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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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Continental News

Ethiopia PM denies reports of hunger in Tigray

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has denied that there is hunger in the country's war-torn Tigray region.

Speaking at a polling station on the day of the country's general election, Mr Abiy admitted there was a problem but said the government could fix it.

The fighting, which the UN says has left five million people in need of food aid, is now in its eighth month.

More than 350,000 of them are living in famine conditions in Tigray, according to a recent UN-backed estimate.

"There is no hunger in Tigray," Mr Abiy told the BBC after he had voted. "There is a problem and the government is capable of fixing that." Last week, the UN's humanitarian chief, Mark Lowcock, told a closed session of the Security Council that there was famine in Tigray.

He also said that starvation was being used as a weapon of war by troops from neighbouring Eritrea who are fighting alongside Ethiopian

forces in Tigray. Eritrea has denied the accusation.

Mr Abiy said Ethiopia would not push the Eritreans out but was working with them to "finalise... issues peacefully". A study released on 10 June by the UN-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) initiative found that 350,000 people were living in what it described as

"catastrophe/famine".

At the time, Ethiopia denied that this was the case.

A further five million people were either in "crisis" or "emergency", the study said.

The Ethiopian authorities have said that they are distributing food aid and denied reports that they are restricting access to

humanitarian agencies. People in Qafta Humera, an isolated district in the west of Tigray, told the BBC earlier this month that they were on the verge of starvation.

"We don't have anything to eat," one man said by phone, explaining their crops and livestock had been looted during months of war.

The conflict, which began in November last year, has forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes and disrupted agriculture. Ethiopia's government launched an offensive to oust the region's then ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

The party had had a massive fallout with Mr Abiy over his political reforms though the TPLF's capture of federal military bases in Tigray was the catalyst for the invasion. Ethiopia has allied with neighbouring Eritrea, whose troops have crossed the border and have been accused of human rights violations, including deliberately causing the lack of food - charges it

denies.

Ethiopian soldiers and others involved in the conflict have also been accused of violations.

In March, Mr Abiy said that the Eritrean soldiers "will withdraw" without specifying when.

At the beginning of this month his spokesperson said reports from the defence ministry indicated they had begun withdrawing. "We are not pushing them out but we are making it peacefully, I am sure it will happen," Mr Abiy told the BBC. "We are working with [Eritrea] to finalise our issues peacefully."

He also said that Sudanese troops were in Tigray but did not explain in what capacity.

Monday's general election is the first electoral test for the prime minister who came to power in 2018 as the nominee of the then-ruling coalition. His reforming zeal, which saw the country become more open and democratic, won him supporters both inside and outside the country.

He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019 after ending a 20-year stalemate with Eritrea. BBC



Abiy Ahmed: We're not pushing out the Eritrean troops

Northeast Nigeria Facing Acute, Life-Threatening Hunger

The United Nations is urgently appealing for \$250 million to provide life-saving food assistance for millions of people in northeast Nigeria, many of whom risk starving to death.

The U.N. resident and humanitarian coordinator for Nigeria, Edward Kallon, says he has come to Geneva to warn the international community that Nigeria is at a crossroads and in urgent need

of humanitarian assistance.

He says 4.4 million people in northeast Nigeria's Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states are facing a looming catastrophic situation of food insecurity that eventually could result in a famine. "Of these 4.4 million people, 775,000 are in critical needs of food assistance and risk death, and also further dispossession, if necessary action is not taken now," he said.

Kallon says malnutrition rates are rising in all three states in

northeast Nigeria, reaching a particularly dangerous high of 13.6% in Yobe State. The U.N. Children's Fund reports severe acute malnutrition causes stunting, wasting, physical and mental impairment, and even death.

U.N. coordinator Kallon says these children urgently need special nutritional feeding to save their lives. However, providing aid in this volatile region is dangerous, and in some cases, impossible.

"Ongoing insecurity, which has resulted in further displacement of people and also compounded by the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19. And closely linked to the issues of insecurity [are] issues of access in areas that are controlled by the nonstate armed groups, where we have well over 800,000 people we cannot reach," he said.

Northeast Nigeria has been in almost constant turmoil since the Boko Haram insurgency began in 2009, and the situation has grown worse in recent months with a wave of mass kidnappings for ransom. VOA

Three abducted students killed in Nigeria crossfire



Various incidents of students being kidnapped have been reported in Nigeria

The authorities in Nigeria's north-western Kebbi state say three students have been killed in a crossfire between bandits and soldiers during an attempt to rescue the abducted students.

Parents of the students have said more than 60 students and eight teachers are still missing after gunmen invaded the Federal Government College in Yauri on Thursday last week.

Residents said bodies of the two girls and a boy have been handed over to their parents.

The boy was suspected to have had gun shot injuries

while the girls allegedly died of exhaustion and trauma.

One of the girls was thought to be asthmatic.

Kebbi state commissioner for education told the BBC that soldiers are still pursuing the bandits and six students have been rescued so far.

The state governor, Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, has said he would lead the search and rescue efforts for the abducted students. In another development, police in Nigeria's central Benue state have killed at least 14 suspected bandits who attempted to storm a police station in the town of Katsina-Ala. BBC



EDITORIAL

Reading Pres. Weah's mind about war crimes court

-A Repeat

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH WEAH'S response to Lofa County Representative Clarence Massaquo's concern on the need to establish a war and economic crimes court for Liberia to stamp out impunity clearly indicates the President is less interested in prosecuting people who committed heinous crimes during the 14-year civil war. This means victims of the civil crisis should not count on the Weah administration to deliver justice.

LOFA COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE Clarence Massaquo, speaking in Foya District, Lofa County over the weekend reminded President Weah that Liberians are hurt because they lost relatives, including parents, so impunity should not stand in the way of accountability and justice. The Lofa lawmaker, like many Liberians, wants the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendation for prosecution implemented.

"I KNOW IT is not common to say this. But Mr. President we have the report of the TRC, whatever forms they come Mr. President, those that are in those mass graves are not here today, on their behalf, we ask for justice", he pleaded.

BUT THE PRESIDENT responded to the lawmaker in the way he spoke which indicates that war crimes court is a far-fetched discussion on his government's agenda, rather telling Liberians to live with impunity for the sake of peace.

LIBERIANS BOTH AT home and abroad are yearning for justice and rightly so, especially when warlords and other perpetrators are publicly unremorseful for atrocities they committed during the crisis that left families decimated and dreams shattered.

MOST KEY PLAYERS from the war are back in government, including the Legislature. They claim to enjoy immunity or exemption from prosecution despite being recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for trial. They include notorious warlord Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, leader of the defunct INPFL rebels, Representative Dr. George S. Boley, leader of the demobilized Liberia Peace Council rebels, Sekou Damate Conneh, leader of the LURD rebels, and Professor Alhaji G.V. Kromah, leader of the disbanded ULIMO-K rebels, among others.

IN FACT, SENATOR Johnson, a staunch political ally of President Weah, continues to brag that no war crimes court is coming to Liberia and publicly deny that he committed atrocities during the war just like his colleagues Rep. Boley and Sekou Damate Conneh say.

SO WHEN PRESIDENT Weah calls on Liberians to sit at a roundtable to discuss how to forge the country ahead rather than call for war crimes court that could return Liberia to the dark days, you can understand that justice is going to elude us continuously, as long as this administration is in power.

HOWEVER, THE HOLY Bible says the voice of the people is the voice of God. Liberians should never give up the fight. They should keep mounting pressure for the establishment of war and economic crimes court despite the apparent un-readiness by the government.

HISTORY HAS PROVEN repeatedly that the will of the people eventually prevails despite attempts to suppress their views and trample on their expressed wishes for justice, which is the fulcrum on which peace that the President talked about, development and all other positive human endeavors rest.

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COMMENTARY

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

We Don't Need the G7

NEW YORK - The latest G7 summit was a waste of resources. If it had to be held at all, it should have been conducted online, saving time, logistical costs, and airplane emissions. But, more fundamentally, G7 summits are an anachronism. Political leaders need to stop devoting their energy to an exercise that is unrepresentative of today's global economy and results in a near-complete disconnect between stated aims and the means adopted to achieve them.

There was absolutely nothing at the G7 summit that could not have been accomplished much more cheaply, easily, and routinely by Zoom. The most useful diplomatic meeting this year was President Joe Biden's online meeting with 40 world leaders in April to discuss climate change. Routine online international meetings by politicians, parliamentarians, scientists, and activists are important. They normalize international discussions.

But why should those discussions occur within the G7, which has been superseded by the G20? When the G7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States) began their annual summit meetings in the 1970s, they still dominated the world economy. In 1980, they constituted 51% of world GDP (measured at international prices), whereas the developing countries of Asia accounted for just 8.8%. In 2021, the G7 countries produce a mere 31% of world GDP, while the same Asian countries produce 32.9%.

