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# Weah dishes out birthday gifts



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# Continental News

## Rwanda's clothing spat with the US helps China

More than 100 sewing machines rattle away at a factory on the outskirts of Kigali, the capital of Rwanda.

A cooperative of 83 of the African nation's tailors established the company - the Kigali Garment Centre - last year. Located in an industrial area built on one of the rolling green hills surrounding the city, it was set up in line with the Rwandan government's strategy of boosting the country's clothing manufacturing sector.

"We've trained 130 youngsters, of whom 97% are female, since the factory launched," says the firm's director general and co-founder Jerome Mugabo.

Behind him on the main factory floor, employees, who all seem to be in their teens or 20s, are producing chino trousers. Rwanda's efforts to boost its domestic garment industry have seen it fight a lonely, and continuing, trade battle with the US that dates back to 2015.

Back then the six members of the East Africa Community (EAC) block of countries - Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South-Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda - announced that they would all put in place high tariffs on the import of second-hand clothing or "chagua".

The idea behind the de-facto ban was to stop the importation of large quantities of cheap

used clothing, mostly from the US and the UK, which the African nations said were stifling the growth of their nascent garment industries.

The extent of the issue for the six countries was shown by widely reported 2015 figures from the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The USAID said that in that year, the EAC states

accounted for almost 13% (\$274m; £213m) of the global imports of used clothing.

The study also found that almost two thirds of the combined populations purchased some second-hand clothes. Keen to hang on to its share of these exports, the US responded that the proposed ban would violate free-trade agreements, and it threatened to remove the EAC countries from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa).

Enacted back in 2000, this allows 39 sub-Saharan African nations to export thousands of goods duty-free to the US. After the US's announcement, all EAC members except for Rwanda backed out. It went on to introduce a tariff of \$4 per kilogram on imports of used clothing in 2018. The US responded by putting tariffs of 30% on Rwandan clothing, where there had previously

been none. While Rwanda was only exporting about \$1.5m of clothing per year to the US at the time, this stopped that overnight, and meant that the African nation could not hope to increase it.

However, Jerome Mugabo says he remains pleased by Rwanda's decision to go it alone. "It helped us to set up our business, as we get more customers since the ban," he says.

Ritesh Patel, managing director of Rwanda's oldest garment factory - Utexrwa, which was founded in 1984 - agrees. "Rwanda needs to do this to be able to grow its economy," he says. "As people were able to buy a second-hand men's shirt for 800 Rwandan francs [84 US cents; 64p], they were not interested in a new men's shirts of 4,000 Rwandan francs that we could produce." BBC



Rwanda is working hard to build up its garment industry

## Alleged North Korean Sanctions Violations in DRC Draw Scrutiny

Business and banking dealings by North Koreans in the Democratic Republic of the Congo appear to violate numerous international sanctions, according to watchdog groups who say Pyongyang is taking advantage of the DRC's lax bank system.

A report in August by Sentry, a Washington D.C.-based organization that

tracks money which finances conflict in Africa found that in 2018 two North Korean businessmen traveled to the DRC on non-commercial visas, set up a construction firm, opened a bank account and were awarded contracts for numerous projects including building government-funded statues.

Investigators say the report shows that North Korea is seeking out parts of the world

where it can operate secretly and obtain foreign currency otherwise unavailable to the secretive and internationally-isolated government.

"All of these different steps are important because that entire process is littered with a number of violations of U.N., E.U. and U.S. sanctions," John Dell'Osso, senior investigator for Sentry told VOA.

"And those sanctions specifically focus on preventing just the kind of activity we wrote about which is North Koreans setting up businesses, which would give them an opportunity to generate revenue and then allowing them to set up bank accounts that would enable them to transact in foreign currencies which are critical to the government in Pyongyang."

Jean-Louis Kayembe wa Kayembe, director general at the DRC central bank and head of the monetary policy committee, declined comment when contacted by VOA. North Korean officials have not commented on the Sentry allegations or business dealings in the DRC.



A regional branch office of the Democratic Republic of Congo's Central Bank is seen in Lubumbashi, DRC, May 22, 2016.

## Coronavirus: South Africa opens borders to African countries



Airports were closed in March after the first coronavirus cases were confirmed

South Africa has opened its borders to travellers from all African countries, but has retained restrictions against countries with higher coronavirus infection rates including the UK, the US and Russia. The country closed its borders in March to limit the spread of the virus.

It will from Thursday reopen some land borders and its three main airports in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg.

Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor said all arriving travellers must produce a Covid-19 testing certificate from their countries and will be screened on arrival.

Travellers from countries

whose infection and death rate are higher than South Africa will not be allowed into the country for leisure.

"Only citizens who are investors, diplomats, high-skills visa holders and businesspeople [coming from the high-risk countries] will be allowed," Ms Pandor told journalists on Wednesday.

Travellers who exhibit coronavirus symptoms or test positive will incur all the medical expenses.

South Africa has been Africa's worst hit country when it comes to coronavirus infections. It has so far confirmed 674,000 cases, about half the number reported on the continent. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Stop the violence

**LIBERIA IS RETROGRESSING** gradually into violence of unimaginable proportion that could reverse hands of the clock and send this country once again nose-diving, amid a global pandemic.

**AHEAD OF MIDTERM** senatorial election in December, the country has witnessed spate of violence between supporters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change and loyalists of the opposition Collaborating Political Parties, threatening whatever is left of the economy and social peace.

**THIS IS DANGEROUS** and must claim attention of the Weah administration immediately. Opposition lawmakers Abraham Darius Dillon and Yekeh Kolubah have suffered attacks repeatedly in the past several months for criticizing the CDC administration. The latest saw the home of Montserrado County Electoral District#10 Representative Kolubah completely ransacked on Sunday, 27 September by mobilized youths believed to have come from the CDC just as it occurred in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County few months back.

**THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS** to be comfortable with violence against members of the opposition, believing that such tactics would silence them into cowardice and submission. The ruling establishment is totally paranoid by criticisms, and is prepared to go after any citizen raising his or her voice, as is in the case of Dillon and Yekeh on critical issues.

**SURELY, THIS IS** not the type of democracy Liberians saw in the CDC and elected its standard bearer George Manneh Weah in 2017 as President. President Weah's conspicuous silence on the wave of violence across the country is not only worrisome, but disappointing.

**THIS IS EVEN** more dangerous as the country goes to the poll on December 8th to elect 15 senators with the ruling Coalition seeking absolute control of the Legislature, which it already has over both the House and the Senate.

**THE WEAH ADMINISTRATION** should understand that violently suppressing free speech and dissenting views are traits of dictatorship that undermine tolerance and national unity. The eastern European state of Belarus is a classic example of where tyrant rules with iron fist, crushing dissents at all cost.

**LIBERIA SHOULD NOT** be allowed to return to such atmosphere because our international partners, including the United States, the United Nations, ECOWAS and the African Union, among others invested a lot in this country to get us to where we are today as a people.

We call on the government to move quickly in ensuring the violence comes to an end no matter which side it emanated from to give way to democratic norms and practices, which are healthy for our democracy.

**IN THE SAME** vein, we want an immediate investigation into Sunday's violence that left Representative Kolubah's residence totally ransacked so that perpetrators are brought to justice. Anything short of that could be seen as government's complacency.

# COMMENTARY

By Kent Harrington

## Rescuing US Intelligence

*By consistently demonizing America's intelligence agencies and undercutting their missions, US President Donald Trump has sacrificed US national security for the sake of his own political interests. Given today's global threats, a President-elect Joe Biden would need to make this the first mess he cleans up.*

**A**TLANTA - With the US presidential election barely a month away, former Vice President Joe Biden and his advisers are devising his national-security policy and creating shortlists to fill the cabinet's ranking positions in the event that he defeats President Donald Trump. But while presidential hopefuls traditionally have focused first on contenders to run the state, defense, and treasury departments, this time is different. With the intelligence community in an increasingly perilous state, Biden should choose a top spymaster before making any other personnel decisions.

It is no secret that the United States faces a wide range of challenges abroad. Over the last four years, Trump has undermined the standing, standards, and strengths of the agencies that are charged with ensuring the country's security. A new director of national intelligence will have to repair the damage and root out the festering corruption that Trump's appointees have sown across the agencies. This will be no small task.

While the sheer scale of the harm done under Trump is anyone's guess, his unrelenting attacks on US spies and analysts have cowed the agencies and undermined their missions. Since taking office, Trump has consistently disparaged the intelligence community and its work, especially the finding that Russia interfered in the 2016 election on his behalf. And while the Kremlin's election meddling has continued, those conducting Trump's daily intelligence briefs no longer bother to raise the subject, lest they provoke his ire. And recent reports that CIA director Gina Haspel is choking off intelligence on Russia's interference in the 2020 election to avoid antagonizing Trump suggest that intelligence leaders' political subservience is degrading US national security as well as the integrity of its government agencies. It is safe to assume that those briefing the president are also eliding other active threats, such as those emanating from North Korea, where Trump's failed summitry has left in place a ticking nuclear time bomb.

