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-including youth leader Thomas Kumah

Verdier accuses Hassan Bility

-of exploiting war victims



Cllr. Jerome Verdier



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Continental News

Chad president seeks sixth term amid a boycott

Early indications show voter turnout was low in Benin's presidential election, where polling stations have now closed. In the run-up to the election, protests over President Patrice Talon's broken promise to serve only one term in office left two people dead.

After voting himself, President Talon called on his fellow citizens to come out and vote.

But opposition campaigners had called for a boycott and streets were quiet on Sunday, especially in anti-government strongholds. The head of the electoral commission said most polling stations had opened on time despite opposition supporters blocking roads to northern and central Benin. There were just two other candidates on the ballot, besides President Talon.

Alassane Soumanou of the opposition FCBE party is a former minister, while Corentin Kohoué is seen as more of a wildcard. Several key opposition figures - including an ex-prime minister and a former mayor of the biggest city Cotonou -

have either been arrested and ruled ineligible or are now in exile.

But a government spokesman has told the BBC "no-one is excluded from this election". "We do not need every person in Benin to run as candidates in an election for it to be representative. Once you have the ruling party and the opposition represented, an election is complete - and the democratic system is operational," Communication Minister Alain Arounla said. Many in Benin question the legitimacy

of the election and some fear more violence could break out, reports the BBC's Lalla Sy who was recently in Cotonou. Two people were killed in the town of Savè on Thursday, officials say, when security forces broke up a protest. Health workers report that another six people suffered gunshot wounds.

Demonstrations also happened in the cities of Cotonou, Parakou and three other towns. "We want the president to leave. Five years means five years," Cotonou

protester Rodrigue Amadou told Reuters news agency. The authorities have accused the protesters of starting the violence, saying the security forces were assaulted by drugged and armed youths. But others say it is an example of how Benin has become more authoritarian under President Talon's rule.

Some see parallels with the exclusion of all opposition parties from parliamentary elections back in 2019, which sparked protests where security officers opened fire on protesters and a mother of seven died after being shot in the back. Prudence Amoussou became a symbol of those protests, and her sister Léocadie Cakpo recently told the BBC: "I am deeply hurt in my heart. I don't know when I will recover from this. She was my only sister." BBC Benin was in the vanguard of a new wave of multiparty democracy which spread across the continent 30 years ago and was dubbed the birthplace of African multiparty democracy. Those polls in 1991

saw Benin's former President Mathieu Kérékou become the first West African leader to admit defeat in an election.

Since then Benin had been regarded as a democratic model with several African nations replicating its reconciliation body, the National Conference of Active Forces of the Nation.

But this reputation soured in 2019 when new electoral laws meant a political party had to pay about \$424,000 (£328,000) to field a list for the 83-seat parliament. That year saw a record low voter turnout. Benin's parliament is currently completely controlled by the government, our reporter says, and the opposition say that their main representatives have been prevented from taking part in these latest polls, including constitutional lawyer Joël Aïvo.

"In five years, President Talon's so-called political reforms have squandered the legacy of the National Conference. Benin no longer knows how to organise elections," he told the BBC.



Election officers put ink on voters fingers to make sure they don't vote twice

South Sudan's President Appoints New Army Chief

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has appointed General Santino Deng Wol as the new head of the army, Kiir's spokesman said on Sunday, as part of a wider reshuffle within the

government. Kiir and former rebel leader Riek Machar formed a government of national unity in February last year following a 2018 peace accord that ended a bloody civil war, but the oil-rich nation remains racked by

violence. The director general of the security services and the deputy minister of defense were also replaced in the reshuffle, Kiir's spokesman Ateny Wek told Reuters.

"It was a routine reshuffle," Wek said, adding that the president had also fired the minister for presidential affairs and replaced him with a former adviser. South Sudan erupted into civil war soon after securing independence from Sudan in 2011, leading to an estimated 400,000 deaths and one of the worst refugee crises on the continent since the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Despite the formation of a government of national unity in 2020, implementation of the 2018 peace accord has stalled, and authorities have blocked humanitarian access to areas where conflict has restarted, a recent U.N. report said. VOA



Egypt unearths 3,000-year-old 'lost golden city'

The discovery of a 3,000-year-old city that was lost to the sands of Egypt has been hailed as one of the most important archaeological finds since Tutankhamun's tomb.

Famed Egyptologist Zahi Hawass announced the discovery of the "lost golden city" near Luxor on Thursday.

He said the find was the largest ancient city, known as Aten, ever uncovered in Egypt. It was unearthed within weeks of the excavation starting in September 2020.

The city dates to the reign of Amenhotep III, one of Egypt's most powerful pharaohs, who ruled from 1391 to 1353 BC. The city continued to be used by pharaohs Ay and Tutankhamun, whose nearly intact tomb was discovered in the Valley of the Kings by British archaeologist Howard Carter in 1922. "The discovery of this lost city is the second most important archaeological discovery since the tomb of Tutankhamun," Betsy Brian, professor of Egyptology at Johns Hopkins



University in Baltimore, US, said.

She said the city would "give us a rare glimpse into the life of the ancient Egyptians" at the time when the empire was at its wealthiest. The dig revealed a large number of valuable archaeological finds, such as jewellery, coloured pottery, scarab beetle amulets and mud bricks bearing seals of Amenhotep III.

The team began excavations on the west bank of Luxor near the Valley of the Kings, some 500 km (300 miles) south of the capital Cairo.

"Within weeks, to the team's great surprise, formations of mud bricks began to appear in all directions," Dr Hawass said in his statement.

"What they unearthed was the site of a large city in a good condition of preservation, with almost complete walls, and with rooms filled with tools of daily life." BBC

EDITORIAL

The National Registry should do better

THE GOVERNMENT OF Liberia wants the entire population to obtain national identification cards, including public service workers, but the National Identification Registry, the state agency responsible for the exercise clearly lacks the capacity to provide the service, leaving citizens queuing weeks or months for identification cards they cannot obtain.

EVEN MORE CONFUSING, the government has made the card acquisition a pre-requisite to paying civil servants, and mobile phones users are being harassed to register. Yet, it takes applicants going for ID cards about two to three months to get served because National Registry's system is down.

A NATIONAL PAYROLL Clean-up Task Force has issued a circular here, warning that effective April 2021 public workers without national identification card issued by the National Identification Registry would not receive salary, but fails to address issue of delinquent services at the NIR.

IT IS IMPORTANT that government matches policy pronouncements with capacity to deliver or else, the desire results may not be achieved. Besides, a haphazard process creates inconveniences for the people it is intended for.

GIVEN THE CURRENT rush for identification cards and the NIR's incapability to produce them, leaves room for serious compromise that could bring unforeseen and unintended consequences the nation may regret subsequently.

WHILE WE WELCOME issuance of proper national identification to all Liberians, the process should be properly supported both financially and technically. It makes no sense to announce policy that lacks proper planning.

WE CALL ON authorities at the National Identification Registry to get their acts together and serve the public accordingly. Forcing people, including students to obtain identification cards is not enough. The service must be efficient and available!

EVEN AS OF this editorial, Liberia lacks a synchronized Biometric System that would enhance easy access and save cost on national expenditure, according to the Governance Commission, a government think-tank.

AS IT IS NOW, almost all services to the public, including passports, banks, university admissions, and mobile services, among others are being pre-conditioned on national identification cards.

WE SEEM TO be putting the cart before the horse, as a nation which has not helped in moving Liberia forward. Like President said, it's time to recalibrate to ensure a better country.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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

COMMENTARY

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

Global Financing to End the Pandemic

NEW YORK - This week's spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank offer a historic chance for financial cooperation. The major economies, including the United States, the European Union, China, and other G20 countries, have already signaled their support for a new allocation of \$650 billion worth of the IMF's reserve asset, special drawing rights (SDRs), to ensure that governments in low-income and middle-income countries have the means to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and start on the path of investment-led recovery. With leadership, boldness, and creativity, this global financial cooperation can help to end the pandemic.

Mass immunization is key. Less than a year after SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, was first identified and sequenced, financial backing by governments - including the US, United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, China, and India - enabled several companies to roll out safe and effective vaccines. Rich countries that quickly negotiated favorable deals with vaccine makers have received most of the doses so far. But ending the pandemic requires that all countries achieve comprehensive vaccine coverage as soon as possible. In practical terms, the target should be no later than the end of 2022.

Such an unprecedented global undertaking requires strong cooperation, including financial support. Yet the urgency should be clear to all. As long as COVID-19 persists at high rates of transmission anywhere in the world, the pandemic will continue to disrupt global production, trade, and travel, and will also give rise to viral mutations that threaten to undermine previously acquired immunity from past infections and vaccinations. Still worse, on the current trajectory, COVID-19 could well become endemic in many regions of the world, imposing high health and economic costs for years to come. As US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen emphasized this week, all countries, therefore, share a strong interest in ending the pandemic everywhere.

