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TRULY INDEPENDENT

The New Dawn TRULY INDEPENDENT



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Several projects launched in Nimba

Cllr. Verdier vows to protect Ex- RUF fighter

-condemns Hassan Bility



Cllr Jerome J. Verdier

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Continental News

At least 60 drowned in Congo after boat capsized

At least 60 people have drowned after a boat capsized in the Democratic Republic of Congo, officials say.

Some 300 people have been rescued but as many as 200 others are unaccounted for following the accident on the Congo River, officials added.

Locals said the boat hit a rock east of the capital, Kinshasa, while travelling at night, which is prohibited.

Many people use boats to travel long distances in DR Congo because of its poor road network. DR Congo's humanitarian affairs minister Steve Mbikayi told the BBC that he had received reports that the boat was overloaded and had been carrying passengers at night in breach of the law.

"These are the reasons that caused this wreck with over 60 dead. We have managed to rescue 300 survivors while search and rescue operations are ongoing," he added.

Provincial government spokesman Charles



Boats carrying passengers on the Congo River are often poorly maintained and crowded

Mbutamuntu said the boat capsized at around 20:00 local time (19:00 GMT) on Sunday.

"Residents told us that bodies are floating in the water," Mr Mbutamuntu was quoted by AFP news agency as saying. The boat was headed for Mbandaka, the capital of DR Congo's Equateur province, around 700

kilometres (435 miles) from Kinshasa, according to AFP. Deadly boat accidents are common in DR Congo where boats are frequently overcrowded with passengers who are rarely given safety jackets and often cannot swim.

In April, at least 167 people

died in two boat accidents on Lake Kivu.

This prompted President Félix Tshisekedi to make it mandatory for passengers to

wear life jackets.

But it is not clear whether any of those on the boat that sank on Sunday were wearing them. BBC

South Africa minister under fire for rape comment

South Africa's education minister has been criticised for her remarks that "an educated man won't rape" while trying to explain the importance of education.

Minister Angie Motshekga told students on Monday

that the more educated one was the more unlikely they were to be involved in bad deeds like rape.

The students could be heard disagreeing with her rape comment, to which she said she was disappointed that educated men could still be

involved in criminal activities.

A section of her speech was shared online eliciting angry comments: In a statement Ms Motshekga said her comments were taken out of context.

"Rape is indeed about power, hence the department has programmes to educate the boy child to appreciate the importance of how to deal with power relations between men and women from a young age... Men need to be educated about how to deal with power, patriarchy and negative or toxic masculinity. Educating men about power relations is also important in the fight against rape," the statement read in part.

In 2019 President Cyril Ramaphosa termed rape and sexual assault in the country as a "national crisis".

Some 40,000 rapes are reported every year, though this is thought to be only a fraction of the real total. BBC

Congolese President Appoints Sama Lukon Kyenge as PM

The Democratic Republic of Congo's new prime minister said the safety of the country's citizens is among his top priorities.

Following Sama Lukonde Kyenge's appointment by President Felix Tshisekedi on Monday, he said security will be one of the priority areas, particularly in the east of the

Youth and Sports ministry.

He replaces Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba, an ally of former President Joseph Kabila, who stepped down last month following a no-confidence vote in Parliament.

His departure came after President Tshisekedi ended a power-sharing agreement



Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Katanga province.

He also issued a challenge that the government will include more youth and women.

Sama Lukonde takes on his new role after heading a mining company and previously as leader of the

between his party and that of Kabila's.

The appointment of Sama Lukonde as prime Minister is President Tshisekedi's latest move to select his own leaders for ministerial level post in the government, which has a turbulent political history, prior the peaceful transfer of power in 2019. VOA



Angie Motshekga said her comments were misunderstood

EDITORIAL

Commending the U.S. for donating over 430 textbooks

IN CONTINUOUS DEMONSTRATION of United States-Liberia's traditional and historical ties, the Government of America thru the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Service's Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently donated more than 430 up-to-date nursing and midwifery textbooks to the Liberia Board of Nursing & Midwifery (LBNM) to help boost Liberia's health service delivery.

NEWLY ACCREDITED UNITED STATES Ambassador to Liberia, Michael A. McCarthy, who made the formal handover to LBNM authorities last week Friday, 5 February noted, "Our understanding of medicine is always improving. That's why it is essential for medical students to have up-to-date textbooks. Nursing and midwifery affect some of the most vulnerable and precious among us: newborns and their mothers. With these 430 textbooks, the next generation of nurses and midwives can practice their craft confidently knowing they are equipped with the latest knowledge."

AMBASSADOR MCCARTHY'S EMPHASIS is very critical to healthcare delivery anywhere in the world, particularly Liberia, where basic health services are still a challenge. Issue of having up-to-date relevant textbooks in our colleges and universities to properly prepare medical students, including nurses and midwives who are to provide efficient healthcare delivery cannot be overemphasized or ignored.

TRAINED AND QUALIFIED health practitioners are 'sine qua non' to providing comprehensive healthcare services to the population of Liberia. Anything short of that could mean manning our hospitals and health centers with square pegs in round holes. News of preventable deaths at the hands of health practitioners, including midwives in the country basically derives from lack of adequate knowledge.

ACCORDING TO THE U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Ambassador McCarthy's first public event on Friday, February 5, 2021 since his arrival in Liberia demonstrates the value the U.S. Government places on healthcare and critical front-line workers such as nurses and midwives.

WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY WELCOME the donation and commend the U.S. Government for this important intervention in the Liberian health sector, which it has continuously done in line with historical ties existing between Liberia and America that has lasted over 100 years.

WE ALSO LAUD the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Service's Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for making this gesture possible. As the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia noted via a press release, the Government of America supports internal medicine residency training and family medicine training, including in nursing and midwifery, via the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, commonly referred to as PEPFAR.

NOW IN ITS 18th year, PEPFAR supports antiretroviral treatment for nearly 17.2 million people living with HIV-AIDS globally - including in Liberia. It has also enabled 2.8 million babies to be born HIV-free to mothers living with HIV and has provided critical care and support for 6.7 million orphans, vulnerable children, and their caregivers so they can survive and thrive.

IT'S OUR HOPE that the Liberia Board of Nursing & Midwifery would make effective use of the textbooks in ensuring that nurses and midwives deployed across the country are up to the task in serving the public.

The New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

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

COMMENTARY

By Elizabeth Drew

Impeachment's Partisan Doom

WASHINGTON, DC - The US Senate's failure to convict Donald Trump for instigating the January 6 riot in the Capitol, for which the House of Representatives had impeached him, leaves the question of whether the US Congress has any effective means of holding a president to account for acts against the Constitution. The nation's Founders had sought to prevent a president from enhancing his own powers to the point of becoming, in effect, a king. Under Trump, America's constitutional system had a dagger pointed to its heart: a president who refused to recognize that he had lost an election and was willing to use a mob to physically attack a supposedly co-equal branch.

