rape protesters



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# Continental News

## Drogba rejected for Ivory Coast Federation polls

**D**idier Drogba has been told he is not eligible to stand in upcoming elections to be the next president of the Ivory Coast Football Federation (FIF).

Along with three others, Drogba submitted papers to stand in the polls earlier this month.

The FIF's Electoral Commission ruled that the former Chelsea striker did not fulfil its long list of eligibility criteria.

His bid was rejected as two of the names he had submitted as his sponsors were ruled not to have the necessary authority to do so.

Officials from the Ivorian

club Africa Sport and a body representing referees, AMAF-CI, had also backed the federation's current first vice-president Sory Diabate.

Different officials from the same organisations had also signed Drogba's papers, with the FIF's commission ruling they were not

authorised to do so.

In the case of Africa Sports, a sporting club in Ivory Coast, the head of its football section had given his approval to Drogba while the chairman of the whole club had backed Diabate.

It meant that Drogba only had the backing of two top-flight Ivorian clubs and not the three that FIF statutes demand.

The rejection will come as a bitter blow to football fans in Ivory Coast, thousands of whom had come out to support him earlier this month when he submitted his

bid to stand.

Drogba played more than 100 times for the Elephants including at the 2006 and 2010 World Cups, and as well as Chelsea he played for French giants Marseille, Chinese club Shanghai Shenhua and Galatasaray in Turkey.

An application for Paul Koffi Kouadio was also rejected, leaving Diabate and Yacine Idriss Diallo, a former FIF third vice-president, as the remaining candidates.

Drogba and Kouadio both now have five days to appeal against the decision. BBC



Thousands of fans greeted former Chelsea striker Didier Drogba when he formally submitted his candidacy to be Ivory Coast Football Federation president

## SA conservationist killed by his own white lions

**A** well-known South African conservationist has died after he was mauled by two white lions as he was taking them for a walk.

The wife of West Mathewson, who followed in a

car, tried to distract the lions but it was too late.

He ran a popular safari lodge, Lion Tree Top Lodge, in Limpopo province.

The lionesses have since been moved to another game lodge and are expected to be

released into the wild at a later stage. A lioness became aggressive towards the other and then turned her attention to the conservationist affectionately known as "Uncle West", reports the BBC's Nomsa Maseko from Johannesburg.

His relatives have said that Wednesday's attack could have been the result of very rough play.

The lionesses were tranquillised following the attack and have been taken to an endangered species centre.

Mr Mathewson is said to have rescued the lions from "canned hunting" - when animals are hunted in an enclosed area, or they are bred to be hunted - and they were kept in an enclosure at his lodge.

The lionesses reportedly killed a man working on a neighbouring property after they broke out of the enclosure in 2017. BBC



West Mathewson had known the lionesses since they were cubs

## Liberia war crimes arrest in London



The 45-year-old man was arrested by officers from the Metropolitan Police's War Crimes Team

**A** man has been arrested in London on suspicion of war crimes during the Liberian civil wars.

The 45-year-old man is accused of offences relating to the country's first and second civil wars between 1989 and 2003, the Met Police said.

Officers from the Met's War Crimes Team detained the man at about 07:20 BST on Thursday.

The force said the suspect remained in custody and officers were searching an

address in south-east London.

The man has been held on suspicion of war crimes contrary to Section 51 of the International Criminal Court Act 2001, according to Scotland Yard.

About 250,000 people died during the two civil wars in Liberia, from 1989-1996 and 1999-2003.

The country's former president Charles Taylor was later jailed for committing war crimes in neighbouring Sierra Leone. BBC

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# EDITORIAL

## Pres. Weah must release NPHIL Probe Committee findings

IT'S NEARLY TWO weeks since the special investigative committee established to probe breaches in the health and administrative protocols governing the issuance of Covid-19 test results by the National Public Health Institute of Liberia submitted findings and recommendations to President George Manneh Weah.

**THE PRESIDENT OF** the Liberia Medical and Dental Council, Dr. Linda Birch headed the committee, which presented its findings to President Weah on August 14, 2020 in Monrovia, accompanied by pieces of evidence.

**PRESIDENT WEAH ON** Monday, August 10, 2020 suspended the Acting Director General of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, Dr. Masoka Fallah, for alleged fraud and ethical breach, which came after three officials of NPHIL issued a negative COVID-19 traveler's certificate to a Liberian born American Ms. Skeeter T. Wilson, who was bundled out of an airplane on Sunday August 2, 2020, by Liberian Immigration Service officials after authorities discovered that the certificate issued was forged.

**MS. WILSON HAD** earlier tested Covid-19 positive and through the Incident Management System (IMS) treatment protocol was informed about her positive results and placed under treatment, but less than a week, a certificate under the signature of Dr. Makosa Fallah was issued to the patient, declaring her negative of the virus hence, qualifying her to travel abroad only to be asked out of a flight at the Roberts International Airport for being in possession of forged clearance or certificate.

**DR. FALLAH CLAIMED** his chief of office staff Jonathan G. Ender affixed his (Dr. Fallah's) electronic signature on the document without his knowledge, saying, "I never even knew that this was happening under my nose."

**SIMILAR SCENARIO OCCURRED** with University of Liberia Professor Alaric Tokpah, whom the NPHIL certificated Covid-19 negative and was subsequently on his way to the airport to visit his wife in the United States when authorities at the Health Institute called and informed him that he was issued wrong certificate, as his health status had not been certified.

**PRESIDENT WEAH DID** the right thing by suspending the NPHIL boss and instituting a probe to get to the roots of the matter. But since the Dr. Birch-led committee submitted findings, nothing has been heard about accountability and responsibility at the health entity, which is drawing anxiety among the public on a critical matter such as health.

**WE ARE FULLY** aware that government initially suspended three officials of NPHIL, including the deputy director for environmental and occupational health, Amos F. Gborie, the deputy director for national public health and reference laboratory, Fahn Taweh and Jonathan G. Ender, chief of office staff of Dr. Masoka Fallah, respectively.

**IT IS IMPORTANT** that President Weah release findings from the probe to the public as quickly as possible in order to re-establish public confidence in the entire Covid-19 fight, especially test results of suspected cases so as to allay all doubts, fears, suspicions and disbeliefs about the government's handling of the health pandemic.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# COMMENTARY

By Andrés Velasco

## Are We All Keynesians Again?

*A common refrain nowadays is that after COVID-19, Milton Friedman is out and John Maynard Keynes is in. But if, as the famous quote often attributed to Richard Nixon puts it, "we are all Keynesians now," we must remember what Keynes taught: fiscal policy should be tightened during good times, precisely so that it can be expansionary during bad times.*

**L**ONDON - Among the pieties repeated at every online COVID-19 conference, one is universally acknowledged: the pandemic has ushered in an era of larger, more robust state intervention in the economy. But what does this mean for the future? In what areas of economic life should and can the state do more?

Many believe that governments should address inequities and redistribute more income, or that they should fight climate change more aggressively. Those are two urgent priorities. But, given that COVID-19 is a shock that caught almost every country unprepared, the natural starting point is to prod governments to provide more and better social insurance against shocks.

Walter Bagehot, one of the earliest editors of *The Economist*, called on governments and central banks to be lenders of last resort. The current crisis has confirmed that when confronted with a shock this large, governments are also to be insurers of last resort. No private entity could simultaneously provide and finance the indispensable public-health response, pay furloughed workers' wages, save jobs by lending to cash-strapped firms, and make emergency transfers to vulnerable families. Only states can do that.

Statisticians and economists distinguish between idiosyncratic shocks (affecting some people some of the time) and aggregate shocks (affecting everyone simultaneously). This helps fix priorities for what government should do in the future.

Private insurance markets can work reasonably well if shocks are idiosyncratic. Your car insurer pays to repair your scraped fender, without government help, because most other insured people did not have a collision at the same time. So, part of the premia they pay goes to you.

But private insurance is not foolproof. It works poorly in health care, for example, if insurance causes complacency about risky behavior like alcohol consumption or overeating, or leads physicians to prescribe expensive tests that are not strictly necessary. Such behavior drives up insurance premia and leaves the poor with no coverage. That is why well-designed plans like the US Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") both compel everyone to get insurance and provide a subsidy for low-income families.