A president who trashes rather than heeds crucial information is bad enough. But the effects of Trump's war on intelligence do not stop at the White House gate. He is also blocking other key decision-makers' access to needed information and expert analysis. For example, national intelligence officials have indefinitely postponed the annual worldwide threat briefing for Congress. For legislators who oversee these issues, this presentation offers a valuable perspective not only on the intelligence community's \$70 billion annual budget, but also on the leading dangers confronting the US.

Of course, the Trump administration's motives are obvious. Denying Congress and others access to intelligence spares Trump the embarrassment of having his numerous policy failures and personal misdeeds aired publicly. Trump made his wishes clear after the 2019 annual threat briefing, when he fulminated publicly against the intelligence community for its assessments of Iran, the Islamic State, and North Korea. Faced with findings that contradicted his self-proclaimed achievements, he tweeted that the intelligence agencies needed to "go back to school."

And now, Trump can count on John Ratcliffe, his newly confirmed national intelligence director, to

do his bidding without question. Ratcliffe, a former congressman with no qualifications for the job he now holds, recently issued a decree that Congress will receive only written intelligence reports on election security, instead of in-person briefings, just when Russia is ramping up its 2020 pro-Trump electoral interference. That diktat, which would have prevented intelligence experts from having to answer lawmakers' questions, drew criticism even from Republicans.

But legislators aren't the only people whom Trump and Ratcliffe want to keep in the dark. According to a Department of Homeland Security whistleblower, the White House has prohibited the department's analysts from sharing intelligence on Russian meddling with other agencies.

It is obvious why the administration wants to suppress such information. Trump and his cronies are peddling bogus intelligence to support his presidential campaign. One line of disinformation seeks to tar Biden as sympathetic to China. Thus, in an August 26 tweet, Trump claimed that "Chinese State Media and Leaders of CHINA want Biden to win 'the U.S. Election.'" This followed the similarly disingenuous assertion made by Trump's son, Donald Jr., at the Republican Party Convention that "the intelligence community recently assessed that the Chinese Communist Party favors Biden."

When asked about the matter on August 30, Ratcliffe demurred, claiming that he couldn't reveal any details, even though his counterintelligence chief, William Evanina, had done precisely that just a few weeks earlier. As Evanina made clear, China's overt propaganda is par for the course, and should be distinguished from the Kremlin's covert political warfare on Trump's behalf.

Ratcliffe's shameless fabrications suggest that he sees the politicization of intelligence in Trump's interests as a major part of his job. Last month, he claimed that China poses a greater threat than any other country, adding: "That includes threats of election influence and interference." Curiously, he seems to have forgotten his own counterintelligence chief's recent statements suggesting otherwise. He also neglected to mention the findings of his own senior intelligence official overseeing election security, Shelby Pierson, whose earlier testimony before Congress singled out Russia, not China.

Whatever the outcome of the presidential election, Trump's war on the intelligence community has taken its toll. As one former intelligence official tells the journalist Chris Whipple in *The Spy Masters: How the CIA Directors Shape History and the Future*, "There's been an evolution among all intelligence community leaders ... from holding the line on objectivity and integrity to, eventually, Trump breaking down that wall - and the loss of objectivity and integrity."

Nonetheless, the intelligence community's ultimate responsibility, as former CIA Director Leon Panetta puts it, is to speak truth to power. To that end, if Biden wins in November, purging the political patsies now ensconced in the national intelligence director's office will be a necessary, though not sufficient, first step. When it comes to restoring the intelligence community's integrity, a President-elect Biden will need more than one new broom to sweep everything clean. *The Spy Masters* shows why. Whipple's excellent history should be on Biden's desk.

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## Lord, let them continue fanning the fire

Dear Father;

Hmm, you know, the book people can say power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Let them be there and be fanning the fire since the only way they know how to live is to grab on to power and steal our village money. Ehn our old people can say the monkey that is really to die can't hear whistle sound-we inside!

Uh, my son what is going on in your village again that get you talking all by yourself. I can hear your voice way up here thinking you were having a conversation with someone not knowing you are all by yourself.

Yes mehn Father, is it not our people in this village? They are so inept that the only thing they think on is how to either grab our village power or how to stay on it and continue stealing our money. Some of them na form all kinds of two by four companies around here parading themselves as Angels of light not knowing they are the main devils in disguise.

Hmm, my son, all this for there one?

But Father what you want me to say? Is it not greed and ineptitude driving them crazy? Some of them are only used to free money. They can't start anything from scratch and hustle like the way some of us are hustling. They must get it free and it has to come from the village covers. So they must fight and win power at all cost or stay there at all cost.

Ehn, is that so, tell me about it.

Oh, but Father, you having been listing to the way they have been talking all over the village from every side like imbeciles? Yes, like imbeciles! There is not a day you will listen to the Town Criers in this village and not here their threats of war or see them recruiting young boys and girls who supposed to be in school to serve as militants.

You mean at this stage where the global village is fighting one big sickness, they are here fanning war fire?

Ah, Father, that the one we inside so oo. And they think when they start the fire our neighbors will come from their villages to put it off-da one da lie, already to even leave one village to another that big challenge, who will be willing to come put off a fire caused by some people who are so ingrained in their appetite for looting.

God forbid, my son!

Ah Father, what I must say na. The people have no sense of patriotism. It must be for them. If it is not them it should not be anybody else because they in their little minds think it's time for them to control the village for life.

I see the other people from the other side, but the Footballer's Camp that supposed to be there to quiet things are the ones who are also adding fuel to the fire.

Father, don't mind them, they think they are still on the other side. Let them be there, if this village is gutted by fire they will be held liable.

I heard one of them saying the other day that when anything happens, that the ordinary villagers will suffer but their militants will protect them-okay, just be there and think you are more villager than the other.



With Jones Mallay

## LIBERIA POLITICAL

# HOT-FIRE

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

## Is Amb. Kamayah the Cutting-Edge Alleged Sexual Predator on the Bloc?

**A**mb. Dee Maxwell SaahKemayah, Sr. was Liberia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He once served as Deputy Minister for Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was once appointed to the Joint Transition Team, taskforce with helping to ensure the smooth transition of Liberia's Presidency from Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to George Weah. Today, Amb. Kamayah is one of the many accused sexual perpetrators in the recent past by one Ms. C. Wilson.

Interestingly, Amb. Kamayah is working assiduously overtime to clear his name and defend his reputation after being named as Liberia's Foreign Minister designated by Pres. Weah. The Ambassador is currently in a terrible damage control mode with Madam Cummings Wilson keeping the pressure on him on grounds of serious sexual deposition. Notably, if Amb. Kemaya, Sr. is acquitted or not his reputation as at now is forthwith incompatible to the hard-earned image of Liberia's quick-witted Foreign-Service duties and responsibilities in view of such a disgraceful allegation.

Given the titanic and unacceptable rape episode sweeping across the length and breadth of Mama Liberia at an unprecedented imagination, it is 100 times practically difficult if not impossible for any levelheaded Liberian to easily ignore or dismiss Ms. Wilson's allegation against Amb. Kamayah. One would easily believe Ms. Wilson. It appears that the anti-rape demonstrators, sympathizers, and well-wishers did not abandon their busy and sacred duties and other meaningful engagements simply to take onto the streets of Monrovia to showcase and/ or cause so much apprehension or to exhibit their individual's attire, they were out there for real a business-this is to fight against sexual predator.

The demonstrators were telling the rest of Liberia about the ongoing seriousness and ugliness of rape, and gang rape seriously permeating by bad actors in the Liberian society. The anti-rape groups are determined to consciously and viciously fight for innocent girls and women alike in towns and cities across Liberia.

There is 99% of an iota of truth in Ms. Wilson's allegation because sex for a job in Liberia is notoriously rampant among most Liberian government officials according to some sources familiar with sexual exploitation cases in Liberia. Furthermore, multiple sources familiar with these analyses, have also revealed that most Liberian men often seek a huge sexual favor from innocent girls who are bent on seeking a job or asking for financial help either to pay school fees or make ends meet.

Several ladies at home and abroad confided in "Political Hot-Fire" in recent past that sexual favor in Liberia is no longer rampant, but rather contagious in the Liberian society where poverty has taken hold on the lives of many innocent young girls who parents are either unable to look after them and/or had lost everything they once owned in life or are simply old to work.

Those innocent girls are forced against their will to layout with much older Liberian men of their daddy's ages either to feed their families and/ or go to school, so the Wilson story shouldn't be dismissed, there are promising possibilities that it may have occurred given the notorious nature of the loose life-style of most Liberian men at home and abroad.