America's Founders made conviction by the Senate, which brings removal from office, for an impeachable offense - which need not be a statutory crime - very difficult by requiring a two-thirds vote. A president, they believed, should not be removed from office as a result of a national mood swing.

No president has been removed from office through impeachment by the House followed by conviction by the Senate - Richard Nixon resigned because he was told by leading congressional Republicans that he had lost sufficient support in the Senate to stay in office. Essentially, to remove a president from office is to nullify the vote of the people. Moreover, that person is likely to retain a hold on at least a segment of his party. Indeed, until not long ago as US history goes, politicians were loath to even bring up the subject of impeachment.

The Nixon near-impeachment and removal from office in 1973-74 was the historical turning point. When there arose the first serious talk of impeaching Nixon after he fired a series of attorneys general in order to remove the special prosecutor, Archibald Cox, it was widely considered an awesome, even terrifying, proposition. This was the first time the subject had seriously come up since President Andrew Johnson's near-removal in 1868. Since Nixon, the idea of employing such a remedy has arisen far more frequently.

The fundamental problem with the impeachment process as a method for holding a president accountable is that the relevant clause in the Constitution, written in 1787, was designed for a different political landscape than what the US has had for most of its history. At the time, the nation did not have actual political parties. The Founders, indeed, feared "factions," or parties, which developed as the debate over the proper role of the federal government grew.

In his Farewell Address, George Washington warned of "the baneful effects of the spirit of party." This spirit, Washington warned, had "its root in the strongest passions of the human mind." In addition, Federalist Paper No. 10, written by James Madison, was an indication that the Constitution was written in the spirit of opposition to political parties.

One reason to doubt the efficacy of impeachment and conviction as an instrument for removing (at least a Republican) president

is that since each state has two senators, small states, whose populations tend to be rural and conservative, have excessive power for their relative size. But the great difference between the impeachment processes pertaining to Nixon, on which there was a bipartisan consensus, and those pertaining to Trump stems mainly from profound changes in the Republican party.

The Republicans of Nixon's day were far more centrist and less vindictive than today's Trumpist party. While Nixon retained the loyalty of Republican party members, people were not threatened with expulsion for seeking his removal from office. It was fear of some future opposition that led Republican nobles to go to the White House to tell him that he did not have the political support in the House or the Senate to remain in office - so that they would not have to cast votes on the matter.

In announcing that she would vote to impeach Trump, Representative Liz Cheney, a true conservative (and daughter of former vice president Dick Cheney), said: "there has never been a greater betrayal by a President of the United States of his office and his oath to the Constitution." Cheney spurned Trump's weeks-long stoking up of the radical-right by claiming, falsely, that the election had been stolen from him, and then urging a mob to go to the Capitol precisely while the Electoral College ballots were being counted, and "fight like hell."

In response, Cheney was censured by the Wyoming Republican party and her position as third in line of the House Republicans was challenged in the party caucus.

Jamie Raskin, the lead House prosecutor, alongside his eight colleagues, did a masterly job in making the case against Trump. Raskin is also a constitutional law professor, so when I spoke to him late Saturday following the close of the Senate proceeding, I asked if, given the very different circumstances between the time of the drafting of the Constitution and now, and given the outsized power of small states in the Senate, he ever expected there to be a two-thirds vote for convicting Trump. Raskin replied: "I always thought there was a better chance of our getting 100 votes than 67. I thought that when we presented our case, the bottom would fall out from Trump's side."

Raskin continued: "But apparently there are no depths too low for some of our GOP colleagues to sink. We've arrived at a point in history where a once-great party can behave like a cult. Facts, logic, and the rule of law have dropped out of the equation." Raskin attributed this to the fact that "their leader is exercising psychological, financial, and political control over his followers. He has assembled a war chest that strikes fear among Republicans."

Raskin concluded by saying that "the political party system has taken over the congressional system. It's not two branches that govern congress now, but two parties, and one of them has surrendered reason and common sense."

Trump may have escaped being convicted by Congress for instigating a murderous mob attack on America's Capitol, yet it seems clear that he will be held accountable for it in history.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Bereaved families petition Legislature -over missing relatives

The families of three young boys, who reportedly went missing after they were hired last year by the manager of the St. Moses Funeral Parlor along Somalia Drive outside Monrovia, have petitioned the 54th Liberian Legislature to

Siafa G. Boimah and Bobby S. Gbeanquoi narrate that on Saturday, October 17, 2020, it was reported that their three sons allegedly drowned in Fuamah District, lower Bong County after they were contracted by Mr. Moses Ahossoule and Mr. Abraham G.

including the international community and the media on the whereabouts of their lost relatives, but have found no answer.

"It has been close to four months since our children, those young Liberians went missing without any trace and any answer", they noted.

According to them, they are deeply in grief, pains and agony, and their heart aches and they have had sleepless nights.

The families continue that on November 9, 2020, they released an official statement about the mysterious disappearance of their sons and informed the public of how hard they have worked and were disappointed in the Government of Liberia.

On November 10, 2020 the grieving families peacefully assembled at the premises of Mr. Moses Ahossoule in Gardnersville to draw his attention to their pains and distress, but were allegedly brutalized and mal-handled by the Liberia National Police, using teargas, inflicting wounds and arresting some family members.

Receiving the petition Tuesday on behalf of the Legislature, Montserrado County District#17 Representative Hanson Kaizolu, thanked the families for reaching out to them and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



probe the whereabouts of their missing relatives.

They petitioned the National Legislature Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at the Capitol.

Families representing the victims: Robert M. Blamo, Jr.,

Samuels to do some work for them.

The families claim in their petition that since October 17, 2020 they have engaged the Ministry of Justice, the Liberia National Police, Civil Society and human rights organizations,

Cllr. Verdier vows to protect Ex- RUF fighter

Cllr Jerome J. Verdier, Executive Director of International Justice Group (IJG) says the group will spare no efforts in defending the protected status of Mr. Gibril Massaquoi, a former rebel fighter and patriotic citizen of the Republic of Sierra Leone against efforts to prosecute the accused over claim of committing atrocities in Liberia.

Cllr. Verdier who chaired Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) contends that Massaquoi did not fight war in Liberia, had no reason to fight war in Liberia and committed no atrocities in Liberia as alleged by his tormentors in the Finland Jurisdiction.

The IJG in a statement released over the weekend said effort to prosecute Gibril Massaquoi, ex - RUF rebel commander from Sierra Leone based on a crescendo of lies and unfounded allegations of

war crimes committed in Liberia as falsely claimed by Hassan Bility and cohorts in Switzerland.

He terms this as a serious distraction from the quests of all Liberians seeking justice for victims of the war through the

establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia.

Cllr. Verdier cautions that witness protection is important to any successful

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Cllr Jerome J. Verdier

Printing money for cover-up?

-ALP Chairman raises concern

By Ethel A. Tweh

The National Chairman of the opposition All Liberian Party (ALP) Mr. Theodore Momo is claiming here that the Government of Liberia wants to print more money to cover up an alleged corrupt act surrounding the reported missing LD\$16 Billion and the US\$25 million that was intended to mop up excess liquidity.