The world's governments established the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), which includes the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility, the vaccine pillar of ACT-A, to ensure universal control of SARS-CoV-2. But while ACT-A and COVAX have established global plans for vaccines, tests, and treatments, the plans need urgently to be strengthened for two closely related reasons.

First, the operational target currently used by COVAX - a minimum of 27% of all eligible countries' population immunized by the end of this year - must be raised to vaccination of all adults by the end of 2022. This is necessary to end the pandemic and to reduce the chances of new mutations.

Second, planning until the end of 2022 is urgently needed, given the lead times for scaling up the production and supply chains of vaccines and other crucial commodities. Yet ACT-A and COVAX remain underfunded even for 2021: the \$11 billion governments have allocated to date leaves a financing gap of \$22 billion for this year - a shortfall that has so far delayed necessary planning through the end of 2022. In the meantime, the current vaccine

shortfall is leading countries to scramble to jump the queue, including by paying premium prices. This underscores the urgent need to ensure that all countries, including the poorest, can achieve comprehensive vaccine coverage in a fair and timely manner.

The additional sums needed to ensure universal vaccine coverage by the end of 2022, and other COVID-19 supplies, are modest - perhaps \$50 billion for ACT-A. That is a negligible amount relative to the enormous global benefits of ending the pandemic and the massive pandemic-related spending by governments of high-income countries around the world. The US government alone has spent roughly \$5 trillion in emergency outlays between March 2020 and March 2021.

To do its job, ACT-A (including COVAX) needs front-loaded funding to cover vaccine needs through 2022. Given that scaling up the production of vaccines (and some other commodities) requires a lead time of 6-12 months, the \$50 billion should be guaranteed within the coming weeks, so that ACT-A and COVAX can work with manufacturers to ensure the necessary supplies. The IMF's allocation of new SDRs offers a unique - and perhaps the only - opportunity to get this funding in hand.

When the new SDRs are issued, around \$20 billion of new reserves will go directly to the poorest countries. In addition, around \$100 billion or more that is allocated to rich countries will be recycled to the IMF to be used for long-term, low-interest loans. IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has been working closely and creatively with G20 governments to design this novel, promising approach. One excellent idea is to use the SDRs to bolster the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT), the Fund's financing window for poor countries.

There is an important precedent here. In 2015, the IMF created a Catastrophe and Containment Relief Fund to help provide emergency Ebola-control financing to Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. This time, the PRGT financing could be made conditional on its use for ACT-A and COVAX-related procurements and for other COVID-19 control measures that the borrowing government documents to the IMF (such as reimbursements for COVID-19 vaccines that have been contracted by the member state outside COVAX).

ACT-A is now preparing estimates of the financing that the world's 92 low- and middle-income countries eligible for COVAX support will need for vaccines, testing, therapeutics, and other supplies until the end of 2022. Based on the estimated financing needs, an ACT-A financial plan can be established for each country, to be supported by the SDRs and the expanded PRGT funds.

In the next few weeks, a rational plan to finance all countries' COVID-19 balance-of-payments needs until the end of 2022 should emerge. The IMF was created to handle such a balance-of-payments emergency. Access to IMF financing will protect the well-being and macroeconomic stability of individual countries and the world as a whole. We must seize this critical opportunity for the United Nations, the IMF, and key governments - including the US, China, Russia, the EU, Japan, the UK, and others - to cooperate effectively for the sake of humanity.

OPINION

By Barry Eichengreen

The Challenge of Big Tech Finance

BERKELEY - In 2009, in the midst of the global financial crisis, Paul Volcker, the former Federal Reserve chair, famously observed that the only socially productive financial innovation of the preceding 20 years was the automated teller machine. One wonders what Volcker would make of the tsunami of digitally enabled financial innovations today, from mobile payment platforms to internet banking and peer-to-peer lending.

Volcker might be reassured: like the humble ATM, many of these innovations have tangible benefits in terms of lowering transactions costs. But as a critic of big financial firms, Volcker presumably also would worry about the entry of some very large technology companies into the sector. Their names are as familiar as their services are ubiquitous: e-commerce behemoth Amazon in the United States, messaging company Kakao in Korea, on-line auction and commerce platform Mercado Libre in Latin America, and the Chinese technology giants Alibaba and Tencent.

These entities now do virtually everything related to finance. Amazon extends loans to small and medium-size businesses. Kakao offers the full range of banking services. Alibaba's Ant Financial and Tencent's WeChat provide a cornucopia of financial products, having expanded so rapidly that they recently became targets of a Chinese government crackdown.

The challenges for regulators are obvious. Where a single company channels payments for the majority of a country's population, as does M-Pesa in Kenya, for example, its failure could crash the entire economy. Regulators must therefore pay close attention to operational risks. They must worry about the protection of customer data - not just financial data but also other personal data to which Big Tech companies are privy.

Moreover, the Big Tech firms, because of their ability to harvest and analyze data on consumer preferences, have an enhanced ability to target their customers' behavioral biases. If those biases cause some borrowers to take on excessive risk, Big Tech will have little reason to care if it is merely providing technology and expertise to a partner bank. This moral hazard is why Chinese regulators now require the country's Big Techs to use their own balance sheets to fund 30% of any loan extended via co-lending partnerships.

Governments also have laws and regulations to prevent providers of financial products from discriminating on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, and religion. The challenge here is distinguishing between price discrimination based on group characteristics and price discrimination based on risk.

Traditionally, regulators require credit providers to list the variables that form the basis for lending decisions so that the regulators can determine whether the variables include prohibited group characteristics. And they require lenders to specify the weights attached to the variables so that they can establish whether lending decisions are uncorrelated with ethnic or racial characteristics once conditioned on those other measures. But as Big Tech companies' artificial intelligence-based algorithms replace loan officers, the variables and weights will be changing continuously with the arrival of new data points. It's not obvious that regulators can keep up.

In algorithmic processes, moreover, the source of bias can vary. The data used to train the algorithm may be biased. Alternatively, the training itself may be biased, with the AI algorithm "learning" to use the data in biased ways. Given the black-box nature of algorithmic processes, the location of the problem is rarely clear.

Finally, there are risks to competition. Banks and fintechs rely on cloud computing services operated by the Big Tech firms, rendering them dependent on their most formidable competitors. Big Techs can also cross-subsidize their financial businesses, which are only a small part of what they do. By providing a range of interlocking services, they can prevent their customers from switching providers.

Regulators have responded with open banking rules requiring financial firms to share their customer data with third parties when customers consent. They have authorized the use of application programming interfaces that allow third-party providers to plug directly into financial websites to obtain customer data.

It is not clear that this is enough. Big Techs can use their platforms to generate large amounts of customer data, employ it in training their AI algorithms, and identify high-quality loans more efficiently than competitors lacking the same information. Customers may be able to move their financial data to another bank or fintech, but what about their nonfinancial data? What about the algorithm that has been trained up using one's data and that of other customers? Without this, digital banks and fintechs won't be able to price and target their services as efficiently as the Big Techs. Problems of consumer lock-in and market dominance won't be overcome.

In an old parable about banks and regulators, the banks are greyhounds - they run very fast. The regulators are bloodhounds, slow afoot but faithfully on the trail. In the age of the platform economy, the bloodhounds are going to have to pick up the pace. Given that only three central banks report having dedicated fintech departments, there is reason to worry that they will lose the scent.

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OP-ED

By Zhong Sheng | People's Daily

Lies are stopped by truths

Updated: April 8, 2021

The ending of chaos and resumption of stability in Hong Kong is a fact that all Chinese people, including Hong Kong compatriots, are glad to see. The so-called 2021 Hong Kong Policy Act Report issued by the US Department of State on March 31 is complete slandering.

The report, arbitrarily fabricating lies and attacking the national security law in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), claimed, in a super exaggerated manner, that Hong Kong's autonomy was "undermined," and tried to frame China with groundless accusations.

It must be pointed out that the so-called report, fantasizing about troubling Hong Kong with lies, is a total miscalculation.

The law on safeguarding national security in the HKSAR initiated a major transition in Hong Kong and has brought stability back to the city. It improved Hong Kong's electoral system and developed its democratic system, offering institutional guarantee for the long-term development of the "one country, two systems" policy and the stability of the HKSAR.

Today's Hong Kong society is no long troubled with rioters and "burn with us" tactic. It is enjoying stability, and all sectors are united to combat COVID-19, improve livelihood and revitalize economy.

Such positive transition is telling more and more Hong Kong compatriots that only a strong China can prevent Hong Kong from falling into the abyss of "color revolution", ensure the complete implementation of the "one country, two systems" policy, and bring a bright future for Hong Kong.