In rich countries, varying combinations of private and public insurance protect most citizens against idiosyncratic risks - whether of illness, unemployment, or insufficient income in old age. The same cannot be said of emerging and developing countries, where social insurance systems are weak or limited to the formally employed.

Too many families can lose the fruits of decades of hard work if a family member becomes ill or suffers an accident. A recent World Bank white paper on the subject concludes that "many social protection systems currently lack protection against catastrophic losses for those without a history of contributing to traditional social insurance plans."

Filling this gap, precisely because private insurance cannot do it all, will require mobilizing more state resources. But there is no obvious reason why countries like Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Malaysia or the Philippines cannot afford to do it: until the current crisis, these countries' central government expenditure was

below one-fifth of GDP.

Yet a caveat is in order. More government financing of social insurance does not imply that government should provide the services paid for by that insurance. The British NHS treats patients at state hospitals and foots the bill; under the Canadian single-payer system, government pays for services that are provided mostly by private hospitals and clinics. Emerging economies should be able to choose between the British and Canadian systems, or opt for some other formula. And their choice should be based on effectiveness, not ideology.

Aggregate shocks are a different story, because there is no subset of unaffected citizens that can bail out the victims. And if, as with COVID-19, there is no subset of lucky countries untouched by the disease, help from abroad will be limited at best. So countries are forced largely to self-insure, making government the insurer of last resort.

The International Monetary Fund estimates that governments have spent an additional \$11 trillion in response to the pandemic - in many cases one-tenth of GDP or more. To paraphrase former European Central Bank President Mario Draghi, rich countries are spending whatever it takes. Emerging and developing countries, with less ability to borrow, are spending whatever they can.

In a global environment of extraordinarily low interest rates, rich-country governments can comfortably borrow far more than fiscal prudes once thought possible. In the United States, the United Kingdom, and much of the European Union, gross public debt now exceeds annual GDP, and markets have yet to bat an eyelash. And when the nominal interest rate is at or near zero, currency and short-term public debt become close substitutes, so savers are happy to hold the dollars, pounds, and euros central banks are printing with abandon. Inflation is nowhere on the horizon.

Loose limits on public-debt issuance in developed countries do not mean that there are no limits. As former IMF chief economist Olivier Blanchard has argued, it means that "if safe interest rates are expected to remain below growth rates for a long time," then "debt rollovers, that is the issuance of debt without a later increase in taxes, may well be feasible."

But the if is doing a lot of work. In the past, financial repression kept the interest rate on government debt artificially low. Today, low world interest rates reflect the combination of aging populations, slow productivity growth, weak investment demand, and an overall shortage of safe assets. Whether and how long this combination of factors will persist is a matter of tentative conjecture at best.

There are issues of intergenerational equity as well. If higher taxes in the future are needed to repay at least some of that debt, it is our children and grandchildren who will pay. Saddling them with a huge debt burden seems unfair, given that, in developed economies, they may not be better off, in part because we are already leaving them a massive climate debt.

Governments can and should serve as the insurer of last resort in the face of a catastrophic aggregate shock. But they can perform that crucial function only if we ensure that they have the necessary resources today. This is especially true in emerging and developing economies, where limits on public borrowing are anything but loose.



## Lord, is this Footballer that politically green?

Dear Father,

*You know, this guy never ceases to disappoint. I mean, when you think the occasion is ripe for him to redeem himself, it's when he sinks deeper. Come to think of it, which politician would choose to crawl in a hole with his or her tale between the legs when such an opportunity to address a diverse crowd shows up?*

*Like seriously Father? Just imagine you are less than four month to an election that your future hinges on, is it not a perfect opportunity to show up and win the minds of some doubters?*

*That is called seizing the moment son.*

*Yes, Father, exactly. Every situation presents its own opportunity depending on how one seizes it and make the best or worse of it.*

*Hmmm, my son it comes with maturity and experience too oo.*

*Indeed, Father and I could not agree with you more on this one. And this is where I think our man has the problem-a serious one too.*

*But for a second there Father, this kind of display of political naivety could only be as a result of being surrounding by inexperienced chaps in politics who only cares about their belly as advisors or you the individual just careless or misplaced.*

*When the Old Lady emerged from her palaver hut the other day to join those group of people who have taken our village by storm for three days, it defined a true a mature leader. And this is not her first time though. When she was in charge of spear heading our village affairs like the footballer is doing now, she joined more dangerous demonstrators to calm them down and gave them her ears.*

*Staying away from your people on the advices of people who lack the knowledge of people oriented politics only prepared you for failure-bigly too.*

*A leader demonstrates care and concern for his or her people. By so doing you meet their needs and provide direction to remedy their pains. But to ignore them like the way the Footballer has done speaks volumes.*

*Now, how do you face them tomorrow when you are canvassing for their votes? Or is it that they have been classified as people belonging to the other side of the river. The truth is when the voting finish, you are the leader of all but you can't please all. So to crawl yourself in a corner ignoring the concern of your people is a big political risk.*

*There is a saying in the good old Book that says "go to the ant, you sluggard" let it teaches you. It knows when to play around and when to gather its food. The ant never works during the rainy season, it uses the time to chill.*

*As a leader, you summer is after the election, it's when you work harder, while the fruits that you gather during the summer takes you thru the next election.*

*Such massive gathering of people with pain in their hearts, is when you show up as a leader. It not time to cuddle and hide behind huge fence walls.*



With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

## Collaborating Political Parties (CPP): Can They Truly Avoid A Disastrous Ending?

It is highly thinkable that from the inception of Liberia as a nation-state in the early 1800s, the idea of multipartyism was conspicuously absent in Liberia especially between July 26, 1847, up to the dark era of April 12, 1980, when a bloody period witnessed the final nail penetrating the once golden coffin of a one-party rule of the TWP being the only front runner in all of the political dramas held in Liberia.

The chief difference between a so-called one-party system and multipartyism system has not changed much, except that the mushrooming of political parties in Liberia had not yielded any better or tangible dividends, because most of the so-called multipartyism political institutions in Liberia have potentially developed the characteristics of a one-party sociocultural and traditional approach to politics that is "grab the resources and go."

This is because Liberian political parties both registered and nonregistered ones netting about 45 in number are directly personality-based, with weak political structures, ineffectual capacities, economically poor, family-oriented, personality-centered, perpetual hold to party leadership, lifetime chairmanship, lifetime presidential hopefuls' trends, poorly managed party's structures, no visible financial statements, the institutionalization of party structures, slowly dying parties, no party convention, poor membership-based party, constant membership swung from one party to another, most political parties are directly and indirectly fragmented and politically weak in Liberia.

It is incumbent on these unavoidable political trends and notable deficiencies which have greatly undercut and undermine the strengths and capabilities of most political parties in Liberia since the 80s. These deficiencies have often then none compared most, if not all political parties in Liberia to urgently side with the concept of either a collaboration, merger and or alliance which stands as a terrible political embarrassment beyond the control of each party's leadership. Political Hot-Fire is 100% convinced that no one political can comfortably negotiate the future of their party into an uncertain political collaborate, merge, or an alliance, but it is often done out of untimely political necessities and political poverty, where no one party can ever take over state power except they merger as one unity, which often proves to be politically futile for so many hidden facts. Firstly, no one political party can outrightly win 50+1 masses votes in a given election in Liberia that will pave the way for that party to enforce a state mandate of its voters.

The irony is that each political party in Liberia has its political philosophies, standing constitutions, and bye-laws, national and international platform/projects, platform for the party and the nation, each has a set of different political value systems, leadership structures/styles, different funding mechanisms, strategic membership-based; different sets of national and international contacts; fundraising strategies and many other embedded political values.

They do not have any value in common, therefore, political parties come and the political party goes. Collaborations, mergers, and alliances are unusual and unfamiliar territories that can often entangle the survivability of most political parties in Liberia. Most political parties are often unable to obtain the voting capability to run the nation. They, therefore, find another alternative through the political backdoor at least to have a piece of the national pie when they collaborate or build a very weak alliance to succeed in taking political power and administer the affairs of the nation. Because this political trek can be difficult to accomplish, they join forces and sometimes share the pies unconditionally.