Speaking Tuesday 16 February at the ALP headquarters where new members were being ushered into the party, Mr. Momo argued that no other country is using Liberia's currency, yet he says the local currency is scarce here.

The LD\$16bn as referenced by Mr. Momo has to do with the money scandal that rocked the nation in the early years of President George Manneh

market during the elections," he says.

According to Mr. Momo, after the election process there is no more money in the banks and on the Liberian market.

He calls on Liberians to gather at the Legislature to protest against the continuous request for printing of money.

Momo tells the new members of the ALP that they all need to work together to move the country forward, stating the ALP's goal is to make the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government a one - term government.

According to him, joining a political party is a legal way in working together to remove the sitting government, unlike the approach adopted by others who he says took to the bushes with arms to remove the sitting



Weah's regime, but the trial court here has acquitted the officials who were indicted to give account of alleged excess billions of dollars that were printed.

Additionally, the government announced a plan to use US\$25m to mop up excess liquidity, but that process ended controversially. All of these money matters led to mass protests in the country.

The ALP Chairman also laments that Liberians are facing embarrassment to transact business because there is no money in various commercial banks.

"The Government printed LD\$ 4 Billion, but they cannot give account of the money. We were only opportuned to see new banknotes on the Liberian

government, thereby leading Liberia to this stage.

He complains about Liberia's economy, education, health and the rule of law.

One of the new ALP members, Dr. Pal Suku, says he lived in the United States of America for 27 years and served there as CDC's chairman for three states.

But he says when he came back to Liberia and saw the living conditions of the people, he was moved to break away from the ruling party to join the opposition ALP.

"I am not afraid of anyone, I am trained American Police. They always go after people who are against them to kill them or harm. I am preparing for anyone," Suku says.

He vows to stand by the ALP,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Republic of Liberia

Ad hoc Committee for the Recruitment of the Auditor-General of Liberia



Invitation for the Position of Auditor General of Liberia

Background

Established by an Act of the National Legislature in 2014 ("the Act"), the General Auditing Commission (GAC) supports Legislative oversight of the management of public resources.

According to Section 2.1.5, the Auditor General shall hold office for a term of seven (7) years and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

The Duties and Responsibilities of the Auditor General:

- a) The Auditor General shall be the auditor of the public accounts and public funds of the Republic of Liberia. Subject to sub-section (b) below, the Auditor General shall carry out such audits and inquiries as he/she considers necessary of public entities and funds owned or controlled by the Government to enable reporting as required by the General Auditing Commission Act of 2014.

Basic Qualification for Selection and Appointment

A person shall be appointed as Auditor General only if:

- (i) the person is a Liberian citizen;
(ii) the person possesses at least one professional certification such as a CPA, CA, or ACCA from a recognized professional accountancy body;

Core Competencies Required for the Auditor General:

Behavioral

- a) Integrity;
b) Objectivity;
c) Professional competence and due care;
d) Confidentiality;

Technical

- The Auditor General must understand:
(a) Financial Statement, Compliance, Performance and Information Technology Audits;
(b) Public Financial Management Act and Regulation of 2009 of Liberia as amended in 2019;

Others:

- (a) Information technology systems for financial accounting and reporting, including relevant current issues and developments;
(b) Principles and practices for evaluating financial accounting and reporting systems, including evaluating controls and assessing risk;

SUBMISSION OF INTENT

To be considered for inclusion in the recruitment process, please submit your CV, Cover Letter, and all relevant Credentials to:

In Person Delivery: Office of the Ad hoc Committee
C/o Office of the Legal Advisor
5th Floor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Via Email: adhocommittee2021@gmail.com

Deadline for Application: Friday, February 26, 2021 @ 4 O'Clock P.M. (GMT)

Note: All Applications already delivered in-person to the Civil Service Agency or via email to agapplication@csa.gov.lr are valid.

Committee Room
5th Floor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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U.S. Ambassador McCarthy stresses importance of Agriculture

Pledging U.S. support, Ambassador Michael McCarthy said he is convinced that Liberians "can build an agriculture sector that provides the basis for Liberia's success on its journey to self-reliance."

Ambassador McCarthy spoke at the opening of the National Agriculture Fair in Suakoko, Bong County last Friday, February 12.

He noted that support for the agriculture sector by the United States Agency for International Development

Walter said, "our hearts should be endlessly filled with gratitude for farmers" whose hard work "provide us the most important necessity for life and survival: food."

The National Agriculture Fair, held under the theme "Invest in Agriculture



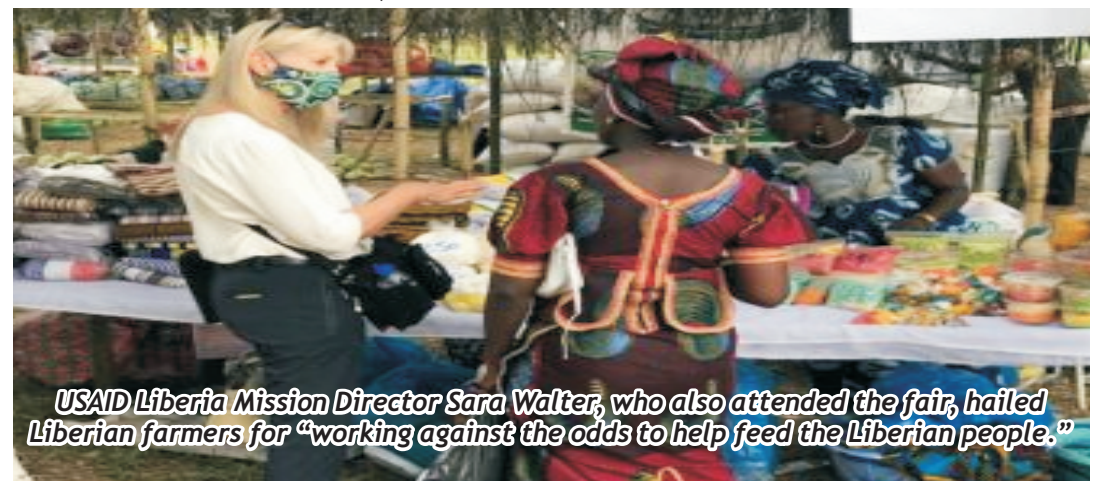
(USAID) "helped farmers grow more rice, cassava, and vegetables by introducing higher yielding seeds, new mechanized tillers, and teaching farmers new cultivation techniques."

He added that USAID is planning new projects to build on these gains and that "continued success requires the strong commitment of all our Liberian partners and stakeholders in the agriculture sector, including the government, farmer cooperatives, and private sector actors."

Speaking on Sunday at a program to mark the end of the fair, Director

for Prosperity and Development," was kicked off by Liberian President George Weah, who called on Liberian farmers to adopt a business approach to farming.

He announced the establishment of a technical committee comprising the Ministries of Finance and Development Planning, Agriculture, and Justice as well as other agencies of the Liberian Government to work together with banks and other financial institutions to provide farmers and agricultural institutions access to funds necessary to spur the development of the agriculture sector.