The G20, by including China, India, Indonesia, and other large developing countries, represents around 81% of world output, and balances the interests of its high-income and developing economies. It is not perfect, as it leaves out smaller and poorer countries and should add the African Union (AU) as a member, but at least the G20 offers a fruitful format for discussing global topics covering most of the world economy. The annual EU-US Summit can accomplish much that the G7 originally aimed to cover.

The G7 is particularly irrelevant because its leaders don't deliver on their promises. They like making symbolic statements, not solving problems. Worse, they give the appearance of solving global problems, while really leaving them to fester. This year's summit was no different.

Consider COVID-19 vaccines. The G7 leaders set the goal of vaccinating at least 60% of the global population. They also pledged to share 870 million doses directly over the next year, presumably meaning enough for 435 million fully immunized individuals (with two doses per person). But 60% of the global population comes to 4.7 billion people, or roughly ten times that number.

The G7 leaders offered no plan for achieving their stated aim of global coverage, and in fact, have not developed one, even though it would not be hard to do. Estimating the monthly production of every COVID-19 vaccine is straightforward, and allocating those doses fairly and efficiently to all countries is entirely feasible.

One reason such a plan has not yet been developed is that the US government so far refuses to sit down with Russian and Chinese leaders to devise such a global allocation. Another reason is that the G7 governments let the vaccine manufacturers negotiate privately and secretly, rather than as part of a global plan. Perhaps a third reason is that the G7 looked at global targets without thinking hard enough about the needs of each recipient country.

Yet another example of the G7's false promises is climate change. At the latest summit, G7 leaders rightly embraced the goal of global decarbonization by 2050, and called on developing countries to do so as well. Yet, rather than laying out a financing plan to enable developing countries to achieve that target, they reiterated a financial pledge first made in 2009 and never fulfilled. "We reaffirm the collective developed country goal," they averred, "to jointly mobilize \$100 billion per year from public and private sources, through to 2025 in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation."

It is hard to overstate the cynicism of this oft-repeated pledge. The rich countries missed their own deadline of 2020 for providing the long-promised \$100 billion per year - a mere 0.2% of rich countries' annual GDP. And the promised \$100 billion is itself a small fraction of what developing countries need for decarbonization and climate adaptation.

The disconnect between the G7's soaring aims and meager means is apparent on education as well. Hundreds of millions of children in poor countries lack access to primary and secondary education because their governments don't have the financial means to provide teachers, classrooms, and supplies. In 2020, UNESCO estimated that the low- and lower-middle-income countries need around \$504 billion per year up to 2030 to ensure that all kids complete a secondary education, but have only around \$356 billion of their own domestic resources, leaving a financing gap of around \$148 billion per year.

So, what does the G7 propose in this year's communiqué? The leaders propose "a target to get 40 million more girls into education and with at least \$2.75 billion for the Global Partnership for Education." These are not serious numbers. They are pulled out of thin air and would leave hundreds of millions of children out of school, despite the world's firm commitment (enshrined in Sustainable Development Goal 4) to universal secondary education. Large-scale solutions are available - such as mobilizing low-interest financing from multilateral development banks - but the G7 leaders didn't propose such solutions.

The world's problems are far too urgent to leave to empty posturing and to measures that are a mere token of what is needed to achieve stated ends. If politics were a mere spectator sport, to be judged by which politicians mugged best the cameras, the G7 summit would perhaps have a role to play. Yet we have urgent global needs to meet: ending a pandemic, decarbonizing the energy system, getting kids in school, and achieving the SDGs.

OPINION

By Javier Solana

America's Comeback Tour

MADRID - US President Joe Biden's first international tour felt like a breath of fresh air. From the G7 summit in Cornwall to a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva, Biden carried out his duties with statesmanship and composure - a stark contrast from the mayhem and mendacity that characterized Donald Trump's foreign visits. Biden's trip sent a clear message: the United States is once again in good hands, which will be held out first and foremost to its traditional allies.

But Biden's goals extend further: by rallying the world's democracies to counter China and other autocracies, he hopes to engineer a kind of global democratic renaissance. His ability to realize this vision is far from clear. Yet he has wasted no time in getting down to business.

The last US president who chose Europe for his maiden foreign trip was Jimmy Carter, back in 1977. Carter's tour started off in the United Kingdom, where he attended a G7 summit, and later took him to Switzerland, where he met Syrian President Hafez al-Assad (a Soviet ally). The parallels with Biden's trip are unmistakable - and, given his longstanding admiration for Carter, perhaps not entirely coincidental.

But the world has also undergone profound changes since 1977. Consider the UK. When Carter visited the country, it had recently joined the European Communities (which preceded today's European Union) - a move later endorsed overwhelmingly by British voters. Today, the UK has recently abandoned the EU and is mired in political turmoil.

For Biden, this demanded a reaffirmation of America's "special relationship" with the UK, including signing a new Atlantic Charter. But it also required a blunt reminder to Prime Minister Boris Johnson that the UK should uphold its commitment to maintain an open border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland (an EU member), thereby protecting the Good Friday Agreement. All in all, if forced to choose between the UK and the EU, there is little doubt that Biden would favor the latter.

The G7 has also changed considerably since Carter's time. When the G7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US) first met in the 1970s, they comprised nearly 70% of the world's GDP in nominal terms - a share they maintained until the turn of the century. But in the last two decades, this share has plunged to about 45%.

Biden's laudable commitment to strengthening cooperation with the other G7 countries has delivered mixed results. On one hand, the world's wealthiest countries continue to come up short in delivering COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries. On the other hand, their recent agreement to establish a global minimum corporate-tax rate of 15% is, as Harvard's Dani Rodrik put it, "historic."

Given the G7 countries' diminishing international weight, however, the agreement's principles will have to be adopted more widely to have the intended impact. And securing broad buy-in will not be easy. The next hurdle to clear will be the G20, where significant pushback can be expected, particularly from China, whose human-rights record and trade practices were harshly denounced in the G7 communiqué.

After the G7 meeting, Biden attended a NATO summit in Brussels, which also produced a noteworthy communiqué that singled out China, along with Russia. Yet again, this represents a significant shift from the 1970s, when NATO served as the West's bulwark against the Soviet Union.

The symbolism of NATO placing such strong emphasis on China is not lost on anyone - least of all the Chinese. To be sure, many of China's conventional and non-conventional military actions must be countered. But NATO often is not the best vehicle for that, and it should avoid overreaching.

Biden's summit with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Charles Michel was the least politically charged yet most consequential event of his European tour. The meetings produced a truce in the two sides' 17-year dispute over subsidies to aircraft companies Airbus and Boeing. All retaliatory tariffs have been suspended for five years.

The US and the EU also committed to resolve differences over trade in steel and aluminum by the end of this year. While US protectionism will not fizzle out, and the bilateral trade relationship remains beset by tensions, Biden clearly understands that he has to pick his battles and that the EU - the world's largest trading power - has much leverage to wield.

The final item on Biden's agenda - his meeting with Putin in Geneva - also reflected a major shift from 1977. Of course, the US and Russia remain adversaries on many fronts, and Biden made it abundantly clear to Putin that, unlike Trump, he would not shrug off the Kremlin's transgressions against the US (such as cyberattacks) and violations of international norms.

But it would make little strategic sense to approach Russia only as an adversary. Biden is thus attempting a tough balancing act. While the US is portraying Russia and China as the main spearheads of an autocratic bloc, much in line with the NATO communiqué, Biden is exploring the possibility of reaching some basic understandings with Russia, and perhaps even driving a wedge between it and China.

Overall, Biden's first foreign tour deserves high marks for both planning and execution. Biden succeeded in drawing a clear line under the previous administration, reassuring America's European allies, and presenting the US as a "responsible stakeholder" within the multilateral system - precisely what it has long urged China to become.

But disagreements among democratic countries will not vanish overnight, nor will the West recover its former global standing any time soon. America is back, and there is cause to celebrate. But, like it or not, the US-led unipolar world is gone for good.

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2021 SCHOLARSHIPS TO EGYPT

The Government of Liberia, in partnership with the Government of Egypt has made available Seven (7) bilateral scholarships for undergraduate studies in any of the following are as: **Electrical Engineering, Education, Information Technology (IT), Pathology, Mechanical Engineering, Mining Engineering, Architectural Engineering, Agriculture, Computer Science/Programming, Civil Engineering, Geology and Arabic Language**, at public Egyptian higher institutions of learning, beginning 2021/2022 academic year.