Other close sources also revealed that the Liberian Police Force is in the business of compromising rape cases and releasing most of the perpetrators at the displeasure of grieving families on grounds that there is no convincing hard evidence to convict rape perpetrators in Liberia, which is sad. The Weah's government shouldn't simply concentrate on enforcing the proclaim state of emergency for rape involving the creation of a special court and establishing a sex offender registrar, but the President should ensure that the court executes the rape laws on the book (Rape Law of section 2:14.70 which specifically referred to gang rape and qualified it as a first-degree felony crime with 10-years behind bars and the President should instruct his Justice Minister Musa Dean to ensure that the laws are workable through the courts in Liberia.

If President Weah is sincere about his 'state of emergency' on rape, the President should first look at the 803 cases between January 2015 through March 2016 reported by the United Nations Mission in Liberia. He should also probe the Gender Ministry's report on the 667 sexual assault cases on babies, girls, and women and 43 girls and women who were reportedly raped and gang rape in various parts of Liberia. The President should take the initiative to punish the predators who vandalized the 3-year old baby by using a blade to temper with her private parts to create penetration.

President Weah as part of his 'state of emergency' should set up a presidential hotline for innocent girls and women to report all cases related to sexual assault across Liberia and passed an executive order for the special protection of girls, babies, and women from the hand of men's brutality, flogging, killing of women, and other gruesome activities against all innocent girls, babies, women, and children across Liberia. President Weah should dismiss, arrest, and persecute any government officials engaged in the sexual exploitation of innocent girls, women, and babies across Liberia starting with Amb. Kamayah.

Liberian men seeking sexual favor from innocent young girls for grades in school, for a job at both private and government setting, or for business, for land, for rent, for financial assistance, for registration, for scholarships at the Ministry of Education, should be punished severely by the rape law. The Liberian Foreign Affairs Ministry is not only unique, but it is a very delicate institution that should be protecting the hard-earned image of Liberia, Amb. Kamaya has already been accused, with such accusation hanging over his head could damage the good image of Liberia even if he is acquitted from the alleged sexual allegation.

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# COVID-19 FOLLOW THE MONEY

## Food Assistance Budget



\$25m

Government of Liberia



\$10m

World Bank



\$2.9m

Others

## Government of Liberia Food Assistance Program



1.97m estimated inhabitants to receive the food relief packages



394,000 number of beneficiary households in four counties\*

## Food relief package per household



50 KG RICE



1 GAL OIL



10 KG BEANS

Source: Government of Liberia, Ministry of Agriculture situation reports  
\*The four counties include Montserrado, Nimba, Margibi and Grand Kru

- Since the start of the pandemic, the Government of Liberia (GoL) has been providing food assistance to socio-economically disadvantaged communities.
- World Food Programme (WFP) has received direct budgetary funding of \$25m from GoL to distribute food relief packages.
- A 22 member steering committee headed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture is coordinates the relief efforts and also provides oversight.
- Accountability Lab has deployed several volunteers to different counties to track the status of distribution. Some county level data is included in the adjacent column.
- There have been reports of conflict in communities due to misunderstandings between government officials and community members around the ways in which community members can access relief packages. Some individuals have complained that they didn't receive the relief packages because their names weren't on the list of beneficiaries.
- The registration of the households was done by Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-information Services (LISGIS). The vulnerability of communities was defined by the average daily income and expenditure of households using data from the 2008 national census.
- A pre-registration process did not fully capture all the vulnerable households so a verification and re-registration was done to include those who were left out. Distributions were carried out after the re-registration.
- Some members of the community have complained of being left out even after the re-registration process.
- A grievance committee has been set up in each community to report on irregularities, including from those whose names are not on the list.
- All grievances related to the food distribution should be sent to WFP through the shortcode hotline numbers: MTN-2323 and Orange- 2121.

### Montserrado County

West point township, 404 Block A  
207 out of 217 households



414 bags of rice



207 gallons of oil



5,766 cups of beans

404 Block E  
230 out of 234 households



460 bags of rice



230 gallons of oil



5,520 cups of beans

Source: data collected by Accountability Lab Liberia volunteers

- The educational cash transfer program was administered by GiveDirectly, an International NGO that runs unconditional digital cash transfer programs across Africa.
- The program was implemented in all 15 counties of Liberia.
- All 12th grade students registered to complete the 2020 WASSCE exam from public and private schools were eligible.
- Accountability Lab Liberia volunteers were able to verify the distribution of the stipends.
- Students can enroll by calling 4483 from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday to Friday. Calls to this number are free.
- More information can be found here- <https://www.givedirectly.org/faqs-for-educational-stipends/>



41,000+ number of 12 graders for WASSCE exam



\$50 cash transfer per student paid in two installments

Get in touch with us on Facebook: @accountabilitylabliberia



# O-P-E-D

## How to End the Pandemic This Year

REDA CHERIF, FUAD HASANOV, MARIANA MAZZUCATO

While the world waits with bated breath for a safe, effective, widely available COVID-19 vaccine, another option for ending the pandemic has been staring us in the face. A government-led industrial and coordination strategy to achieve universal testing could bring the crisis to an end in a matter of months.

LONDON - Research to develop a safe, effective, and widely available COVID-19 vaccine is advancing rapidly. But when it will happen is not clear. Much depends on how we govern the production and distribution of new drugs. While the World Health Organization's COVID-19 Technology Access Pool promises to foster accessibility, the actual availability of vaccines and treatments also will hinge on local manufacturing capacity, which in many countries has been eroded by deindustrialization.

Moreover, while universal testing remains a feasible, cost-effective, and immediately available method of managing the pandemic until a vaccine arrives, this approach also requires manufacturing capacity and sound governance in the public interest. Yet even in advanced economies, over-reliance on the private sector may prevent governments from maximizing test production and deployment. For example, the British government has proposed a "moon shot" testing program, yet its actual strategy needs clarification.

Such a mission-oriented approach requires a holistic, systems-level perspective, particularly when it comes to "wicked problems" like public-health crises and climate change, which involve a wide range of complex socioeconomic and technological issues. Implementing universal testing will require contributions from a sprawling network of actors and institutions. To be truly effective, any such program must be designed to generate systemic resilience and public value.

As has been demonstrated by the Nobel laureate economist Paul Romer, the epidemiologist Michael Mina, a recent IMF working paper, and many others, a properly designed universal testing program could bring the pandemic to an end within just a few months. The missing ingredients are industrial policies and other government measures to coordinate and steer production, in order to eliminate the bottlenecks that the private sector faces.

The necessary testing technology of rapid immunodiagnostic tests - such as saliva-based antigen tests that are similar to home pregnancy tests and cost less than \$5 - already exists. Although these tests are sub-optimal in sensitivity compared with the standard polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, they are specific enough to detect infections at scale in settings disease prevalence is high; and, crucially, they do not require centralized laboratory facilities.

Therefore, with a purposeful program design that carefully considers the functionality and limitations of the technology deployed, rapid tests can enable decentralized universal testing programs at the community level. For example, tests could be made available free of charge at local pharmacies, with the expectation that everyone test themselves on a regular basis and self-isolate if positive. The same kits could be used as "infection-free" passports for admission to public spaces such as schools and workplaces. In this case, a new market would likely emerge as airlines, malls, restaurants, and cafés start purchasing cheap, rapid tests so that they can get back to business.

Rapid testing can help to expand and complement the universal testing strategy already being rolled out locally (such as the free mandatory testing at MIT and Georgetown University in the United States, weekly testing of employees at German workplaces, and the population-wide testing campaign in Wuhan), which currently rely on PCR tests.

Similar strategies need to be launched at the national level, especially in low- and middle-income countries where the affordability and scalability of molecular testing is low. Many countries have the capacity to produce a sufficient supply of tests at a cost that would pale in comparison to those inflicted by the pandemic. The number of tests needed globally over a year to supply a weekly testing regimen would be equivalent to less than half the number of cans of soda consumed annually. Moreover, scaling up production of antigen tests could be done relatively quickly, and would be a minor effort compared to the US mobilization for World War II.

While billions of dollars are being funneled toward vaccine development and production, additional funding also must be directed toward strengthening our testing infrastructure. At \$5 per unit, the cost of testing the world's population every week would come to around \$2 trillion. That is far less than the pandemic-related loss of global income during this period (as measured by the difference between pre- and post-pandemic growth forecasts) and fiscal stimulus so far this year, an estimated total of \$20 trillion. And these comparisons don't account for the costs of lost lives or the potential benefits of achieving new economies of scale in test production - a spillover that could enable the eradication of the seasonal flu.

There are potentially steep challenges beyond production, of course. As practical as universal testing is, any such effort could still come under pressure if governments believe they must choose between different production needs for vaccines, anti-viral drugs, personal protective equipment, and expanded medical facilities.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Conference on election case due today

A conference is expected Friday, 2 October at the Supreme Court among parties involved in the election case brought by opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), seeking the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus against

following which formal responses from the averse parties could be submitted to the court.

