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# Liberia to get US\$350M IMF money



IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva

**-to boost reserve, support growth and covid-19 vaccines**



# Liberia's covid cases decline

**-Chief Medical Officer says**

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# Continental News

## Ethiopia's PM resoundingly wins delayed election

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has won the country's delayed elections with an overwhelming majority, the election board said on Saturday.

The board said Mr Abiy's Prosperity Party won 410 out of 436 seats, giving him another five-year term in office.

Polls were not held in the war-torn Tigray region, where many thousands are living in famine conditions.

In all, a fifth of the country failed to take part in voting owing to insecurity and logistical problems.

Another round of elections has been provisionally scheduled for 6 September in the affected areas, but there is no date for a vote in Tigray.

The election had already been delayed due to the pandemic. Mr Abiy, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, described the vote as a "historically inclusive election" in a statement on Twitter.

A new government is

expected to be formed in October. However, there are concerns about the election's integrity.

Opposition parties had complained that a government crackdown against their officials had disrupted their plans to prepare. Berhanu Nega said his party, Ethiopian Citizens for Social Justice, had filed more than 200 complaints after

observers in a number of regions were blocked by local officials and militiamen.

Securing a parliamentary majority gives Prime Minister Abiy a governing mandate, but instead of celebration, the focus will quickly turn to how he will deal with mounting challenges.

The ruinous war in Tigray, in which he prematurely

declared victory, has killed thousands of Ethiopians, displaced millions, and left hundreds of thousands facing famine.

His government has also been accused of cutting power and blocking phone lines across the region, leaving hospitals to run on generators. His unilateral declaration of a ceasefire has not been heeded by the Tigray rebel forces, who continue to fight Eritrean soldiers and Amhara militias.

This election win will do little to improve Mr Abiy's reputation in the eyes of the international community. His next moves will be closely watched at home and abroad. The state-affiliated Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) said there were "no serious or widespread human rights violations" in stations it observed. However, in a preliminary report the EHRC said that some constituencies experienced "improper arrests", voter intimidation and "harassment" of observers and journalists.

It also said it had observed several killings in the days

leading up to the vote in the regional state of Oromia.

In May, the EU accused Ethiopia of failing to guarantee the independence of its election.

The election was Mr Abiy's first electoral test since coming to power in 2018.

He has clamped down on corruption, released political prisoners, appointed more women to the cabinet and made peace with neighbouring Eritrea, following a 1998-2000 border war that left tens of thousands of people dead.

He won the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize, but just a year later, he waged a military operation in his own country - deploying troops to Tigray to oust the TPLF as the region's ruling party after it seized military bases in what Mr Abiy saw as a bid to overthrow him.

On Saturday, for the first time in two weeks, the UN World Food Programme began moving aid into Tigray. Different sides in the conflict have been accusing each other of blocking much-needed shipments.

The UN said on Friday that humanitarian operations were being constrained by the absence of essential services including fuel, telecommunications and electricity. BBC



Mr Abiy hailed the result as 'historic' in a statement on Twitter

## South Africa deploys military to tackle Zuma riots

South Africa is deploying the military to tackle riots that have broken out since the jailing of former president Jacob Zuma. Shops were looted and buildings set on fire on Monday as Zuma challenged his sentence at a hearing in the top court. At least six people have been killed and 200 arrested since the unrest began last week.

Zuma was convicted of

contempt of court after failing to attend an inquiry into corruption during his presidency.

The 79-year-old, who denies corruption, handed himself in to police last week to begin his 15-month sentence.

He is hoping to get the sentence rescinded or reduced at the Constitutional Court hearing. However, legal experts say his chances of success are slim.

The case has sparked an

unprecedented legal drama in South Africa, which has never seen a former president jailed before. Footage on Monday showed a fire at a shopping centre in the city of Pietermaritzburg, in Zuma's home province of KwaZulu-Natal, and people looting.

The situation in the city is volatile, the BBC's Nomsa Maseko reports from the city. Protesters responded with live ammunition when riot police fired rubber bullets to disperse them at one of the shopping centres that were looted overnight, she says.

The violence has also spread to Johannesburg, in Gauteng province.

On Sunday, protesters armed with sticks, golf clubs and branches were seen marching through Johannesburg's central business district.

The military said troops were being deployed to assist law enforcement agencies and "quell the unrest that has gripped both [provinces] in the last few days".

President Cyril Ramaphosa has appealed for calm, saying there is no justification for the violence.

Zuma was convicted of defying an instruction to give

## Tunisia calls for diaspora help amid Covid surge



Tunisia's government has appealed for help from citizens abroad after the authorities declared the country's health system had "collapsed", amid a rapid surge of the Delta variant which has led to increase in hospitalisation.

"Donate money, medical and paramedical equipment," the Tunisian embassy in France said in a post on Facebook.

A spokesperson for the Tunisian ministry of health

described the situation in hospitals as "catastrophic" - with an acute shortage of hospital beds and oxygen, as well as exhausted medical staff.

The army has been deployed to enforce a new lockdown in some parts of the country that has vaccinated only 12% of its population.

Tunisians based in Canada gathered last week in front of the parliament in Ottawa to urge the government to send coronavirus vaccines to Tunisia.

evidence at an inquiry into corruption during his nine years in power. He has testified only once at the inquiry into what has become known as "state capture" - meaning the siphoning-off of state assets. In a separate legal

matter, he pleaded not guilty last month in a corruption trial involving a \$5bn (£3bn) arms deal from the 1990s.

His supporters argue he is the victim of a political witch hunt, orchestrated by Ramaphosa allies. BBC



WS

This shopping centre in Durban was ransacked on Sunday

# EDITORIAL

## Liberia's messy COVID-19 fight

**AMID DAILY RISE IN** new cases of the deadly Delta variant from the coronavirus, Liberia is now without vaccines to prevent its citizens from contracting the virus, which is spreading across the country like wildfire.

**THE COUNTRY'S REMAINING DOSES** of the 96,000 AstraZeneca jabs received in April this year expired on Saturday, July 10, 2021, having administered over 90,000 among a population of 4.5 million people, barely a drop in the bucket.

**WHAT IS EVEN** of grave concern though is authorities' handling of the third wave of outbreak, particularly from the Delta variant brought into the country largely by travelers from India and other Asian countries via the Roberts International Airport, where health regulations were seriously compromised for alleged personal gains.

**AIRPORT SECURITY AND** health regulators commercialized COVID-19 test results, and in some instances, gave incoming visitors access to the capital unchecked, raising infection rate among the population. On the other hand, the Minister of Health Doctor Wilhelmina S. Jallah has been more concerned with collecting US\$75.00 from travelers for COVID-19 test than keeping surveillance.

**THE GOVERNMENT IS** still cleaning up the mess created at the RIA effecting suspensions and dismissal, but the harm has already been caused with over 5,000 confirmed cases and nearly 200 deaths recorded, at least by official counts.

**EVEN CITIZENS THAT** took the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccines are being left to wait up to August or September for arrival of fresh consignment of vaccines, while the virus rages, affecting lives.

**THE GRIM PICTURE** has left the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to place Liberia's COVID-19 at Level 4, meaning a very high risk country in the entire West Africa. As a result, travelers from Liberia are being subjected to vigorous scrutiny at airports in the region and beyond.