It, therefore, becomes practically impossible for a political party that comes from a different diverse socio-cultural background to survive in a collaboration, or alliance basically because of so many computing socio-economic and political interests that are often at stake in these types of political engagements and arrangements. A weak political house build by one or more Liberian political parties can fall on itself due to political greed in-conjunction with huge uncontrollable political ambitions and its holistic objectives.

**RECOMMENDATION:** In politics, comments are one thing, and the results of commitments are another. The only way forward for the CPP to survive in the 2023 presidential elections is basically through the power of an unambiguous political amalgamation or merger. No single political party can win a presidential election convincingly with 50 +1 votes in Liberia easily in modern democratic time. CPP will, therefore, need to merge now and not later to maintain one constitution, one platform, and one membership but anything short of these specimens, a house build by the CPP can fall on itself if.....



# O-PED

## Dr Liam Fox MP pledges half his senior team will be women if he is the next Director General of the WTO – 18th August 2020

*Former UK International Trade Secretary, Dr Liam Fox says the World Trade Organization needs 'more input for women, by women' When most people think of trade they probably don't immediately leap to gender as a key issue. Well they should. What could be more counterproductive than failing to utilize the talents, innovation and creativity of half of the planet's population.*

As someone who trained and practised as a medical doctor I was used to half (and sometimes more) of my colleagues being female. Yet, in many parts of our world, women are excluded not just from the professions, but often the world of work itself.

So, how do we deal with these issues?

I, and many others, have often recited the fact a rules-based system to govern world trade has helped to lift over 1bn people out of extreme poverty over the last 30 years. No-one can deny that this is an extraordinary achievement and I will never tire of repeating it.

We also know that, in 2016, McKinsey estimated that creating more opportunities for women to work, including in export-led sectors, could add \$12 trillion to the global economy by 2025.

But, despite real progress being made, women continue to face disproportionate barriers in accessing trading opportunities and markets due to discriminatory attitudes, poor conditions and harassment, as well as unequal access to inputs such as credit and land.

So, there is still a great deal of work to do.

And as we look around us at the rising levels of unilateral actions and protectionism, we know that the remarkable achievement of the last three decades is under threat and that those bearing the brunt will be women.

We know further that the unwinding of the spread of prosperity through trade can have wide effects. Women's economic empowerment through trade can and has played a key role in creating political stability and so the conditions for wider economic progress. This matters to all of us, wherever we are.

So, we urgently need to ensure that those women engaged in such trade can reasonably expect that the rule books on trade are being adhered to. And if we want to attract more women in developing countries into trading, we must continue funding the many programs that exists to help them do so in a myriad of different ways. But those of us involved in trade in particular, have to ensure that there is a stability of expectation as to what markets they can access and how.

Don't think that this is solely a matter for women in developing countries. In developed economies, rising protectionism will see prices rise for consumers. We also know that in any given economic downturn job losses are seen more prominently amongst those in temporary or part time work, jobs predominantly occupied by women.

In short, rising protectionism and a stuttering ability to advance the rules governing trade and even apply the existing ones, threatens us all but threatens women in particular. As to attracting more women into the architecture of trade, we need to make changes at all levels.

I also wholly understand the case being made that it is time for a female Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) with all that means for my application for the post. Of course, I believe that I have the qualifications and skills to back my candidacy; I would hardly have applied otherwise. At a time when the WTO's challenges are political rather than technical, it seems to me that to have someone who is politician first and technocrat second is the right answer. But I accept that we need more women at the top in trade and, if a woman was identified as the best candidate for the job I would have no objection.

What is for certain however, is we need more input for women by women if the WTO is to play its part in taking another 1bn people out of extreme poverty. This is not just empty words as I have pledged that, if I am successful in my candidacy, at least half of my senior leadership team will be female. I hope my words have served to demonstrate just how important gender is in trade.

It turns out that, when you look closely, gender is a key dynamic and one that anyone in charge of the WTO will need to tackle.

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## Gender Coordinator warns against compromising rape cases

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland

Amidst street protests in Monrovia against widespread rape cases here, the newly appointed Gender Coordinator of Maryland County, southeast Liberia warns parents against compromising rape cases in their homes, villages, towns and communities.

Ms. Natharine Whea made the call during a thanksgiving and welcome ceremony held this week in her honor for her preferment as the Gender Coordinator for the county.

The reception was held at the Catholic Parish Hall in Pleebo, Maryland County Electoral district #2, graced by local officials, including the president of the Cross Border Trade Women Association Frances Dialled, religion leaders, Civil Society Organizations, political leaders, local government officials, women and

image of her work and also damage future of women and girls across Liberia.

She underscores that if the crime should be curtailed, parents or family members must report rape cases to the Ministry of Gender or to relevant authorities in the county.

She vows to make a change in gender issues confronting women across Maryland County and Liberia at large, rallying women to support her vision.

"Let me say to you today, let backward be backward and forward be forever, Let God be the glory for my life, and the lives of all women in Maryland County and Liberia."

Ms. Whea: "My people and good women of Maryland County, one of the things that I will totally speak strongly against in my administration is rape; it shouldn't be compromised in our county



children groups, among others.

The Catholic Priest, Rev. Father Ernest Winser offers prayers for Ms Whea during the thanksgiving service.

"I am happy today and pleased to offer a special prayer with you Ms Whea, please do your best to put the women of Maryland County on the Map of Liberia. I therefore pray that the Almighty God protects you, comforts you and directs you in all your activities", Father Winser intercedes.

In remarks, Ms Whea lauds women of Maryland County, including the entire congregation at the Catholic Church for the trust accorded her in her new post.

The gender coordinator notes that although she appreciates citizens, specifically women of the county, but she will be more resistant to acts bent on compromising rape cases either by parents or family members of victims, because it will undermine the good

and country."

She further vows to work positively along with women groups across the county to make rape a public enemy.

The County Gender Coordinator's pledge comes at a time when rape has become a pandemic in Liberia with an 11-year-old girl sexually abused by a 38-year-old man in Maryland County.

Also commenting, the national president of the Association of Women in Cross Border Trade in Liberia, Frances Dialled says her organization will work closely with the gender coordinator to improve women's wellbeing.

Another women advocate Ms Phelicia Towalid similarly calls on women across the county to join hands with the newly appointed gender coordinator to fight rape in Liberia. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# House peruse protesters' petition

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives has set up five committees to look into petition from anti rape protesters under the banner, Affiliation of Women and Child Rights Advocates over alarming

Plenary by the Chairperson on Gender, Representative Julie F. Wiah of Lofa County district #2, informing her colleagues about a petition she received here Tuesday, on behalf of the House.

In her communication to plenary, Representative Wiah

to justify rape when indeed over 90% of the total number of rape cases affects kids below 13.

According to the female lawmaker, some of the cases are beyond human imagination and needs to be addressed speedily, saying that most of the suggestions within the Petition will help protect girls.

"There are rape cases which include one month old to ten years old babies and strictly violates the Rape Law of Liberia, Chapter 14 Section 14.70 of the Panel Code and Section 13.1.1 of the Criminal Procedure Law; Statutory Rape is a felony of the first degree which is a non-billable offence in Liberia but there are reports indicating perpetrators in such category who are set free for reasons best known to several judges."

The Lofa County lawmaker laments that it is sad to see the wave violence against women and girls, stressing that the issue of rape is a serious challenge in Liberia, and as women are protesting against rape, the crime is occurring on a daily basis.

Also speaking on the issue, Montserrado County district

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 11**



rape cases in the country.

The committees include Gender, Judiciary, Security, Health, and Ways, Means and Finance, respectively. They have been mandated to report in two weeks.

The House's decision follows a communication sent to

notes that since March 2020 to now, over 958 rape cases have been reported and only a handful of perpetrators have been arrested, adding that while sexual abuse is being normalized and justified; people are using women's supposedly indecent dress-code

# Dr. Adesina re-elected as AfDB President

Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina has been re-elected to serve a second five-year term as President of the African Development Bank Group (www.AfDB.org). He was re-elected by the Board of Governors of the Bank on Thursday, August 27, 2020.