In pursuit of a full cleanup of the 2017 Voters Roll, CPP last week dragged the NEC before the Supreme Court, seeking the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus

opposition and state securities assigned at the Temple of Justice. Things came later under control.

The move came at a time there have been dissents against the Voter Roll Update (VRU) in preparation for the December 2020 Senatorial Election, with some reports suggesting mass voters' trucking and some potential voters engaging in multiple registrations and obtaining multiple voter cards.

CPP which is comprised of former ruling Unity Party, Alternative National Congress, Liberty Party and All Liberian Party, says a clear and credible Voters Roll is an indispensable prerequisite for the conduct of free, fair and transparent democratic elections.

Instead of cleaning up the voters roll, the CPP alleges that the NEC has with the approval of the government, unilaterally announced and embarked on a mobile voters roll update with focus on Liberian of voting age including those who have attained the age of 18 years and above.

Further, it says the NEC has focused on those who have relocated from previous voting places to another,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led Government.

A judicial authority informed this paper Thursday, 1 October that the conference will be held first

against the electoral body and the CDC - led Government.

The CPP led by Chairman Alexander B. Cummings and other party leaders and partisans stormed the grounds of the Temple of Justice last Friday, 25 September, causing a heated standoff between the

# NTA, commercial bus drivers fuss over Buchanan Street parking lot

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Confusion has ensued between drivers of the government-run National Transit Authority (NTA) and drivers of commercial buses commonly referred to as 'killer bean' on Buchanan Street, Central Monrovia.

Our reporter who witnessed the showdown recently, disclosed that the conflict

reporting money.

Drivers of the NTA buses charge a flat-rate fare of LD50.00 for each trip in central Monrovia and adjacent areas unlike private buses whose fares are higher.

He also notes that in some instances, passengers already on their buses would disembarked their buses as soon as they sees the arrival of



started after some drivers of commercial transport buses accused their counterparts from the NTA buses of always stealing passengers that wait on their buses.

A commercial bus driver, Mohammed Keita, lamented that the public buses, that charge reduced fares, pose difficulty for commercial drivers to generate their daily

NTA buses at the Buchanan Street parking station.

Mohammed explained that as way of drawing attention of drivers of the NTA, they decided not to move their buses from the parking lot thus, leaving no space for the public buses to also park and collect passengers.

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# Medici Land Governance donates raincoats to support anti- COVID regulations

Medici Land Governance has donated 1200 raincoats to the Liberian Ministry of Justice through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to enable public servants to continue in their line of duty during the annual torrential rainfall.

The donation is geared towards enhancing the capacity of the security sector to enforce COVID-19 health regulations announced by the Ministry of Health.

The five government agencies receiving raincoats include Liberian National Police, Ministry of Finance, Liberian Land Authority, Liberian Immigration Service, Liberian Drug Enforcement Agency and the Executive Protection Services.

The groups says this is part of its public benefit mission to empower individuals and to promote economic development.

"Medici Land Governance is proud to partner with the Liberian Ministry of Justice on COVID-19 recovery initiatives," said Ali El Hussein, PhD, CEO of Medici Land Governance.

"MLG is committed to making a lasting impact in the communities where our

partners and our customers call home, particularly in the global fight against COVID-19," Mr. Hussein said.

"Our partnership here is just beginning, and we will continue to provide support to help drive recovery and build resiliency for the people of



Liberia," he noted.

Making the presentation on behalf of the organization, Deputy Finance Minister for Administration Rebecca Y. McGill expressed hope that the items will be used for the purpose intended.

The Deputy Finance Minister stated that being appreciative for little could motivate partners to provide more for the people of Liberia, adding, "When you appreciate little, you will get", and this is just the beginning.

For his part, Liberia's Acting Justice Minister Cllr. Nyanti Tuan said the items donated by Medici Land Governance will enhance the capacity of the country's joint security to perform better, and assured Medici that it would be used for the purpose intended.

"Medici Land Governance has enhanced our capacity as joint security of the country to

perform better. We can assure them that these items will be used for the purpose intended" Cllr. Tuan noted.

Director General Marcus D. Zayee of the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA), praised Medici for the donation, stating that it will enable LDEA officers to discharge their function effectively.

Medici Land Governance leverages blockchain and other technologies (such as cryptography, AI and others) to support land governance, titling, and administration with a secure public record of land ownership.

Medici Land Governance supports agencies in the digitization of their current records, engendering trust and security in data by diminishing human error and accidental damage to records. --Press release

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Life-saving malaria campaigns on track despite COVID-19

New data confirms that over 90% of life-saving malaria intervention campaigns scheduled for this year are on track across Africa, Asia and the Americas, helping to protect millions from the disease and avoid a severe increase in malaria cases and deaths in the face of significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries that in recent years either reached or are on the verge of reaching zero malaria cases also are maintaining their focus on eliminating this preventable and treatable disease.

The status of the global malaria fight was a focus of the high-level virtual event Zero Malaria Challenge: How the lessons of the past can inspire progress to end malaria, held under the

on track to be distributed this year in over 30 nations that had planned them for 2020. This includes countries such as Benin, Sierra Leone and South Sudan, some of which pioneered innovative door-to-door mosquito net distribution campaigns amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, seasonal malaria chemoprevention campaigns are going ahead in 12 countries across the Sahel region this year, protecting more than 20 million children. Meanwhile, Kenya, Malawi and Ghana managed to immunize over 300,000 children against malaria since the launch of the pilot malaria vaccine programme in 2019. Suriname deployed its malaria health workers to help fight the novel coronavirus.

Countries including El Salvador, Malaysia and China,

do both. Despite the unprecedented challenges faced, it is a remarkable achievement that countries and their partners around the world have successfully sustained planned malaria efforts - including distributing record numbers of insecticide-treated nets and continuing the march to zero malaria - ensuring that communities remain protected from the deadly mosquito bite."

In April, the World Health Organization warned that the COVID-19 pandemic threatened to double malaria deaths in 2020 due to severe disruptions to essential malaria programmes. In response, malaria-affected countries, in collaboration with global malaria partners, mobilized to safely deliver life-saving malaria interventions.

Speaking at the Zero Malaria Challenge event, Mr John Barsa, acting Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which leads the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative, said: "Decades of investment to address malaria have built stronger health systems and equipped our partner countries to better respond to COVID-19. In this dual fight against malaria and COVID-19, USAID remains committed to protecting and advancing our progress in countries where malaria is endemic. We call on all of countries and partners to unite with us to do the same."

Ms Wendy Morton MP, Minister for European Neighbourhood and the Americas at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, said: "During this pandemic and beyond, essential malaria services must continue, malaria patients must be protected from other health threats, and health must receive adequate attention and funding. We must collaborate, invest in what works, and continue to do all we can to protect the most vulnerable."

Mr Peter Sands, Executive Director, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, commented: "No virus exists in isolation, and therefore our response must take into account the broader impact they have. We must

which have registered zero malaria cases for three consecutive years, have maintained disease surveillance activities and continued to keep malaria at bay.

Yet, even with the remarkable actions taken by countries, malaria cases and mortality are expected to rise this year. Key risk factors include disruptions in access to health services, including treatment seeking at health care facilities, and in the delivery of key malaria commodities.

DrAbdourahmane Diallo, CEO of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, said: "This year, under the worst of circumstances, countries have proven they don't need to choose between protecting populations from COVID-19 or malaria: they can - and should -



leadership of His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya in his capacity as Chair of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance.

Campaigns distributing insecticide-treated mosquito nets, indoor residual spraying, as well as preventative treatments for children and pregnant women have contributed to saving more than 7 million lives and preventing over 1 billion new malaria infections since 2000. It is essential that these campaigns and routine community-level interventions are not disrupted to avoid a surge in malaria cases, especially in Africa, a continent which accounts for over 90% of the global malaria burden.

Significantly, over 200 million long-lasting insecticide treated nets are

## Conference on

Cont'd from page 6

those who have lost their voting cards and those who didn't register during the last voter registration in 2017.

It notes that the integrity of the Voters Roll or the FRR used for the 2017 general and presidential elections was challenged by the Unity Party (UP) and Liberty Party (LP).

Following UP and LP's challenge, the CPP recalls that the Supreme Court acknowledged several irregularities in the voter roll and ordered the NEC to conduct a full cleanup of the roll in consultation with and information to the political parties.

But the CPP insists that with callous disregard of the consequences, the NEC has failed, neglected and refused to clean up the voters roll as ordered by the Supreme Court, mandated by the Liberian Senate, the House of Representatives and recommended by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

According to the CPP, since the exhibition of the provisional voters roll was carried out on the 12th of June 2017, the total valid registered voters viewed in the database was 2,045,483.

From this analysis, CPP says the ECOWAS report concluded that between the time of the exhibition of the FRR and declaring the FRR, a total of 138,146 records were added to the voters roll.