USAID Liberia Mission Director Sara Walter, who also attended the fair, hailed Liberian farmers for "working against the odds to help feed the Liberian people."

LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY Board of Arbitration Survey Notice. February 12, 2021. By Directive of The Sixth Judicial Circuit, Civil Law Court "A" Temple of Justice, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, the General public is hereby informed that the undersigned Registered Land Surveyors will on Wednesday, February 17th 2021 conduct a Board of Arbitration Survey commencing at 10:00AM between Henry N. Browne & Augustine K. Browne, Plaintiff vs. Josephine Greaves and all those operating under her authority Defendant.

President Weah continues Nationwide tour



in Sanniquellie and Karnplay, Nimba County



Français

Weah affirme son opposition aux mesures punitives extrajudiciaires

Le président George M. Weah, lors de la deuxième étape de sa tournée nationale dans le comté de Nimba, a renouvelé lundi son appel contre la justice populaire, tout en prêchant la paix et la non-violence dans le pays.

S'exprimant lundi lors d'une rencontre à la mairie de Gompa à Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba, le président Weah a fait écho à son message antérieur dans le comté de Bong, condamnant la violence des jeunes et soulignant l'importance de la paix dont jouissent actuellement les Libériens et la nécessité de maintenir cette paix.

Il a ainsi appelé les chefs, les anciens, les leaders régionaux et les jeunes à promouvoir la discipline et le respect des valeurs républicaines et ancestrales.

Le président a indiqué qu'il ne peut y avoir de progrès sans la discipline. Il a souligné la nécessité de travailler dans l'unité pour le bien du peuple libérien, peu importe l'appartenance ou le bord politique de chacun.

Pour ce qui concerne la bonne gouvernance, le

président Weah a demandé aux surintendants de lui présenter des rapports d'étape. À noter qu'il avait aussi demandé à ses ministres de faire autant.

« Au lieu de se plaindre de ce qui manque, dites ce que vous avez fait avec le peu dont vous disposez », a dit le président.

Quant aux citoyens qui avaient demandé que, dans son examen, il devrait y avoir une

augmentation du fonds de développement régional puisque les prix du minerai de fer ont augmenté sur le marché mondial, il les a informés qu'un ajustement de l'accord ArcelorMittal Steel est en cours à cet effet.

Dans cette réponse, le président faisait allusion aux appels qui lui avaient été

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Prince Johnson réaffirme son soutien à Weah

Le sénateur Prince Y. Johnson du comté de Nimba a réaffirmé son soutien et celui du comté de Nimba au président George Weah.

« Nimba est pour vous. Nimba est à vos côtés. Vivons aujourd'hui comme s'il y avait une élection », a déclaré le sénateur Johnson,

considéré comme le parrain politique du comté, au président Weah lors de la deuxième étape de la tournée nationale du président Weah.

« Nous sommes à vos côtés. Lors des élections, de 2023, nous serons avec vous. Le diable que nous connaissons est mieux que l'ange que nous ne connaissons pas », a dit le sénateur Johnson

devant une foule enthousiaste de Nimbaïens qui étaient venus nombreux pour échanger avec le président.

Le président Weah est arrivé à Nimba lundi matin. Il a été reçu à son arrivée par des chefs traditionnels et des responsables du comté après une visite de trois jours dans le comté de Bong.

Le sénateur Johnson, qui semble n'avoir aucun regret d'avoir donné son soutien au président Weah lors des élections de 2017, a déclaré que son choix était basé sur la confiance qu'il avait placée dans le président Weah, qui, selon lui, était à l'époque la personne la mieux placée pour faire avancer le pays. Il a déclaré que son refus de soutenir Weah en 2011 était dû au fait qu'il était sur le ticket comme vice-président de Winston Tubman qu'il considère comme un étranger.

Il a remercié le président Weah pour les activités de développement qu'il a entreprises dans tout le pays.



Suisse : reprise du procès pour crimes de guerre au Liberia

(Genève, le 12 février 2021) - Le procès d'un ancien chef rebelle libérien arrêté en Suisse pour des crimes de guerre présumés commis pendant la première guerre civile au Liberia entamera sa deuxième phase importante le 15 février 2021, a déclaré aujourd'hui Human Rights Watch, qui publie simultanément un document « Questions-réponses » à ce sujet.

Le procès d'Alieu Kosiah, un ancien commandant du groupe armé Mouvement uni de libération pour la démocratie au Liberia (ULIMO), s'est ouvert le 3 décembre 2020 devant le Tribunal pénal fédéral suisse à Bellinzone. Alieu Kosiah est le premier ressortissant libérien à être jugé pour des crimes de guerre présumés commis pendant la première guerre civile dans ce pays, de 1989 à 1996.

Le document « Questions-réponses » fournit des détails sur les antécédents de Kosiah, ainsi que sur les principaux problèmes ayant émergé au cours de la phase initiale de son procès, qui s'est déroulée du 3 au 10 décembre 2020. Le document aborde aussi les implications du procès pour la justice interne au Liberia, ainsi que sur les efforts en Suisse, au-delà de cette affaire, pour mener des enquêtes et des poursuites à l'égard de crimes graves en vertu du droit international.

« Le procès de Kosiah offre aux victimes de la première guerre civile du Liberia l'opportunité d'obtenir justice après tant d'années de souffrances », a déclaré Balkees Jarrah, directrice adjointe du Programme Justice internationale à Human Rights Watch. « Le tribunal suisse de Bellinzone devrait trouver des moyens de diffuser auprès des communautés affectées au Liberia les informations vitales relatives au procès ».

Les victimes et les témoins qui n'ont pu auparavant se rendre en Suisse pour le début du procès en décembre assisteront en personne à la reprise des audiences. Le procès de Kosiah, qui devait initialement débuter en avril 2020, a été reporté à plusieurs reprises en raison des restrictions imposées aux déplacements par la pandémie de Covid-19. Le Tribunal pénal fédéral a déclaré que les efforts visant à recueillir des témoignages par

visioconférence depuis Monrovia, la capitale du Liberia, n'avaient pas été fructueux.

Kosiah se trouve en détention depuis 2014. Les autorités ont pour obligation de veiller à ce que tout individu accusé d'un crime soit jugé dans un délai raisonnable, une détention prolongée en l'absence de procès pouvant porter atteinte à ses droits. Pour garantir la confiance dans l'impartialité du processus, les autorités devraient rendre publiques les raisons pour lesquelles la prolongation de la détention provisoire de Kosiah a été nécessaire.

Pour éviter d'autres retards, le tribunal a décidé de scinder le procès de Kosiah en deux phases, l'une en décembre et l'autre en février. Lorsque ce procès historique s'est officiellement ouvert, le tribunal a abordé les problèmes de procédures préliminaires et commencé à procéder à l'audition de l'accusé. Au cours de la deuxième phase, qui doit débuter le 15 février, le tribunal procèdera à l'audition de sept victimes et de neuf témoins. Les différentes parties présenteront également leurs arguments dans l'affaire.