A globally renowned development economist and a World Food Prize Laureate and Sunhak Peace Prize Laureate, Dr. Adesina has distinguished himself in driving a bold agenda to reform the Bank and

National Planning of Côte d'Ivoire.

The election took place on the final day of the 2020 Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank Group, which was held virtually for the first time in the Bank's history.

Minister Niale Kaba, said, "I am delighted that the Board of Governors have re-elected Dr. Adesina for a second term in office as President. As shareholders, we strongly support the Bank and will give him all the necessary support to carry forward and



Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina

accelerate Africa's development. He was first elected as President of the Bank on May 28, 2015.

As newly re-elected President, Dr Adesina, a former Nigerian Minister of Agriculture, will begin his new term on September 1, 2020.

The election result, which gave him a hundred percent of votes of all regional and non-regional members of the Bank, was announced by the Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the Bank, Mrs. Niale Kaba, Minister of

implement his compelling vision for the Bank over the next five years."

Adesina's first term focused on the bold new agenda for the Bank Group based on five development priorities known as the High 5s: Light up and Power Africa; Feed Africa; Industrialize Africa; Integrate Africa; and Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa.

During Adesina's first term, the Bank achieved impactful results on the lives of 335

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 11**

# Israel's Mashav supports Liberia with Covid 19 relief items

The State of Israel through MASHAV (Israel's Agency for International Development) has presented various humanitarian and Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), food items and startup kits to the Liberian Health Services and to young single mothers and families in Liberia, affected by COVID 19.

According to a press release from the Israeli Embassy in Accra, Ghana dated 27 August, the products, worth 14,000 USD, are a part of Israel's continuous aid to the State of Liberia, in support of its fight to eradicate the pandemic.

The support was given both to the Government of Liberia and to the Liberian civil society. The Ministry of Health that received the majority of the PPEs, distributed the items among various health institutions and hospitals.

From the civil society side, MASHAV worked in cooperation with Care for Liberia's



Population (CALP), a Liberian non-profit organization.

On behalf of MASHAV, CALP provided Coronavirus awareness activities and gave each beneficiary 50 pieces of nose masks and a bottle of hand sanitizer in Montserrado and Grand Bassa Counties.

In addition, they provided feeding assistance to 120 teenage mothers in Monrovia and Buchanan for a month and handed startup kits to 30 trained teenage girls and single mothers from CALP's program in Tailoring and Hairdressing.

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The State of Israel shares a very strong cooperation with the State of Liberia, which dates back to the early 1950s.

In March 2019, Israel and Liberia agreed to enhance their collaboration, based on the principles of the national development plan of Liberia.

This was elaborated in the official visit of President George Manneh Weah to Israel from February 26 to March 1,

2019.

During the visit, Israel and Liberia agreed to further enhance their collaboration, based on the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, particularly in the fields of agriculture, health, capacity-building, energy, infrastructure and counter-terrorism.

Following the visit, in the

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# Inmate dies of strange disease at Gbarnga Central Prison

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

This paper has gathered that a strange disease has hit the Gbarnga Central Prison in Bong County, killing at least one inmate, an inside source has confirmed.

According to our Bong County correspondent, the Gbarnga Central Prison is

brought in this cell," a source says.

"Just last night, one person died and as I speak, more than twenty persons are paralyzed," the insider says further.

Another source at the prison facility says rehabilitation officers have threatened to descend on any prisoner who tells the public inside happenings of the Gbarnga

after my colleagues convinced me to support their armed robbery act and as I speak, I have served three years now since 2017, but I don't know whether I will maintain my life up to 2021," he adds.

Our Bong County correspondent who disguised himself as a visitor, says some of the prisoners are unable to walk and are calling on human rights institutions to intervene.

They want for the government to allow prisoners whose conditions are worse to go for treatment and later come back to serve their jail sentence.

A correction officer at the Gbarnga Central Prison who also begged for anonymity expresses fear that the overcrowding of the prison might lead to jail break like what happened in 2017.

The officer warns that this is risky for the lives of officers at the facility.

It can be recalled that more than twenty person escaped the prison during the 2017 jailbreak, a situation that the correction officer does not want to be repeated.

The prison officer confirms the current disease at the facility, but says their clinic ran out of drugs, making it difficult to cater to prisoners whenever they get sick.--

*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



currently overcrowded and approximately twenty percent of the prisoners at the facility are pretrial detainees.

"The information I am giving you is factual, but I don't want you to call my name in your report. I am one of the prisoners in here and things are very difficult for us since I was

Central Prison.

However our source says life has become completely difficult, adding that while they are being held for multiple crimes they have committed, they are not being treated kindly by government.

"I was guilty of criminal facilitation and conspiracy

# Liberian soldier dies on ECOWAS mission

A ranking Liberian soldier Lieutenant Colonel Oyango Kole has died while serving as Liberia's representative at the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Ministry of Defense here says.

In a social media post, the Ministry of Defense says ECOWAS has informed the defense authorities here of the demise of Liberia's representative to the

his tenure.

Concerning Lt./Col. Kole, Mr. Jarboe says he was nearing the end of his tenure when he died.

According to the Defense Ministry's social media post, Lt./Col. Kole was until death, seconded to the ECOWAS Commission by the Ministry of National Defense as the Program Officer, Personnel and Logistics at the Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD) in the Political Affairs,



Commission, Lieutenant Colonel Oyango Kole of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).

Lt/Col. Kole died in Abuja, Nigeria on Saturday 22 August after a brief illness, the Ministry reveals.

The AFL's Chief of Public Affairs Maj. Jarboe, in a phone conversation with this paper, says this is not the first time, recalling that another AFL Officer Lasana Konneh died when he came from the assignment right at the end of

Peace and Security.

Lt/Col. Kole served the ECOWAS Commission with dedication, unalloyed loyalty, and patriotism to ECOWAS and his country Liberia.

The Ministry of Defense, the High Command of the Armed Forces of Liberia, and the Economic Community of West African have extended their respective condolences to the family of the fallen soldier.

# FeJAL condemns police brutality against anti-rape protesters

The Female Journalists Association of Liberia (FeJAL) says it is disappointed that the government of Liberia will deploy police officers to brutalize peaceful protesters on day three of the anti-rape protest.

FeJAL described the action on the part of government as a sad moment for women and girls in Liberia and also a cleared show of arrogance and intolerance on the part of the government.

The Association considers the action of the government to brutalize peaceful protesters as evidence that the government fight against RAPE is mere lip service and it has no intention to fix the system as requested by protesters

FeJAL believes that this is



not only an attack on women's human rights defenders but on women's peace and security.

For too long the issue of rape and sexual abuse have been downplayed by those in

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authority and the fact that the citizens could come out in their numbers show that "we are unprotected" and "enough is enough"

FeJAL condemns in the strongest tune the actions of the government of Liberia and is admonishing the government to respect the views of it's citizens by listening to whatever it is that hurts them so that the society is peaceful and the views of women who make up 51 percent of Liberia's population

should not only be heard but also acted upon.

"We are calling on the Feminist-in-Chief, President George Weah to apologize to the protestors", FeJAL stated.

Liberia is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Resolution 1325 and 1820, unanimously calls for immediate action for the protection, women and girls from all forms of sexual violence including RAPE.

# Français

## Des manifestants assiègent la résidence privée de Weah

Les femmes et d'autres organisations de la société civile amenées par l'Affiliation des défenseurs des droits des femmes et des enfants qui ont convergé au ministère des Affaires étrangères à Monrovia mercredi avec une pétition qu'ils voulaient remettre au président George Manneh Weah lors de la deuxième journée d'une manifestation contre le viol,

ont décidé de prendre d'assaut la résidence du président située dans la communauté Rehable long de l'autoroute Robertsfield à l'extérieur de la capitale.

Cette décision fait suite à deux tentatives infructueuses des manifestants de rencontrer le président Weah dans son bureau temporaire au ministère des Affaires étrangères à Capitol Hill pour présenter leur pétition contre le viol

endémique et la violence sexuelle et sexiste à travers le pays.