The so-called "impact" on freedom claimed by the US is never the truth. Since Hong Kong returned to the motherland, the central government of China has always fully and faithfully implemented the principle of "one country, two systems," under which the people of Hong Kong govern Hong Kong. The central government has also acted in strict accordance with the Constitution and Hong Kong's Basic Law. The HKSAR enjoys a high degree of autonomy and its residents enjoy democratic rights and freedom in accordance with law as never before.

Since the implementation of the law on safeguarding national security in the HKSAR, Hong Kong's illegal violent protests have been put under control, and the region's economic and social orders were brought back to stability. Hong Kong residents are living and working in contentment, which has further reinforced people's confidence that the law will bring back long-term stability for Hong Kong.

The truths reflect people's aspiration and the general trend. No matter how many lies the US fabricates on issues related to Hong Kong, or how it tries to manipulate these issues politically, it is just making feeble noises in front of the magnificent power of justice.

Hong Kong's achievements today came from the efforts made by generations of Hong Kong citizens and the strong backing of the Chinese mainland. Hong Kong's development achievements today are the result of the hard work of several generations of Hong Kong people with the support of its motherland. They are never alms-giving or charity of any foreign country.

The central government of China offered all-round support for Hong Kong in multiple fields. It helped Hong Kong to combat COVID-19, and supports Hong Kong to enhance its status as an international financial, transportation and trade center. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area will be a key growth point of China's economy in the future, and will definitely further activate Hong Kong's development potential.

There's no doubt that the US, canceling or threatening to cancel the so-called special status of Hong Kong, will never contain Hong Kong's prosperity, or the region's integration into the motherland.

Having experienced the turbulences in recent years, all Chinese people, including Hong Kong compatriots, as well as international personnel that hold an objective attitude toward China, are gaining a deeper understanding of the "one country, two systems" policy, and becoming more immune to the lies fabricated by a few western countries, including the US. Most of the countries are choosing to stand by justice on multilateral platforms, such as the UN, to oppose a few western countries that interfere in China's domestic affairs and support China's position and measures on Hong Kong affairs.

Hong Kong is part of China and its affairs are entirely China's internal affairs. The US side must practically obey international law and the norms governing international relations, and stop interfering in China's domestic affairs in all forms.

History will eventually prove that the great cause of the "one country, two systems" policy will finally remove interference and continue developing. Hong Kong will also maintain long-term stability and prosperity to shine as the "Pearl of the Orient." Zhong Sheng is a pen name often used by People's Daily to express its views on foreign policy.

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Aerial photo taken on June 27, 2017 shows the scenery on the both sides of the Victoria Harbor in Hong Kong, south China. (Xinhua/Lui Siu Wai)

Press Release for Immediate Publication

March 29, 2021

The Ministry of Public Works (the Ministry), the statutory Engineering Arm of Government, remains committed to the infrastructural transformation of Liberia, as the sector continues to make significant strides under the dynamic leadership of President George Manneh Weah whose flagship agenda is roads connectivity.

As a premiere government functionary overseeing road related matters and a host of other infrastructures, the Ministry recently embarked on a robust enforcement of Zoning Law and Regulations across the country, evidenced by the recent launch of the Joint Zoning Taskforce comprising Zoning Officers at the Ministry of Public Works, Personnel of the Liberia National Police and other Stakeholders.

The Taskforce is also empowered to provide supervision over all construction works throughout the Republic with the sole intent to oversee structural issues at construction sites, compliant with best practices as contained in Section 102 of the Zoning Act of 1938: "All structures are to be 15ft away from the property line..."

However, said supervision and enforcement power vested in the Taskforce and the Division of Zoning must be exercised on the basis of established facts, and with respect for the Rule of Law.

Hence, having painstakingly investigated the recent scuffle dated January 14, 2021 at 5PM which involved Representative Ceebee Barshell of Electoral District # 3 in Montserrado County-property owner- and Mr. Amadu Bility, Assistant Zoning Director; and noting that the Legislature is an integral component of our infrastructural programs; as such, its members must be respected at all times, the Ministry regrets the situation and hereby apologizes to the Office of the Lawmaker.

Considering the consequences thereof, the Ministry therefore has taken siege of the matter and effectuated remedial administrative actions against Mr. Amadu Bility for acts contrary to established norms.

Meanwhile, the Public is hereby encouraged to seek professional advisement from the Ministry BEFORE, DURING or AFTER construction. Hence, citizens are advised to submit all drawings, deeds and diagrams as a requirement for the issuance of construction permit required by Law.

Signed: _____
Hon. Ruth Coker-Collins
Acting Minister

NEC participates in Benin elections

The National Elections Commission (NEC), is participating in a peer support and learning mission to the 11th Presidential Elections in Benin Republic.

NEC-Liberia Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah is one of three Chairpersons of Elections Management Bodies, (EMB), delegations in that country. The others members are,

arrival in Benin on the 7th of April, they have been supporting the work of the Electoral Commission of Benin in identifying best practices and sharing experiences in the administration of elections.

The week-long ECONEC mission to Benin will end on 14th April 2021. Key to the success of these Peering-Learning and achievement of the long term goals



Mr. Emmanuel Tjando, Chair/host Benin, NEC-Liberia Boss Madam Browne Lansanah, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, Chair, INEC-Nigeria, and Mr. Ahmed Newton Barry, Chair INEC-Burkina Faso.

Professor Mahmood Yakubu of the Independent National Elections Commission, INEC, of Nigeria, and Mr. Ahmed Newton Barry of the Independent National Elections Commission, INEC, of Burkina Faso.

The three Chairpersons are in Cotonue, Benin at the invitation of ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions, (ECONEC). Since their

of ECONEC that there would be improvement in the quality of the management of elections in ECOWAS member states.

The deployment of elections management bodies to Benin, from Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Liberia, by ECONEC is funded with support of the German Agency for International Cooperation, (GTZ).

Liberia, joins EU, UK, U.S to condemn the use of chemical weapons

Liberia consent to CO- Sponsor and aligned with the UK, US, and the European Union joint statement on the use of Chemical Weapons at the upcoming organization for the Prohibition of Chemical

and identification and call for parties to take action for the poisoning of Alexei Navalny(Russian Opposition)to uphold the integrity of the Convention and the use of Chemical Weapons at the upcoming in-person OPCW conference at the World Forum Convention Center in The Hague, scheduled for April 19th-20th, 2021.

According to a dispatch from Brussels, Ambassador Isaac W. Nyenabo II on April 9th, 2021 received the head of the delegation of the European Union to the OPCW, Ambassador Mika-Markus Leinonen at Mission where they held a Bi-lateral talks and was presented an aide-memoire of the EU, UK and USA joint position that is expected to be voted upon at the pending convention in The Hague.

Liberia as Co-sponsor to this critical proposal will be voting on key issues that will be put forward for amendments and subsequent adoptions which seeks to address instruments of the international



(L-R) Head of the delegation of the European Union to the OPCW, Amb. Mika-Markus Leinonen & Amb. Isaac W. Nyenabo II

Weapons OPCW Conference of States Parties in The Hague, CSP-25.

The Embassy of Liberia to the Benelux countries, European Union and the OPCW has aligned with its allies to Co-Sponsor a joint statement to condemn the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Air force as concluded by the OPCW investigation

non-proliferation and disarmament regime to uphold the global chemical weapons non-use norm.

The Conference comprises representatives of 193 Member States of the OPCW, each of which has one vote and meets annually in The Hague.- Dispatch

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LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY
Old Commerce Ministry Bldg
Asylum & Gurley Streets Intersection
Monrovia, Liberia

Board of Arbitration Survey Notice

April 5, 2021

By Directive of The Sixth Judicial Circuit, Civil Law Court, Montserrado County, the general public is hereby informed that the undersigned Registered Land Surveyors have being duly authorized to conduct a detail and perimeter investigative survey on Tuesday, April 13th 2021 commencing at 9:00am.

IN CASE REF: MOHAMMED CAREW, ET AL PLAINTIFF/MOVANTS
VERSUS
MOHAMMED SAKSU, PAPA SHERIFF, MOHAMMED BAR, ET AL
MONROVIA..... RESPONDANT/ DEFENDANT.

The land to be survey is lying and situated between Center & Buchanan Streets, along Benson Street, Central area, Monrovia, Liberia.

Therefore, all those having property within the described area above are requested to be present on the site of the survey with their deed(s), map(s), diagram(s), technical representative(s)/ surveyor(s) and other relevant documents to support their claims.

Please let this survey notice claim the immediate attention of the following individuals, Community Leaders and cornerstones marked with initials below:

1. Kings & Queens Super Market
2. Heirs of Irene Mensah Tommetie
3. Heirs of William Gibson
4. All other within the vicinity

Signed: _____
Albert D. Giah Jr.
Chairman/Assigned Government Surveyor
Cell#: 0886-740-519

Cc. Captain Humphrey T. Seequah
Sheriff, Civil Law Court
Temple of Justice

[Handwritten signatures and notes are present over the printed text.]