**UNLIKE GHANA AND** elsewhere in the region, Liberia is yet to embark on mass testing to identify infection trend among its population for informed decision making. Health institutions here lack basis supplies, including PPEs to fight the virus.

**FRONTLINE AUTHORITIES IN** the COVID-19 fight need to wake up and recalibrate to put Liberia on the right trajectory if we should win the battle against the pandemic. The Weah administration seems to have lost focus in the ongoing fight after it mismanaged US\$30 million allotted from the national budget for stimulus package during the first round of the outbreak in 2020. The government has failed to account for the money.

**AMID THE SEEMING** lack of political will and clear strategy in tackling the health crisis, the population faces risk of any kind, including mass infection and death that could bring the country on its knees.

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

# COMMENTARY

By Joseph S. Nye, Jr.

## What Did Biden Achieve in Geneva?

**C**AMBRIDGE - When US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin held their first summit in Geneva last month, cyber weapons played a larger role on the agenda than the nuclear kind. Clearly the world has changed since the Cold War, but what, if anything, did Biden accomplish?

For more than two decades, Russia has proposed a United Nations cyber treaty. But the United States regarded such a pact as unverifiable. Unlike nuclear weapons, the difference between a cyber weapon and other computer code can depend simply on the programmer's intent.

Instead of a treaty, Russia, the US, and 13 other states agreed to voluntary norms, outlined by UN-sponsored groups of governmental experts, prohibiting attacks on each other's civilian infrastructure and not barring wrongful acts staged from their territory. Although these norms were reaffirmed at the UN this past spring, skeptics note that shortly after it agreed to a 2015 report, Russia attacked Ukraine's power grid and interfered in the 2016 US presidential election.

Unlike the US, which established a Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM) in 2010, Russia has never formally admitted to having offensive cyber capabilities. Both countries penetrate each other's networks to gather intelligence, but it is sometimes difficult to draw a line between espionage and preparing the battlefield. That is why the US complained earlier this year about the Russian attack on the American firm SolarWinds, which is said to have infected at least nine major government agencies and more than a hundred significant corporations.

Even if formal arms control treaties are unworkable, it may still be possible to set limits on certain types of civilian targets, and to negotiate rough rules of the road. For example, despite deep ideological differences, in 1972 the US and the Soviet Union negotiated an Incidents at Sea Agreement to limit naval behavior that might lead to dangerous escalation.

Espionage is not against international law, and an agreement to ban it would not be credible. Nonetheless, the US and Russia might negotiate limits to their behavior regarding the extent (not the existence) of their cyber spying. Or they might agree to set limits on their intervention in each other's domestic political processes. Even if there is no agreement on precise definitions, they could exchange unilateral statements about areas of self-restraint and establish a regular consultative process to contain conflict.

This seems to have been the approach explored by Biden in Geneva. According to press accounts, Biden handed Putin a list of 16 areas of critical infrastructure - including energy, health, information technology, financial services, chemicals, and communications - that he said "should be off limits to attack, period."

In one sense, this was not new. The list of what

Americans regard as critical infrastructure has long been posted on the website of the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. But it is different when one head of state hands a list to another.

After the meeting, Biden disclosed that he asked Putin how he would feel if Russian pipelines were taken out by ransomware, as the US Colonial Pipeline was in May by criminals operating from Russia. This would be very costly for Russia's economy, which depends heavily on pipelines to export its natural gas. The Americans did not attribute the ransomware attack on Colonial to the Russian government, but US experts have noted that criminal gangs in Russia seem to operate with impunity so long as they do not attack Russian targets.

In his press conference after the summit, Biden said "I pointed out to him that we have significant cyber capability. And he knows it. He doesn't know exactly what it is, but it's significant. And if, in fact, they violate these basic norms, we will respond with cyber. He knows." In other words, Biden was implying a deterrent threat if Russia continued to violate the voluntary norms prohibiting attacks on civilian infrastructure and use of its territory for harmful purposes. Putin is smart, and he certainly heard the message, but whether Russian behavior will improve depends on Biden's credibility.

Drawing red lines can be tricky. Some critics worry that by specifying what needed to be protected, Biden might have implied that other areas were fair game. Moreover, red lines must be enforced to be effective. The critics argue that the focus of the warning should have been on the amount of damage done, not where or how it is done.

By analogy, one does not tell a party host to turn off all their music; you warn them that if the noise becomes intolerably loud, you will call the police. How Putin interprets Biden's message remains to be seen in the months to come, but the two presidents did agree to establish a cyber working group that could try to define the limits of "tolerable."

The US will need to state unilaterally the norms that it pledges to stand by. When Russia crosses such a line, America will have to be prepared with targeted retaliation, such as emptying the bank accounts of some privileged oligarchs, releasing embarrassing information, or disrupting Russian networks. USCYBERCOM's strategy of forward defense and persistent engagement can be useful for deterrence, but it must be accompanied by a process of quiet communication.

Criminal groups often act as state proxies in varying degrees, and the US will have to make clear that acting as a haven for cyber criminals will lead to retaliation. And because the rules of the road will never be perfect, they must be accompanied by a regular consultative process that establishes a framework for warning and negotiation. Whether Biden succeeded in launching such a process in Geneva, or whether Russian and American cyber relations will remain their bad normal, may well become clearer in the coming months.

# OPINION

By Joseph E. Stiglitz, Geoffrey Heal

## Are US Corporations Above the Law?

**N**EW YORK - Adam Smith, the founder of modern economics, argued that the pursuit of private interests - profits - will invariably promote the common good. That may be true in some situations, but obviously not always. Just as banks' pursuit of profit led to the 2008 financial crisis, it was Purdue and other pharmaceutical companies' greed that produced the opioid crisis, and Texaco's support of the Franco regime that helped the fascists triumph in the Spanish Civil War.

This litany of perfidy could easily be extended. But among the worst abuses committed by greedy corporations today is childhood slavery. Chocolate lovers around the world may not know it, but some of their guilty pleasures may have been produced by child slaves.

Nestlé, Cargill, and other food companies facing such allegations have avoided answering for them in open court. Because they or their subsidiaries are headquartered in the United States, they have been able to argue that they are not accountable for misdeeds committed in faraway Africa. They do this knowing full well that there is no effective legal system in the countries where children are being exploited.

Moreover, even if a legal judgment was to come down against these companies abroad, they would pay little. They would simply move their operations elsewhere, and it would be hard, if not impossible, for a small, poor country to enforce any judgment rendered.

These issues were all in play in a case before the US Supreme Court this year. In *Nestle USA, Inc. v. John Doe I, et al./Cargill, Inc. v. John Doe I, et al.*, the court ruled against six Malians who were seeking compensation from Nestlé and Cargill for their suffering as former child slaves. Rather than ruling on the merits of the case, the court issued an 8-1 decision on the narrower legal question of whether an American firm can be held accountable for injuries done to others abroad. The US Alien Tort Statute, the court held, cannot be applied "extraterritorially," because that would amount to an extension of US law beyond US boundaries.