The CPP laments that there is no evidence up to date that these additional 138,146 voters added to the FRR have been removed from the voters roll.

It says the findings of a technical team deployed to Liberia by ECOWAS clearly showed that the 2017 Voters roll was defective and could not form a basis for free, fair and credible elections.

The CPP further claims that the conclusion is compelling and inescapable that 170,000 suspected duplicates were never extracted from the voters roll and remain there up to date, rendering the FRR defective and unfit to lay a basis for elections.

It notes that if 170,000 suspected duplicates were removed from the provisional registration roll, the total number of the voters on the FRR ought to have been 2,012,956 and not 2,183,629 voters as reported by NEC on its final voters roll on 11 September 2017.

## NTA, commercial

Cont'd from page 6

He complained they spend too much money to purchase fuel for their buses, but can't generate the daily required money for their bosses.

But, NTA drivers denied the claim being made by commercial buses drivers, saying at no time they lured passengers to disembark from commercial buses.

BarteeNagbe, explained the longest period a NTA bus stays at the Buchanan Street parking station is less than five minutes, as compared to privately-owned commercial buses that park for a longer period.

Nagbe argued that the Buchanan Street parking station belongs to buses involved in transportation business, including NTA buses, so he sees no reason why their colleagues from the private buses want to keep them away.

He called on the Ministry of Transport, the government entity responsible to regulate vehicles' operations in the country to intervene in the matter to ensuring that peace

exists amongst both NTA and commercial buses.

However, some passengers who spoke to this paper expressed disappointment over the current confusion between drivers of NTA and private commercial buses drivers, noting that they see nothing wrong with both groups operating at the same place in a free enterprise.

Jacqueline Colemon, a student of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion University in Monrovia believes both drivers of the NTA and private buses should co-exist because they all have right to the parking station.

Last December, the Government of India donated over 40 buses to the Government of Liberia to ease public transport difficulty in Liberia, particularly Monrovia and parts adjacent. The buses, operating under the National Transit Authority, also ply to various counties, transporting citizens at reduced fares.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Français

## Grogne sociale : Heurts entre policiers et manifestants devant l'Assemblée nationale

La police anti-émeute a dû faire usage de force excessive pour disperser des travailleurs du pouvoir législatif qui avaient assiégé l'entrée principale du bâtiment du Capitole le mercredi 30 septembre pour réclamer des arriérés de salaire et des primes.

Selon des informations, l'ordre de mater les manifestants a été donné par le représentant du comté de

Bong, Marvin Cole.

Les manifestants avaient verrouillé tous les portails de l'Assemblée législative pour empêcher les représentants d'y entrer ou d'en sortir. Ils ont aussi encerclé la voiture du président de la Chambre des Représentants, Bhofal Chambers, avant d'être dispersés par la police.

Les travailleurs du parlement réclament leur part des frais de séance

supplémentaires distribués aux autres membres du personnel. Mais la police qui a réussi à ouvrir les portails par la force ne s'est pas fait prier, elle les a sévèrement bastonnés à coups de matraques.

Depuis quelques semaines, l'on assiste presque quotidiennement à des mouvements de protestation

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## Victime d'attaque, l'opposant Kolubah sollicite l'intervention de la CEDEAO et de l'UA

Le bureau du représentant du comté de Montserrado, Yekeh Kolubah, sollicite l'intervention rapide de la CEDEAO et de l'Union africaine (UA) et d'autres partenaires internationaux à la suite de l'attaque de sa résidence privée.

Dimanche dernier, la

résidence du député Kolubah a été attaquée et pillée par un groupe de jeunes soupçonnés d'être des militants de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), mouvance au pouvoir.

Son équipe appelle ainsi à l'intervention des organisations internationales pour que

cessent les attaques sommaires des opposants.

Ce n'est pas la première fois que le domicile et le bureau du député du comté de Montserrado sont ciblés par des attaques. Il y a quelques mois, le législateur et ses partisans ont été pris à partie par des militants du parti au pouvoir pour avoir critiqué le président George Weah.

S'exprimant lors d'un entretien exclusif avec le New Dawn le 30 septembre, l'assistant spécial du Bureau du représentant Kolubah, Abdullah Kamara, a révélé que l'intervention de la communauté internationale est nécessaire pour éviter une situation de grande ampleur qui pourrait survenir en cas de répétition d'une telle violence.

Racontant ce qui s'est passé dimanche, il a déclaré qu'il était chez lui, le représentant Kolubah a reçu des informations selon lesquelles l'inspecteur général du ministère du Commerce (MOC), Mme

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Crise politique en Guinée : voici une déclaration de l'Union européenne

À l'approche de l'échéance électorale du 18 octobre prochain, l'UE partage les inquiétudes déjà exprimées par les acteurs régionaux et internationaux quant aux conditions dans lesquelles elle se prépare.

L'UE déplore les violences et affrontements survenus dans le contexte électoral de mars 2020 qui ont fait plusieurs victimes et appelle les autorités à mener des enquêtes indépendantes et approfondies afin d'en poursuivre les auteurs. L'UE appelle au respect des libertés publiques, notamment le droit pour chaque citoyen de manifester pacifiquement, dans le cadre prévu par la loi, sans être inquiété, et d'exprimer des opinions politiques sans être arrêté ou emprisonné. Suite à la validation des candidatures par la Cour constitutionnelle le 9 septembre 2020, il est désormais impératif que les autorités et institutions guinéennes compétentes garantissent un processus électoral impartial, transparent, inclusif et équitable, emportant l'adhésion des citoyens et assurant un scrutin aux résultats crédibles et acceptés par tous.

Il importe d'éviter des violences et une détérioration de la situation, avant, pendant et après le scrutin. Dans ce contexte, l'UE réaffirme son plein soutien à toutes initiatives de la CEDEAO, de l'Union africaine, des Nations Unies et de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie visant à désamorcer les tensions et à rétablir un dialogue entre les parties en vue de renforcer le cadre électoral. Elle salue à cet égard la mission tripartite de haut niveau de la CEDEAO, de l'Union africaine et des Nations Unies attendue à Conakry ces 1er et 2 octobre prochains.

L'UE appelle donc l'ensemble de la classe politique et de la société civile, ainsi que les administrations concernées, à s'engager de manière constructive et pacifique afin de faire en sorte que ce processus électoral soit consensuel et transparent et participe durablement à la réconciliation entre tous les Guinéens. Elle encourage en particulier les autorités à prendre des initiatives pour contribuer à cet apaisement du climat politique. À cet égard, des mesures telles que la résolution du contentieux des élections locales de février 2018 et la libération de tous les opposants incarcérés seraient de nature à créer un climat favorable au dialogue.

Comme annoncé précédemment, l'opposant

Étienne Soropogui a perdu la bataille judiciaire qui l'opposait à Malick Sankhon. Le président du mouvement politique « Nos Valeurs Communes » et membre du FNDC a été reconnu coupable de diffamation par voie de presse à l'encontre du directeur général de la Caisse Nationale de Sécurité Sociale. Le tribunal de première instance de Dixinn l'a condamné ce jeudi, 1er octobre 2020, au paiement d'une amende de 2 millions de francs et d'un montant de 20 mille francs guinéens à titre de dommages et intérêts. Une décision accueillie avec beaucoup de joie par l'avocat de Malick Sankhon. Maître Lanciné Sylla estime que cette décision servira d'exemple à tous les leaders politiques du pays.

« Ce que monsieur Malick Sankhon recherchait, c'était comment voir son honneur rétabli dans cette affaire. Il n'avait demandé que le franc symbolique comme dommages et intérêts, et c'est ce qui lui a été accordé. Il avait sollicité aussi qu'il soit ordonné la publication de la décision de condamnation dans des organes de presse, ce qui vient d'être fait. Et, vous avez suivi que trois organes de presse don't, Le Lynx, L'observateur et L'indépendant ont été retenus comme étant les organes de presse où la décision doit être publiée, aux frais de monsieur Etienne Soropogui.

Nous devons tous être satisfaits de cette décision de justice. Cette décision de justice sonne comme la fin du règne de l'impunité de certains leaders politiques qui pensent qu'il suffit seulement d'arborer le manteau de leader politique et croire qu'on est permis de tenir toute sorte de propos et s'en sortir impunément. Aujourd'hui, je crois que cette décision de justice sonne comme étant la fin de cette imaginaire immunité don't les leaders politiques se croyaient être investis.

Et désormais, tout le monde doit faire en sorte qu'en parlant dans la presse, qu'en parlant partout où l'on est, qu'on puisse faire en sorte que les discours soient disciplinés, policés. C'est à ce prix qu'on peut construire l'Etat de droit. C'est pourquoi nous saluons cette décision de justice », a réagi l'avocat, au sortir de la salle d'audience.

De leur côté, Etienne Soropogui et son avocat, maître Mohamed Traoré, étaient tous les deux absents à cette dernière audience.