Un défi majeur auquel les autorités judiciaires suisses sont confrontées est de garantir aux communautés libériennes concernées, dont les membres ne peuvent se rendre à Bellinzone, l'accès à certaines informations sur le procès. Le tribunal devrait tout mettre en œuvre pour combler cette lacune et mettre les informations relatives au procès à la disposition du public et des communautés victimes des crimes de l'ULIMO, a préconisé Human Rights Watch. Une sensibilisation inadéquate serait de nature à affaiblir l'impact des efforts déployés pour établir les responsabilités dans les crimes internationaux graves commis.

Kosiah a été arrêté le 10 novembre 2014 en Suisse, où il résidait depuis 1999, pour son rôle présumé dans des crimes de guerre commis entre 1993 et 1995 dans le comté de Lofa, dans le nord-ouest du Liberia. Vingt-cinq chefs d'accusation pèsent contre lui, notamment ceux d'avoir ordonné le meurtre et le traitement cruel de civils, le viol, le recrutement d'enfants soldats

Français

Weah affirme son

précédemment lancés à Kokoya, dans le comté de Bong ce week-end, pour la libération d'un groupe de jeunes. Le président avait appelé à une résolution pacifique et à un dialogue pour régler les désaccords, au lieu de faire recours à la violence.

À l'endroit des habitants de la localité de David Dean, dans le district de Kokoya, dans le comté de Bong, où des violences avaient éclaté il y a des semaines, il avait dit : « Lorsque les gens enfreignent la loi, ils doivent faire face à tout le poids de la loi. Et personne ne devrait penser qu'il peut faire pression sur mon gouvernement pour qu'on les libère de prison ».

« Que vos enfants apprennent à dialoguer. » Il a ajouté en disant : « ... Si la loi les acquitte parce qu'ils n'ont pas tort, alors Dieu merci. Mais s'ils ont tort, ils seront punis par la loi.

Ses commentaires faisaient suite à un appel contenu dans la pétition des citoyens lue lors d'une rencontre par le représentant local Albert Hill du district n° 1 demandant la libération de leurs enfants qui s'étaient rendus coupables de violation d'ordre public.

Le président Weah n'a pas caché sa colère contre le fait que des jeunes en colère se rendent dans des commissariats de police et y mettent le feu.

« Il n'est pas bon d'incendier un poste de police », a dit M. Weah, avant d'ajouter : « C'est le même poste de police qui essaie de vous protéger. »

Le président a indiqué qu'une attaque contre un poste de police est une attaque contre l'État et le gouvernement. « Si vous brûlez un poste de police, vous brûlez l'État. Cela

signifie que vous n'avez aucun respect pour votre gouvernement.

Pour Weah, il est nécessaire de comprendre que la liberté civile est importante et qu'un dialogue pacifique pour la résolution des conflits est indispensable.

M. Weah, dont les commentaires ont dépassé les frontières du comté de Bong, a déclaré que les parents devraient avertir leurs enfants qui roulent à moto de cesser de se livrer à des actes de violence en cas d'accident.

« Vos enfants doivent apprendre à dialoguer. Si vous avez un enfant qui roule la moto pour gagner de l'argent, cet enfant doit être discipliné. Ils roulent entre des voitures et quand il y a un accident avec un bus par exemple, ils incendient le bus. Est-ce que les gens qui sont dans le bus sont tous des chauffeurs de ce bus ? », a-t-il interrogé.

Le président Weah a noté qu'à l'avenir, ces comportements violents ne seraient pas encouragés.

Il a donné l'exemple de son fils qui avait été récemment arrêté à Paris pour avoir violé un couvre-feu, affirmant qu'il ne pouvait pas le soutenir dans son acte de désobéissance.

« Écoutez, l'autre jour, mon fils, et j'espère qu'il en a pris note, il y avait un couvre-feu de 3 h du matin, il était dehors. La police l'a arrêté. Il a dit : " je suis le fils de George Weah ", les gens lui ont dit que c'était faux, " vous n'êtes pas le fils de George Weah ". Ils m'ont appelé. Je lui ai demandé, il a dit qu'il était dehors. Je lui ai dit : " non, tu ne peux pas être dehors lorsqu'il y a un couvre-feu. La police fera son travail. Si tu n'es pas coupable, ils te laisseront partir. Pas parce que je suis ton père et que je suis président d'un autre pays... -non cela ne marche pas ainsi, pas même dans ce pays" ».

COMMENTAIRE

Par Elizabeth Drew

L'impeachment rendu impossible par l'esprit partisan

WASHINGTON, DC - La décision du Sénat américain de ne pas condamner Donald Trump pour incitation aux émeutes qui ont frappé le Capitole le 6 janvier, et qui ont conduit la Chambre des représentants à voter la destitution, soulève la question de savoir si le Congrès américain dispose de moyens efficaces de placer devant ses responsabilités un président qui agit contre la Constitution. Les Pères fondateurs de la nation entendaient empêcher un président de renforcer ses pouvoirs jusqu'à devenir dans les faits un monarque. Sous Trump, le système constitutionnel américain s'est trouvé menacé de mort par un président qui a refusé d'admettre sa défaite à l'élection, et qui est allé jusqu'à instrumentaliser un groupe violent pour s'attaquer physiquement à une branche de pouvoir en principe de niveau égal au pouvoir exécutif.

Les Pères fondateurs de l'Amérique ont fait en sorte qu'une condamnation par le Sénat, synonyme de destitution du président, pour des actes justifiant l'impeachment - pas nécessairement de nature criminelle - soit très difficile à obtenir, nécessitant en effet une majorité de deux tiers. Un président américain, considéreraient-ils, ne saurait être destitué en conséquence d'un changement d'humeur au niveau national.

Aucun président américain n'a jamais été destitué via un impeachment à la Chambre suivi d'une condamnation par le Sénat - Richard Nixon a démissionné après avoir entendu des Républicains du Congrès qu'il ne disposait plus d'un soutien suffisant au Sénat pour rester en poste. Chasser un président de ses fonctions revient pour l'essentiel à défaire le vote du peuple. Il est par ailleurs probable que l'intéressé conserve un pouvoir sur un pan au moins de son parti. Ainsi, jusqu'à récemment dans l'histoire des États-Unis, les responsables politiques se montraient extrêmement réticents à ne serait-ce qu'évoquer le sujet de l'impeachment.

Le tournant historique est survenu avec le quasi-impeachment et l'éviction de Nixon en 1973-1974. Lorsqu'ont eu lieu les premières discussions sérieuses autour d'une destitution de Nixon, qui avait licencié plusieurs procureurs généraux afin de limoger le procureur spécial Archibald Cox, beaucoup considéraient cette proposition comme extrême, voire terrifiante. Le sujet était évoqué pour la première fois depuis la quasi-destitution du président Andrew Johnson en 1868. Depuis Nixon, l'idée du recours à cet outil a été évoquée beaucoup plus fréquemment.