Of course, the US operates extraterritorially all the time, such as when it punishes foreign companies for violating its sanctions against Iran. The difference in this case was that it was American companies (or those working on their behalf) who were being called to account. By ruling in their favor, the court avoided the question of how companies engaged in unlawful behavior abroad ever could be held accountable. In what court would they be tried if not a US one?

In the absence of any accountability, US corporations have little incentive to change their behavior abroad. If they can get our favorite chocolates onto store shelves at a lower price by using suppliers who exploit child labor, those without moral compunctions - a category that evidently includes these companies - will adhere strictly to the logic of market competition and do so.

So, who will protect the children? At stake in this case was one of America's core values: human rights. It is clearly in America's interests to show the rest of the world that its companies abide by its values, especially at a time when police brutality against African-Americans is in the international media spotlight.

Together with Oxfam, we submitted an amicus brief to the Supreme Court arguing that it is in America's economic interest to hold US firms accountable for wrongful conduct wherever it is committed. We believe that corporate social responsibility pays off in the long run - for consumers and companies alike - in countries that insist on it.

After all, countries and companies with good reputations can attract more capital and better workers than less ethical competitors can, and their products will appeal to an increasingly conscientious generation of consumers. Younger workers are especially sensitive to what their employers do and stand for. That is why many companies have taken a stand against voter-suppression laws and embraced targets to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

But far too many companies are still driven by short-term profits. While lawyers for Nestlé and Cargill were working diligently to spare them from accountability, both companies issued boilerplate statements condemning child slavery. But if that is where they stand, why didn't they want to lay out their case in court? Surely, their well-paid lawyers would be more than a match for the Malians' representatives. If the companies lost, it wouldn't be because they lacked adequate counsel.

How can we ensure that companies don't do abroad what they would never attempt to do at home? Globalization has forced this question onto the agenda as Western companies have expanded their reliance on poor countries with very limited legal frameworks. Extraterritoriality is not the issue. What matters most is that we end the race to the bottom. The US should be assuring the world that it and its companies stand for decency, without any double standards.

In the meantime, Cargill, Nestlé, and other companies that have allegedly been culpable in human-rights and environmental abuses abroad must be tried in the court of public opinion. Their untiring effort to evade accountability for their actions speaks volumes.

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# OP-ED

By Sigmar Gabriel

## Will Europe Rise to Biden's Challenge?

**B**ERLIN - US President Joe Biden has found his mission: to secure the West by strengthening its liberal democracies against authoritarian temptations, both foreign and domestic. Having witnessed both an attempted coup and steeply rising socioeconomic inequalities in his own country, Biden knows that democracies will not find support abroad until they have fulfilled their promises of fairness, justice, and security at home.

If Europe wants to be a partner in this democratic revival, it can start by recognizing the realism behind the US administration's rhetoric. Biden is not pining for some mythical lost era of American greatness, as his predecessor did. He is focusing on the future, and he is concerned with questions that animate democratic liberals and conservatives alike.

For example, how do we create opportunities for those left behind by global capitalism, so that they will not fall prey to populists' false promises? How do we restore other developed democratic countries' commitment to democratic values? How do we rein in overpowered financial and tech industries, or forge a more dynamic global order?

The idea of "the West" was always meant to be universal, offering a normative framework for peaceful, prosperous coexistence among all people. Human rights, freedom of expression, democratic self-determination, and the rule of law are not exclusive to any region or group of countries.

But if you are a Chinese leader, you will ask why your country should follow the "West," especially now that most Chinese regard the Western-designed international order as hostile to their own aspirations. From this perspective, the European-American era is over. Signs of Western decadence are ubiquitous - from the Iraq War debacle and the Trump presidency to the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union.

While Americans and Europeans argue for the importance of individual human rights, the self-confident Chinese rebuttal is that there are also social human rights: to education, nutrition, adequate housing, and so forth. Here, China has undeniably achieved great things, lifting more than 800 million people out of abject poverty over the past four decades.

The lines, then, have been drawn. For Europe to make a meaningful contribution to Biden's mission, it must become stronger. And because its common foreign and security policy tends to evolve only very slowly, Europe must also continue to press ahead with the expansion of the single market, which will remain Europe's main attraction and source of strength.

But the single market can retain its attractiveness only if it allows for greater dynamism. To become a technological leader with less dependence on China and the United States, Europe must invest more in research and development (R&D), digitalization, and artificial intelligence. It should be pursuing a joint climate policy with the US. And while the G7 recently agreed on a Build Back Better World Partnership to compete with China's Belt and Road Initiative in Central Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the EU must do more to support this program, while also bolstering NATO's deterrent power.

With federal elections coming in September, Germany, the EU's biggest economy, should be debating how it intends to strengthen the bloc in the coming years. Yet all the main German parties and politicians have been silent on this issue, presumably because they are still waiting to see how the pandemic will evolve. Many fear that richer northern member states will regain their economic strength quickly while others - namely, Italy and France - fall further behind.

The EU's €750 billion recovery fund will not be enough to achieve anything close to a convergence between southern and northern member states; indeed, it will not even be enough to prevent them from drifting further apart. Since the EU's poorer member states are already over-indebted, they cannot borrow much more, particularly if interest rates rise. Whenever inflation begins to increase again, the European Central Bank's implicit policy of monetizing member-state debt (through the unlimited purchase of government bonds from poorer countries) will have to end.

Under these conditions, the only remaining way out would be a "transfer union," with richer countries like Germany increasing their own financial investments in poorer member states. Greater investments in infrastructure, digitalization, and R&D are needed not only to boost efficiency and productivity in the economically weaker member states, but also to hold the eurozone and the EU together. The road is long, however, and longer still because Europe currently lacks the instruments needed to see the journey through.

From the perspective of German fiscal policy, investing in a more economically and socially stable Europe would offer enormous returns. Yes, the prevailing view in Germany is that the country already puts more into Europe than it "gets out." But that is nonsense. As an export champion with a massive, persistent trade surplus, Germany, by definition, receives more than it pays out.

Instead of creating the impression that Germany is dependent on the Chinese export market, German leaders should make clear that the country's real dependence is on the European market. Germany's exports to other EU member states account for over 50% of its total exports, whereas China and the US each account for only about 10%.

In the long run, Germany will do only as well as its European neighbors. The sooner we recognize that, the better off we will be. Biden's credo about fixing things at home applies to us, too. We must show that our own democratically constituted societies are better than the autocratic alternatives. Otherwise, the normative idea of the West will continue to lose its luster.

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# PERSPECTIVES

# PERSPECTIVES

Public Policy. Economics. Democratic Politics. Political/Economic Decentralization. Public Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship  
With Bai M. Gbala, Sr. July 11, 2021

## PUBLIC DISHONESTY AND MORAL DECADENCE WITH COMMENTARY RESPONSE TO GLOBAL ECONOMIC CONSULTANT

### Introduction

In response to Executive Branch request for debated consideration of the local/national and international demand for establishment of War Crime Court in Liberia, the Liberian Senate, Upper House and legal arm of the National Legislature, recommended appointment of a Transitional Justice Commission (TJC) with support of a few high-class, special interest group of professionals.