# Français

## Grogne sociale : Heurts entre policiers

au parlement libérien. Les travailleurs du pouvoir législatif réclament le plus souvent de meilleures conditions de travail, des arriérés de salaire ou des primes.

Pendant que les manifestants barricadaient les portes, le représentant Marvin Cole a ordonné à la police nationale du Libéria (LNP) de faire usage de force car les travailleurs n'avaient aucun droit de barricader les portes du parlement. « Le droit d'une personne s'arrêtera où commence le droit de l'autre. Les législateurs ont le droit d'être en session à ce moment précis. Personne n'a le droit de les en empêcher. Lorsque la décision concernant l'argent en question a été prise en plénière par deux tiers des membres de la chambre basse, je n'étais pas présent. Alors ils n'ont qu'à rencontrer les dirigeants de la Chambre basse au lieu de verrouiller la porte. Est-ce la solution pour eux ? », a dit le représentant Cole.

Le porte-parole des manifestants a quant à lui

qualifié d'injuste la réduction de leurs salaires et le refus de leur faire bénéficier ne serait-ce des miettes. « Nous ne bénéficions plus de bon d'essence et pire, quand l'argent pour la séance supplémentaire a été distribué, ils ne nous ont rien donné. Ce gouvernement est le nôtre. Nous avons combattu en tant qu'opposition pendant 12 ans. Le Président Chambers était ici et disait toutes sortes de choses à Ma Ellen quand elle était présidente, et maintenant il nous maltraite plus que l'administration de Mme Sirleaf. C'est méchant. », a-t-il dit. « Même le représentant Marvin Cole était autrefois simple travailleur de l'Assemblée législative et faisait partie de ceux qui se battaient pour l'amélioration de leurs conditions de vie comme c'est le cas aujourd'hui des employés lésés. Pourquoi Cole est si méchant et puisse oublier si tôt ? Nous avons essayé de rencontrer le président Chambers, mais il a refusé de nous rencontrer. Il nous a foutus dehors quand nous sommes allés dans son bureau », a-t-il ajouté

## Victime d'attaque,

Josephine David, et d'autres membres du CDC devaient se rendre dans le district pour assister à une cérémonie d'inauguration d'un marché.

« Compte tenu de ce qui s'était passé auparavant lorsque des personnes du CDC ont perturbé la paix et la sécurité des habitants du quartier, le représentant Kolubah a décidé de quitter les lieux pour assister à un programme de son collègue, le sénateur Abraham Darius Dillon. Pendant son absence, le législateur a reçu des appels du district indiquant que le maire de la ville de Monrovia, Jefferson Kojee, était arrivé au bureau du district avec un gang, menaçant de se venger du législateur et de ses partisans pour avoir constamment insulté le président. Le représentant Kolubahs'est ainsi précipité sur les lieux où lui et sa famille vivent. Pendant ce temps, le maire Kojee a donné 500 dollars américains pour attaquer Kolubah et ses partisans. Quand le gang est revenu, il a commencé à lancer des pierres et à attaquer les partisans du représentant Kolubah, détruisant les pare-brises des véhicules garés dans la cour. Le gang était

dirigé par un Abu, qui travaillait auparavant pour le représentant Kolubah, en tant qu'assistant. Maintenant il travaille à l'Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue. Ils ont pillé des ordinateurs et des téléviseurs, entre autres objets de valeur du bureau de district. Pendant que le pillage était en cours, des agents de la police nationale du Libéria (LNP) sont arrivés sur les lieux. Mais ils ont choisi d'arrêter uniquement les personnes associées au législateur, y compris unecertaine Rebbeca, le mécanicien de Kolubah identifié comme Lassana Kanneh, et un Mohammed, laissant de côté les assaillants », a-t-il dit.

Lorsque le bureau de communication de la Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) a été contacté pour donner ses versions des faits, un agent a déclaré que des personnes chargées des relations avec les médias étaient sur le terrain.

Ce quotidien n'a pas non plus pu obtenir de commentaires de la police nationale du Libéria (LNP) sur la dernière situation, car notre journaliste a appris que le porte-parole de la police H. Moses Carter était en réunion sérieuse et ne pouvait pas parler à la presse.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Kent Harrington

## Après Trump, comment revitaliser le renseignement américain

ATLANTA - À un mois à peine de l'élection présidentielle américaine, l'ancien vice-président Joe Biden et ses conseillers élaborent sa politique de sécurité nationale et établissent des listes de candidats présélectionnés pour occuper les postes les plus élevés de son cabinet au cas où il l'emporterait. Généralement, les candidats à la présidence se préoccupent essentiellement des nominations à la tête des Affaires étrangères, de la Défense et du Trésor ; mais cette fois-ci c'est différent. Avant tout, Biden devra sans doute choisir un chef espion de haut niveau, car la communauté du renseignement se trouve sur le fil du rasoir.

Les USA sont confrontés à un large éventail de défis de politique étrangère, or au cours des quatre dernières années, Trump a sapé le statut des agences responsables de la sécurité nationale, il s'est attaqué à leurs normes de fonctionnement et tenté de les affaiblir. Un nouveau directeur du renseignement devra réparer les dégâts et éradiquer la corruption rampante que le personnel nommé par Trump a provoquée dans les agences. Ce ne sera pas une mince affaire.

L'ampleur des dégâts causés par Trump est évidente. Par ses attaques incessantes contre les agences de renseignement, il a mis des bâtons dans les roues des espions et des analystes américains, rendant leurs missions plus difficiles. Depuis son entrée en fonction, il n'a cessé de dénigrer la communauté du renseignement et son travail, s'en prenant notamment aux rapports du FBI sur l'interférence russe en sa faveur lors de l'élection de 2016. Et alors que l'ingérence du Kremlin dans les élections se poursuit, les responsables des briefings quotidiens de Trump en matière de renseignement n'abordent plus le sujet, de peur de provoquer sa colère. Et selon de récents articles, pour éviter de le contrarier, la directrice de la CIA Gina Haspel évite de faire remonter jusqu'à la Maison Blanche les renseignements sur l'ingérence de la Russie dans les élections de 2020. On peut en déduire que la soumission des dirigeants des services de renseignement devant Trump dégrade la sécurité nationale des USA et le fonctionnement des agences fédérales. Pour les mêmes raisons, les personnes qui informent le président font sans doute aussi l'impasse sur d'autres menaces, par exemple celles qui émanent de la Corée du Nord, le sommet raté de Trump avec Kim Jong-un ayant laissé en place une bombe à retardement nucléaire.

Un président qui refuse de prendre en compte des informations cruciales a de quoi susciter l'inquiétude. Mais les effets de la guérilla de Trump contre le monde du renseignement ne s'arrêtent pas à la porte de la Maison Blanche. Il empêche aussi d'autres responsables d'avoir accès à des informations et à des analyses d'experts dont ils ont besoin avant de prendre des décisions lourdes de conséquences. Ainsi, les dirigeants des services de renseignement ont reporté à une date indéterminée leur audition annuelle devant le Congrès sur les menaces mondiales. Pour les législateurs qui supervisent ces questions, cette audition offre un point de vue précieux non seulement sur le budget annuel de 70 milliards de dollars destiné au renseignement, mais aussi sur les principaux dangers auxquels sont confrontés les USA.

Les motivations de Trump sont évidentes. En refusant au Congrès et à d'autres l'accès aux informations des services de renseignements, il évite que ses nombreux échecs politiques et ses méfaits soient dévoilés publiquement. Il a clairement exprimé ses souhaits après la publication du compte-rendu 2019 sur l'évaluation des menaces mondiales. Il s'en est alors pris publiquement à la communauté du renseignement pour ses évaluations sur l'Iran, l'Etat islamique et la Corée du Nord qui contredisaient ses propres propos. Il a même écrit un tweet proclamant que les agences de renseignement devraient "retourner à l'école".

Dorénavant Trump peut compter sur John Ratcliffe,

son directeur national du renseignement nouvellement confirmé, pour qu'il fasse son travail sans poser de questions. Ratcliffe, un ancien membre du Congrès sans qualifications pour le poste qu'il occupe actuellement, a récemment publié un décret selon lequel le Congrès ne recevra que des rapports écrits des services de renseignement sur la sécurité des élections, sans compte-rendu oral - ceci au moment où la Russie intensifie son ingérence électorale en faveur de Trump. Ce diktat, qui aurait évité aux experts des services de renseignement d'avoir à répondre aux questions des législateurs, a suscité des critiques, même de la part des républicains.

Les législateurs ne sont pas les seules personnes que Trump et Ratcliffe veulent garder dans l'ignorance. D'après un lanceur d'alerte du ministère de l'Intérieur, la Maison Blanche interdit aux analystes de ce ministère de partager les renseignements sur les ingérences russes avec d'autres agences.