Applicants must:

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Eligible Liberian nationals shall forward **THREE (3) COPIES** of the following documents for consideration:

- Certified photocopies of high school transcript;
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- Certified photocopies of **WAEC** or **WASSCE** Certificate;
- Photocopies of birth certificate;
- Photocopies of the first 4 pages of **VALID** passport (ECOWAS-Liberian Biometric passport);
- A **VALID** medical certificate issued by a designated medical facility (preferably, **St Joseph Catholic, Aspirin Medical and Clinic Lab**);
- Six recent white background (identical) passport photos in color with the full name and nationality of the candidate written at the back of each photo;
- **PERSONAL STATEMENT**: a one to two-page summary of the reasons for wishing to undertake training in Egypt and how this training will benefit Liberia;
- CV (with phone number and e-mail address clearly listed);
- Two recent letters of recommendation (one professional and one academic);
- Recent Police Clearance.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 4 PM

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Ministry of Education

Ministerial Complex, Congo Town

For further inquiry, call **Samuel G. Williams** on **0770421201** (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

CPJ, rights groups call on EU to uphold Burundi Human rights commitments, including press freedom

In this February 3, 2016 photo, policemen and soldiers patrol the streets after a grenade attack of Burundi's capital Bujumbura. CPJ and human rights groups are calling on the EU to uphold human rights benchmarks set in 2016 when the EU suspended direct financial support to the country in the wake of the 2015 political crisis. (Reuters/Jean Pierre Aime Harerimama)

By Tom Gibson/CPJ EU Representative
on June 21, 2021

The Committee to Protect Journalists and other human rights groups on Monday June 21, 2021 called on European Union High Representative Josep Borrell and EU foreign ministers in a letter to uphold benchmarks set in 2016 when the EU suspended direct financial support to the Burundian government over its failure to protect human rights, democratic principles, and the rule of law in the wake of the country's 2015 political crisis.

These benchmarks, according to the Council of the European Union's 2016 decision, included an end to the intimidation of journalists, the prosecution of perpetrators of violence against journalists, and the assurance that journalists are able to work in complete safety in the country.

The EU must now use its leverage to seek guarantees from the authorities that all journalists can operate freely and safely in Burundi, and call for effective investigations into the 2016 disappearance of Iwacu journalist Jean Bigirimana as well as other serious abuses of press freedom, the letter said.

Read the full letter below

Open Letter

The EU Should Honor Its Commitments to Human Rights in Burundi

Dear EU High Representative/Vice-President,
Dear Foreign Ministers of the EU member states,

As the Council of the European Union (EU) and its preparatory bodies review the situation in Burundi and related EU policy, the undersigned organizations wish to express their concern that the EU and some of its member states appear willing to overlook the lack of meaningful human rights progress and widespread impunity for past and ongoing serious human rights violations in the country.

Despite a series of recent one-off gestures by the Burundian government regarding public freedoms, the Council should maintain its position that sustainable and tangible progress regarding the opening of political and civic space and the fight against impunity are necessary to address fundamental human rights concerns in Burundi. The EU should not rely on promises of human rights reforms from the Burundian authorities, and insist instead that they meet concrete benchmarks proving their commitment to ensuring accountability and embarking on a human rights-respecting path.

Ongoing Human Rights Violations and Widespread Impunity

In March 2016, in light of Burundi's failure to respect its obligations under the Cotonou agreement relating to human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law, the EU decided to suspend direct financial support to the Burundian government. This decision was taken in response to killings, torture, enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests of thousands of Burundians, amidst a political crisis around the contested third mandate of late President

Pierre Nkurunziza. The police violently cracked down on protestors, and after a failed coup attempt in May 2015, several radio stations were attacked and forced to close. More than 400,000 people, including most leading civil society activists and independent journalists, fled the country.

The UN Commission of Inquiry on Burundi has stated that it believes crimes against humanity were committed in Burundi since 2015, possibly even during the 2020 election period.

On 25 May 2020, Évariste Ndayishimiye, the ruling party candidate, was declared the winner of the presidential elections, which took place in a context of widespread repression; several opposition members were killed and many arrested. Access to social media was blocked and there were no independent international observers.

During Ndayishimiye's first year in power, there have been some limited improvements. For example, the president pardoned four journalists arrested in 2019, initiated a dialogue with media

government has produced a technical roadmap regarding human rights and other reforms, but it is vague and noncommittal and avoids sensitive issues - notably dealing with impunity for the many crimes committed since 2015.

No Sustainable Progress on 2016 Benchmarks

In the annex to its 2016 decision, the Council included a "schedule of commitments", on which it expected specific and concrete progress from the Burundian government before lifting the EU's restrictive measures. The Burundian government has failed to implement reforms in most of these areas, almost all of which remain relevant today:

Ndayishimiye has made efforts to rein in members of the youth league of the ruling party, the Imbonerakure, leading to a reduction in their involvement in human rights abuses in many provinces. However, in other provinces, they continue to perform law enforcement duties - despite having no authority to do so - with the explicit encouragement of government and ruling party officials. Imbonerakure, some of whom are armed, have arrested, ill-treated and killed suspected opponents, sometimes in collaboration with, or with the support of, local government officials, police or intelligence agents. Some of their members have been involved in fighting Burundian armed opposition groups in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as recently as in May 2021.

Despite repeated promises, there has been only a limited reopening of private media stations closed by the government in 2015. Since the EU's 2016 decision, only Radio Bonesha has re-opened, in 2021, after signing a working agreement with the National Communication Council (CNC), the state body that regulates the media. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Voice of America remain suspended since 2018. In 2021, the media landscape in Burundi remains severely restricted. The few independent media outlets that are allowed to operate exercise self-censorship and avoid controversial issues. Journalists are regularly threatened or

harassed by government and ruling party officials. There have been no credible investigations into the 2016 enforced disappearance of Iwacu journalist Jean Bigirimana or other serious human rights violations against journalists.

Independent civil society organizations and human rights defenders are unable to operate freely and safely in Burundi. The suspension of several civil society organizations in 2015 has not been repealed. The human rights defenders who left Burundi for their safety in 2015 and 2016 have been unable to return; their organizations have been closed down or suspended, destroying Burundi's once vibrant human rights movement. Most civil society organizations operating inside Burundi refrain from directly criticizing the government. Human rights defender Germain Rukuki is serving a 32-year prison sentence, and a verdict on his latest appeal is overdue. Nestor Nibitanga, another human rights defender sentenced to five years in prison in 2018, was among those granted a presidential pardon in 2021.



representatives in Burundi - leading to the lifting of some restrictions - and pardoned more than 5,000 other prisoners (although only around 2,600 had been released by late May).

But many of Ndayishimiye's repeated promises to deliver justice and promote political tolerance remain unfulfilled. The president has appointed ruling party hardliners to key positions, including Gervais Ndirakobuca, the current minister of interior, community development and public security, who is under EU sanctions. Furthermore, while reports of serious human rights violations have decreased, human rights groups continue to document cases of torture, ill-treatment and arbitrary arrests, and unidentified dead bodies are still found in different parts of the country.

Ndayishimiye has shown greater openness than his predecessor towards the EU. In February 2021, the Burundian government and representatives of the EU and its member states in Burundi resumed a political dialogue, on hold since 2016. Foreign minister Albert Shingiro visited Europe in April. The Burundian

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Poverty reaches 68 percent under Weah government

-opposition UP official

By Lewis S. Teh

A stalwart of the former ruling Unity Party also a strong member of the four opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Mr. Amos Tweh has heavily criticized the Weah-led

but to implement is difficult that's why under this CDC regime poverty is at its highest level of 68 percent, compared to previous regime", he said.

A former deputy minister of internal affairs for urban from the Sirleaf administration, Mr.

bad running of the state by the CDC-led government, accusing it of failure to live up to campaign promises, which is contributing to increased poverty.

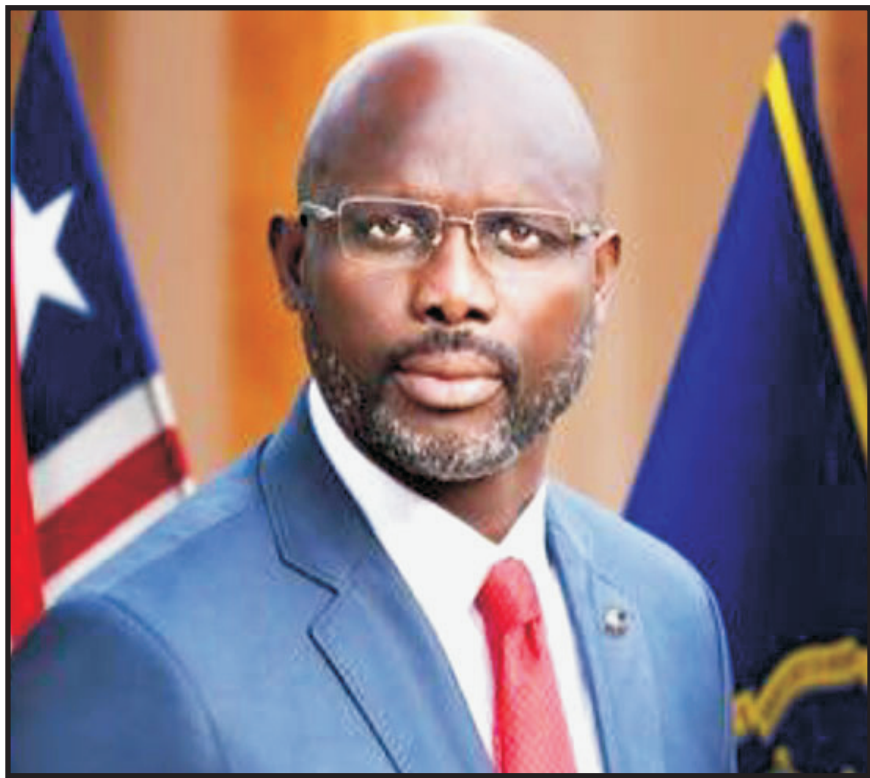
The two men were specifically invited to give their thoughts on former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai's recent interview with Spoon FM and to discuss other key issues of national concern.