This decision action is profoundly troubling and a disappointment, especially, because at this point in time our country is caught in a tight grip of Woes - lack of economic, educational, transport/communication, healthcare, rice and related tropical food production - now prevailing, while the Liberian foreign exchange rate is at rest, comfortably, deep in the Great Beyond with the national economy in hot pursuit, but the Liberian Senate is only concerned, apparently, with creation of additional corruption agencies, this time a commission of several individuals to perform legal function and responsibility, although the Republic of Liberia has, already, the Judiciary Branch of Government, qualified and capable, to undertake the desired functions and responsibility, hopefully.



However, that which is in urgent and critical demand at this point, here, is the traditional responsibility/obligation of government to protect the nation and people against great, deadly disasters - such as pestilence of the prevailing COVID-19 and our recent nightmare of the civil war - of war crimes, through arrest/prosecution of war crime suspects by a War Crime Court or Tribunal established on-ground in Liberia, consistent with the report/recommendation of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC) created by Act of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA) to which the nation had been and remains obedient.

Indeed, exactly, precisely and reasonably because of the Global Economic Consultant's analysis of "the struggling economy, . . . several exogenous factors, declining commodity prices, reduction in aggregate demand and domestic conditions in the country"etc., etc. at this juncture, the demand is made for arrest and prosecution of accused war crime suspects, not due to political opposition attacks or imagined personal criticism of the current political administration.

### The International Criminal Court (ICC)

According to Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia Online, the United Nations, the World Body (of which Liberia is a founding member-state) established the ICC (with participation by Liberia) as an inter-governmental institution and International Tribunal with home at The Hague in the Netherlands. The Court or Tribunal has jurisdiction and authority to prosecute individuals, including Heads of state and other prominent political personalities for war crimes of genocide and war crimes against humanity. The Court or Tribunal is designed, also, to complement existing national judicial systems and, therefore, exercise jurisdiction only when and where national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute war crime suspects. This condition had been and is the case of Liberia, with conscious refusal to prosecute war crime suspects, based on national policy of impunity.

### The Rome Statute

This Statute is a multilateral international Treaty which serves as the ICC's legal authority and governing document. States become supporters and members of the ICC upon ratification of the Rome

Statute. Presently, there are more than 124 signatories to the Rome Statute, including Liberia. Therefore, it is a legal mandate that Liberia arrest and turn over war crime suspects to the ICC for open, free, fair and transparent trial, at no cost to Liberia.

### Credibility and Integrity

This Senate decision-action and many other questionable acts by some leadership members of both Houses of the Legislature demand a close look, in terms of their socio-economic and political activities, in the effort to determine the credibility and integrity of the Honorable Ladies & Gentlemen. The leading Stars of this Political Play are the powerful Counselors-at-Law, also, politically-connected Lawyers who sell, essentially, Political connectedness (a form of corruption) disguised under legal counsel. The same Lawyers are government attorneys who serve as legal counsels, simultaneously, to business corporations regulated by government. Not only that this dual practice violates legal ethics, but also, the condition of conflict of interests, an act of corruption and criminal offence.

Others are Lawyers reported to have been convicted



of legal mal-practice, fined and disbarred. And there is the other powerful, very top executive management official accused by investigative media reporter, several years ago, of identity theft; that he claims to be that which he is not, but failed or refused to provide reasonable response, up to this day.

### Impact of Dual Citizenship

Dual citizenship, a major form of corruption, in fact, impacts negatively on the entire population of poor, wretched citizens, now the nation's voting-age majority in the Monrovia area, stuck and confined in over-populated ghetto slums surrounding our Capital City, Monrovia, in mighty Montserrado County and the parched towns and villages of Rural Liberia and stunned by the public disparity of wealthy lifestyles of the very few - politicians and officials of government who are all, almost, citizens of foreign countries.

It is very important to note, for posterity, that it is in the best political and economic interests of citizens who are Liberia's political decision-makers while, simultaneously, citizens of foreign countries (dual citizens) for the Republic of Liberia to continue to import goods and services from countries of their citizenship indefinitely, dangerously in economic terms, and also, abstain from taking decisions to organize entities for production of goods and services (particularly, rice and related tropical food commodities for local consumption and) for export trade and commerce.

Corruption is a vice and universal phenomenon found on all continents, in every country, culture and society, irrespective of political/economic development and affluence.

Monopolized by Liberian political system during the century and half of independence as sovereign state, corruption has become a threat to the survival of the Liberian Nation. Though corruption is recognized to be wrong and unlawful in Liberia, only when practiced by others; but essential and necessary when practiced by one's own group.

Thus, the prevailing nature, level and condition of corruption permeate the Liberian society now assisted by the national policy of impunity prompted a prominent Liberian scholar to observe that "Liberia is sick, morally bankrupt, conspicuously corrupt".

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Belated, shameful

## -Lawmaker describes PYJ's resignation

By Lewis S. Teh

Montserrado County electoral district Representative Rustolyn S. Dennis has described the recent resignation of Senator Prince Y. Johnson (Nimba County) as chairperson for the senate committee on

a decision from the senate; a man like him, who has committed atrocities, can't be head of such committee in our country", the female lawmaker expressed.

Speaking to reporters in her office at the Capitol Building in Monrovia, she said the Senator

"especially after hurting and killing the same people to me, it makes no sense at all, that's why from the inception, I wasted no time to condemn his election."

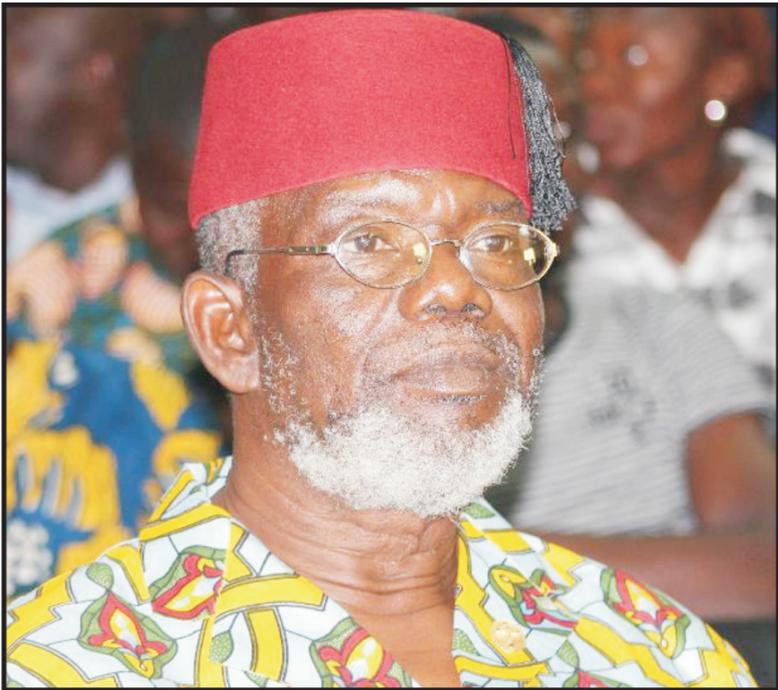
She noted that Sen. PYJ's resignation followed public condemnation, including the Embassy of the United States, "so I think he was forced to resign his post, and we can't give his resignation any credence, because it's embarrassing, belated and more shameful."

The Liberian Senate recently received a letter from Senator Prince Johnson, informing that body of his resignation from the chairmanship of the its committee on national security, defense, intelligence and veteran affairs.