Il est évident que le gouvernement veut faire disparaître de telles informations. Trump et ses acolytes colportent de fausses informations en prévision de l'élection présidentielle, par exemple en faisant croire que Biden fait preuve de complaisance à l'égard de la Chine. Ainsi, dans un tweet du 26 août, Trump déclarait que les médias d'Etat et les dirigeants chinois veulent que Biden gagne l'élection présidentielle. Cela faisait suite à une affirmation tout aussi fallacieuse du fils de Trump, Donald Jr, lors de la Convention du Parti républicain. Selon lui, "Les services de renseignements ont récemment estimé que le Parti communiste chinois est favorable à Biden".

Interrogé à ce sujet le 30 août, Ratcliffe a hésité, affirmant qu'il ne pouvait révéler aucun détail, alors que son chef du contre-espionnage, William Evanina, avait fait précisément cela quelques semaines auparavant. Comme Evanina l'a clairement indiqué, il ne faut pas confondre la propagande ouverte de la Chine et la guérilla politique secrète menée par le Kremlin en faveur de Trump.

A examiner les manipulations éhontées auxquelles se livre Ratcliffe, on pourrait croire qu'à ses yeux une partie importante de son travail consiste à politiser le renseignement dans l'intérêt de Trump. Le mois dernier, il a affirmé que la Chine représente une plus grande menace que tout autre pays, ajoutant, "cela inclut les menaces d'influence et d'interférence dans l'élection." Curieusement, il semble avoir oublié les récentes déclarations de son propre chef du contre-espionnage suggérant le contraire. Il a également négligé de mentionner les conclusions de sa propre responsable du renseignement chargée de superviser la sécurité des élections, Shelby Pierson, qui avait pointé du doigt la Russie et non la Chine dans son témoignage devant le Congrès.

Quelle que soit l'issue de l'élection présidentielle, la guerre de Trump contre la communauté du renseignement a fait des ravages. Ainsi que le dit un ancien responsable du renseignement au journaliste Chris Whipple dans un très bon livre intitulé *The Spy Masters: How the CIA Directors Shape History and the Future*, [Comment les directeurs de la CIA façonnent l'Histoire et l'avenir], "Il y a eu une évolution parmi tous les dirigeants de la communauté du renseignement ... ils sont passés d'une éthique d'objectivité et d'intégrité à la perte d'objectivité et d'intégrité sous l'action de Trump".

Néanmoins, comme le rappelle Leon Panetta, un ancien directeur de la CIA, la responsabilité ultime de la communauté du renseignement est de dire la vérité au Pouvoir. À cette fin, si Biden gagne en novembre, la purge des marionnettes politiques mises en place par Trump dans le bureau du directeur du renseignement national sera une première étape nécessaire. Mais ce ne sera pas suffisant. Si Biden est élu, un grand coup de balai ne permettra pas à lui tout seul à restaurer l'intégrité de la communauté du renseignement. Whipple explique pourquoi dans *The Spy Masters*. Biden devrait en faire son livre de chevet.

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# The Need to De-emotionalize Criminal Justice

By: Isaac W. Jackson, Jr.

The recent demonstrations against the intensity of rape cases in Liberia are commendable, in that, they shed light on one of society's disgusting crimes. This outpouring of emotion encourages Liberians to collectivize their efforts in tackling rape. And I think it would be a disservice to the national discourse if different perspectives are not brought to bear on the conversation regarding the approach to tackling sexual and gender-based violence, especially RAPE.

Like many others, I was of the view that it would have been good for the President to have directly received the petition from the protestors. However, taking a step back, I later realized the immateriality of said action. Because, in doing so, he would have made a big political speech, and subsequently passed it to his lieutenants for possible implementation.

The thing is that even though as Liberians, we collectively denounce the imperial nature of the Liberian presidency, but we inadvertently strengthen the imperial presidency by subconsciously thinking that the president's signature is needed either to validate our work or to get things done. This is our dilemma, and it's unfortunate!

Anyway, considering the recent developments, I think it is crucially important to recognize the Government's response to the protest by unveiling a US\$6m road map to curb SGVB by 2022. Hence, the organizers of the demonstrations need not rest on their laurels. They need to keep the government's feet to the fire, by: first, working with the court to compile and possibly publish a list of cases within the context of freedom of information; and engaging with legitimate stakeholders until meaningful progress leads to fast-tracking of rape cases.

Now, notwithstanding my positive outlook on the demonstrations and the government's response, I wish to caution against the emotionalization of criminal justice. Yes, I am not unaware of the risk associated with a call to de-emotionalize criminal justice amidst the growing waves of violent crimes including rape across our country. I am aware that talking about rape at this critical time is like walking in a minefield; you get misquoted, and you have to be clarifying for the rest of your life.

However, I think the risk of being misquoted ought not to prevent me or anyone with strong views from pointing out the inherent danger associated with the increasing rhetoric about a "robust approach" or harsher punishment for criminals, especially rape offenders. Because, these emotional reactions to the discourse on crime control flies in the face of the bedrock principle of criminology. According to Susanne Karstedt and other distinguished criminologists, criminology as a science is a descendant of the enlightenment, and is as such committed to the ideals of reason and reasonable discourse.

It may be recalled that during the early days of the campaign for the passage of the rape law, I had a debate on BBC with Cllr. Lois Lewis Brutus, then President of AFELL. From Monrovia, the Debate was coordinated by veteran Journalist LedgerhoodRennie. During the course of that debate, I foretold Cllr. Brutus the challenges that were going to beset the Rape Law. But, she kept pushing the argument for harsher punishment for



rapists.

And so, following the passage of the Rape Law, which made rape a non-bailable capital offense, with life imprisonment sentence for statutory rape; the trouble with the Rape Law kicked in just as I predicted - rape cases are not being taken to court in huge number for fear that those committing the crime of rape would serve life sentence or ten solid years with no access to parole while in prison. Hence, incidents of rape are being negotiated and compromised at community level due to the harshness of the Rape Law.

Moreover, even if the incidents of rape are taken to court, judges and juries are not convicting alleged rapists for lack of "substantial evidence". This makes President Weah's recent comments that he has instructed Finance Minister Tweah to purchase two additional testing machines relevant to addressing one leg of the problems. Because, without a testing machines that produces cogent evidence, convictions of alleged rapists would seem impossible.

Additionally, as a society, we are yet to develop a coherent strategy aimed at dealing with those who seek to undermine the Rape Law by making false allegations against others on the basis of political and personal vengeance as the cases with Simeon Freeman and D. Caesar Freeman suggest. During the campaign season, a lady accused MPC Standard Bearer, Simeon Freeman of having fun with her allegedly under the lying pretext that he promised to buy a bundle of zinc for her mother's house. Mr. Freeman was called in by the police; he denied the allegation with sufficient profanities directed at the Sirleaf administration, but he automatically became a political damaged commodity. Of course, the case with Caesar Freeman was that he was accused of rape by a lady who allegedly wanted to get at him. He had to stay in jail for closed to a year before the case was adjudged as unfounded. Some of these situations are still occurring in our communities.

You see, I have catalogued the challenges confronting the fight against rape in face of the harsh Rape Law, not in any desire to engage in an almighty I told you so. Also, I am not trying to bemoan harsher punishment for rape offenders; far from it. I have catalogued these challenges in an honest desire to rally the conscience of our society behind the evidential argument that harsher punishment is NOT the panacea to Liberia's rape problem. Because, had it been so, Liberia would not be grappling with the issue of rape since we passed a rape law that determines rape a non-bailable capital offense, with life imprisonment sentence for statutory rape, with

no access to parole.

Now, instead of Liberians taking a step back to figure out creative ways in tackling rape, we are still hearing "understandably" as emotion flares up, the increasing souring rhetoric of castrating rapists as well as death sentences for rape offenders. As a signatory to the international convention against death penalty, and other international protective instruments, it is generally embarrassing and unwise to hear some Liberians advocating death penalty for rape offenders. Obviously, rape is cruel, wicked, inhuman, and CANNOT be justified on any grounds because it leaves a damaging scar on the victims.

Howbeit, we need to be guided by the well-researched arguments by many professional historians and criminologists that the clamor for harsher or severe punishment for offenders has not effectively helped to curb the commission of crimes; rather, it has invariably exacerbated the problem. In short, the experts are saying that increasing penal penalties has a paradoxical relationship with crime control.

And so, based on the experts' opinions coupled with our lived experience, it is about time that we realize that too much of anything is good for nothing. Susanne Karstedt makes this point succinctly in her book "Emotions, Crime and Justice" that just as too much darkness can kill yet, too much light can blind - just as exuberant emotions in the political sphere of democratic societies can threaten to disrupt the whole system so it is true with the legal system. Hence, a sober approach is needed!