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Tweh said the recent interview by Mr. Boakai, who is seeking the presidency, proffered key policy recommendations which he said will lift Liberians out of poverty, if the former Vice President is elected President.

"It's unfortunate that our friends from the other side will say Amb. Boakai didn't say anything new during the interview, or didn't do anything for this country while serving in the public for 42 years, and subsequently serving as vice president for 12 years", he argued.

He said it was due to the leadership ability of Amb. Boakai that Liberia started transporting iron ore, cocoa, adding the agriculture hub that is in Bong, Nimba and Lofa counties was as a result of the former vice president's

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



government for doing absolutely nothing to lifting citizens out of poverty as promised during the 2017 elections.

"Oh yeah I agree with the Minister to talk is very easy,

Tweh spoke Monday, June 21, 2021 during a live talk show on OK FM via mobile along with deputy minister of youth and sports Isaac Doe of the George Weah administration.

The former official lamented

Assistant youth minister keen on women empowerment

Amid calls for increased women's participation in the governance of the country, the Assistant Minister for Administration at the Ministry of Youth and Sports has stressed the critical need to empowering women,

especially young women in society.

Minister Fematta Bracewell said the provision of empowerment opportunities such as leadership development and entrepreneurship training is key to the growth and development of the Liberian

society.

Assistant Minister Bracewell was speaking at the weekend in Gbarnga, Bong County, following a one-day women empowerment training.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Participants at the just-ended women empowerment training in Gbarnga, Bong County

Liberian students in US increased by 51 percent over a decade

The number of Liberians pursuing higher education studies in the United States has increased by 51 percent over a decade, specifically between 2010/11 and 2019/20 academic years, from 172 to 260 students, in a new data released by Erudera.

Official data indicates that a considerable increase occurred in the mid-eighties when the US hosted 1,060 Liberian students in total, which remains the highest number up to date, as available data doesn't show whether Liberia managed to send a higher number of students to the US again, the education search platform Erudera.com reports.

According to the data, prior to 2019/20, the number of Liberian students in the US

obviously had a significant impact on Liberia's education sector. Hence, this could be one of the reasons that pushed some of the Liberian students to head to the US over the years as one of the main study destination among international students," Gent Ukëhajdaraj from Erudera said.

Nevertheless, Ukëhajdaraj pointed out that Liberia's education sector has experienced notable progress according to data, as nearly 1.4 million children were registered in pre-primary, primary, and high school during 2015.

In 2019/20, the United States welcomed over one million international students, remaining the top study destination among international students.

About Erudera



was 168 students in 2014/15; 205 students in 2015/16; 221 students in 2016/17; 262 students in 2017/18 and 255 students in 2018/19

The finding shows a contrast in the percentage of increase and decrease over a longer period. The statistics revealed that while it took a decade for the number of Liberian students to increase by 51 percent, the number of these students decreased by 51 percent in a longer period, between 2002/03 and 2019/20 academic years.

"According to statistics, Liberia remains behind other African countries when it comes to the education system, primarily due to the 14-year civil war that took place in the country between 1989 and 2003, which has

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Ambassador McCarthy stresses children's education

United States Ambassador to Liberia Michael McCarthy has emphasized the importance of parental and community involvement in the education of Liberian children, including the need to start school at the right time, and the benefits of staying in school, especially for girls.

According to the Embassy

counties.

The Day of the Africa Child is commemorated annually on June 16 in remembrance of the 1976 Soweto massacre by the then Apartheid regime in South Africa.

The Soweto uprising was a series of demonstrations and protests led by black school children in South Africa that began on the morning of 16 June

Education programs.

He thanked the gathered leaders, educators, parents, and community members for their commitment to the education of children in the community.

The U.S. Envoy then toured the newly renovated facilities and joined grades 1 and 2 students, who were reading new books.

The release says both the renovations and the newly published books were funded by the American taxpayers via U.S. Government programs.

Ambassador McCarthy then met with county health officials and community members at C.H. Rennie Hospital and the Kakata Health Center before joining them in launching the large-scale bed net distribution campaign that takes place every three years.

This year, the campaign is funded by the U.S. Government and the Global Fund, and led by the Government of Liberia and Plan International.

A total of 2.7 million insecticide-treated bed nets are being distributed since June 16 to 25 with close monitoring from the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative team.

The release underscores that sleeping under an insecticide-treated bed net is one of the best ways to prevent malaria infections, and Liberia is the first to distribute country-wide the new interceptor next generation (iG2) nets, which use two highly effective insecticides to kill mosquitoes on contact.

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of the United States of America near Monrovia, Ambassador McCarthy spoke in Kakata, Margibi County recently when he visited USAID health and education programs in the county which coincided with celebrations marking the Day of the African Child and distribution of treated bed nets among the population to prevent malaria infections in all 15

1976.

It is estimated that 20,000 students took part in the protests. They were met with fierce police brutality and many were shot and killed.

While in the county, Ambassador McCarthy first visited Sackie Gbomoh Public School, which receives support from the U.S. Government through the USAID Read Liberia and Accelerated Quality

5 NGOs, 4 Journalists Sue Federal Government at ECOWAS Court Over Twitter Ban

Nigeria: Five non-governmental organizations and four journalists have filed a suit against the Federal Government at the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice in Abuja asking it to declare the indefinite suspension of Twitter in Nigeria a violation of their human rights under international law, order the Government to immediately rescind the suspension order, and compensate them for the violation of their rights.

The NGO applicants in the suit are Media Rights Agenda (MRA), Paradigm Initiative (PIN), Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism (PTCIJ), the International Press Centre (IPC), and Tap

Initiative for Citizens Development (TICD) while the journalists are Mr. David Hundeyin, Mr. Samuel Ogundipe, Ms Blessing Oladunjoye, and Mr. NwakanriZakariApollo.

The suit, lodged with number E C W / C C J / A P P / 2 9 / 2 1 ECW/CCJ/APP/29/21, in a 73-page documentation, was filed on their behalf by Abuja-based human rights and free expression lawyer, Mrs. MojirayoOgunlanaNkanga, under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Revised ECOWAS Treaty, and the Nigerian Constitution, among others.

They are claiming that Nigeria's ongoing suspension of

Twitter, which came into effect on or around June 4, 2021, violated their right to freedom of expression and interfered with the ability of the journalists to do their work.

The NGOs and journalists are also alleging that the general situation in Nigeria with respect to human rights, has created an environment where freedom of expression is stifled, which has contributed to creating a chilling effect on press and media freedom and which the ongoing suspension of Twitter is a continuation of.

According to them, Nigeria has consented to be bound by the obligation to respect and protect the right to freedom of expression under the ICCPR and the ACHPR and therefore, any limitation imposed by the

GoI to implement updated IPSAS cash basis of accounting for all agencies

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (Comptroller and Accountant General's Department) and in consultation with the Auditor General of Liberia will begin using the November 8, 2017, updated version of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) Cash Basis of Accounting for the preparation of the government financial statements.

The implementation is expected to take effect July 1, 2021, of the 2020/2021 fiscal

standards for central government. These will be set out in accounting regulations, established under this Act, and further detailed in instructions and guidelines issued by the Minister".

The implementation of the updated or modernized IPSAS Cash Basis of Accounting for all agencies is in recognition of recent updates to several standards by IPSAS Board in 2017, and their impacts on Cash Basis IPSAS as adopted by the Government of Liberia in 2009 for preparation of GOL financial statements.



year, advises ministries, agencies and commissions that are reporting using the IPSAS Cash Basis of Accounting to prepare financial statements using the updated version of IPSAS CASH BASIS - 2017.

The government's instruction is in compliance with the Amended and Restated Public Financial Management Act of Oct 22, 2019, Section 47.2, which states "The Minister in consultation with the Auditor General, shall be responsible for establishing the accounting rules and

Accordingly, a period of ninety days have been given to ministries, agencies and commissions as of the July 1, 2021 timeline to prepare the financial statements through the updated version.