PYJ said he took the decision based on consultation, but sources say this was due to immense pressure from the public, including some lawmakers following the United States Embassy's condemnation of his election to the position.

The election of the Nimba County Senator in May this year was something that brought the Liberian Senate under massive criticism for electing a notorious warlord on the Senate security committee.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



national security, defense, intelligence, and veterans affairs as "belated and shameful."

"From the very first day he became head of that committee, I'm one person who was totally against such

Johnson should had been inclined enough that he shouldn't have held such post.

According to Representative Dennis, there is no country in the world where a notorious and diabolical killer will be head or placed on such a committee,

# Dillon, Nyonblee mobilize supplies for Liberia

By Ethel A Tweh

In the wake of criticism for their travel to the United States amid resurgence of the coronavirus here, Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence and Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon are mobilizing medical equipment in the U.S. for shipment to Liberia to help in the fight against COVID-19 here.

"Today, while packing these essential supplies requested by some doctors in Liberia to send by cargo tomorrow, to help in the fight against the Coronavirus, We stopped by Doreen again to see what she has, and she's ready to ship an entire container", Sen. Lawrence noted.

According to her, she had to take supplies that are needed urgently by air cargo this weekend and the board

of the Nyonblee Cares Foundation is working with another group, Through These Hands, to send one or more containers.

Senator Lawrence recalled

that during the Ebola crisis in Liberia in 2014, she went to the United States to look for beds because hospitals had disposed of contaminated beds, adding that she called her friend Doreen at Through These Hands and asked for 50 beds, and few days later she arranged 700 brand new beds



# Churches to begin 3 - day fast

## -amid increasing number of deaths

By Bridgett Milton

The Liberian Council of Churches (LCC) says it will this Wednesday, 14 July begin a three - day fast and prayer for the Nation.

Speaking Monday morning, 12 July on a local radio FM station, LCC President Bishop Kortu Brown said they will begin a National Fast and Prayer Wednesday and continue fasting until 16 July,

He encouraged all Church leaders to gather on the last day which is Friday at the Providence Baptist Church where Liberia's Declaration of Independence was signed so that they can kneel there and ask God to please have mercy on Liberia.

Bishop Brown recalled that in 2014 when Liberia was badly hit by Ebola, they did the same thing and God answered their prayers, saying he believes the



2021.

According to Bishop Brown, it is time Liberians go down on their knees and ask God to forgive them and also ask for his intervention.

Bishop Brown added that because of the health protocol, they are asking all Liberians to pray at their respective places of worship from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the three days.

same can happen with COVID-19.

"Don't forget in 2 Chronicle 7: 14, the Bible says if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land," the top Liberian clergy noted.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

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and mattresses with over 3,000 boxes of supplies.

"We shipped ten containers and former President Sirleaf named us the highest individual donor to the health sector." She added.

On the other hand, Senator Dillon of Montserrado County took to the social media, thanking the 'Friends of Dillon' - Minnesota Chapter for organizing donations of assorted, needed materials being containerized for shipment to Monrovia for his Rehab Center and to help in the fight against Covid-19.

"When PAPA leaves home and goes out to turn around, especially during times of difficulties, the children look

forward to papa returning home with something for them to smile about", says the controversial senator who prides himself as the "Light" in the Liberian Senate.

The third wave of the COVID-19 in Liberia has caused the lives of many people with hospitals and funeral homes turning away patients and corpses due to lack of beds and space in mortuaries.

Liberians and the general public have been mandated by health authorities to always wear nose masks in public and observe social distance, among other health protocols to avoid contracting or spreading the virus. Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Child custody argument heats up Court

Lawyers representing Green Petroleum Chief Executive Officer Mr. Sidike Musa Bility and his divorced wife, now Warti Nancy Robinson - Clarke, had the Civil Law Court "A" in Monrovia heated up on Monday, 12 July with counter - arguments

and permanent custody of his two minor children since their mother Nancy has a relationship that is not favorable with their emotional, psychological, mental, physical health, stability and well-being, safety and security.

Civil Law Court "A" reserved

custody between the parents were not working in the best interest of the children.

Cllr. Wright, a former ECOWAS Court Judge accused Warti Nancy Robinson - Clarke's husband, Romeo Clarke, of allegedly being a criminal who was convicted by Criminal Court "C" at the Temple of Justice for stealing from the United Bank of Africa (UBA) - Liberia in a landmark US\$1.3 million syndicate.

"You want the children to be in the custody with you and your husband who is a convicted criminal so that he can teach them criminality? That wouldn't work!" stated Cllr. Wright.

He argued that the Domestic Relations Law of Liberia provides that when parents of minors live in a state of separation, the father of the children or the husband of that marriage has priority of custody of those children, requesting the court to grant the kids such freedom of being with their dad.

He maintained that the law provides that in all cases involving issues relative to minors, the best interest, general wellbeing and welfare of the children should always be the foremost concern of the court, stating that his client, Sidike Bility, CEO of Green Petroleum, is capable of such responsibility.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



following Mr. Bility's request for permanent custody of his two minor children from their mother.

The argument which was rescheduled from last week to Monday, 12 July, was entertained following a request by Bility's lawyers for the court to award him full

ruling Monday after argument in the Bill of Information filed by Bility, as Civil Law Court Judge Yarmie Quiqui Gbeisay noted that final judgment will be done at a later date.

Earlier during arguments, Mr. Bility's lawyer, Cllr. Michael Wilkins Wright told the court that arrangements for sharing of

# WAHO calls for social behavioral change -to control COVID-19 pandemic

The Director General of the West Africa Health Organization or WAHO, Professor Stanley OKOLO, said it is within the power of ECOWAS Member States as individuals and groups to control the pandemic through social behavioral change, whilst awaiting availability of sufficient vaccine doses through international collaboration and ongoing discussions on establishing vaccine manufacturing facilities in the region.

He urged governments and stakeholders in West Africa to strengthen national health systems, and rebuild trust with the region's populations without whom public health measures will fail.

"WAHO is extremely grateful for the support of the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS Member States, the Ministers of Health, and of our international partners, as we continue in solidarity on the

march to regional integration through health. We still have a lot of work to do, but I believe that working together, we will succeed", he said while



addressing the 34th WAHO Day recently.

He said although the region has fared much better than predicted during the COVID-19

pandemic, weaknesses in its health systems have been exposed, including weaknesses in infrastructure, human resources, and laboratory capacity, in addition to deficits in the

levels of community engagement required for effective disease control.

The WAHO director general

# ArcelorMittal Liberia

Starts from back page

that have been ordered.

Marcus Wleh, Head of Government Relations at ArcelorMittal Liberia who presented the medical supplies last week said it was in continuation of the company's support towards strengthening the national response efforts against COVID-19.

Wleh said ArcelorMittal Liberia strongly believes that when the population and communities in Liberia are safe, it will create a positive environment for businesses to thrive.

"ArcelorMittal Liberia has been supportive of the national and local efforts to combat COVID-19, but our partnership with the Ministry of Health goes beyond COVID-19 to when we had the first national public health emergency—Ebola," explained Wleh.