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Amb. McCarthy dedicates LEC's new customer service center

The United States Ambassador to Liberia Michael McCarthy has participated in the dedicatory ceremony for the new Liberia Electric Corporation (LEC) Customer Service Center in Waterside, Monrovia.

According to the United States Embassy here, when the Millennium Challenge Corporation's (MCC) Compact with the Government of Liberia was launched in 2016,

women surveyed asked for more responsive customer service so that they could acquire and maintain working connections to the power grid.

The release said with this feedback, the U.S. Government provided \$500,000 to rehabilitate the LEC's Customer Service Center, including improving upon the existing structure and providing furniture, equipment, training, and vehicles to strengthen

during the launch ceremony for the renovated facility on Thursday, 8 April: "It is an honor to participate in today's dedication of this Center, a project which underscores the strong partnership between Liberia and the United States, and the American people's broader investment in this country's electricity sector through the Millennium Challenge Corporation, USAID, and PowerAfrica."

He added, "The United States shares Liberia's hopes and joins its efforts to secure a more prosperous tomorrow for the Liberian people. Keys to that prosperity are inclusive economic growth, investing in people, and rule of law."

In January 2021, the MCC and Millennium Challenge Account Liberia marked the close of Liberia's Compact. The \$257 million Compact aimed to encourage economic growth and reduce poverty in Liberia by addressing the inadequate access to reliable and affordable electricity and the poor quality of road infrastructure.

The Compact invested in the rehabilitation of Liberia's largest power source, the Mt. Coffee Hydropower Plant as well as reconstruction of the Liberia Water and Sewage Corp. raw water pipeline, support for LEC's management, training, and operational capacity, establishment of the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission, and development of a road asset management system to support road maintenance planning. **-Press Release**

service to LEC's customers.

It says the reconstructed facility has a comfortable waiting area that can now accommodate over 100 customers, new offices for LEC staff, a call center equipped with better technological tools for tracking customer problems, additional rest rooms, and facilities for physically challenged and disabled persons.

Ambassador McCarthy said



a major goal was to ensure that Compact investments would benefit women economically. Female entrepreneurs were asked about the difficulties they faced in accessing electricity to generate income.

Nearly all named poor customer service. When asked what changes would be necessary to enable them to use electricity in their businesses, nearly all of the

GIABA lauds CBL for support

A visiting delegation of the Inter-Government Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) has congratulated the CBL for its continuous support to GIABA over the years and its commitment to AML/CFT (Anti-money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism) in Liberia and also spoke of the need for collaboration between CBL and Financial Intelligence Unit of Liberia (FIUL) for the mutual benefit of the two institutions.

The Director-General of GIABA, Justice Aba Kimelabalou said the visit is an advocacy mission to encourage political leaders to provide support for the AML/CFT in the country based on a recommendation by the Evaluation and Compliance

that the outstanding deficiencies are adequately addressed.

For his part, the Director of the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), Mr. Modibbo R. HammanTukur, stressed the need for collaboration between the CBL and the FIUL. The success of the FIUL, he noted, largely depends on the support from the CBL. Mr. Tukur also disclosed that NFIU and the Financial Intelligence Center (FIC) of Ghana are sponsoring FIUL membership to the Egmont Group; an international organization of national FIUs that facilitates cooperation and intelligence sharing between national FIUs to investigate and prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.

The Executive Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia, Mr.



Group (ECG) of GIABA on the lack of progress with regard to the pending legislations. The legislations, he said include the Financial Intelligence Agency draft Act and Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing, Preventive Measures and Proceeds of Crime draft Act; and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) which is experiencing the lack of resources. He also spoke of the lack of progress on the National Risk Assessment (NRA), which is also a resource issue.

Director General Kimelabalou also emphasized that there is a need for Liberia to make progress at addressing these deficiencies, given the fact that the country is due to undertake its second Mutual Evaluation in 2022.

He said GIABA will continue to support Liberia to ensure

J. Aloysius Tarlue, Jr., in response, commended the GIABA delegation for the visit and promised to enhance collaboration between the Bank and the FIU. Governor Tarlue noted that illicit cross border activities pose a threat to the entire region and spoke of the need for all central banks to work along with their respective FIUs to help control such activities. He urged GIABA to exercise flexibility in its evaluation of Liberia, though not compromising FATF standards, given the numerous challenges the country has been confronted with since it joined the framework.

Governor Tarlue also stated that the Bank has been giving support to the FIUL in the past and will continue to do so. The CBL the Governor noted has committed both financial and

Armah-Lydia Foundation donates to orphanages

An American-based Liberian charity Armah and Lydia Lansanah Foundation has donated assorted items, including food and medication valued about Seven Thousand United States Dollars (US\$7,000) to the Mother Victoria Thomas Orphanage in New MatadiSinkor, Monrovia.

Its founder Armah D. Lansanah said, the donation was made possible through Master Cleaning and Consulting Services based in the United States.

He said the exercise in Liberia begins launch of the Foundation's annual humanitarian assistance not

just to the Mother Thomas Orphanage, but other less-fortunate Liberian children. He added that an official website will shortly be launched in the United States to encourage other fortunate Liberians there to put smile on faces of Liberian children.

Presenting the items, which included medication, oil, rice, clothing, and sweets on Saturday, 10 April 2021, Armah said the gesture is his organization's way of giving back to the New Matadi Community where he grew up during his childhood, and so he deem it obligation to serve less fortunate young Liberian brothers and sisters.

He advised children at the

Victoria Thomas Orphanage to always be focused, truthful and see education as the key to success anywhere in the world today.

Receiving the donation, the founder of the orphanage, Madam Victoria Thomas expressed joy to see a son of the Community looking back where he grew.

Mother Thomas while showering praises and blessings on the Armah and Lydia Foundation for the gesture challenged them to go a step further by helping hundreds of thousands of less fortunate and destitute Liberian children who have no mother or father across the country.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gongloe – Weh loses election battle

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia’s Supreme Court has rejected defeated opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Nimba County Senatorial candidate Edith Gongloe - Weh’s appeal in an election fraud case, saying among others, the swapping

the representatives of the appellant and made public by postings,” the Supreme Court ruled Thursday, 8 April.

Since the 8 December 2020 senatorial polls, Madam Gongloe - Weh has been challenging the results which favored sitting Nimba County Representative

for preliminary results ... did not impact the results of the election announced by the NEC.”

Further, the court said the partitioning of District No. 7 votes between Lower Nimba and Upper Nimba during counting of votes, in its view, did not impact the results of the election announced by the NEC.

The Supreme Court therefore affirmed the final ruling of the Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission, ordering the Clerk of the Court to send a mandate to the NEC to resume jurisdiction over the case and give effect to the judgment.

Madam Gongloe - Weh had gone to the Supreme Court on appeal after the NEC ruled she did not provide evidence to her allegations of frauds and irregularities against the electoral house.

The NEC denied and dismissed Madam Gongloe - Weh’s complaint and reaffirmed candidate Jeremiah KpanKoung of the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction as winner of the 8 December 2020 senatorial election in Nimba County.

The complaint was first heard at NEC’s local offices in Nimba County on 12 December 2020 before it was transferred to the commission’s headquarters in Monrovia.



of votes during entry of election returns which was corrected did not impact the election results announced by the National Elections Commission (NEC).

“That the certified records in this case revealed that the results from the 741 polling places in Nimba County were certified by representatives of political parties, including

Jeremiah Koung whose political leader Senator Prince Y. Johnson and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) trade on fertile political grounds.

The Supreme Court ruled “the incidents of storage of election materials at the J.W. Pearson High School campus ..., casting of ballots in cartons, [and] breaking of seals in search of the Tamper Evidence Envelopes during tally

Split over April 14 sit in action

-As CSUL condemns call for planned sit in action

Civil Servants here appeared to be split over a call for a sit in action across the country on April 14 to press home their demand for the immediate resignation of Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel Tweah.

A section of the group last week at a press conference disclosed their plan for a peaceful sit-in-action across the country on April 14, 2021.

But over the weekend, a group led by Mr. Moibah Johnson, President of the Consortium of Civil Servants Union of Liberia distance itself from the sit-in action, saying that it has not endorse any calls for the “resignation” or “dismissal” of Mr. Tweah.

The Consortium of Civil Servants Union of Liberia is said to be a composition of six public sector groupings including, the National Teachers Association of

Liberia, National Health workers Union of Liberia, Monrovia Consolidated Schools system Teachers’ Association, Supplementary Teachers’ Association of Liberia, Civil Servants union of Liberia and the Labor Union.