For additional information and Guidance, Ministries, Agencies, Commissions and All Reporting on Government of Liberia Expenditures are requested to contact the Department of the Comptroller and Accountant General at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

government on the right to freedom of expression can only be justifiable where the restriction is provided by law, serves a legitimate aim, and is necessary and proportionate in a democratic society.

Contending that these three conditions must all be met before any restriction on the right to freedom of expression can be considered legitimate, they noted that the suspension of Twitter is not provided by law, that there is no justification for it under Nigeria's domestic laws, and that it was done by the

government in an arbitrary manner in circumstances where there was no public or judicial oversight, transparency or accountability.

The NGOs and journalists are asking the Court to declare the indefinite suspension of Twitter a continuous violation of their human rights under international law, particularly the right to seek and receive information as well as the right to express and disseminate opinions under Article 9(1) and (2) of the African Charter;

Français

Le Liberia et la Banque mondiale signent des accords de financement de 157.000.000 USD

La Banque mondiale et le gouvernement du Libéria ont signé vendredi trois accords de financement d'un montant de 117 millions de dollars US pour la construction de 101 kilomètres de routes qui relieront Saclepea à Tappita à la ville de Toe ; et 40 millions de dollars US pour la deuxième opération de

politique de développement pour une croissance inclusive (IGDPO-2).

Les accords font partie des efforts visant à stimuler les activités économiques dans les corridors du centre au sud-est du pays en améliorant la connectivité routière.

Le ministre des Finances, Samuel D. Tweah Jr., a remercié la Banque mondiale et les autres

partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux pour le soutien apporté à plusieurs secteurs de l'économie, en se concentrant sur la santé, la connectivité routière, le développement des infrastructures et l'éducation. Il a félicité les partenaires pour ce qu'il a qualifié de «

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Dans un communiqué, Laurent Gbagbo s'inquiète «de la violence qui se perpétue » en Côte d'Ivoire

Laurent Gbagbo a donné sa première communication officielle depuis son retour en Côte d'Ivoire, jeudi 17 juin. Dans un communiqué, l'ancien président dit « s'inquiéter de la violence qui se perpétue dans le pays », faisant référence aux échauffourées le jour de son arrivée, entre ses partisans venus l'accueillir à l'aéroport et les forces de l'ordre. Toute la journée, les supporters ont été dispersés à coups de gaz lacrymogènes aux

alentours de l'aéroport d'Abidjan.

Présenté comme un message de remerciements, le communiqué - attribué à Laurent Gbagbo, mais signé de la main de son porte-parole Justin Katinan Koné - s'attarde surtout sur les accrochages entre la police et les sympathisants de son parti du Front populaire ivoirien, venus en masse pour l'acclamer dès l'atterrissage de l'avion qui le transportait à l'aéroport d'Abidjan.

L'ancien président « remercie

tout particulièrement la jeunesse ivoirienne », ajoutant que cette dernière a parfois payé « le prix lourd illustré par des blessures graves causées par une violence brutale que rien ne justifiait ». Laurent Gbagbo affirme également s'inquiéter de la violence qui se perpétue en Côte d'Ivoire, avant d'appeler « à la retenue pour donner enfin une chance à la réconciliation de prospérer », poursuit-il.

L'ex-détenu de la Cour pénale internationale maintient que les forces de l'ordre sont responsables de ces débordements. Une preuve, selon lui, que « le chemin de la réconciliation est encore long ».

Pour leur part, les autorités ivoiriennes dévoilent avoir interpellé quatre auteurs de troubles ce jeudi. Dans le journal télévisé de la chaîne publique RTI de samedi dernier, les suspects apparaissent vêtus de noir, cagoulés, deux d'entre eux portant un logo du FPI. D'après le major Siaka Dosso, préfet de police d'Abidjan, ils avaient été recrutés pour favoriser des actes de vandalisme et faire porter le chapeau aux forces de l'ordre



Éditorial

Ce que le Président Weah pense du tribunal des crimes de guerre pour le Libéria

La réponse du président George Manneh Weah à la préoccupation du représentant du comté de Lofa, Clarence Massaquio, concernant la nécessité d'établir un tribunal des crimes de guerre et crimes économiques pour le Libéria afin d'éradiquer l'impunité indique clairement qu'il n'a aucunement l'intention de poursuivre les personnes qui ont commis des crimes odieux pendant la guerre civile. En tout cas les victimes de la crise ne peuvent plus compter sur l'administration Weah pour que justice leur soit rendue.

Le représentant du comté de Lofa, Clarence Massaquio, s'exprimant ce week-end dans le district de Foya, dans le comté de Lofa, a rappelé au président Weah que les Libériens sont blessés parce qu'ils ont perdu des proches, y compris des parents, donc l'impunité ne devrait pas faire obstacle à la situation des responsabilités et à la justice. Le législateur de Lofa, comme de nombreux Libériens, souhaite que la recommandation de la Commission vérité et réconciliation concernant les poursuites judiciaires soit mise en œuvre.

« Je sais que ce n'est pas courant de dire ça. Mais Monsieur le Président nous avons le rapport de la CVR, quelles que soient les formes qu'elles prennent Monsieur le Président, ceux qui sont dans ces charniers ne sont pas ici aujourd'hui de leur propre gré. Nous demandons justice », a-t-il plaidé.

Mais le président, par la façon dont il a répondu au législateur, considère la question du tribunal des crimes de guerre comme une discussion farfelue sur l'agenda de son gouvernement. Il a ainsi demandé aux Libériens de plutôt continuer à vivre en toute impunité au nom de la paix.

Les Libériens, tant au pays qu'à l'étranger, aspirent à la justice et à juste titre, en particulier étant donné que les chefs de guerre et autres auteurs de crimes ne cessent de montrer publiquement qu'ils n'ont aucun remords au sujet des atrocités qu'ils ont commises pendant la crise qui a décimé des familles et brisé des rêves.

La plupart des acteurs clés de la guerre sont de retour au gouvernement, y compris l'Assemblée législative. Ils bénéficient d'une immunité totale en dépit des recommandations faites par la Commission vérité et réconciliation. Il s'agit par exemple du célèbre chef de guerre, le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, chef de l'INPFL, du représentant Dr. George S. Boley, chef du Liberia Peace Council, de Sekou Damate Conneh, chef LURD, et du professeur Alhaji G.V. Kromah, chef de l'ULIMO-K, entre autres.

En fait, le sénateur Johnson, un fidèle allié politique du président Weah, continue de se vanter qu'aucun tribunal des crimes de guerre ne viendra au Libéria et nie publiquement qu'il a commis des atrocités pendant la guerre, c'est aussi le cas pour le Représentant Boley et pour Sekou Damate Conneh.

Ainsi, lorsque le président Weah appelle les Libériens à s'asseoir autour d'une table ronde pour discuter de la façon de faire avancer le pays plutôt que d'appeler à un tribunal pour crimes de guerre qui pourrait renvoyer le Libéria aux jours sombres, vous pouvez comprendre que la justice va nous échapper continuellement, tant que cette administration est au pouvoir.

Cependant, la Sainte Bible dit que la voix du peuple est la voix de Dieu. Les Libériens ne devraient jamais abandonner le combat. Ils devraient continuer à faire pression pour la mise en place d'un tribunal pour les crimes de guerre et économiques malgré le manque apparent de volonté politique de ce gouvernement.

L'histoire a prouvé à maintes reprises que la volonté du peuple finit par l'emporter malgré les tentatives de réprimer leurs opinions et de piétiner leurs souhaits exprimés de justice, qui est le pivot sur lequel reposent la paix dont le président a parlé, le développement et toutes les autres entreprises humaines positives.

Français

Le Liberia et la Banque mondiale

prise de mesures concrètes » qui visent à aider le Libéria à relever le défi auquel il est confronté en raison des mauvaises conditions routières.

Le MinistreTweahs'est félicité du fait que la Banque continue de travailler avec le Libéria dans les moments bons et difficiles pour structurer la voie de la transformation du pays.

« La Banque mondiale a soutenu le Libéria autant dans les bons momentsque dans les moments difficiles en vue de permettre au gouvernement de structurer la voie de la transformation du pays », a-t-il déclaré.

Pour lui, la cérémonie est une « célébration du partenariat et de la coordination » entre la Banque et le gouvernement du Libéria.

« Le développement n'est pas immédiat. C'est au bout des efforts énormes que consentent beaucoup d'agences qui travaillent ensemble pour résoudre les risques et les défis qu'on y arrive », a-t-il dit.

Il a aussi indiqué que la cérémonie de signature est également une étape importante grâce à la coordination et au partenariat qui fonctionnentgrâce à l'adaptabilité et la résilience qui examinent les modèles préexistants et les redéfinit pour le développement.