Receiving the consignment of supplies on behalf of Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah, Liberia's Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Minister of Health Dr. Francis Kateh thanked the management of ArcelorMittal Liberia and stressed that the donation is timely, as oxygen supply is one of the most needed supports to help save

the lives of many COVID-19 patients.

"On behalf of the Minister of Health and H.E. President George M. Weah, I want to say a big thank you to the CEO and staff of ArcelorMittal Liberia. I'm very excited because what ArcelorMittal Liberia has donated today are the fifteen liters of Oxygen tanks and this is what we really need," Dr. Kateh said.

Since the outbreak of the Coronavirus in Liberia in 2020 ArcelorMittal Liberia has been supportive of national and local response efforts, donating over US\$250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand) in medical, sanitation and hygiene supplies to central government and county authorities in Bong, Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties, respectively.

About ArcelorMittal ArcelorMittal is the world's leading steel and mining company, with a presence in 60 countries and primary steelmaking facilities in 18 countries. In 2019, the company had revenues of \$70.6 billion and crude steel production of 89.8 million metric tonnes, while iron ore production reached 57.1 million metric tonnes. -Press Release

# Belated, shameful

Cont'd from page 6

The 54th National Legislature particularly the Liberian Senate, was also condemned by the U.S. Embassy near Monrovia for electing a "notorious warlord", vowing never to work with him.

The U.S. Embassy accused the Nimba Senator of well-documented gross human rights violations during Liberia's civil wars.

In his resignation letter addressed to the Plenary of the Liberian Senate, Senator Johnson stated that visits paid to him by high profile chiefs and elders of Nimba County, coupled with pieces of advice from other stakeholders and executives of his own Movement for Democracy and

Reconstruction (MDR) party to consider resigning his role in the Senate as chairman on defense, security, intelligence and veteran affairs was a request he thought to honor.

Meanwhile, the President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate Albert Chie thanked Senator Johnson for his services on the Senate defense committee and noted the acceptance of Senator Johnson's resignation by the Plenary of the Senate.

The Pro-Tempore had appointed Lofa County Senator Stephen J. H. Zargo to act as Chair of the Defense, Security, Intelligence and Veterans Affairs Committee, pending election of a new chairperson by Plenary. - Editing by Jonathan Browne

regretted that five years after the establishment of the ECOWAS Regional Centre for Surveillance and Disease Control (ECOWAS RCSDC) the centre is not yet fully operational due to bureaucratic delays in the long running ECOWAS Institutional Reform program.

Professor OKOLO added that WAHO therefore continues to lead the region's

health security agenda in addition to all other burning health issues, such as malaria, non-communicable diseases, regional production of quality medicines, and universal health coverage.

He said as in other parts of the world, the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating health, social and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

# Français

## Côte-d'Ivoire : La délocalisation de l'Externat Saint-Paul, une pilule amère pour certains parents

Les sit-in et marches de protestation organisés par quelques parents d'élèves et anciens élèves n'auront pas réussi à faire reculer Mgr Jean-Pierre Kutwā. Le 24 juin 2021, en effet, l'abbé Augustin Obrou, chargé de communication de l'Archevêché d'Abidjan, annonçait la démolition de l'Externat Saint-Paul du Plateau. Une mesure qui concerne également "les bureaux regroupant certaines institutions nationale et diocésaine, le centre d'hébergement et le restaurant du Centre d'accueil missionnaire (CAM) et toutes les boutiques".

L'Externat, créé il y a 65 ans, sera relocalisé à Faya Génie 2000, sur la route de Bingerville. Il cédera la place à "un complexe immobilier moderne comportant des bureaux, des commerces et un hôtel". C'est le Français Éric Duval qui réalisera le complexe de 60 millions d'euros. Le contrat fut signé le 30 juin 2021 dans la

capitale économique ivoirienne entre son groupe immobilier et l'archidiocèse d'Abidjan. Selon le P. Obrou, la fermeture de l'école avait été programmée initialement pour l'année 2020. Point n'est besoin de rappeler que de hauts cadres sont sortis de cette école maternelle et primaire d'excellence (100% de réussite aux examens).

Si certains parents comprennent la décision du cardinal, d'autres jugent la

pilule amère et difficile à avaler. Pour eux, remplacer un temple du savoir par un centre de commerce est tout simplement une bêtise qu'on ne peut voir qu'en Côte d'Ivoire. Quand on leur oppose le fait que l'école manquait d'argent et qu'elle ne pouvait plus faire face à ses charges, ils répondent que les clercs n'ont jamais voulu

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Tarlue rêve d'un système bancaire numérique au Liberia

Le gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL), J. Aloysius Tarlue, a fait part de son intention de faire en sorte que le système bancaire du pays passe au numérique, lors de son audience de confirmation au Sénat. Comparissant devant la commission sénatoriale des banques, des finances et de la monnaie dans le cadre de son audition de confirmation le jeudi 8 juillet 2021, Tarlue a

indiqué qu'imprimer de nouveaux billets de banque n'est pas la solution à la crise économique à laquelle est confronté le pays.

M. Tarlue, qui a terminé son mandat de gouverneur de la CBL, a été reconduit par le président George Manneh Weah. Il a fait savoir que 6 millions de dollars américains ont été alloués au projet de numérisation du système bancaire du Libéria.

Il a aussi déclaré que quand il a

pris fonction comme gouverneur de la Banque centrale, il a mis en place un système financier qui met l'accent sur la prudence, ayant constaté que le système avait été en proie à beaucoup d'abus pendant si longtemps.

Il a mis en place un système de suivi biométrique et un système de dévaluation afin de savoir qui va travailler ou non.

Tarlue a en outre annoncé un plan stratégique de trois ans dont l'objectif est de faire avancer la banque centrale.

Il a rappelé que sous sa direction, la loi sur la CBL a été approuvée et quatre milliards de dollars libériens ont été imprimés.

"Merci encore au Sénat libérien de nous avoir fait confiance pour imprimer de nouveaux billets de banque", a-t-il déclaré. Le patron de la CBL a dit apprécier l'utilisation du système d'argent mobile, qui joue actuellement un grand rôle pendant la lutte contre la COVID-19, car les gens n'ont plus besoin de s'entasser par exemple devant les boulangeries, cela aurait mis à mal l'observation de la distanciation sociale. Le gouverneur Tarlue a en outre fait observer qu'il n'y a pas assez de banques dans les différents comtés, expliquant qu'il y a en moyenne une pour quatre comtés, ce qui est beaucoup déplorable, surtout que les habitants des zones rurales ont toutes les difficultés de



## Éditorial

### COVID-19 : nous allons visiblement de mal en pis ?

Tout va mal au Libéria, car chaque jour plus de 200 nouveaux cas sont enregistrés au niveau de la population et les décès ne cessent d'augmenter.

Les morgues privées sont submergées de cadavres, tandis que les cercueils se font rares. Déjà, le Centre américain de contrôle des maladies et de Prévention a revu à la hausse le niveau d'alerte, en le situant à 4, le niveau le plus élevé. Le pays risque de succomber progressivement à la pandémie, si des efforts concertés ne sont pas entrepris immédiatement.