Le problème fondamental que présente la procédure d'impeachment, en tant que méthode contraignant un président à rendre des comptes, réside en ce que la clause visée dans la Constitution, écrite en 1787, était conçue pour un paysage politique différent de celui que les États-Unis ont connu pendant la majeure partie de leur histoire. À l'époque, les partis politiques n'existaient pas réellement dans le pays. Les Pères fondateurs redoutaient en effet les « factions », ou partis, qui se sont développés à mesure que progressait le débat sur le rôle approprié du gouvernement fédéral.

Dans son discours de fin de mandat, George Washington mettait en garde contre les « effets néfastes de l'esprit partisan ». Cet esprit, avertissait-il, trouve « ses racines dans les passions les plus fortes de l'esprit humain ». De même, l'essai de James Madison intitulé Federalist Paper No. 10 témoigne d'une Constitution rédigée dans un esprit d'opposition aux partis politiques.

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Parmi les raisons de douter de l'efficacité de l'impeachment et de la condamnation, en tant qu'outil permettant de démettre de ses fonctions un président (en tous les cas républicain), rappelons que dans la mesure où chaque État dispose de deux sénateurs, les petits États à la population généralement rurale et conservatrice jouissent d'un pouvoir disproportionné par rapport à leur taille. Pour autant, la différence majeure entre les procédures d'impeachment intentées contre Nixon, avec à l'époque un consensus bipartisan, et contre Trump dernièrement, résulte principalement de changements profonds dans le Parti républicain.

Les Républicains de l'ère Nixon étaient beaucoup plus centristes et moins vindicatifs que les trumpistes actuels. Si Nixon conservait la loyauté des membres du Parti républicains, ce n'était pas en menaçant de limoger tous ceux qui approuvaient sa destitution. C'est la crainte d'une future opposition qui a conduit les hauts responsables républicains à se rendre à la Maison-Blanche pour expliquer à Nixon qu'il ne disposait pas du soutien politique suffisant à la Chambre et au Sénat pour espérer conserver son poste - ces responsables évitant ainsi d'avoir à voter sur cette question.

En annonçant qu'elle voterait l'impeachment de Trump, la représentante Liz Cheney, conservatrice convaincue (et fille de l'ancien vice-président Dick Cheney), a déclaré : « Jamais un président des États-Unis n'avait autant trahi sa fonction et son serment de préservation de la Constitution ». La parlementaire a condamné le discours incendiaire formulé pendant des semaines par Trump pour agiter la droite radicale, le président sortant prétendant faussement que l'élection lui avait été volée, puis invitant un groupe violent à se rendre au Capitole précisément au moment où les bulletins du Collège électoral étaient dépouillés, tout en les encourageant à « ne rien lâcher ».

Résultat, Liz Cheney a été censurée par le Parti républicain du Wyoming, et sa position en troisième ligne des Républicains de la Chambre a été remise en question dans le caucus du parti.

Jamie Raskin, procureur de la Chambre aux côtés de ses huit collègues, a fourni un travail remarquable dans la constitution du dossier contre Trump. Raskin est également professeur de droit constitutionnel, et c'est pourquoi, lorsque je lui ai parlé samedi soir après l'achèvement de l'audience au Sénat, je lui ai demandé si, compte tenu des différences majeures de contexte entre l'époque de rédaction de la Constitution et l'époque actuelle, et compte tenu du poids disproportionné des petits États au Sénat, il avait envisagé qu'une majorité de deux tiers serait possible à l'appui d'une condamnation de Trump. Raskin m'a répondu : « J'ai toujours pensé qu'il serait plus facile d'obtenir 100 votes que 67. Lorsque nous avons présenté le dossier, je pensais que le camp Trump lâcherait son leader ».

Raskin a poursuivi : « Mais certains de nos collègues du Parti républicain semblent avoir plongé encore plus profondément dans les abîmes. Nous sommes arrivés à un stade de l'histoire auquel un parti autrefois très respectable se comporte aujourd'hui comme une secte. Les faits, la logique et l'État de droit semblent avoir été exclus de l'équation ». Raskin explique cela par le fait que « leur leader exerce un contrôle psychologique, financier et politique sur ses partisans. Il a assemblé un trésor de guerre qui inspire la peur parmi les Républicains ».

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Ellen hopes Monrovia can tap into Freetown's experiences

By Winston W. Parley

At a meeting of accomplished African women in Monrovia, former Liberian President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf expresses hope that Monrovia can follow Freetown Mayor Yvonne Aki Sawyerr's work and build a relationship so that she can share her talents, experiences, opportunities and examples that will strengthen authorities here in their delivery to the people.

Welcoming the Mayor of neighboring Sierra Leone's capital Freetown to Monrovia at the Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf Presidential Center Monday,

professionalism.

"I think this is great for the fact that she's here with her entire group of supporters, assistants and family, that she can come and share this with us and she can inspire, you know, our mayor, all of those here so that they can see her good work," Mrs. Sirleaf says.

The ex-president also wishes that together Monrovia and Freetown can build two cities, strongly united for the good of the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone.

She notes that the Freetown Mayor will be talking to Liberians about her work and what she has done to move Freetown forward.

which had been scheduled for Tuesday, 16 February.

Mayor Sawyerr expresses excitement about the prospects of a stronger relationship between Freetown and Monrovia, two cities that she says have been together and yet far apart.

She adds that this is an opportunity for them not to just be together in terms of physical distance, but being together in terms of culture, economic and education.

She notes the prospects of building bridges so that the people of Freetown and the people of Monrovia can grow together.

The Executive Director of the Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development and immediate past President of the University of Liberia, Dr. Ophelia Inez Weeks says the center is there to provide support for those who have ambition to be public servants.

Through the Amujae Initiative, Dr. Weeks explains that the center provides guidance and coaching, using former President Sirleaf's life story as a helping roadmap for these women.

Having worked in the Government of Liberia, at multinational levels and becoming president, Dr. Weeks says former President Sirleaf has a wealth of experience.

She says there will be archives at the center that provide the type of information that people can go to and really access, and there will also be a presidential library.

For her part, the Political Leader for One Liberia, Madam McDella Cooper says it was a wonderful experience, having sat in the same room with so many great women who she has so much regard for, just sharing experiences.

She says she is grateful for the invitation, especially on hearing that one of Monrovia's sister cities that it can emulate when it comes to sanitation, Freetown, was represented at the table by Mayor Sawyerr.

Concluding, Madam Cooper says she is inspired by all those great ladies at the table to continue to do the work she has been doing.



Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf

15 February, Mrs. Sirleaf said Madam Sawyerr made her to think of great mayors that Liberia has had, one being Madam Mary T. Broh who now heads the General Services Agency (GSA).

"She was able to move this city to a point where it was acclaimed to be one of the cleanest cities," recalls Mrs. Sirleaf, during whose administration Madam Broh was Monrovia's mayor.

Some of Liberia's high profile women including two former foreign Ministers, and other great African women who have held top level positions in government or multinational levels were at the Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf (EJS) Presidential Center Monday.