Pour sa part, le directeur national de la Banque mondiale KhwimaNthara a expliqué que 96 millions de dollars des 117 millions de dollars sont sous forme de prêt pour les projets SECAMP et RETRAP, tandis que 21 millions de dollars sont une subvention des gouvernements britannique et allemand, et que l'UE a fait un don au Libéria par le biais du Fonds fiduciaire pour la reconstruction du Libéria (LRTF) qui est géré par la Banque.«C'est un grand privilège et un honneur pour moi de participer à une autre étape importante du

partenariat de développement entre le Libéria et la Banque mondiale alors que nous signons des accords de financement pour le projet de gestion des actifs routiers du corridor sud-est (SECAMP) d'un montant de US\$ 62 millions et le Projet de transformation de l'économie rurale (RETRAP) d'un montant de 55 millions de dollars », a déclaré le directeur de la Banque, Nthara.

Ntharas'est dit convaincu que les projets contribueront grandement à transformer l'économie du Libéria et, à son tour, les moyens de subsistance des personnes vivant dans ces régions. Il a indiqué que la Banque travailleraitavec le Libéria et d'autres partenaires au développement pour obtenir des fonds supplémentaires pour terminer le bitumage de la dernière section de la route.

De même, la ministre adjoint des Travaux publics, l'hon. Ruth Coker-Collins, a déclaré pour sa part que la signature de trois accords de financement supplémentaires représente une étape importante dans le secteur routier.

« En tant que gouvernement, nous avons ce projet à cœur et nous avons depuis entamé les trente-neuf premiers kilomètres qui sont en cours, nous essayons donc de terminer le processus d'approvisionnement pour la phase suivante. Je pense que c'est un jour historique pour moi", a-t-elle souligné.

« Nous sommes enthousiastes et seront prêts à tous égards à faire avancer le pays quand le parlement aura ratifié ces accords. Nous nous pencherons sur la chaussée des principaux corridors routiers du sud-est reliés à Tappitta dans le comté de Nimba.

En outre, on s'attend à ce que les projets, une fois mis en œuvre, rendent l'environnement propice au développement de l'agro-industrie, améliorent la compétitivité et l'accès au marché grâce à des alliances productives, à l'agro-marketing et aux investissements dans les infrastructures routières, à la coordination et à la gestion des projets et à l'intervention d'urgence en cas d'urgence.

COMMENTAIRE

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

Nous n'avons pas besoin du G7

NEW YORK - La débauche de moyens déployés pour le dernier sommet du G7 n'aura servi à rien. S'il fallait absolument réunir un tel sommet, le mieux eût été de le faire en ligne, ce qui aurait épargné du temps, des frais logistiques et du dioxyde de carbone émis par les avions des participants. Cela dit, les sommets du G7 sont devenus, et c'est surtout là que le bât blesse, un anachronisme. Les dirigeants politiques doivent cesser de consacrer leur énergie à un exercice non représentatif de ce qu'est devenue l'économie mondiale et qui se traduit par un hiatus de plus en plus net entre les buts affichés et les moyens adoptés pour y parvenir.

Il n'y a rien, absolument rien, dans ce sommet du G7 qui n'aurait pu être fait à moindres frais, plus facilement et simplement, par Zoom. Le sommet diplomatique le plus utile de l'année fut la réunion en ligne, appelée par le président Joe Biden, des 40 dirigeants mondiaux qui se sont entretenus en avril du changement climatique. Les rencontres internationales régulières en ligne de responsables politiques, de parlementaires, de scientifiques et de militants sont indispensables. Elles normalisent le débat international.

Mais pourquoi restreindre ce débat au cadre du G7, auquel s'est déjà substitué le G20 ? Lorsque les pays du G7 (le Canada, la France, l'Allemagne, l'Italie, le Japon, le Royaume-Uni et les États-Unis) ont inauguré ces sommets annuels, dans les années 1970, ils dominaient encore l'économie mondiale. En 1980, ils comptaient pour 51 % du PIB mondial (évalué aux prix internationaux), tandis que les pays d'Asie n'en représentaient que 8,8 %. En 2021, la part des pays du G7 dans la production mondiale n'est plus que de 31 %, tandis que celle des mêmes pays asiatiques se monte à 32,9 %.

Le G20, parce qu'il comprend la Chine, l'Inde, l'Indonésie et d'autres grands pays en développement, représente environ 81 % de la production mondiale ; les pays à haut revenu et les économies en développement qui en sont membres y voient s'équilibrer leurs intérêts. S'il n'est pas parfait, puisqu'il laisse sur le pas de sa porte les pays plus pauvres et plus petits et que l'Union africaine devrait y appartenir, il offre au moins un format adapté pour débattre des questions globales qui concernent l'essentiel de l'économie mondiale. Le sommet qui réunit tous les ans l'Union européenne et les États-Unis peut se charger de la plupart des tâches originellement assignées au G7.

Le manque d'intérêt du G7 tient surtout aux promesses non tenues de ses dirigeants. Ils ont plus de goût pour les déclarations symboliques que pour la solution des problèmes. Et, ce qui est pire, ils donnent l'impression de résoudre les problèmes mondiaux alors qu'en réalité ils les laissent s'aggraver. Le sommet de cette année ne fait pas exception à la règle.

Considérons les vaccins contre le Covid-19. Les dirigeants du G7 se sont fixé pour objectif de vacciner au moins 60 % de la population mondiale. Ils se sont aussi engagés à partager directement dans le courant de l'année prochaine 870 millions de doses, qui seraient assez, on peut le supposer, pour immuniser complètement (par l'injection de deux doses) 435 millions de personnes... lesquelles représentent le dixième environ des 60 % de la population mondiale, soit 4,7 milliards d'individus.

Les dirigeants du G7 n'ont proposé aucune solution pour parvenir au but affiché d'une protection mondiale contre le virus et n'en ont assurément imaginé aucune, alors même qu'il ne serait pas difficile de le faire. Estimer la production mensuelle de chaque vaccin n'est pas une chose compliquée et il est parfaitement possible d'allouer équitablement et efficacement les doses produites à l'ensemble des pays.

L'une des raisons pour lesquelles cette solution n'a pas encore vu le jour tient au refus du gouvernement des États-Unis de débattre avec les dirigeants russes et chinois de la distribution des vaccins à l'échelle mondiale. En outre, les gouvernements du G7 laissent

le champ libre aux fabricants de vaccins, qui négocient séparément et confidentiellement et non pas dans le cadre d'un plan global. Le G7 fixe aussi des objectifs mondiaux sans prendre suffisamment en compte les besoins spécifiques de chaque pays, ce qui constitue peut-être une troisième raison.

Le changement climatique offre un autre exemple des fausses promesses du G7. Lors du précédent sommet, ses dirigeants avaient adopté, à juste titre, l'objectif d'une décarbonation mondiale d'ici 2050, et appelé les pays en développement à en faire autant. Mais plutôt que de mettre en place un plan de financement qui aurait permis aux pays en développement d'atteindre cette cible, ils se sont contentés de réitérer un engagement financier formulé dès 2009 et resté, depuis, lettre morte. « Nous réaffirmons l'objectif collectif des pays développés - ont-ils déclaré - de mobiliser conjointement 100 milliards de dollars par an auprès de sources publiques et privées, jusqu'en 2025, pour soutenir des mesures concrètes d'atténuation et une mise en œuvre transparente. »

Il est difficile d'exagérer le cynisme d'un tel vœu, maintes fois répété. Les pays riches n'ont pas respecté la date butoir qu'ils s'étaient eux-mêmes fixée, à savoir l'année 2020, pour dispenser ces 100 milliards de dollars annuels depuis si longtemps promis - qui ne représentent que 0,2 % de leur PIB. Une somme qui n'est, par ailleurs, qu'une faible part des fonds nécessaires aux pays en développement pour décarboner leurs économies et s'adapter au changement climatique.

Le hiatus entre les objectifs toujours revus à la hausse du G7 et ses maigres facultés est tout aussi patent pour ce qui concerne l'éducation. Des centaines de millions d'enfants des pays pauvres ne peuvent accéder à l'enseignement primaire et secondaire parce que leurs gouvernements n'ont pas les moyens financiers de leur donner des professeurs, des salles de classe et des fournitures scolaires. En 2020, l'UNESCO estimait que les pays à faible revenu et à revenu intermédiaire de la tranche inférieure avaient besoin d'environ 504 milliards de dollars par an jusqu'en 2030 pour que tous les enfants puissent achever leur enseignement secondaire, mais ne pouvaient rassembler, avec leurs seules ressources, qu'environ 356 milliards de dollars, ce qui laisse une différence d'environ 148 milliards de dollars par an.

Que propose donc le G7 dans le communiqué de cette année ? Les dirigeants souhaitent, disent-ils, « ajouter 40 millions de filles dans le système d'éducation et [verser] au moins 2,75 milliards de dollars en financement dans le Partenariat mondial pour l'éducation. » Ces chiffres ne sont pas sérieux. Ils sortent du chapeau d'un magicien et laisseront aux portes de l'école des centaines de millions d'enfants, malgré les engagements fermes pris au niveau mondial (formalisés dans l'Objectif de développement durable 4) en faveur d'un enseignement secondaire universel. Des solutions à grande échelle sont disponibles - comme la mobilisation de financements à taux bas en recourant aux banques multilatérales de développement - mais les dirigeants du G7 n'en proposent pas.