Les autorités sanitaires du pays continuent de faire croire au public qu'elles sont à la hauteur de la tâche, après avoir annoncé des mesures préventives. Cependant, la réalité sur le terrain montre le contraire, vu que de nouveaux cas et les décès se comptent par des centaines. Il est vrai que les combattants n'abandonneront jamais jusqu'à la mort du dernier combattant, mais le peuple libérien ne veut pas être décapité ou conduit à l'abattoir.

Nous croyons fermement que les tests rapides sont le moyen le plus sûr pour inverser la tendance actuelle, ce n'est pas le fait d'attendre que les patients infectés soient emmenés à Star Base pour de l'oxygène qui est à peine disponible. Le Libéria ne peut contenir la résurgence du coronavirus à moins qu'une campagne massive de tests rapides ne soit lancée dans tout le pays.

Dans ce combat, nous avons besoin de toutes les forces, y compris les experts qui ne font pas actuellement partie du gouvernement. Le combat n'appartient pas qu'à la ministre de la Santé, le docteur Wilehmina S. Jallah, et son équipe ou au système de gestion des incidents. Tous les Libériens doivent se joindre au combat pour vaincre le COVID-19.

C'est dans cette optique que nous nous félicitons de l'engagement de 150 000 USD de la Fondation Cummings Africa envers notre crise sanitaire, rejoignant le gouvernement du Libéria pour atteindre les hôpitaux et les centres de santé en particulier et les citoyens en général.

Comme M. Alexander B. Cummings, fondateur de la Fondation et leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC) l'a déclaré la semaine dernière lors de l'annonce de ce geste, le Libéria est actuellement gravement menacé, Si nous ne nous unissons pas les mains pour faire de notre mieux pour les uns les autres, nous continuerons tous à être en danger, même si nous nous cachons dans les maisons.

En outre, ceux qui mènent le combat du côté du gouvernement devraient faire preuve de volonté politique. Nous exigeons la vigilance à l'aéroport international Roberts, aux ports maritimes et aux frontières terrestres pour limiter la résurgence.

Ce faisant, il faut que nous érigeons des points de contrôle pertinents qui pourraient stopper la propagation, en particulier dans les comtés. Le système de santé n'a pas la capacité de répondre à toute situation accablante en dehors du comté de Montserrado, alors que même le siège du gouvernement lui-même est sérieusement remis en question.

Qu'on ne se méprenne pas sur le fait que nous sommes ici pessimistes. Il s'agit d'une tentative honnête de présenter la sombre réalité afin que tous les Libériens se réveillent de leur sommeil, de leur état de déni et fassent face au danger qui nous attend en tant que peuple. Nous devons porter nos masques correctement, respecter la distance sociale, nous laver les mains régulièrement et éviter les rassemblements de masse ou les endroits surpeuplés, entre autres, pour arrêter la propagation.

# Français

## Côte-d'Ivoire : La délocalisation de l'Externat

associer les parents à la gestion de l'école ni recourir à leur expertise pour « sauver » l'institution. Ils dénoncent aussi le manque de transparence et le pillage de l'argent de l'école par les prêtres. Ceux-ci, d'après eux, ne sont pas forcément compétents en comptabilité et confondent souvent l'argent de la paroisse avec celui de l'école. Ils ajoutent que, si le collège Notre Dame du Plateau est à l'abri d'un déficit financier et s'il n'a jamais songé à quitter le Plateau, c'est parce que les religieuses de Notre Dame de la Paix qui le gèrent sont honnêtes et vivent modestement. Le pire, insistent-ils, c'est que les « curés » qui détournent l'argent des écoles, mouvements, paroisses et diocèses bénéficient d'une totale impunité. Ils affirment n'avoir pas oublié la faillite de la procure d'Abidjan et de la librairie Carrefour de Cocody, faillite dont les responsables (évêques, prêtres et laïcs qui sont des prête-noms dans bien des cas) ne furent ni limogés, ni sommés de rembourser l'argent détourné. Il est temps, concluent-ils, que le pape François sévisse contre ces criminels en soutane comme il l'a fait avec Mgr Giovanni Angelo Becciu. Non seulement le cardinal italien fut démis en septembre 2020 de ses fonctions à la tête de la Congrégation chargée de nommer les saints mais un procès sera organisé le 27 juillet 2021 pour lui et neuves autres personnes impliquées dans des crimes financiers (détournement de fonds, blanchiment d'argent, fraude, extorsion et abus de fonction, achat d'un immeuble dans un quartier luxueux de Londres).

Le lien affectif et la préservation de notre patrimoine (culture et histoire) sont deux autres éléments qu'il convient de prendre en compte pour comprendre la levée de boucliers de certains parents et anciens contre la fermeture de l'Externat. « Saint-Paul est une âme, un esprit, une histoire. Va casser Harvard, Yale, La Sorbonne ou London School of Economics and Political Science pour un hôtel ou un centre commercial. Une âme, un esprit, une histoire, ça ne se reconstruit pas », plaide l'un d'entre eux. « Casser la cathédrale Notre Dame de Paris pour la délocaliser ne pourra jamais effleurer qui

que ce soit en France où on a le respect de l'histoire. Bâtir Notre Dame de Paris sur un autre site, ce n'est plus Notre Dame de Paris. Chez nous, en Côte d'Ivoire, on s'en fout éperdument de l'histoire, parce que l'argent, le nouveau dieu de certains Ivoiriens, a conquis les cœurs. Les Français préservent Notre Dame de Paris et la plupart de leurs édifices catholiques, non pas parce qu'ils sont tellement chrétiens, mais parce que ça fait partie de leur histoire », renchérit un autre.

Je voudrais saisir cette opportunité pour poser le problème de la reconnaissance des anciens élèves. En Occident, plusieurs anciens (les Alumni) font régulièrement des levées de fonds et des dons pour venir en aide à leur ancienne école. C'est une manière, pour eux, de se montrer reconnaissants, d'exprimer leur gratitude pour tout ce que cette école leur a apporté. Chez nous, des écoles, collèges, lycées et séminaires sont dans un grand délabrement dans l'indifférence des cadres, grands et moyens, que ces établissements ont formés. Est-ce normal et juste ? C'est bien beau de dire fièrement qu'on a étudié dans telle ou telle école mais, en retour, qu'est-ce que cette école a reçu de nous ? Qu'avons-nous fait pour elle ? L'État ne peut pas tout faire. On ne peut pas tout attendre de lui. Nous, qui avons été colonisés par la France et qui le sommes encore sous des formes différentes, devrions nous inspirer des Anglophones qui ont la culture du « give back » et n'attendent pas tout de l'État. La Côte d'Ivoire nouvelle à laquelle nous aspirons tous commande, entre autres, que nous apprenions à retrouver le chemin de nos anciennes écoles pour partager avec elles un peu de ce qu'elles nous ont donné.

Je regrette le départ de l'Externat Saint-Paul du Plateau pour les raisons avancées plus haut par certains parents et anciens élèves. Mettre à la place de cet établissement qui forma plusieurs générations d'Ivoiriens un complexe qui générera de l'argent ne doit pas occulter le fait que, dans l'Église catholique en Côte d'Ivoire, il y a 3 réels problèmes qu'il faut affronter le plus tôt possible : la course à l'argent qui se développe chez certains clercs, la criarde incompetence de plusieurs membres du clergé dans le domaine de la gestion, l'exclusion des laïcs des réflexions et décisions dans les paroisses et diocèses. Tout se passe ici comme si les prêtres et évêques savaient tout, avaient le monopole de l'Esprit Saint ou étaient imperméables.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Joseph S. Nye, Jr.