The group of Civil Servant led by Mr. Johnson cautioned “all public sector workers across the country through this medium not to give credence to any calls of abandoning works on April 14, 2021 to attend what the organizers called “peaceful sit-in actions”, but rather go about their normal working activities.”

The group asserts that as the umbrella group of institutions concerned about the welfares of public sector workers, it continues to engage the government of Liberia to find remedies to challenges faced by public sector workers; something which the government has addressed partly in time past and continues to demonstrate willingness to

exploring avenues to finding solutions to persisting demands.

The consortium, welcomes recent decisions of the government of Liberia to have placed eight- hundred and fifty (850) ‘volunteer teachers’ on payroll and at the same time increasing salary between 75%-200% from a minimum base of US\$95 of about six-hundred (600) supplementary teachers.

“While we call on all public workers across the country to remain calm and go about their normal working activities on April 14, 2021 and thereafter, we also are compelled to use this medium to strongly admonish the Weah- led administration to expedite commitments made through previous resolutions as such would be necessary to avoid continuous growing disenchantments as the consortium will not hesitate to hold government’s feet to the fire,” it concluded.

Ellen joins Covid-19 vaccine campaign

Liberia’s former president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has rallied support for the Covid-19 global vaccination exercise, saying she supports all vaccines.

“I’m a BIG supporter of all of the vaccines.” Mrs. Sirleaf wrote on her twitter feed.

“It doesn’t matter which of the approved vaccines you take, the important thing is that we all take the vaccine. If not for yourself, then do it for others.” She added.

He tweet comes as health officials here recently joined

partnership with WHO, CDC, UNICEF, USAID, AU, GAVI, and an additional 27, 000 doses from MTN groups.

Mrs. Sirleaf’s rally call for citizens to participate in the nationwide vaccination exercise is important at this point due to the mistrust surrounding the vaccine itself.

“I’m aware of the mixed feelings people are having towards the launch of this vaccines, but it’s about time that we put our mixed feelings aside and embrace this vaccines”, Liberia’s Health



development partners to launch the AstraZeneca vaccination campaign.

The nationwide immunization campaign was formally launched on Thursday April 1, at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, outside Monrovia.

The launch of the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination campaign follows the arrival in the country of a total shipment of 123,000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines thru the COVAX Initiative, a

Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah said during the launch.

She said the benefit of the AstraZeneca vaccines has outweighed its risks, noting that it is a critical new tool in the battle against the virus.

“We are confident to say that the Vaccines are safe and I’m encouraging Liberians from all walks of life to be vaccinated because all of the Vaccines were tested in state of the art laboratories,” she noted, saying, it has been tried in thousands of renowned clinics and approved by W.H.O.

GIABA lauds

Cont’d from page 6

human resources to the process, including the National Risk Assessment (NRA) initiative.

Regarding the second round of Liberia’s Mutual Evaluation, which is expected in 2022, Governor Tarlue indicated that CBL will commit staff to the process, including senior staff with AML/CFT experience.

The Director-General of FIUL, Mr. Edwin W. Harris, who

also attended the meeting, welcomed the visit and hoped for continued collaboration between the CBL and the FIU. He said the Unit is prepared to work along with the CBL without undermining its independence.

The meeting was attended by officials of FIUs from Nigeria, Ghana, and Burkina Faso, as well as the head of the FIU Forum and other senior staff of GIABA.

Français

Les fantômes de la guerre hantent toujours le Liberia

Deux cent mille morts, deux millions de déplacés. La guerre civile qui a déchiré le pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest de 1989 à 2003 n'en finit pas de meurtrir ses habitants. Le photographe français Elliott Verdier est parti à la rencontre de cette population, dont il a tiré une série de portraits et de témoignages audio.

C'est une longue nuit de souffrance et de solitude,

habitée de cauchemars, que traverse le Liberia. Vu d'Occident, ce petit État anglophone d'Afrique de l'Ouest donne l'impression d'un pays dans le chaos, ravagé par la guerre puis abandonné à ses malheurs. Le Liberia était pourtant la promesse d'une «terre de liberté?», fondée en 1847 par des esclaves affranchis venus des États-Unis. Ces derniers ont fini par reproduire le même schéma de domination sur les populations

autochtones que celui qui leur avait été infligé. Jusqu'à cette terrible guerre civile, entre 1989 et 2003, qui hante encore les nuits libériennes.

Le mutisme qui entoure ce traumatisme a attiré l'œil d'Elliott Verdier. Jusqu'au 27 mai, le photographe français de 28 ans expose son travail au sein du festival Circulation(s), en vidéo sur le site du Centquatre, établissement parisien fermé

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Chief Justice Yussif D. Kaba

Chief Commercial Court Judge Eva Morgan

Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor

Ebola: la résistance du village guinéen de Kpaghalaye contre la «riposte»

Ebola a fait sa réapparition en Guinée depuis le début de 2021. 23 cas ont été signalés, dont cinq décès, dans la région de Nzérékoré, dans le sud du pays. Dans cette Guinée forestière proche des frontières du Liberia et de la Côte d'Ivoire, le village de Kpaghalaye résiste aux interventions de la «riposte?», l'équipe chargée de lutter contre l'épidémie.

Ils ne peuvent plus y rentrer depuis le début du mois. Les femmes les plus âgées s'y opposent.

Elles ont revêtu le pagne dans lequel elles initient traditionnellement les jeunes filles, ce qui est censé imposer le respect. Depuis le début du mois, les femmes âgées de Kpaghalaye barrent l'entrée du village aux équipes médicales, pourtant chargées d'identifier

les cas Ebola et de vacciner la population.

Installé à quelques kilomètres de là, pour aider le Centre de recherche et de formation en infectiologie de Guinée, l'anthropologue Frédéric Le Marcis estime que les traumatismes liés à l'épidémie précédente sont encore dans les esprits: «?Il faut se rappeler que pendant Ebola dans la première épidémie, 70% des personnes prises en charge dans les centres de traitement sont décédées. Et cette situation qui était relative à l'absence de traitement efficace suscitait à l'époque auprès de la population un sentiment de peur et d'angoisse assimilant la réponse thérapeutique en fait à une volonté déguisée d'exterminer la population. » Méfiance réciproque

« En plus de cela, dans la région-même où se déroule l'épidémie aujourd'hui, se situe le village de Womey où en 2014 une délégation venue pour faire de la prévention a été assassinée, coupée en

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Le registre national d'identification devrait redoubler d'efforts

Le gouvernement du Libéria veut que l'ensemble de la population obtienne des cartes d'identité nationales, surtout les fonctionnaires, mais il se peut que le registre national d'identification, l'organisme d'État chargé de délivrer ce papier n'ait manifestement pas de moyen, au point que les citoyens font la queue pendant des semaines ou des mois pour avoir leurs cartes d'identité.

Le plus dégoûtant encore, c'est que le gouvernement a fait de la possession de la carte une condition sine qua non pour chaque fonctionnaire d'avoir accès à son salaire. En plus, les utilisateurs de téléphones portables sont harcelés pour mettre à jour l'enregistrement de leur numéro en se servant de leur carte d'identité nationale. Pourtant, il faut environ deux à trois mois aux demandeurs pour obtenir une carte d'identité, car le système du registre national est défaillant.

Le groupe de travail national chargé du nettoyage de la masse salariale de l'état a publié une circulaire, avertissant qu'à compter du mois d'avril 2021, les fonctionnaires qui ne disposent pas de carte d'identité nationale ne recevront pas de salaire. Mais concernant le dysfonctionnement des prestations de services au niveau du registre national, aucune mesure n'a été prise.

Il est important que le gouvernement prévoie des mesures d'accompagnement pour chaque politique mise en place, sinon les résultats escomptés pourraient être désastreux. En réalité, tout processus aléatoire finit par créer des inconvénients aux personnes qui devraient en bénéficier.

Compte tenu de la ruée actuelle vers les cartes d'identité et de l'incapacité du Registre national à répondre à la demande, l'on assiste à de sérieux compromis qui pourraient entraîner des conséquences imprévues et inattendues que la nation pourrait regretter ultérieurement.

Nous nous félicitons certes de la délivrance d'une pièce d'identité nationale appropriée à chaque Libérien, mais encore faut-il que le processus soit correctement soutenu tant sur le plan financier que technique. À quoi sert l'annonce d'une politique qui manque de planification appropriée. Cela n'a aucun sens.

Nous appelons les autorités du registre national d'identification à redoubler d'efforts pour répondre à la demande. Il ne suffit pas de forcer les gens à se faire délivrer des cartes d'identité. Il faut prévoir un service efficace.

Le Libéria ne dispose pas d'un système biométrique synchronisé qui améliorerait l'accès facile et réduirait les coûts sur les dépenses nationales, selon la Commission de la gouvernance, un groupe de réflexion gouvernemental.