Les problèmes du monde sont beaucoup trop urgents pour que nous laissions le soin de résoudre ceux qui sont identifiés à des déclarations grandiloquentes et à des mesures de pure forme eu égard à l'immensité des besoins. Si la politique n'était qu'un simple spectacle sportif, dont les acteurs étaient jugés à l'aune de leurs talents photogéniques, le sommet du G7 aurait peut-être un rôle à jouer. Mais nous devons répondre à des besoins urgents à l'échelle mondiale : mettre un terme à la pandémie, décarboner le système énergétique, scolariser les enfants et atteindre les ODD.

Voici donc quelques recommandations : moins de rencontres en tête-à-tête ; plus de travail sérieux en amont, pour permettre aux moyens de se hisser à la hauteur des fins ; plus de réunions régulières sur Zoom afin de débattre de ce qui doit réellement être fait ; un recours plus fréquent et conséquent, enfin, au G20 (plus l'Union africaine), qui constitue le groupe capable de faire avancer les choses. L'Asie, l'Afrique et l'Amérique latine doivent participer au débat si nous voulons véritablement résoudre les problèmes de la planète.

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CPP takes NEC, Supreme Court to task

The Collaborating Political Parties or CPP has taken the National Elections Commissions NEC and the Supreme Court to task over delays to certificate CPP candidate Simeon B. Taylor since his victory was announced on December 13, 2020

In a statement issued over the weekend, the CPP described the delay as deliberate and unjustified violation of the Liberian constitution by NEC, and the Supreme Court in the ongoing endless case involving their candidate Taylor and the Congress for Democratic

Supreme Court to stop all violations as actions and consequences breeding from such deliberate violation of the Liberian constitution has never been in the best interest of peace and national security and Grand Cape Mount County will be of no exception. These two agencies will be fully responsible shall there be any actions that will undermined the peace, security and democracy of our country.

CPP: "Whereas, the Constitution calls for thirty (30) days by the NEC and fourteen (14) days with appeal to the Supreme court, a total of forty four (44) days within which to

(6) months and might continue beyond if nothing is done to stop this violation. The CPP wonder if, we are a country of laws or men?"

In an earlier statement issued by the Executive Committee Chairman of the CPP; Musa Hassan Bility stated that 'the CPP takes note of the fact that the Constitution of Liberia remains the fundamental law of the Republic of Liberia and that any law contrary to the Constitution is without legal effect, according to Chapter I, Article 2 of the Constitution. He indicated that the CPP is concerned about the growing violations of 'relevant provisions' of Chapter VIII of the constitution of Liberia, specifically, Article 83 (C), which describes the processing of elections complaints and identifies the timeframe to receive and determine results of investigation by the NEC and the Supreme Court of Liberia.

The CPP reiterated its support for the position taken by the people of Grand Cape Mount County in support and protection of their voices at the ballot box, as submitted to the Liberian Senate on May 27, 2021, urging urgent action from that body in consonance with Chapter 1, Article 1 and Chapter VIII, Article 84 to end the six (6) months of denial of their full representation in the Liberian senate and to certificate and seat Hon. Simeon B. Taylor as the Senator of their County.

The CPP has meanwhile expressed its commitment to working with its legislators in the National Legislature to ensure actions in defense of constitutional democracy in Liberia and to end the denial of the people of Grand Cape Mount County to full and just representation in the Liberian Senate.



Change (CDC) candidate Victor V. Watson, saying these are attempts to disrupt the peace, security and democracy of the country.

"These two bodies, the NEC and the Supreme Court, which have jurisdictional authority to investigate election complaints have raised questions of public trust in the ability of the officials to uphold and defend the constitution of Liberia, the CPP noted.

The parties said they were urging the NEC and the

receive and decide an election complaint, the NEC and the Supreme Court have gone more than one hundred and twenty (120) days of hearing proceedings, contrary to Article 83 (C). And by the time the NEC reaffirms Senator-elect Simeon Taylor as the winner of the December 8, 2020 Special Senatorial Midterm Elections, the Constitution of Liberia would have been further violated, under Article 45, which established that each Senator shall serve a nine (9) year term. Already, the hearing is in its six

Lawyers warned

Cont'd from back page

court late or refuse to honor notices of assignment issued by the court.

"Let me put all of you on notice that we will impose heavy fines on lawyers who come to court late, or lawyers who refuse to honor notices of assignment issued by the court," Judge Dunbar said.

Judge Scheaplor noted that it does not speak well of a lawyer who always comes to court late, adding that being very punctual in attending to assignments is just as

important as winning a case.

According to him, most of the complaints received from the public about the judiciary is that cases stay on the trial dockets for a very long time, thereby urging that all must work together during this term of court to hear and dispense a good number of the cases on the court's dockets.

As legal professionals, Judge Scheaplor said they should all know that time is very important in the discharge of their duties.

Assistant youth minister

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"Women empowerment is an important component for the growth of any society and this is why we are here today conducting this training for our women. The motive of this training is to build the capacity of young people, especially our young women do that they will be able to compete in society," she stated.

According to her, participants at the training were recruited by and through the Office of the Youth Coordinator in Bong County.

"We have come here to train our women in different skills such as business development and leadership. It is about educating them to be successful leaders in society. This is also going to help them to know how to conduct themselves to become successful in business. For those who are already into business, it is going to help them to manage their businesses properly. In short, we want them to be successful and be change makers in their respective communities," she added.

In remarks, Bong County Superintendent, Madam Esther Walker, lauded MYS for the training, which is aimed at developing the minds of young women to think and act positively.

Superintendent Walker indicated that such training is in the right direction for societal growth.

She then pledged her leadership's support to working with the Ministry of Youth and Sports through its local offices in Bong County in improving the lives of youth of the county.

"We are going to continue our relationship with you through the youth coordinator here to ensure that that issues affecting youth are given attention and addressed," Supt. Walker stated.

Madam Ajawavi Jackie Aja Ajavon, lead facilitator at the training, said the training will help participants to follow their dreams and aspirations so as to become better persons in society.

Madam Ajavon, a Representative of the 5th District of the State of Delaware and professor at Wilmington University, asserted that women empowerment is cardinal to the growth of any nation with Liberia being no exception.

Owing to the important nature of the training, Madam Ajavon stressed the important need for follow up so that organizers will know the impact of the training.

"I like to follow up because you just don't want to train people and you never see them again. So, in six months, I am going to come back to see whether they are the same girls that we trained or they have followed the lessons learned to change their lives," she stated.

Professor Ajavon, who also hailed from Bong County, vowed to build a community center that will help transform youth through empowerment opportunities.

"Between now and 2025, we are going to build a community center that will be free for everyone in Bong County. It is going be big; it is going have a sport facility, an education facility and GED for young women," she among other things added.

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Article 19(2) of the ICCPR and the rights of journalists under Article 66(2)(c) of the Revised ECOWAS Treaty.

They are also seeking a declaration that the Government's directive, through the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), for the deactivation of Twitter accounts in Nigeria violates their human rights under international law and that the threat by the Attorney-General of the Federation to criminally prosecute anybody found to be using Twitter in Nigeria

5 NGOs, 4 Journalists Sue

following the suspension of the platform also violates their human rights under international law.

The NGOs and the journalists are therefore urging the court to issue orders mandating the Government to immediately take all necessary measures to rescind the suspension of Twitter in Nigeria; to take all necessary measures to guarantee non-recurrence in order to prevent the same violation occurring again in future; compelling the Government to issue adequate reparations, including

restitution, compensation and measures of satisfaction to them to be specified and submitted to the court; as well as to issue an order of injunction restraining the Government, its servants and agents from imposing criminal sanctions on individuals, including the applicants, who use Twitter or any other social media service provider.

No date has been fixed for the hearing of the suit.

The suit is being litigated with the support of Media Defence, a London-based NGO, which provides legal assistance to journalists, citizen journalists and independent media.

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ECOWAS may stop flights

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) may ban flights coming from Liberia in the wake of serious surge of the coronavirus in the country, Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe warns in Monrovia.

The Bomi County Senator, who chairs the ECOWAS

will ban flights coming from Liberia", Senator disclosed Monday, June 20, 2021 on OK Conversation a live talk show hosted by OK FM 99.5.

He notes that Liberia lacks almost everything to fight the pandemic, including oxygen, vaccinators and beds. "You cannot fight Covid without

Liberia's deputy minister of health and chief medical officer Doctor Francis Kateh recently confirmed that the new variant of the virus is causing serious effects and requires effort of everyone in the fight.

He said unlike the outbreak in March 2020, the new variant is very dangerous with severe impacts on victims.