Munis de pancartes sur lesquelles on pouvait lire: «Dites non au viol» et «GOL doit agir», entre autres, les manifestants ont emprunté la route principale menant au centre-ville, exigeant de voir le président pour lui présenter leur pétition, mais M. Weah ne s'est pas présenté

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## LA JUNTE AU MALI DOIT RESTER ENGAGÉE CONTRE LES JIHADISTES (CHEF D'ÉTAT-MAJOR FRANÇAIS)

La junte malienne doit conserver le même engagement face aux groupes jihadistes, pour éviter que tous les efforts accomplis ces derniers mois ne soient perdus, a déclaré jeudi à l'AFP le chef d'état-major français. Le putsch du 18 août, qui a renversé le président Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, n'a pas modifié le défi sécuritaire au Sahel, selon le général François Lecointre, qui a appelé les nouvelles autorités à ne pas relâcher leurs efforts dans une région où la force française Barkhane a déployé plus de 5.000 hommes.

"Notre souhait c'est de maintenir l'engagement de l'armée malienne dans la lutte contre les groupes armés terroristes", a-t-il déclaré à Tallinn, en Estonie. "Nous avons un certain nombre d'exigences" pour la reprise du contrôle de certains territoires dans la zone des trois frontières, entre Mali, Niger et Burkina Faso, a-t-il poursuivi. "Nous allons voir si les armées maliennes sont en mesure de garder le tempo (...). Nous leur avons indiqué que ça nous paraissait essentiel, sauf à voir perdus tous les efforts réalisés depuis le sommet de Pau", en janvier. Le colonel Assimi Goïta,

nouvel homme fort du Mali, issu des meilleures écoles militaires du pays, dirigeait jusqu'à présent les forces spéciales dans le centre du pays, une région en proie depuis 2015 aux attaques jihadistes qui ont causé de lourdes pertes civiles et militaires.

Le général Lecointre a laissé entendre que le quotidien des opérations n'était pas modifié. "Les chefs de corps sont toujours là, les commandants de zone sont toujours là, ce ne sont pas des gens qui ont participé au coup

d'Etat, et donc nous continuons à coopérer avec eux", a-t-il précisé. "Nous avons pris contact avec la junte pour leur indiquer qu'il nous paraissait essentiel de ne pas relâcher la pression sur les groupes terroristes. On va voir comment ça va se passer dans les jours qui viennent".

Le chef d'état-major a pris acte de l'interruption par les Américains de leur coopération militaire avec les Forces armées maliennes. Il a par ailleurs encouragé l'Union



## Les manifestants en colère face au silence de Weah sur le viol

Le président George Manneh Weah, un féministe en chef autoproclamé, n'a pas répondu à la demande des manifestants anti-viol de le rencontrer personnellement afin de lui remettre main en main leur pétition contre la vague croissante de viols dans le pays.

Les cas de viol et de violence sexuelle et sexiste sont devenus récurrents dans la société. C'est pareil pour les cas de sodomie qui sont signalés presque tous les jours dans les 15 comtés, affectant des dizaines de victimes dont certaines ne sont âgées que de trois ans. Des milliers de manifestants réunis au sein du groupe intitulé Affiliation des défenseurs des droits des femmes et des enfants, marchent depuis trois jours dans les rues de Monrovia pour dénoncer l'inaction du régime Weah face aux nombreuses agressions sexuelles dont sont victimes quotidiennement pour la plupart des adolescents et des mineurs, dont des bébés de 3 ans. Depuis trois jours, ils marchent à partir de Vamoma House, Sinkor jusqu'en face du palais de la présidence dans l'espoir de remettre leur pétition au président Weah afin que celui-ci intervienne et prenne des mesures contre les abus et la violation faite aux femmes, aux enfants et aux bébés.

Malheureusement, comme le mardi 25 août lors de leur premier jour de rassemblement, les manifestants du mercredi 26 août n'ont jamais réussi à rencontrer M. Weah en personne pour recevoir leur pétition.

Ils ont donc décidé de porter la pétition à la résidence privée du président aujourd'hui, jeudi, dans la communauté de Rehab le long de l'autoroute Robertsfield à l'extérieur de Monrovia pour attirer son attention.

Cependant, les manifestants ont adressé mardi une pétition au pouvoir législatif, appelant entre autres, à une augmentation du soutien



Pres. Weah

budgétaire à la Cour pénale "E" qui est exclusivement chargée de juger les cas de viol. Ils demandent en outre le renforcement de l'ensemble du système judiciaire pour assurer un procès rapide des viols et des cas de violence sexiste.

Ils ont également appelé à l'embauche d'un plus grand nombre de juges pour juger ces cas aussi rapidement que possible, notamment en renforçant la capacité de la division de la protection des femmes et des enfants de la police nationale libérienne afin d'enquêter et d'appréhender les violeurs présumés.

Une représentante de l'un des groupes de protestation, le Youth Action Movement, Mme Kulubo Koquoi a souligné la nécessité pour le gouvernement national de lutter contre les abus constants des femmes et des filles dans le pays.

"C'est alarmant et cela a attiré notre attention sur le fait que nous ne pouvons plus rester assis et attendre que le gouvernement agisse ; nous devons garder les pieds sur le feu", a-t-elle déclaré.

Le silence flagrant du Président Weah sur les questions de viol a été décrit comme non seulement assez décevant, mais aussi comme un acte d'insensibilité manifeste, en particulier, lorsque le Président s'est fait passer pour le féministe en chef du Libéria, mais paradoxalement sans se soucier des problèmes affectant la vie des femmes. Le viol au Libéria est un crime passible de dix (10) ans ou d'emprisonnement à vie selon le degré du viol (viol d'un mineur, viol ayant entraîné des lésions corporelles graves, viol à l'aide d'une arme et viol collectif).



# Français

## Des manifestants assiègent

comme la veille. C'est plutôt le Ministre libérien des finances et de la planification du développement, Samuel Tweah, qui est allé sur les lieux pour peut-être recevoir la pétition au nom du président Weah, mais il a été hué et renvoyé par les manifestants qui tenaient à voir M. Weah en personne.

Faisant l'annonce mercredi devant la présidence à Capitol Hill, les organisateurs de la manifestation ont exhorté leurs collègues à converger au Complexe sportif Samuel Kanyon Doe à Paynesville, où ils commenceront une marche vers la résidence privée du président Weah. "Nous comprenons que le président Weah n'est pas venu travailler, et pour cette raison, notre dernière manifestation atteindra son domicile pour attirer son attention et montrer notre sérieux sur cette question", a déclaré Mercy Sewon, l'une des manifestantes.

Le groupe de manifestants était principalement composé de jeunes et d'enfants âgés de cinq à 35 ans. Ils ont chanté des chansons et scandé des slogans tels que "Assez c'est assez !" Nous voulons la justice pour nos femmes et nos filles », entre autres.

Mme Sewon recommande la peine de mort pour les violeurs condamnés, déplorant : « Notre gouvernement ne peut pas continuer à garder le silence, car [le viol] a la capacité de détruire l'avenir de nos enfants. »

Selon les manifestants, la décision d'organiser une manifestation de trois jours est le résultat d'une vague croissante de cas de viol enregistrés dans le pays, précisément environ 902 cas depuis janvier 2020, le dernier incident s'étant produit dans le comté de Gbarpolu, dans le nord-ouest du Libéria, où un enfant de trois ans a été agressé

sexuellement par un homme soupçonné d'avoir 18 ans. L'auteur présumé aurait utilisé une lame pour déchirer la mineure pour pouvoir pénétrer.

« C'est le viol horrible qui a lieu dans le comté de Gbarpolu qui m'a poussée à prendre part à ce mouvement anti-viol », a dit Mme Sewon. « Chaque fois que vous écoutez la radio, vous entendez qu'un enfant est violé et cela m'attriste bien que je ne sois pas une victime, mais je ressens la même chose parce que je suis une femme et j'aurai un jour une petite fille ».

Les manifestants appellent les autorités à prendre des mesures sévères contre les violeurs condamnés pour dissuader les autres de commettre un acte aussi humiliant, mais le président Weah n'a montré aucun intérêt depuis le début de la manifestation, bien qu'il soit au courant de leur protestation.