Having looked through Mayor Sawyerr's second annual report, Mrs. Sirleaf says she is so proud of it, praising the Freetown Mayor's

Yvonne Aki Sawyerr, Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone says she is humbled to be in the midst of accomplished women at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center.

Madam Sawyerr says she is really grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Madam Sirleaf's Amujae Initiative Leadership program.

"The relationship, the influence and the input from the Amujae leaders have also gone into the report Madam [Sirleaf] is holding on, because it makes me stronger, it makes me better able to face my challenges ..., " she says.

Madam Sawyerr notes that it gives her value that she can put into her team which has produced the work as was seen at the meeting.

She says she is glad to be here, disclosing that she was invited here by Monrovia Mayor Jefferson T. Kojee to deliver a keynote address at a program

Ellen renews friendship

Cont'd from page 5

friends. Even when there was separation, we just limited it to not talking to each other, but no clashes, no clashes. But now I told her, I just applaud her for how strong she was through all the difficulties, she stood firm," Mrs. Sirleaf says.

Being a business person, an entrepreneur and a hardworking person, Madam Sirleaf notes that Madam Gorlorwulu established her own hotel in Paynesville called Golden Key which is situated along the Roberts Field Highway, just after the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex.

Against all odds, Ex-president Sirleaf notes that Madam Gorlorwulu kept the hotel project through and has expanded it, thereby making it a functional business today.

She recalls that Madam Gorlorwulu had prior to building the Golden Key hotel, worked with the Robert L. Johnson (RLJ) facility off the Roberts Field highway.

She made a rallying call on Liberians, especially officials and guests from other countries to promote Liberian entrepreneurs, urging them to think about Madam Nowui Gorlorwulu's Golden Key hotel off Roberts Field highway and other Liberian - owned businesses when they come to

Liberia.

"Whenever you're coming to Liberia for some other purposes, and you need a place, please think about her hotel. I like to promote her and all Liberian entrepreneurs who work so hard for what they do," Mrs. Sirleaf says.

Citing an example of Madam Gorlorwulu's work, former President Sirleaf notes that the food that was served at the EJS Presidential Center during the meeting on Monday was brought by Madam Gorlorwulu to welcome the women at the center.

"We don't really help our Liberian entrepreneurs ... for those of us who are officials, because we make them struggle," Mrs. Sirleaf says.

Responding, Madam Nowui Gorlorwulu expresses gratitude to former President Sirleaf for her kindness and support throughout the years, applauding the former president and her family for how they have accepted her and worked with her kindly as their daughter since they met in 2005.

"I am grateful to know this great woman. Y'all thank you, and I tell you thank Madam. Thank you so much," Madam Gorlorwulu says.

Bereaved families petition

Cont'd from page 6

promised the petition will go before the full plenary of the House for serious consideration.

The plenary of the Liberian Senate last week invited the Ministry of Justice and the national security apparatus to appear before that body to provide clarity on the matter.

Discussion over the situation which was brought on the Senate floor by Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon, has drawn the attention of the Liberian Senate.

In his deliberation, Senator Dillon said it has been about four months since those three boys got missing and there's no account whether they are dead or not.

"Moses was my boss man; I know him very well, I played on his band for funeral, wedding and other events. I have to close my eyes on this to seek the welfare of our Liberian citizens [who] no one knows their whereabouts", he said.

According to Dillon, since the boys went missing, Moses, who is person of interest in the matter walks about freely and moreover, the government still does business with him, carrying bodies of officials at his funeral home, something, he terms as insensitivity.

Family members of the victims now feared dead besieged the funeral parlor last October, demanding its proprietor, Mr. Moses Ahoussouhe, to produce their living bodies, but according to the police, the victims already dead.

Spokesperson for the aggrieved party Lovettee Johnson said their friends and brothers in persons of Robert Blamo, Jr., 29, Siafa and Blama were all motorcycle technicians specialized in heavy duty motor bikes. She narrated the trio were working with Robert Blamo Sr., the father of one of the victims.

According to Lovettee, since Saturday, 15 October 2020 Mr. Ahoussouhe who popularly is called by the name of his funeral home St. Moses, allegedly called the father of the late Blamo, Jr., asking him to allow his son Blamo, Jr. to go to Bomi Hill at the Jungle James Diamond Creek to help fix his motorbike. But while preparing for service the next day on Sunday morning, Lovettee Johnson narrated further that they were surprised to receive a call, informing them that their children got drowned in the river and since then, their bodies are yet to be found.

Cont'd from page 4

Printing money

saying he will recruit thousands of people and the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) of which ALP is a constituent party, will take

over Liberia in 2023.

The recruitment ceremony brought together Liberians from diverse backgrounds including Christians and Muslims. Of those

that joined the ALP Tuesday, more Muslims were observed.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Several projects launched in Nimba

Karnplay, Nimba County- President George M. Weah on the second day of his visit in Nimba County as part of his nationwide county tour has broken grounds for several projects including providing immediate funding to the disable community in Karnplay to construct their offices.

grounds for the relocation of city's market. The breaking of grounds for the relocation of the Sanniquellie Market is in response to the citizens' plea through the Liberian Marketing Association to relocate the market from Sanniquellie to Gborlo village, district #2.

The ceremony took place before the watchful eyes of hundreds of Nimbaians who had

Hospital from Sanniquilli to Saykenpa.

Bidding process for the construction of the relocated Sanniquellie is said to be underway with the Liberian Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) spearheading the project.

Meanwhile in Karnplay, where president Weah held the only Town Hall meeting of the day, locals voice out their joy that the president's interaction with them shows his concerns for them.

At the meeting the head of the people living with disability made a request for several building materials that would enable them to construct their office space.

President Weah who was excited that the request was to enable them have a place to convene immediately indicated that before leaving Karnplay the funds would have been made available.

For the past days hundreds of rural dwellers have gathered at sports stadiums, churches, and the forth courts of administrative buildings to enact with their president.

The President and entourage including first lady Clar Weah on Monday visited the Chocolate producing factory in Nimba and several other facilities.

He also inspected ongoing road projects as he announced the construction of several other farm to market roads and major roads to link counties.



President Weah arrived in Nimba Monday morning and was met upon arrival by traditional leaders and county officials following a three day tour of Bong County, where he also interacted with local leaders and held several meetings.

In Sanniquellie on Tuesday February 16, Weah broke

gathered early Tuesday morning in Gborlo to witness the initial steps by the president in fulfilment of their request.

The President also broke grounds on Tuesday for the construction of a proposed County Hospital in Saykenpa. The construction of the new health facility will facilitate the relocation of the GW Harling

Cllr. Verdier vows

Cont'd from page 4

war crimes prosecution because the protected witness is an insider who gives detailed inside and reliable information that the prosecution would not have otherwise acquired without the cooperation of the protected witness.

He argues that Gibril Massaquoi is a protected witness under the Witness Protection Program of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) which successfully prosecuted former Liberia Former President Charles Taylor on War Crimes and related serious charges to protect human rights, save lives, guarantee justice, and restore peace to the entire West African subregion and Africa as a whole.