Dans l'état actuel des choses, presque tous les services, y compris les passeports, les banques, les admissions universitaires et les services mobiles, entre autres, sont pré-conditionnés par des cartes d'identité nationales.

Nous semblons mettre la charrue avant les bœufs, en tant que nation qui n'a pas contribué à faire avancer le Libéria. Comme l'a dit le président, il est temps de calibrer pour garantir un pays meilleur.

Français

Les fantômes de

en raison de la pandémie. Il publie également en avril un livre, *Reaching for Dawn*, préfacé par l'écrivain rappeur franco-rwandais Gaël Faye et l'activiste libérienne Leymah Gbowee, lauréate du Nobel de la paix en 2011.

Patience et ses jumeaux, Prince et Princess, à Harper Elliott Verdier pour *M Le magazine du Monde*

Au Liberia, où le conflit a fait plus de 200 000 morts et jeté la moitié des 4 millions d'habitants sur les routes, les survivants ont appris à taire leur douleur. Mais, la nuit venue, les fantômes de la guerre reviennent les hanter. Commence alors le long voyage pour « parvenir à l'aube » (*Reaching for Dawn*), titre donné au travail documentaire d'Elliott Verdier. De ces blessures, personne ne parle. La communauté internationale a longtemps détourné le regard, ignorant les cicatrices profondes dont souffrent les Libériens. Dans leur pays meurtri, les messes commémoratives ne réunissent que peu de gens. Il n'existe pas de mémorial ni de journée officielle dédiée au souvenir.

En 2017, la population a espéré voir son président, l'ex-footballeur international George Weah, un enfant du ghetto, mettre fin à l'écrasante domination de l'élite américano-libérienne. Son rêve a été anéanti lorsqu'il a choisi comme vice-présidente l'ex-femme du tristement célèbre criminel de guerre Charles Taylor. Le Liberia n'a jamais condamné ses bourreaux, empêchant tout début de construction d'une mémoire collective. Mais, depuis février, grande première, un tribunal finlandais délocalisé au Liberia juge l'ex-rebelle Gibril Massaquoi pour meurtres, viols et actes de torture.

Elliott Verdier a séjourné dans le pays une première fois en 2018, « sans faire de photos, simplement pour me défaire de l'image préconçue que j'avais de ce pays, celle que tout le monde a : la violence, la guerre, les enfants-soldats ». Puis il y est retourné un an plus tard avec une chambre photographique. Cet appareil argentique, à l'usage complexe, permet de rendre le temps plus tangible, de faire l'éloge de la lenteur.

Ebola: la résistance

morceaux et jetée dans les toilettes du village », rappelle Frédéric Le Marcis. Cet événement est resté au cœur de la mémoire de la population et de la Riposte.

La méfiance réciproque explique les erreurs de communication de la Riposte. Lorsque le premier cas d'Ebola est apparu à

Kpahalaye, la personne a été emmenée au Centre de Traitement des Épidémies (CT-Epi) sans qu'on informe les autres villageois, qui aujourd'hui refusent toute intervention, dont la vaccination. Ce qui ne veut pas dire, estime l'anthropologue, que cette résistance va durer éternellement.

Côte d'Ivoire: fin de l'audition des témoins au procès du massacre de Duékoué-Carrefour

En Côte d'Ivoire, le procès du massacre de Duékoué-Carrefour les 28 et 29 mars 2011 se poursuit devant le tribunal criminel d'Abidjan. 6e jour d'audience ce jeudi avec l'audition des derniers témoins. Dans le box, un seul accusé : Amadé Ouérémi, accusé d'avoir mené les tueries avec ses hommes, au cours desquels plus de 800 personnes auraient été tuées selon la Croix rouge. L'ancien milicien du Mont Peko continue d'affirmer qu'il n'était pas sur les lieux au moment des faits.

« C'est lui. Je le connais. Je l'ai vu de mes propres yeux », affirme à la barre une femme désignant Amadé Ouérémi. Elle est la première des six nouveaux témoins à se

succéder ce jeudi pour montrer au tribunal leurs séquelles physiques, raconter les exactions imputées au chef milicien et à ses hommes les 28 et 29 mars 2011.

Plusieurs se rappellent d'un de ses hommes de main, un certain « Roujo » ces jours-là à Duékoué-Carrefour. Certains encore racontent avoir vu Ouérémi au milieu de ses hommes se vanter des tueries quelques jours plus tard et promettre de finir de raser le quartier pour y « planter du cacao ».

L'audience est suspendue à plusieurs reprises. Amadé Ouérémi est indisposé et doit régulièrement s'absenter quelques minutes. Lorsqu'il revient dans la salle, l'accusé ne varie pas dans sa défense.

COMMENTAIRE

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

Un financement global pour mettre fin à la pandémie

NEW YORK - Les réunions de printemps du Fonds monétaire international et de la Banque mondiale cette semaine offrent une chance historique de coopération financière. Les principales économies, dont les États-Unis, l'Union européenne, la Chine et d'autres pays du G20, ont déjà manifesté leur soutien à une nouvelle allocation de 650 milliards de dollars de l'actif de réserve du FMI, les droits de tirage spéciaux (DTS), afin de garantir que les gouvernements des pays à revenus faibles et intermédiaires aient les moyens de lutter contre la pandémie de COVID-19 et de s'engager sur la voie d'une reprise tirée par l'investissement. Avec suffisamment de leadership, d'audace et de créativité, cette coopération financière mondiale peut aider à mettre fin à la pandémie.

La vaccination de masse est essentielle. Moins d'un an après que le SRAS-CoV-2, le virus qui cause la COVID-19, ait été identifié et séquencé pour la première fois, le soutien financier des gouvernements - dont les États-Unis, le Royaume-Uni, l'Allemagne, la Russie, la Chine et l'Inde - a permis à plusieurs entreprises de déployer des vaccins sûrs et efficaces. Les pays riches qui ont rapidement négocié des accords favorables avec les fabricants de vaccins ont reçu jusqu'à présent la plupart des doses. Mais pour mettre fin à la pandémie, tous les pays doivent parvenir à une couverture vaccinale complète dès que possible. Concrètement, l'objectif devrait être d'y arriver d'ici fin 2022 au plus tard.

Une telle entreprise, à portée mondiale et sans précédent, nécessite une coopération solide, dont un important soutien financier. Néanmoins, l'urgence devrait être claire pour tous. Tant que la COVID-19 persiste à des taux de transmission élevés partout dans le monde, la pandémie continuera de perturber la production mondiale, le commerce et les voyages, et donnera également lieu à des mutations virales qui pourraient saper l'immunité acquise précédemment grâce aux infections passées et à la vaccination. Pire encore, sur la trajectoire actuelle, la COVID-19 pourrait bien devenir endémique dans de nombreuses régions du monde, imposant des coûts sanitaires et économiques élevés pour les années à venir. Comme l'a souligné cette semaine la secrétaire au Trésor américain Janet Yellen, tous les pays partagent donc un vif intérêt à mettre fin à la pandémie partout.

Les gouvernements du monde ont mis en place le Dispositif pour accélérer l'accès aux outils de lutte contre la COVID-19 (Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, ou ACT-A), qui comprend l'initiative COVAX pour un accès mondial aux vaccins, le pilier vaccinal de l'ACT-A, pour assurer un contrôle universel du SRAS-CoV-2. Mais, alors que l'ACT-A et le COVAX ont établi des plans globaux pour favoriser l'accès aux vaccins, aux tests et aux traitements, ces plans doivent être renforcés de toute urgence pour deux raisons étroitement liées.

Premièrement, l'objectif opérationnel actuellement utilisé par le COVAX - un minimum de 27% de la population de tous les pays éligibles vaccinés d'ici la fin de cette année - doit être remplacé par celui d'une vaccination de tous les adultes d'ici la fin 2022. Cet objectif plus ambitieux est nécessaire pour mettre fin à la pandémie et réduire les chances de nouvelles mutations.

Deuxièmement, il est urgent de planifier jusqu'à la fin 2022, compte tenu des délais de mise à l'échelle de la production et des chaînes d'approvisionnement de vaccins et des autres produits essentiels. Pourtant, les dispositifs ACT-A et COVAX restent sous-financés, même pour 2021 : les 11 milliards de dollars que les gouvernements ont fourni à ce jour laissent un déficit de financement de 22 milliards de dollars pour cette année - déficit qui a retardé jusqu'à présent la planification nécessaire jusqu'à la fin 2022. En attendant, la pénurie actuelle de vaccins amène les pays à se bousculer pour sauter la file d'attente,

notamment en payant des prix extrêmement élevés. Cela souligne la nécessité urgente de faire en sorte que tous les pays, y compris les plus pauvres, puissent parvenir à une couverture vaccinale complète de manière équitable et rapide.