"Vous ne pouvez pas vous appeler féministe en chef et refuser de vous présenter et de recevoir notre pétition, pour cette raison, nous allons assiéger sa maison jusqu'à ce qu'il réponde à nos demandes", a déclaré Alphonso Togbah, un autre manifestant.

Les manifestants ont pris d'assaut l'estrade du palais de l'Assemblée Nationale et ont présenté une pétition à certains membres de la Chambre des représentants.

En lisant la pétition au nom du groupe, Iren Smith, une adolescente et l'un des principaux militants, a déclaré : « il y a des centaines de cas de viol à travers le pays et les chiffres ne cessent d'augmenter de manière exponentielle ».

Selon elle, les mères et les filles de ce pays sont quotidiennement gravement attaquées par des prédateurs qui n'ont pas peur de porter tout le poids de la loi.

« Ces actes pernicieux persistent à cause du fait que le système de justice soit si faible. Ainsi les auteurs commettent ces atrocités en toute impunité ».

## LA JUNTE AU MALI DOIT RESTER

européenne à relancer sa mission de formation de l'armée malienne (EUTM Mali), également suspendue."

Il faut être capables de distinguer une réalité politique que la France a condamnée et une réalité militaire à laquelle nous sommes toujours confrontés, qui est une réalité de combat et de guerre", a précisé l'officier devant quelques journalistes.

Mais il a réitéré la volonté de Paris que la junte "remette son

pouvoir entre les mains de civils pour mettre en place un régime de transition qui permettra d'ouvrir la voie à un régime démocratique".

Le général Lecointre s'exprimait en marge d'une cérémonie de remise de décorations à 15 soldats estoniens. Ils avaient contribué à repousser une attaque jihadiste visant le camp militaire de Barkhane à Gao (Mali), en juillet 2019.

## COMMENTAIRE

By Andrés Velasco

## Sommes-nous tous redevenus keynésiens ?

**L**ONDRES - Parmi les litanies proférées à chaque conférence en ligne au sujet de la COVID-19, l'une fait l'unanimité : la pandémie a inauguré une ère d'intervention plus importante et plus robuste de l'État dans l'économie. Mais que signifie cette formule pour notre avenir ? Dans quels domaines de la vie économique l'État doit-il et peut-il faire davantage ?

Nombreux sont ceux qui estiment que les pouvoirs publics devraient s'attaquer aux inégalités et redistribuer davantage de revenus, ou qu'ils devraient combattre le changement climatique de façon plus agressive. Voilà bien deux priorités urgentes. Mais étant donné que la COVID-19 est un choc qui a pris presque tous les pays au dépourvu, le point de départ naturel consiste à inciter les pouvoirs publics à fournir une assurance sociale plus importante et plus efficace contre les chocs.

Walter Bagehot, l'un des premiers éditorialistes de *The Economist*, a appelé les gouvernements et les banques centrales à être des prêteurs de dernier recours. La crise actuelle confirme que face à un choc aussi important, les pouvoirs publics doivent également être des assureurs de dernier recours. Aucune entité privée ne peut simultanément fournir et financer la réponse indispensable de santé publique, payer les salaires des travailleurs en congé sans solde, sauver des emplois en prêtant aux entreprises à court d'argent et effectuer des transferts d'urgence aux familles en difficulté. Les États sont les seuls à pouvoir le faire.

Les statisticiens et les économistes font la distinction entre les chocs idiosyncrasiques (affectant certains individus à un moment donné) et les chocs globaux (affectant chacun d'entre nous simultanément). Cela aide les pouvoirs publics à établir un ordre de priorités pour orienter leur action future.

Les marchés privés de l'assurance peuvent fonctionner assez bien en cas de chocs idiosyncrasiques. Votre assureur automobile paie pour réparer votre garde-boue enfoncé, sans l'aide du gouvernement, parce que la plupart des autres assurés n'ont pas eu une collision en même temps. Ainsi, une partie des primes qu'ils paient vous est transmise.

Mais l'assurance privée n'est pas à toute épreuve. Ce système fonctionne mal dans les services de santé, par exemple, si l'assurance engendre une complaisance à l'égard de comportements à risque comme la consommation d'alcool ou la consommation excessive de nourriture, ou si les médecins prescrivent des tests coûteux qui ne sont pas strictement nécessaires. Un tel comportement entraîne une augmentation des primes d'assurance et laisse les pauvres sans couverture. C'est la raison pour laquelle certains plans bien conçus, comme la Loi sur la Protection des Patients et les Soins Abordables aux États-Unis ("Obamacare"), obligent chacun à souscrire une assurance et accordent une subvention aux familles à faible revenu.

Dans les pays riches, plusieurs types de combinaisons d'assurance privée et publique protègent la plupart des citoyens contre les risques idiosyncrasiques - qu'il s'agisse de maladie, de chômage ou de revenu insuffisant pour les personnes âgées. On ne peut pas en dire autant des pays émergents et en développement, où les systèmes d'assurance sociale sont faibles ou limités à ceux qui ont un emploi déclaré.

Trop de familles peuvent perdre les fruits de décennies de dur si labeur un membre de la famille tombe malade ou a un accident. Un récent livre blanc de la Banque mondiale conclut que « de nombreux systèmes de protection sociale manquent actuellement de protection contre les pertes dues à

des catastrophes pour ceux qui n'ont pas contribué aux régimes d'assurance sociale traditionnels ».

Pour combler cette lacune, précisément parce que les assurances privées ne peuvent pas tout faire, il faudra mobiliser davantage de ressources publiques. Mais il n'y a aucune raison évidente pour laquelle des pays comme le Mexique, le Pérou, la République dominicaine, l'Indonésie, la Malaisie ou les Philippines n'ont pas les moyens de le faire : jusqu'à la crise actuelle, les dépenses du gouvernement central de ces pays étaient inférieures à un cinquième du PIB.

Pourtant, une mise en garde est de mise. Davantage de financement public de l'assurance sociale n'implique pas que le gouvernement doive fournir les services payés par cette assurance. Le NHS britannique traite les patients dans les hôpitaux publics et couvre les frais médicaux ; dans le cadre du système canadien à payeur unique, le gouvernement paie pour les services qui sont fournis principalement par les hôpitaux et les cliniques privés. Les économies émergentes devraient pouvoir choisir entre les systèmes britannique et canadien, ou opter pour une autre formule. Et leur choix doit se fonder sur l'efficacité, pas sur l'idéologie.

Les chocs globaux sont une autre histoire, parce qu'il n'y a aucun sous-ensemble de citoyens non affectés qui peuvent sauver les victimes. Et si, comme pour la COVID-19, il n'y a pas de sous-ensemble de pays chanceux non affectés par la maladie, l'aide de l'étranger sera limitée au mieux. Les pays sont donc contraints en grande partie à s'auto-assurer, faisant du gouvernement l'assureur de dernier recours.

Le Fonds monétaire international estime que les gouvernements ont dépensé 11 000 milliards de dollars supplémentaires en réponse à la pandémie - une somme qui dans de nombreux cas représente un dixième du PIB ou plus. Pour paraphraser l'ancien président de la Banque centrale européenne Mario Draghi, les pays riches dépendent à hauteur de tout ce qui est en leur pouvoir. Les pays émergents et en développement, dotés de moins de capacité d'emprunt, dépendent ce qu'ils peuvent.

Dans un environnement mondial où les taux d'intérêt sont extraordinairement bas, les gouvernements des pays riches peuvent facilement emprunter bien plus que ce que les frileux de la politique budgétaire considéraient autrefois comme possible. Aux États-Unis, au Royaume-Uni et dans une grande partie de l'Union européenne, la dette publique brute dépasse désormais le PIB annuel, et les marchés n'ont toujours pas sourcillé. Et lorsque le taux d'intérêt nominal est proche de zéro, la monnaie et la dette publique à court terme deviennent des substituts proches, les épargnants sont donc heureux de détenir des dollars, des livres et des euros que les banques centrales impriment sans retenue. Rien n'annonce une prochaine inflation.