*About the author: Atty. Isaac W. Jackson, Jr., is currently serving as Liberia's Permanent Representative to IMO. Before his assignment, Jackson served with Liberia's Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism from 2008 as Assistant and later Deputy Minister for Press & Public Affairs. Jackson defends a political career which arises from his days as a student activist at the University of Liberia, where he received a Bachelor in Economics and Political Science. He later earned Bachelor of Laws from the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law. Currently, he is a candidate for Master of Laws in International Economic Law, Justice and Development at Birkbeck, University of London. He can be reached at whiekonblo@yahoo.com*

# Weah dishes out birthday gifts

President George Weah early Thursday morning dished out several birthday gifts to his cabinet staffs and directors, promoting some at cabinet levels, while at the same time demoting others to director levels-He had just turned 54.

Mr. Weah gifted Commerce Minister Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to

appointment has been working as head of the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS), received an upgraded gift as Liberia's new Information Minister - designate, while his deputy Madam Estella Liberty-Kemoh, steps in as LBS' new Director General - designate.

Others benefiting from the President 54 birthday gifts include Prince K. Vincent, Deputy Minister for Operations,

Deputy Labor Minister for Manpower Development; Jane Macculay, Director General, National Public Health Institute of Liberia and

At the National Security Agency (NSA), Mr. Weah has also appointed Binta Nah Jalloh as Deputy Director for VIP; Mr. Marcus Zehyoue, Director General, Liberian Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA); Atty. George H. Dahn,



serve as its Executive Director, with arguably no background in environmental science.

Information Minister Leen Eugene Nagbe was among the few luck ones, leaving cash striped Ministry of Information to Liberia Maritime Authority (LMA) as Commissioner, among others.

Mr. Ledgerhood Julius Rennie who until his

Ministry of National Defense; Mawine G. Diggs, Minister of Commerce and Industry; Debra Nebo, Deputy Commerce Minister for Small Business and Mrs. Thelma E. Duncan Sawyer, Deputy Foreign Minister for Administration.

Mr. Tarnue Marwolo Bongolee is appointed Assistant Education Minister for Student Personnel Services; Madam Hannah Macaulay Karbo,

Commissioner, Liberia Anti - Corruption Commission (LACC) and Atty. Lucrezia Thomas Anderson, Judge of the Juvenile Court for Montserrado County.

# Police charge

Starts from back page

chopped in the process. They took him. The police took him," continues Mr. Kolubah, a staunch critic of President George Manneh Weah and the CDC regime.

The police authorities in a charge sheet dated 30 September accuse one of Kolubah's supporters in person of Mohammed Kamara of allegedly possessing a gun among the rioters, and that gun sound was heard during the violent riot.

Kamara is charged for alleged criminal attempt to commit murder, aggravated assault, criminal mischief, theft of property, burglary, disorderly conduct, riot, failure to disperse and obstructing high ways and other public passages; and persons precluded from receiving, possessing or supplying firearms, destructive or ammunitions.

Other supporters of Rep. Kolubah in persons of Rebecca Williams, Mohammed Kromah, Daniel Boakai, Lasana S. Kamara, Charles Myers, Lincoln Brooks, Daniel Dukuly, Aaron Kollie and Chris Boimah are charged with crimes of aggravated assault, criminal mischief, theft of property, burglary, disorderly conduct, riot, failure to disperse and obstructing highways and other public passages.

On Sunday, 27 September the home of Mr. Kolubah who hails from the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) was attacked, vandalized and some valuables allegedly looted in the process.

The ANC has condemned the attack and described it as state sponsored, claiming that such an act only demonstrates that members of the opposition have no protection under Liberian laws.

"This is unacceptable and counterproductive to the maintenance of peace and tranquility for the benefit of the people of Liberia," ANC warned.

In an interview on Monday, 28 September, Rep. Kolubah alleged that the men involved

in the attack were spotted with Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Kojjee earlier.

He claims that his security had earlier called to inform him that Kojjee had come to open a market hall just after his Old Road residence on Sunday.

"So my security called me, I decided to leave to come on the Old Road. When I came on the Old Road...when the people got to know I was on the Old Road, I saw my former security Keita, I got recording ... if the independent people can investigate this case, I can give them evidence to prove that the police facilitated the people in my place," Kolubah claims.

"The police saw Keita leading troop to damage my property. I got evidence. I cannot give it to the police, I cannot give it to the Justice Ministry," he continues.


"The people destroyed my zinc, destroyed my cars, went in my office, you know my office is side my place, they burst everything, carried the television in my staff office. They carried everything from there and damaged everything" Rep. Kolubah adds.

However, the police have instead charged Kolubah's supporters, alleging that he was on riot scene and gave his group of thugs instruction to carry out act of lawlessness.

The police claim that the incident on Sunday erupted from an alleged land dispute between Rep. Kolubah and one Kollie Morlue, a resident of Old Road.

According to police, Rep. Kolubah intended crossing a high tension electrical wire over KollieMorlue's house without the latter's consent, adding that Kollie resisted the move because it posed danger to his property and family.


But police say this angered Kolubah's supporters and they allegedly moved into Kollie'szine house and vandalized it and shot two rounds of single barrel gun on the scene.



**AL BRANCH**  
**C OF LIBERIA**

IN ITS MARCH TERM A.D. 2007

**HIS HONOUR: EMERY S. PAYE**



**ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE**

**THE PETITION OF SARAH GONGAH OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, MONTSEERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA PETITIONER PRAYING THIS HONOURABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE KNOWN, REGARDED AND CALLED, AS "SARA GONGAR"**

**COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME:**

SARAH GONGAH filed a Petition through her legal counsel requesting this Honourable Court to order the change of her name to "SARA GONGAR"

During the hearing, the Petitioner's testified that the change of her name, requesting this Honourable Court is intended to reflect her true family name and render her identity more explicit and absolute. After conducting the necessary interrogations required by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the Change of her name proposed by her is therefore, it is adjusted as follows:


That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that she was born on JULY 10, 1957 in BUCHANAN, GRAND BASSA COUNTY unto the union of MR. TOGAR W. GONGAR AND MISS. SIERCON BROWN respectively, all of the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia and that the Change of her name will substantially promote her interest in all of the understandings and help to establish just identify more firmly, and being Satisfied that she has met all legal requirements for the Change of her Name in this Jurisdiction, it is therefore **DECREED** as follows:

That the **PETITION** having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now Render that the name SARAH GONGAH be changed to "SARA GONGAR" Beginning this 17<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL A.D. 2007.

**THIS DECREE** shall be registered in the office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. **AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.**

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN OPEN COURT, THIS 17<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL A.D. 2007

**COURT SEAL:**



EMERY S. PAYE  
ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CIVIL LAW COURT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 147-07 PAGE(S) 248-249

REGISTRAR, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT.CO, R. L.

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# Police charge Yekeh Kolubah's supporters



By Winston W. Parley

Following two violent attacks this week against opposition Montserrado County Representative Yekeh Kolubah, some of his supporters were charged and sent to court by police here on Thursday, 1 October for alleged multiple crimes.

After accusing Monrovia City Mayor and ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Youth League Chair Jefferson Koijee of ordering Sunday's attack, Kolubah on Thursday, 1 October also displayed shells

of bullets to the media, alleging that they are evidence of what he saw following Thursday's attack at his fence.

"According to my security, when he was passing, somebody said oh, here's Yekeh's house here. He said oh, that this dirty place the man living and he can be putting his mouth on the president? Y'all must unroof it!" Yekeh alleged in an interview Monday, 28 September, quoting Koijee to have instructed.

Ahead of his supporters' appearance in court Thursday, Mr. Kolubah claimed that he received a communication from

his "intelligence from the Liberia National Police that they have decided to send the Sabu Unit in" at his place, and that in the process he (Kolubah) should be killed.

"So I decided, I told my security y'all back off; y'all be in my fence. Right within that time I saw Sabu Unit coming, coming, they're doing this, you know, we chunking rock, we doing other things. I saw the police coming with serious fire, opening fire. These are the bullets," Kolubah alleges.

"One of my securities was

**▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11**

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# UEFA confirms fans' return to UCL, UEL & international matches

Fans will be able to return to UEFA club and international matches starting at next week's international break, UEFA has announced.

Stadiums will be allowed to be filled to a maximum of 30 per cent capacity, and will only reopen where local laws permit. No away fans will be allowed at this stage due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The decision has been made after the trial which saw around 15,000 fans in the

stadium for Bayern Munich's UEFA Super Cup win over Sevilla. The pilot match was deemed a success despite host city Budapest recording a rise in infection numbers ahead of the event.

A UEFA statement further clarified: "Both the admission of fans and the capacity limit are subject to decision of local authorities. UEFA matches cannot be played with spectators where local authorities do not allow it and the limit of 30% may be reached only where the limit



set by local authorities is not lower, in which case such limit would apply. "Social distancing will be mandatory for spectators and additional precautionary measures, such as the wearing of masks must be implemented in accordance with local regulations. The UEFA Super Cup demonstrated that it is possible for fans to attend football matches in the right circumstances by putting their health and safety first with comprehensive mitigating measures in place.

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