Les sommes supplémentaires nécessaires pour assurer une couverture vaccinale universelle d'ici la fin 2022, ainsi que l'accès à d'autres fournitures pour lutter contre la COVID-19, sont modestes - peut-être 50 milliards de dollars pour l'ACT-A. Il s'agit d'un montant négligeable par rapport aux énormes avantages mondiaux que présenterait un arrêt de la pandémie et aux dépenses massives des gouvernements des pays à revenu élevé du monde entier pour faire face à la pandémie. Le gouvernement américain, à lui seul, a dépensé environ 5000 milliards de dollars en mesures d'urgence entre mars 2020 et mars 2021.

Pour fonctionner correctement, l'ACT-A (y compris le COVAX) a besoin d'un financement anticipé pour couvrir les besoins en vaccins jusqu'en 2022. Étant donné que l'augmentation de la production de vaccins (et de certains autres produits) nécessite un délai de 6 à 12 mois, les 50 milliards de dollars devraient être garantis dans les semaines à venir, afin que l'ACT-A et le COVAX puissent travailler avec les industriels pour assurer les approvisionnements nécessaires. L'allocation de nouveaux DTS par le FMI offre une occasion unique - et peut-être la seule - d'obtenir ce financement.

Lorsque les nouveaux DTS seront émis, environ 20 milliards de dollars de nouvelles réserves iront directement aux pays les plus pauvres. En outre, environ 100 milliards de dollars ou plus, alloués aux pays riches, retourneront au FMI pour être utilisés sous forme de prêts à long terme à faible taux d'intérêt. La directrice générale du FMI, Kristalina Georgieva, a travaillé en étroite collaboration et de manière créative avec les gouvernements du G20 pour concevoir cette approche novatrice et prometteuse. Une excellente idée consiste à utiliser les DTS pour renforcer le Fonds fiduciaire pour la réduction de la pauvreté et la croissance (FRPC) du FMI, le guichet de financement du FMI pour les pays pauvres.

Il existe ici un précédent important. En 2015, le FMI a créé un Fonds fiduciaire d'assistance et de riposte aux catastrophes (Catastrophe and Containment Relief Fund) pour aider à fournir un financement d'urgence de lutte contre Ebola à la Guinée, au Libéria et à la Sierra Leone. Cette fois, le financement FRPC pourrait être réservé à des achats dans le cadre de l'ACT-A et du COVAX ainsi que pour d'autres mesures de lutte contre la COVID-19, que le gouvernement emprunteur devrait documenter auprès du FMI (comme les remboursements pour les vaccins contre la COVID-19 qui ont été contractés par l'État membre en dehors de la facilité COVAX).

L'ACT-A prépare actuellement des estimations du financement dont les 92 pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire du monde éligibles au soutien COVAX auront besoin pour les vaccins, les tests, les produits thérapeutiques et d'autres fournitures jusqu'à la fin de 2022. Sur la base des besoins de financement estimés, un plan financier ACT-A peut être établi pour chaque pays, soutenu par les DTS et les fonds FRPC supplémentaires.

Dans les prochaines semaines, un plan rationnel de financement des besoins de balance des paiements COVID-19 de tous les pays jusqu'à la fin 2022 devrait voir le jour. Le FMI a été créé pour faire face à une telle urgence de balance des paiements. L'accès au financement du FMI protégera le bien-être et la stabilité macroéconomique de chaque pays et du monde dans son ensemble. Nous devons saisir cette occasion cruciale pour les Nations Unies, le FMI et les principaux gouvernements - dont les États-Unis, la Chine, la Russie, l'UE, le Japon, le Royaume-Uni et d'autres - de coopérer efficacement dans l'intérêt de l'humanité.

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The Truth and Nature of Xinjiang-related Issues

By H.E. RenYisheng, Ambassador of China to Liberia

Recently, some Liberian media have reprinted some false information about China's Xinjiang. In order to help African and Liberian friends know a real Xinjiang, it is necessary to clarify the truth so that it can be viewed and heard squarely.

For a period of time, out of prejudice, ignorance and even malice, some politicians, media, and scholars in some Western countries including the United States have spared no effort to fabricate the so-called "genocide", "forced labor", "re-education camps" and other lies about Xinjiang. These smearing attacks without a bottom line and a convincing basis seriously violate international law and the basic norms of international relations, and blatantly violate justice and conscience.

Putting the hat of "genocide" on China is the biggest lie of the century. Over the past 40 years, the Uyghur population in Xinjiang has doubled

called "forced labor" at this time?

There is no "re-education camp" in Xinjiang at all. It is completely fabricated out of thin air. The essence of Xinjiang-related issues is the issue of countering violence and terrorism, de-radicalization, and anti-separatism. From 1990 to the end of 2016, thousands of violent and terrorist cases (incidents) occurred in Xinjiang, which brought serious disasters to people of all ethnic groups. Can any government tolerate this without doing anything? The Chinese government launched the fight against terrorism in accordance with the law, and at the same time, by drawing on the experience and practices of other countries including the Western countries to establish de-radicalization centers and other preventive counter-terrorism practices, set up vocational skills education and training centers in accordance with the law to save and help people who have committed terrorism, extremism, illegal or criminal acts to achieve stable employment, improve the quality of life, and achieve de-radicalization. This is fully in line with the principles and spirit of a series of counter-terrorism resolutions

the incidence of poverty dropped from 19.4% in 2014 to 1.24%. By November 2020, the last 10 poverty-stricken counties of Xinjiang had all completely eradicated absolute poverty. Unprecedented achievements have been made in economic and social development and improvement of people's livelihood in Xinjiang.

Anyone who respects the facts will give a fair evaluation. Recently, the international media including the "Grey Area" of the American independent news website have disclosed that the so-called "Uyghur victims" have been proved to be lying, and they have been reduced to tools for anti-China forces to spread rumors about Xinjiang and smear China's image. In recent years, more than 1,200 diplomats, officials of international organizations, journalists, and religious figures from more than 100 countries have visited Xinjiang. They believe that what they have seen and heard in Xinjiang is completely different from the reports of some Western media and the accusations of some politicians. The French writer Maxime Vivas wrote a book titled "Uygurs, to Put an End to the Fake News".

He used his two personal experiences in Xinjiang to tell the prosperous and stable real Xinjiang, and pointed out that it is those people who have never been to Xinjiang that are making fake news and disseminating the falsehoods. At the recent 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council, more than 80 countries expressed their support for China's legitimate position on the Xinjiang issue in the form of joint or individual statements. This fully demonstrates that justice is in the hearts of the people.

At the regular press conference of the Foreign Ministry of China held not long ago, spokesperson Hua Chunying shared with the press a short video which screened the remarks by Lawrence Wilkerson, former chief of staff to former Secretary of State Colin Powell and a retired US Army Colonel, at a forum organized by the Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity in August 2018.

He was speaking on the threefold purposes of the US presence in Afghanistan, one of which is to contain China. He said undisguisedly that "the third reason we were there [in Afghanistan] is because there are 20 million Uyghurs [in Xinjiang]. The CIA would want to destabilize China and that would be the best way to do it to foment unrest and to join with those Uyghurs in pushing the Han Chinese in Beijing from internal places rather than external". This is what the US has said and done.

Facts have proven time and again that the West has meticulously concocted the so-called Xinjiang issue. It was not concerned with the "human rights of the Uyghur people" or the truth, but with the use of the so-called human rights issues to undermine China's security and stability and to impede China's development and growth.

Seeing is believing. The door to Xinjiang is always open. In 2019, Xinjiang received more than 200 million tourists. We welcome friends from all over the world to have the opportunity to visit Xinjiang to learn more about and experience a real and beautiful Xinjiang without being deceived by the "centenary lies". We also call on all media that uphold an objective and fair stand and abide by professional ethics to respect the truth and refrain from spreading false information on Xinjiang-related issues.



from 5.55 million to more than 12 million. The average life expectancy has increased from 30 to 72 years. Is there any kind of "genocide" in the world with a huge population increase?

There is no "forced labor" problem in Xinjiang at all. It is completely out of nothing. In Xinjiang, workers of all ethnic groups freely choose occupations and locations according to their own wishes, and sign labor contracts with enterprises in accordance with the law on the principle of equality and self-consent, and are completely free from any discrimination and coercion. According to data from the Xinjiang Agricultural Department, the harvesting rate of cotton machinery in Xinjiang in 2020 has reached 70%. Growers can order machine picking services through mobile apps without leaving home. It can be said that cotton picking has entered the "Internet +" era. Isn't it ridiculous that some people are still making up stories about the so-

such as the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Xinjiang education and training center is of a school nature, and it is strictly forbidden to insult and abuse students in any form. The so-called "beating and torture", "sexual assault and sterilization against women" and other accusations are simply nonsense. By October 2019, all trainees of the centers had completed their studies, and most of them achieved stable employment and lived a peaceful life. There have been no cases of violence and terrorism in Xinjiang for more than four consecutive years, and the rights to life, health, development, and national security interests of all ethnic groups have been maximized.