Des limites non imposées à l'émission de dette publique dans les pays développés ne signifient pas pour autant qu'il n'y a aucune limite. Comme l'a fait valoir l'ancien économiste en chef du FMI Olivier Blanchard, cela signifie que « si des taux d'intérêt sûrs sont censés rester en dessous des taux de croissance pendant longtemps », alors « les reconductions de la dette, c'est-à-dire l'émission de dette sans augmentation ultérieure des impôts, pourraient bien être réalisables. »

Une rengaine habituelle de nos jours consiste à dire qu'après la COVID-19, Milton Friedman est de sortie et que John Maynard Keynes retourne au placard. Mais si, comme le dit la célèbre citation souvent attribuée à Richard Nixon, « nous sommes tous keynésiens aujourd'hui », nous devons nous souvenir de ce que Keynes nous a enseigné : la politique budgétaire doit être renforcée en période favorable, précisément de manière à ce qu'elle puisse être expansionniste en période défavorable.

# FEJAL trains reporters to flag women's voices

By Lewis S. Teh

To curtail rape, and all other forms of sexual violence that are meted against women and girls across the country, the Female Journalist Association of Liberia or FEJAL embarks on two days training here, for media desk coordinators in Montserrado County.

Addressing reporters here Thursday, August 27, 2020, at FEJAL head office in Baptist Seminary community along the Robertsfield highway outside Monrovia, Coordinator Siatta Scott Johnson said the training is geared toward creating a gender desk in various media institutions to initiate gender

participation in decision making process; as you may be aware women are underrepresented at various levels in the society and this is what we want to change."

Siatta further stresses a need to give women an opportunity where their voices would be heard, noting that statistics has shown that women are being marginalized in media content.

Earlier in welcome remarks via mobile, UN Women Spotlight Initiative program analyst, Dhogba Mabande expresses heartfelt sentiments to FEJAL on behalf of UN Women for the training of gender desk coordinators.

more harm or risks.

"It's not about the training but rather transmitting it into action; we anticipate that this training will enlighten and build the knowledge."

Facilitator and consultant at FEJAL, Maureen Sieh, calls on the trainees to consider women voices in their respective newsrooms, saying, "When you don't promote women voices, you are marginalizing a society."

According to Ms Sieh, there is a need to create a culture where people will stand up and say it's unacceptable not to have women's voices in every story.

Liberia is now becoming a country where women are under attack from the hands of rapists, and other forms of sexual and gender base violence. We want a society that promotes gender equality; that's the whole idea of gathering here."

The two days training for desk coordinators, organized under the auspices of FEJAL and partners with support from UN Women brought together over 20 journalists from both print and electronic media institutions in Montserrado County.

The exercise comes at the time women and civil society groupings here under the banner, Affiliation of Women and Child Rights Advocate stage three days Anti Rape protests, calling on the Weah-led government to take robust action against rape, and other forms of sexual and gender base violence that are on the increase across the country.

Meanwhile, speaking to one of the participants at the training, Macpherson C. Marbiah from the InProfile Daily Newspaper expresses delight for the knowledge acquired.

"This is first of its kind for FEJAL to undertake such a initiative, we look forward to getting the needed support to enable us do our work", Marbiah expresses. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



sensitive reporting on sexual and gender base violence.

"We're conducting this training to build the capacity of gender coordinators and to mainstream gender in various newsrooms", Ms Johnson explains.

She says the initiative is to create opportunity for the media to mainstream gender at various levels by training reporters and providing gadgets to help enhance their works.

"We want our gender coordinators at various media institutions to flag issues relating to women's

"As you may be aware this engagement seeks to address issues of sexual and gender base violence, it's elimination and other harmful practices", Mr. Mabande says.

He details that the program focuses on six thematic areas, including Law and Legislation, Institutional Strengthening and issues of gender base violence, among others, saying, "We want to ensure that the message are disseminated and understood."

He adds that part of UN Women's activities is to focus on victim's survival and making sure he or she is not exposed to

# 5 Liberian organizations receive USAID funding to fight COVID-19

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the USAID-funded New Partnerships Initiative otherwise New Partners for Better Health (NPI EXPAND) Activity has awarded small grants to five civil society organizations to assist communities in fighting the COVID-19 outbreak in Liberia.

The organizations will support the Ministry of Health and County Health Teams to reduce and eliminate transmission of COVID-19 through strengthened risk communication and community engagement activities. Implementing activities in four counties: Grand Bassa, Margibi, Montserrado, and Nimba, the

organizations will engage stakeholders across multiple sectors in COVID-19 preparedness and response at the county and community levels.

According to a press release, the organizations will deploy a variety of communication channels to disseminate risk reduction

# Another war suspect

Starts from back page

large numbers of deaths during the conflict, which eventually led to the involvement of the UN and the Economic Community of West African States.

A final peace agreement led to the election of Taylor as president of Liberia in 1997, before a second civil war broke out in 1999 and forced him into exile in 2003.

Taylor is now serving 50

years in a British prison after being found guilty by an international tribunal of crimes against humanity.

His ex-wife, Agnes Reeves Taylor, was charged by British police with torture in 2017, but the case against her was dismissed two years later.

A judge said there was a lack of evidence of governmental control at the time of the alleged crimes.

# House peruse

Cont'd from page 6

#8 Representative Acarous Gray, from the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change, says rape is war against women and children.

Gray calls for an investigation to establish why rape cases are rising despite having in place an amended and strengthened rape law that has made the crime non-bailable.

Representative Larry Yanquo of Nimba County district #7 expresses disappointment that women and those who mean well for the country have been in the street for three days without

the Executive coming out to listen to their cry.

He calls on President George Manneh Weah to meet with Liberians, but ruling CDC lawmaker Gray rebuffs that the rape battle is not a presidential fight, rather, a battle for the Liberian people.

Bomi County district #3 Representative Haja F. Siryon, urges the Legislature to act on most of the recommendations in the protesters' petition, emphasizing that perpetrators caught in the act should be castrated and amputated. **- Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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messages, - enforce COVID-19 awareness and sensitization messages, and reduce stress, stigmatization, and fear associated with COVID-19 in communities. Some organizations will also erect handwashing stations and distribute face masks and hygiene kits to vulnerable communities to combat COVID-19.

The organizations will implement the COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement activities from July - November 2020 thru Community Empowerment Program (CEP) in West Point and Soneiwhen, Montserrado County; Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI) in Duazon, Henry Town, Marshall, and Dolo's Town, Margibi County; Equip Liberia in Saniquellie-Mah District, Nimba County; Grassroots Agency for Social Services (GRASS) in Buchanan District, Grand Bassa County, and Special Emergency Activity to Restore Children's Hope (SEARCH) - Tappita District, Nimba County, respectively.

USAID has committed \$2.3 million in health and IDA humanitarian assistance in

Liberia to provide critical aid for all 15 Liberian Counties (emergency-operation centers, training, contact-tracing, hospitals, and community health care), support quarantine efforts, and provide village-level support.

The release says the United States has helped lay a strong foundation for Liberia's response to COVID-19 through more than \$4 billion in total assistance over the past 20 years, including more than \$675 million for health.

The New Partnerships Initiative EXPAND: New Partners for Better Health (NPI EXPAND) activity is a five-year USAID-funded cooperative agreement - awarded to Palladium in October 2019. With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the new challenges - confronted by already strained health systems worldwide, NPI EXPAND is supporting countries to engage new and underutilized partners to leverage community structures and provide innovative and scalable solutions to strengthen emergency preparedness and response. **-Press Release**

# Ellen joins anti-rape protesters

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf says women's demonstration against recent incidents of rape against women and babies as young as three months old, ten years old is as good for the country.

Madam Sirleaf who showed up at the protest on Thursday said she couldn't stay at her house and not show solidarity with the protesters.

"Today they having to gather outside my premises, outside the place where I live, so I could not sit in my house, stay in my yard, see all those women out there demonstrating for something that is good for the country and not go there to show solidarity with them," she said Thursday, 27 August in her compound at Fish Market.

This anti - rape protest which has attracted women, men and children from all

in other counties are reported to join the protest.