"To falsely accuse such a witness, to recruit and bribe paid agents to produce false testimonies against such a witness who committed no crimes in Liberia for pecuniary benefits on the backs of Liberian victims who are still

personal, selfish, and political gains.

"There is nothing more dangerous and criminal like the commission of war crimes itself, than profiteering on the backs of the victims of war crimes in Liberia," Cllr Verdier says.

According to him, without justice, Liberia will never be peaceful again and the establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia is the way to go.

The group notes that the statement released out of the US Capitol in Washington, DC described the ongoing effort to prosecute Gibril Massaquoi, ex-RUF rebel commander from Sierra Leone based on lies by Hassan Bility and cohorts.

Additionally, the statement condemns all of those in and out of the Government of Liberia (GOL) who it said are maneuvering and manipulating behind the scenes and working with these profiteers and some international actors to stage



yearning for justice is the worst thing anyone can do and doing so in the name of advocating for justice is worse than the war crimes we have put our lives on the line to prosecute," says Cllr. Verdier.

Verdier emphasizes that such an immoral stance sets a bad precedence for justice in Liberia and seeks to undermine the witness protection program for Liberia, ahead of the establishment of the War & Economic Crimes Court for Liberia.

The International Justice Group has sharply criticized and condemned War Crimes Court advocate Hassan Bility and all those in the corridors of justice advocacy, especially advocacy for the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia (W&ECC).

The IJG condemned those it says are using the War Crimes Court advocacy platform for

manage war crimes court advocacy in Liberia by a process that will remotely establish a court outside of Liberia to deny Liberians of true justice.

The IJG's position, the statement said, remains firm and settled for the establishment of the War Crimes Court for Liberian victims in Liberia and not in Finland.

It calls for the establishment of the court consistent with the Recommendations of the TRC of Liberia and the Resolution of the United States Congress (HR 1055) sponsored by Congressman Chris Smith and as recently buttressed by the Deputy Speaker of the Liberian House of Representative Cllr J. Fonati Koffa as the surest guarantee that those innocently accused will be set free and the guilty once will face justice and suffer punishment.--Press release

Senate rejects site

Starts from back page

to help.

Debate over the project site was held under the watchful eyes of Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, also president of the Liberian Senate. Opposition senators resisted anything that sounded wanting to keep the park there.

A motion was made by Senator Naatehn that the sports park be removed from the vicinity of the James Spriggs Airport and transferred to a better location, a motion seven senators voted for with five against.

However, Montserrado County Senator Saah Joseph from the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change filed a motion for reconsideration.

According to the rules of the senate, a motion for reconsideration can only be upheld within three days of the senate and failure for that senator to make strong argument to overturn the earlier motion, plenary's decision stands.

Recently, President Weah broke grounds for the

Invincible Sports Park, a multi-purpose complex that will contain basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts, walking trails, a children's playground, and an outdoor gym, together with adequate sanitary facilities.

During the ceremony Tuesday, 9 February in Sinkor, the President, a former Liberian international soccer star, said as a public park, the facility will be

freely accessible and available to anyone and everyone who seeks to use it.

"Today has brought me yet another opportunity to share my dreams and aspirations for the happiness and well-being of our citizens, by providing modern recreational facilities that will contribute to their good health, wellbeing, and fitness," Mr. Weah said.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Ellen renews friendship with Nowui Gorlorwulu



By Winston W. Parley

Former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf has renewed friendship and family ties with Liberian business entrepreneur Madam Nowui Gorlorwulu, years after the two long time friends fell apart, which during Madam Sirleaf's administration led to

Gorlorwulu's exit of the ex-president's inner cycle to establish a private business, the Golden Key hotel.

Announcing their reunion in the midst of dozens of prominent African women during a meeting at the Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf Presidential Center in Monrovia Monday, 15 February, Mrs. Sirleaf recalled

that when she was running for president back in 2005, Madam Nowui Gorlorwulu worked diligently with her until she was elected as president.

Even after winning the presidency, Mrs. Sirleaf indicates that Madam Gorlorwulu stayed on throughout her administration that lasted for 12 consecutive years.

Throughout those years, she says they have remained strong friends, applauding Madam Gorlorwulu for how strong she has been and for standing firm through all the difficulties.

But Mrs. Sirleaf explains that along the way she and Madam Gorlorwulu separated and limited their connection to just talking to each other.

"We had a separation ...," Mrs. Sirleaf says, as the group of prominent women from Liberia and other African countries in the room laugh.

"But we have remained throughout these years strong

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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Senate rejects site for sports park

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

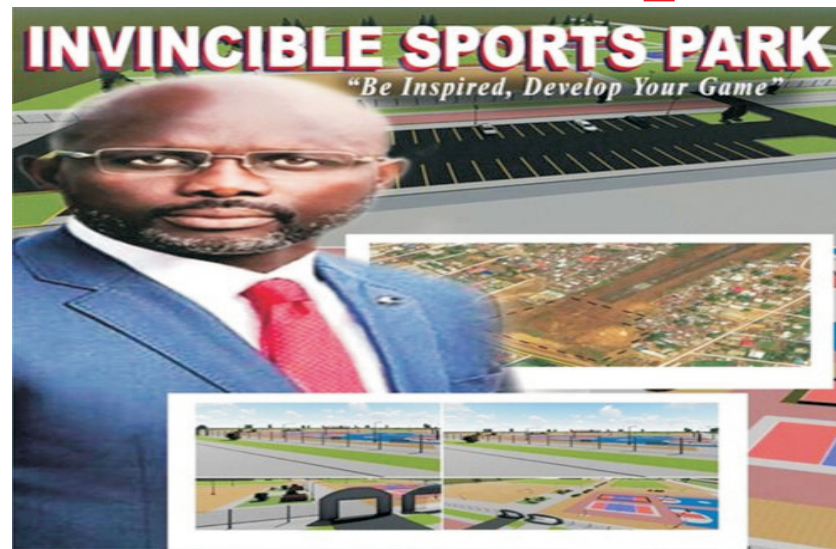
Members of the Liberian Senate have voted overwhelmingly against the construction of a national sports park adjacent the James Spriggs Airfield in Sinkor. The airport is named in honor of late Liberian President James Spriggs Payne, the last president from the defunct Republican Party.

The senators, during their Tuesday's session voted that

the proposed sports park intended for Invincible Eleven Majesty Sports Association be halted immediately the locality of the park is dangerous.

President George Manneh Weah had selected a portion of land right at the head of the James Spriggs Airfield as designated area for the construction, but senators argue the site is unsafe, as crashing of planes could result to huge human casualties.

Making the argument, Gbarpolu County Senator Daniel



Naatehn said the sport park is a good thing which could provide young talents opportunities to develop themselves in various sports but the location could cause the more harm than good.

According to him, there are vast lands at the disposal of the government that it could take advantage of, but to only select a spot near the second largest airport in the country is detrimental to the very young people the government intends

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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