The chief medical officer however disclosed that most of the affected persons have been placed on oxygen due to breathing difficulty. "If we remove the oxygen, they will die."

But Senator Snowe frowns at health authorities in the country for not doing enough in the fight, alarming that people are dying.

"If you go to Ghana today, you will not leave the airport until your covid-19 result is out. You come to Liberia, you take the test, they tell you go home; if you are positive we will call you", he explains in frustration.

Senator Snowe just returned from Ghana where he met with Ghanaian President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and Speaker Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin and discussed regional security.

The meeting was part of the ongoing 46th Ordinary meeting of the Mediation and Security Council of ECOWAS. **Story by Jonathan Browne**



Parliamentary committee on political affairs, says the regional body is worried that Liberia has the highest number of infected persons in the region.

"ECOWAS is considering that if you cannot vaccinate your people, they will not travel. Sooner or later, they

oxygen, this is very serious and we need to fight it", he emphasizes.

Recent statistics from the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) revealed there are 2,729 cases of COVID -19 in the country 2,105 recoveries with scores of people in intensive care unit and nearly 100 deaths.

Poverty reaches 68

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intervention, and leadership efforts, saying those are some of the good things the former vice president did for Liberia.

Tweh maintained the interview was meant for the former vice president to tell the Liberian people his plans, visions and to share his experience about what he was able to do while serving as vice president.

He said the legacy left behind by the former vice president while serving the country from the former LPMC, including the Ministry of Agriculture and the LPRC prior to becoming vice president is enormous, adding that while serving as vice president in the Sirleaf regime, the agriculture sector was used as a vehicle and a critical driver for enhancing economic growth, economic development and creation of jobs.

Tweh explained that those engagements helped to minimize corruption, noting that from 2006 to 2016 poverty was significantly reduced by an average of 16 percent, which was as a consequence of the then government utilizing the agriculture sector, as vehicle and critical driver for enhancing economic development.

"We all witnessed the signing of various agreements including the Sime Darby and others that the government utilized to increase jobs and enhance economic growth."

He wondered whether the CDC-led government has been able to utilize the agriculture sector as spelt out in its Pro Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity (PAPD) to increase jobs and reduce

poverty.

He recalled that in 2020, the World Bank released a report that indicated that 665,000 Liberians were at risk of sinking into poverty, because of the CDC-led government's failure to implement its economic policy.

But in response, deputy youth and sports minister Isaac Doe said Liberians should be grateful for services the former vice president made to the country in his youthful years.

However, minister Doe thinks following those years of services, Mr. Boakai has nothing to offer again.

He argued the former vice president has had every opportunity to give back to Liberia, but as we speak, it's impossible for somebody to think that something is left with Mr. Boakai.

He said there are records of the former vice president performance during his 42 years of service, adding that he didn't do much and there is absolutely nothing the former vice president said that hasn't been said in this country, as all of what he said on Spoon TV are repeat of the same thing people have been saying.

Minister Doe asked what is there for Liberians to see from former Vice President Boakai, saying "and I really don't want my brother Amos to say Amb. Boakai was a vice president so he couldn't do anything. Is he going to be telling some of us who are in government today not to do anything because we aren't the President?" He asked.

"The UP can't use the CPP as a riding object to get back in power", the ruling party official defended. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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CPI, rights groups call

The 2016 Council decision mentioned the need for progress on trials of political prisoners. Some political prisoners have since been released, while others remain in prison. More recently, hundreds of Congrès national pour la liberté (CNL) members were arrested before, during and after the 2020 elections, many of them arbitrarily. A significant number were released after the elections, but others remain in prison. Interference by ruling party and government officials in politically motivated court cases is common, violating basic fair trial standards.

In 2016, the EU stated that the cases of prisoners arrested during the 2015 protests and security incidents should be handled in accordance with Burundian and international law. Some protestors arrested in 2015 have been released, but many were tortured and convicted during unfair trials. Numerous people suspected of opposing the government in other contexts have been arrested more

recently, particularly following security incidents. They face the same absence of due process: they are often arrested in an arbitrary manner, some have been tortured, and they cannot be guaranteed a fair trial.

In 2016, the EU asked the Burundian government to investigate allegations of torture and extra-judicial killings, and to follow up on the conclusions of such investigations. At the height of Burundi's political crisis in 2015 and 2016, police and intelligence agents tortured scores of suspected government opponents and killed many others. No credible investigations have taken place. Dozens of new torture cases have been documented since the 2020 elections, and at least one detainee died in detention after being tortured by intelligence agents in 2021. The 2016 decision requested the participation of international experts in such investigations, but the Burundian government forced the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to close its office in Burundi in 2019 and does not allow the UN Commission of Inquiry or international human rights organizations access to the

country.

The Burundian government was unwilling to talk to its opponents during a dialogue under the auspices of the East African Community, which has since been abandoned. It has also failed to engage with exiled political opponents and civil society actors. Instead, on 2 February 2021, a Supreme Court judgement was published (dated June 2020), convicting a group of 34 exiled defendants, including several journalists, civil society activists and political opponents, to life imprisonment for their alleged involvement in the failed coup d'état in May 2015. The defendants were tried in absentia and did not have legal representation, denying them a fair trial and flouting the most basic principles of due process of law. Nor has there been any official dialogue between the government and the main opposition party inside Burundi, the CNL, many of whose members have been killed, arrested and tortured, particularly before and during the 2020 elections. Fabien Banciryanino, an outspoken

Ambassador McCarthy

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As the visit concluded, Ambassador McCarthy thanked the community leaders, professionals, parents, and young people for their commitment to the health and education of the children in Margibi County. County Superintendent Kerry Varnie assured the

Ambassador that Margibi will make maximum use of the U.S. Government investment.

Ambassador McCarthy said that he will fondly remember his trip to Kakata and hopes to come back in the near future to celebrate their progress. **-Press Release**

former member of parliament arrested in October 2020, was sentenced in May 2021 to one year in prison for endangering internal state security and rebellion.

Recommendations

The EU should not signal in any way that it is willing to ignore its own benchmarks and fundamental principles in a desire to improve diplomatic relations. The EU and its member states should:

Communicate to the Burundian government that sustainable and demonstrable

progress on the fight against impunity, the restoration of public freedoms, and an end to torture are fundamental to resuming cooperation with the EU under the Cotonou agreement.

Request that Burundian authorities take immediate steps to restore the space for independent human rights advocacy and reporting in Burundi. These should include, at a minimum, the immediate and unconditional release of Germain Rukuki and Fabien Banciryanino, the lifting of the

Stop lying to clients -Lawyers warned



By Winston W. Parley

Judges at the Civil Law Courts in Monrovia have issued a stern warning to lawyers telling them to stop lying to clients under false pretense just to extract money.

Judges asserted that some lawyers here have been deliberately lying to extract

money from clients under the pretense that such monies are intended to see judges expedite the assignment of cases.

Liberia's justice system is not only plagued by alleged corruption but also delayed in cases being called forth for hearing.

Delivering a charge at the opening of Civil Law Courts "A"

and "B" in Monrovia Monday, 21 June, assigned Civil Law Court "B" Judge Scheaplor R. Dunbar warned all lawyers who are in the habit of deliberately lying to their clients about the issuance of assignments to stop.

"The judges of this court do not ask for or demand any money from lawyers in order to assign cases. Do not tell your client that you need money to see the judge for an assignment. Do not lie [about] the judge," Judge Dunbar said.

According to the Civil Law Court Judge, depending on the distance, it costs not more than LD\$1,500 to superintend a notice of assignment, adding that it is unethical for a lawyer to charge a client far more than what is the reasonable cost for superintending an assignment.

In a related development, Judge Dunbar has warned that the court will impose heavy fines on lawyers who go to

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Man City make £100m transfer bid for Tottenham striker

Manchester City have made a £100m bid for Tottenham striker Harry Kane.

City are open to including players in addition to the cash offer, but Tottenham are expected to reject the bid.

The England captain is said to be fully focused on the Euros, with a decision on his club future not expected before the conclusion of the tournament.

Kane is valued at upwards of £120m and Tottenham are

keen to keep him despite the 27-year-old believing he has a gentleman's agreement with Daniel Levy.

Levy, who has appointed Juventus' former football officer Fabio Paratici as the club's new managing director of football, said earlier this month he sympathises with Kane's frustrations about the lack of silverware at Spurs, but hinted a deal could be difficult to do.

"All I will say is his frustrations in not winning are shared by me and all the fans and players. We all want to win," Levy told the



club's official website.

"One of the items that Fabio will have to deal with when he comes in is which players are going to be retained, which will be asked to look for other clubs.

"There is a market out there. What we want and what other clubs want is not always possible to achieve. We will do whatever is right for the club."

Levy confirmed Spurs will be active in the transfer market this summer, but was keen to restrict expectations about how much money they could spend.

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