What is responsible for Mr. Weah's failure to show up and receive protesters' petition may be best known to him.

In an audio aired on local FM broadcasters Thursday, Mr. Weah is heard criticizing the protesters for presenting their petition to a team from the U.S. Embassy, but yet refused to present it to officials of his government that he had designated to receive it.

"If will accept a team from the American Embassy which is not wrong at all, and you understand, and then refuse to accept a team from your government to receive your petition then you can see that it doesn't make sense," he says.

Mr. Weah argues that Liberia has already passed the era of destruction, wars and disunity, adding that it's time to move forward, saying: "Let us not be joking."

He says people should not

"And they had to act in manner in which one does a peaceful protest. And so they've been going on the streets, they making petitions to Legislature, to embassies, to other places, our hearts have been with them," she says.

Mrs. Sirleaf calls on men to see reason, because of their wives, mothers, sisters and daughters, to see that what the women are doing is for the protection of women and those who are going to make major contribution to the economy if they are allowed to pursue their goals if they are not violated by men.

"So I call upon all of you to show solidarity in whatever way you can support them, to stand up for them. They shouldn't have to do this, we must find a different way to solve it," she notes.

The former president says her idea was to just go across, sit with the women, talk to



walks of live comes as reports of rape cases continue to rise here of recent with victims even less than a year - old and in some cases, the perpetrators acting very brutally to prey on their victims.

In one case that emerged from Gbarpolu County of recent, a perpetrator is accused of using razor blade to cut the private part of a three - year - old girl so as to pave his way to abuse her sexually.

The mass protest against rape entered its third day in Monrovia Thursday, 27 August, but throughout the days President George Manneh Weah continued to avoid appearing in honor of protesters' demand for him to receive their petition.

This is probably a reason for the extension of the protest which is stalling normal movements and could also affect normal economic operations as the days of protest increase and residents

politicize rape, adding that the president's office is open to all Liberians and people can leave their petition to the government office, with assurance that it will be addressed.

However his predecessor Mrs. Sirleaf told journalists Thursday that rape has always been a problem that has existed before her administration, in her administration and it is "still with us today."

"You know rape has always been a problem in our country," she says, adding that it doesn't happen only in Liberia but "we know that it hurts us and it hurts our efforts to make progress and it destroys the lives of young women and babies."

Mrs. Sirleaf argues that the women feel they have to act, given the kind of cases that have recently come up where young babies as young as three months old, ten years old are being violated sometimes by old men or young men.

them to tell them to make sure to keep the peace that she fought for in all those years to maintain when she was president.

Mrs. Sirleaf says she didn't want to see any violence, but urged them to be able to meet with some of the people that will be able to deal with the rape issue in a legal way, inclusive of people that will meet with the Legislature and authorities to deal with it.

"But today I just wanted to show solidarity with them and say thank you all for what you're doing, but please be peaceful," she adds.

However, Mrs. Sirleaf notes that the crowd was overwhelming and everybody had a telephone and wanted to get a photo and so she didn't have the chance to sit with the women to talk to them.

In the interview, she says she got to a place where she felt she had to move away

# Dr. Adesina re-elected

Cont'd from page 6

million Africans, including: 18 million people with access to electricity; 141 million people benefiting from improved agricultural technologies for food security; 15 million people benefiting from access to finance from private investments; 101 million people provided with access to improved transport; and 60 million people gaining access to water and sanitation.

The Bank has maintained its AAA-ratings by all major global credit rating agencies for five years in a row. The Board of Governors of the Bank Group approved a 125% increase in the General Capital of the Bank, raising its capital from \$93 billion to \$208 billion, the largest in the history of the Bank.

The African Development Fund received a \$7.6 billion pledge from donors, a 32% increase, for support to lowincome countries and fragile states.

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Under Adesina's leadership, the African Development Bank's Board of Directors approved a \$10 billion facility

to support African countries to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The Bank also launched a \$3 billion COVID-19 social bond on the global capital markets, the highest US dollar denominated social bond ever in world history, which is listed on the London Stock Exchange, Luxembourg Stock Exchange and NASDAQ.

Adesina said, "I am deeply grateful for the collective trust, strong confidence and support of our shareholders for electing me for a second term as President. It is yet another call for selfless service to Africa and the African Development Bank, to which I will passionately devote myself."

The African Development Bank is Africa's premier development finance institution, comprising 54 regional and 27 non-regional member countries.

"The future beckons us for a more developed Africa and a much stronger and resilient African Development Bank Group. We will build on the strong foundations of success in the past five years, while further strengthening the institution, for greater effectiveness and impacts," Adesina said.

# Israel's Mashav

Cont'd from page 6

field of health, MASHAV carried out capacity-building course on emergency preparedness to doctors and emergency services in Liberia, and 20 Liberian agricultural students went on a 11 months AgroStudies training project in Israel.

The health services received from MASHAV 8,000 N-95 face masks, 80 thermometers and hundreds medical gowns.

The communities received 3 tons of rice, 600 liters of cooking oil, 60 dozen cans of sardines, 150 hand sanitizers, 15,000 face masks, 2,000 sachets of powder soap, 2,000 bottles of Clorox and 200 veronica buckets.

This is in addition to the sewing machines and hair products donated to 30 young Liberian single mothers.--  
**Press release**

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from the scene because she didn't want anybody to get hurt because security was tussling people and people were fighting back.

According to her, if anybody had gotten hurt, it would have been on her conscience and it would have been her responsibility.

She says she left the scene with the idea that when the women are settled in their different locations where she can go and talk with them and encourage them, she will do that.

Mrs. Sirleaf, guarded by securities, walked through the

protesting crowd as partakers chanted repeatedly: "Our Ma thank you; Our Ma here," upon her appearance in their midst on the field closest to her residence at Fish Market.

The protesters also repeatedly chanted "We want justice," as Mrs. Sirleaf walked in to show solidarity, with some in the crowd complaining of how they were tear-gassed and chased by state security forces during the anti - rape protest.

The crowd of protesters was huge and Mrs. Sirleaf had to return to her compound where she spoke with journalists.

# Another war suspect arrested in London



A man has been arrested in London on suspicion of war crimes in Liberia, over offences allegedly committed between 1989 and 2003, Sky news reports.

According to Sky news, the 45-year-old was detained by

officers from the Metropolitan Police on suspicion of war crimes, contrary to section 51 of the International Criminal Court Act 2001.

He was arrested in southeast London at around 7.20am on Thursday and has been taken into custody at a police station

in the centre of the capital city.

Police said the arrest followed an allegation of offences relating to the first and second civil wars in the African nation, between 1989 and 2003.

Officers are searching an address in southeast London and enquiries are ongoing.

Up to a quarter of a million people were killed in the Liberian civil wars, while thousands more were mutilated and raped.

The first Liberian civil war raged from 1989 after former President Charles Taylor started an uprising in a bid to topple the government.

Backed by a rebel group, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), he gained control of large areas of the country and rose to become one of Africa's most prominent warlords.

The NPFL has been accused of a wide range of human rights abuses and blamed for

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10**

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# Man Utd midfielder Pogba tests positive for coronavirus

The 27-year-old midfielder has been left out of France's squad for their upcoming Nations League matches next month.

The 27-year-old midfielder has been left out of France's squad for their upcoming Nations League matches next month.

Tottenham midfielder Tanguy Ndombele - Pogba's teammate in the national side - has also tested positive for COVID-19 and will spend 14 days self-isolating.

The news was confirmed by

France head coach Didier Deschamps as he announced the squad for the games.

France are scheduled to play Sweden in Solna on 5 September and Croatia in Paris on 8 September.

Pogba was due to be called up but has been replaced by 17-year-old Rennes midfielder Eduardo Camavinga.

Deschamps told a news conference: "I've completed at the very last minute a change in the list, because Paul Pogba, who



was previously on the list, unfortunately for him he carried out a test yesterday which was returned as positive this morning.

"So at the last moment he had to be replaced by Eduardo Camavinga."

It also means Pogba will miss the start of the United's pre-season preparations next week.

Along with the rest of the club's squad, he had been given two weeks off - ahead of the club's next competitive fixture

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