Over the past 60 years, Xinjiang's economic aggregate has increased by more than 200 times. From 2014 to 2019, Xinjiang's GDP grew at an average annual rate of 7.2%. As of the end of 2019, a total of 2,923,200 people had been lifted out of poverty in Xinjiang, and

Police charge 34 suspects in Maryland

The Liberia National Police has charged and detained 34 suspects with multiple crimes in Maryland County as part of ongoing investigation into the gruesome murder of a commercial motorcyclist, Mordacious Nyemah recently in Pleebo District, Maryland and subsequent arson attacks by angry crowd against several government properties and residence of Speaker Bhofal Chambers'.

The 34 suspects were

Ali, Lawrence Jarbee, Wilfred Kuoh, EugeneKoppeh, George Nimely, John Davis, Patrick Wilson, Augustine Navy, Micheal Doblah, SawoBedel, Robert Wesseh, Fred Johnny, and Peter Bestman.

Others are Moses Toe, Mashel Doloson, Thomas Kuma, Joseph Bannie, George Segbeh, Mark Freeman, Michael Tugbeh, Winston Smith, Christopher Dweh, Prince Kouh, George Weah, John Collies, Chris Porka and Sham Beyslow.

central prison in Harper City, took the living body of defendant Moses Mlarmah who was awaiting trial for his connection to the murder of Mordacious Nyemah.

According to the Police, the defendants subsequently released additional ninety-one (91) inmates some of whom were convicted of armed robbery, murder, rape, and burglary, among other crimes.

The charge sheet documents that after the protesters released defendant Moses Mlarmah, they vandalized and set ablaze the prison compound, destroying documents and other government properties.

Additionally, the police charge sheet says protestors didn't seek authorization before getting in the streets, erecting roadblocks and looting both private and public facilities.

Cost of private and public properties damaged by protestors has been put at over two million United States Dollars.

The Police charge sheet notes that the acts allegedly committed by the defendants violate Chapters 10, 15 and 17; section 10.4, 15.1, 15.5, 15.30, 17.1, 17.3, and 17.7 respectively of the New Penal Law of Liberia.

The gruesome murder of the late Modicious Nyemah, who was a motorcyclist and student of the Pleebo High School, occurred on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at about 10 A.M.

Sources narrated that on Thursday, March 25, suspect Mlarmah asked the late Nyemah to take him to a nearby town called Besseken, around the Maryland Oil Palm Plantation (MOPP) but the latter was subsequently discovered dead after thorough investigation that linked suspect Moses Mlarmah.

Meanwhile, a dusk to dawn curfew subsequently imposed in the country by President George Manneh Weah as of April 1, 2021 is still in place. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



earlier charged and sent to the Pleebo Magisterial Court on Thursday, April 8, 2021 and later transferred to the Zwedru Correction Palace in Grand Gedeh County, awaiting trial.

According to Police charge sheet, the suspects, all males, have been charged with robbery, criminal conspiracy, arson, riot, failure to disperse, criminal mischief, obstruction of highways and other public areas, among others.

On April 5, 2021, Police investigators arrested defendants Morris Senneh, President of the Pleebo Motorcyclists Union, Thomas Kumah, president of Maryland County youth and other protestors.

The 34 suspects include Mamadou Diallo, Edward Toe, Sieh Gray, Edwin Lawal, Salu

The police charge sheet further said the alleged perpetrators were duly informed of their constitutional rights, investigated and duly charged with the commission of the multiple crimes for leading a group of protestors, including youth and motorcyclists in Pleebo and Harper cities with the intent of demanding justice for the death of their colleague Mordacious Nyemah, who was allegedly killed by Moses Mlarmah on March 25, 2021.

The Police charge sheet details that the 34 defendants on March 31, 2021, allegedly vandalized several government properties, including setting ablaze the home of Speaker Chambers' and a Nissan pickup in his premises.

The charge sheet continues that the protestors vandalized the police stations in Harper and Pleebo, and then broke into the

Verdier accuses Hassan Bility of exploiting war victims

Former Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) chairman, Cllr. Jerome Verdier has accused Rights Advocate Hassan Bility, head of Global Justice and Research Project (GJRP) through its parent organization, Civitas Maxima of allegedly exploiting Librarian war crimes victims for his personal financial gains.

Speaking on Spoon Talk over the weekend, Cllr. Verdier noted that "We said greed, money and taking advantage" of the war victims in Liberia.

Cllr. Verdier told Spoon FM that Hassan Bility effected the trial of Gibril Massaquoi, a protected witness in the Sierra Leone war crimes trial by procuring witnesses to

how Hassan Bility and his group are exploiting the Gibril Massaquoi trial thereby further persecuting real victims of the Liberian Civil War, denying them the opportunity to face their victimizers.

Cllr. Verdier questioned why Hassan Bility, an active member of the ULIMO-K faction and youth wing chairman of Alhaji Kromah's political party, ALCOP, has failed to push for the trial of the ULIMO-K rebel leader himself.

He suggests that Bility has a motive to ensure that a war crimes court for Liberia established outside of the country is remotely controlled as a way of preventing victims from directly facing culprits.

He expressed concern that trial by video link will not allow



fabricate damning statements against Massaquoi at his trial in Finland, noting that Massaquoi was not a member of the RUF, but a part of Kamajors.

"And Massaquoi is a protected witness, meaning that he gave evidence against warlords during the Sierra Leonean trial, so he's under protection," Cllr. Verdier argued.

The former TRC boss further says he is opposed to

all perpetrators to be brought forward.

Hassan Bility and his group recently suffered a major setback when the United Kingdom Supreme Court dismissed all charges levied against Dr. Agnes Reeves Taylor.

Mr. Bility is yet to comment on the latest allegations from the former TRC chairman, as this could be a major blow to the credibility of his organization.

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Senate probes

Starts from back page

banknotes. The Senate says while it encourages free speech and freedom of the press as provided for under Article 15 of the 1986 Constitution, it notes also that free speech and freedom of the press come with responsibility.

Under the laws of Liberia, bribe is a serious crime, and the burden of proof lies on the

shoulder of the accuser. The Senators however thanked Sen. Lawrence for the initial step taken to suspend Mr. Sando for a period of one month without pay.

The report of the Secretary of the Senate will determine whether additional sanctions are justified to be imposed against him. **-Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Senate probes US\$20,000 bribe claims



By Ethel A Tweh

The Liberian Senate has launched an investigation into a claim by Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence's Administrative Assistant and Liberty Party (LP) Vice Chair for Press and Public Affairs Daniel Sando that senators here took US\$20,000 bribe to sign a resolution to print L\$48bn

banknotes.

President Pro Tempore of the Liberian Senate Albert T. Chie has instructed the Secretary of the Senate to review the accusation as levied against the body by Mr. Sando, accord him due process and report to the Senate's leadership after the Easter Break.

Sando's accusation against the Liberian Senate comes at a time the Central Bank of Liberia

(CBL's) request to print the L\$48bn has caused stir here due to the controversies still hanging over billions of Liberian dollars earlier printed as well as a controversial US\$25m mop up exercise, among others.

Sando was recently suspended by his boss Senator Karnga - Lawrence for one month without salary for accusing her colleagues.

The LP political leader and chair of the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Senator Karnga - Lawrence came down hard on her party stalwart for putting her colleagues against the public.

In a statement issued recently, the Senate welcomed the decision of Senator Lawrence to have taken an immediate step to suspend her Administrative Assistant Mr. Daniel Sando who has accused members of the Senate of taking bribe to sign a resolution for the printing of a family of new

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Man Utd come from behind to win at Spurs

Manchester United inflicted further damage on Tottenham's hopes of making the Premier League's top four as they came from behind to secure a fully deserved victory.

Spurs went into this game knowing victory would keep them in touch with the Champions League places but another colourless performance led to what could be an expensive defeat.

Edinson Cavani thought he had given United a first-half



lead with a smooth finish from Paul Pogba's pass but the goal was controversially ruled out by referee Chris Kavanagh following a video assistant referee consultation after Scott McTominay caught Son Heung-min with his trailing arm. United's sense of injustice was increased when Son put Spurs ahead before the break but the visitors recovered impressively for a win that leaves them 11 points behind leaders Manchester City with a game in hand.

Fred was involved in the

build-up and conclusion of the equaliser after 57 minutes, pouncing after Spurs keeper Hugo Lloris had saved well from Cavani. And Cavani finally got the goal his superb movement and constant menace deserved with 11 minutes left when he launched himself to head beyond Lloris from substitute Mason Greenwood's cross. Greenwood completed the formalities with virtually the last kick of the game as he provided a finish that was too powerful for Lloris at his near post.

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