## Quels résultats pour Biden à Genève ?

**C**AMBRIDGE - Dans le cadre du tout premier sommet qui a réuni le président américain Joe Biden et son homologue russe Vladimir Poutine à Genève le mois dernier, les armes cybernétiques ont davantage occupé l'agenda que les armes nucléaires. Le monde a clairement changé depuis la guerre froide. Qu'est alors parvenu à accomplir Biden ?

Depuis plus de vingt ans, la Russie propose un cybertraité dans le cadre des Nations Unies. Les États-Unis estiment cependant que le respect d'un tel traité ne serait pas vérifiable. Contrairement au domaine des armes nucléaires, la différence entre une arme cybernétique et un simple code informatique dépend simplement de l'intention du programmeur.

En lieu et place d'un traité, la Russie, les États-Unis et 13 autres États membres ont convenu de normes volontaires, aux contours tracés par plusieurs groupes d'experts gouvernementaux appuyés par l'ONU, qui interdisent les attaques contre l'infrastructure civile d'un État, mais qui ne couvrent pas les actes malveillants organisés depuis le territoire de chacun. Bien que ces normes aient été réaffirmées à l'ONU au printemps dernier, les sceptiques n'ont pas manqué de souligner qu'après avoir accepté les règles énoncées dans un rapport de 2015, la Russie s'en est prise au réseau électrique de l'Ukraine, et s'est ingérée dans l'élection présidentielle américaine de 2016.

À la différence des États-Unis, qui ont mis en place un cybercommandement (USCYBERCOM) en 2010, la Russie n'a jamais officiellement admis disposer de capacités cybernétiques offensives. Les deux pays pénètrent le réseau l'un de l'autre pour recueillir des renseignements, mais il est parfois difficile d'établir une distinction entre espionnage et préparation d'un champ de bataille. C'est pourquoi les États-Unis ont dénoncé cette année l'attaque russe contre la société américaine SolarWinds, une agression qui pourrait avoir infecté au moins neuf agences gouvernementales américaines majeures, et plus d'une centaine de sociétés importantes.

Même si les traités officiels de contrôle de ces armes sont impraticables, il est peut-être encore possible de fixer des limites à certains types de cibles civiles, et de négocier un code de conduite ferme. Malgré des divergences idéologiques profondes, les États-Unis et l'URSS ont par exemple négocié en 1972 un Accord sur les incidents en mer, afin de limiter les comportements navals susceptible d'engendrer une escalade dangereuse.

L'espionnage n'enfreint pas le droit international, et tout accord censé l'interdire ne serait pas crédible. Pour autant, États-Unis et Russie pourraient négocier certaines limites à leurs agissements concernant la mesure (plutôt que l'existence) de leurs manœuvres de cyberespionnage, ou certaines limites à leur ingérence dans le processus politique national l'un de l'autre. Même sans convenir de définitions précises, les deux pays pourraient échanger des déclarations unilatérales d'automodération, et mettre en place une procédure consultative régulière de maîtrise des conflits.

C'est l'approche que semble avoir exploré Biden à Genève. Selon la presse, Biden aurait remis à Poutine une liste de 16 zones aux infrastructures critiques - couvrant énergie, santé, informatique, services financiers, produits chimiques, et communications - sur lesquelles « toute attaque serait inacceptable, point final ».

En un sens, rien de bien nouveau. La liste des infrastructures que les Américains considèrent comme critiques figure depuis longtemps sur le site

Internet de l'Agence américaine de cybersécurité et de sécurité des infrastructures. Mais lorsqu'un chef d'État remet cette liste en main propre à un homologue étranger, les choses sont différentes.

Après leur rencontre, Biden a révélé avoir demandé à Poutine quelle serait son sentiment si les pipelines russes étaient pris d'assaut par des logiciels malveillants, comme l'a été au mois de mai le pipeline américain Colonial par des cybercriminels opérant depuis la Russie. La réciprocité serait extrêmement coûteuse pour l'économie russe, qui dépend très largement de ses pipelines pour exporter son gaz naturel. Les Américains n'ont pas directement accusé le gouvernement russe d'avoir attaqué informatiquement le pipeline Colonial, mais les experts américains ont relevé que les cybercriminels russes semblaient opérer en toute impunité tant qu'ils ne s'en prenaient pas à des cibles russes.

Dans sa conférence de presse tenue après le sommet, Biden a déclaré : « Je lui ai rappelé que nous disposons de puissantes capacités cybernétiques. Et il le sait. Il ignore de quoi il s'agit précisément, mais ces capacités sont conséquentes. Et s'ils venaient effectivement à enfreindre ces règles basiques, nous répondrions sur le terrain cybernétique. Il en a conscience ». Autrement dit, Biden a formulé une menace dissuasive, dans le cas où la Russie continuerait de violer les normes volontaires qui interdisent les attaques contre des infrastructures civiles, et l'utilisation du territoire à des fins malveillantes. Poutine est intelligent, et il a certainement entendu le message, mais la question de l'amélioration du comportement de la Russie dépendra de la crédibilité de Biden.

Fixer une ligne rouge peut constituer un exercice délicat. Certaines critiques redoutent qu'en spécifiant les interdits, Biden ait implicitement signifié tolérer d'autres actes. Une ligne rouge doit par ailleurs être mise en application pour être efficace. Les détracteurs de Biden estiment ainsi que l'avertissement aurait dû porter sur l'ampleur des potentiels dégâts commis, pas sur leur lieu ou leurs modalités.

À titre d'illustration, vous ne demandez pas à l'organisateur d'une soirée d'éteindre purement et simplement la musique ; vous l'avertissez que si le bruit devient intolérable, vous appellerez la police. Il restera à observer l'interprétation du message de Biden par Poutine dans les mois à venir, mais les deux présidents ont bel et bien convenu de mettre en place un groupe de travail cybernétique chargé de définir les limites de ce qui est « tolérable ».

Les États-Unis vont devoir formuler unilatéralement les normes auxquelles ils entendent se conformer. Lorsque la Russie franchira la ligne, l'Amérique devra être prête à mener des représailles ciblées, par exemple à vider les comptes bancaires de certains oligarques privilégiés, à divulguer des informations compromettantes, ou à perturber les réseaux russes. La stratégie de défense et l'engagement constant de l'USCYBERCOM peuvent être utiles en termes de dissuasion, mais devront s'accompagner d'un processus de communication pacifique.

Les groupes criminels agissent souvent comme intermédiaires des États, à des degrés différents, et les États-Unis vont devoir faire clairement savoir que le fait d'abriter des cybercriminels conduira à des représailles. Et dans la mesure où le code de conduite ne sera jamais parfait, il devra s'accompagner d'un processus consultatif régulier établissant un cadre d'avertissement et de négociation. À la question de savoir si Biden aura réussi à amorcer un tel processus à Genève, ou si les relations cybernétiques entre Russes et Américains sont vouées à demeurer mauvaises, la réponse devrait apparaître plus clairement dans les prochains mois.

**A NOTE OF CONDOLENCE**

To The Varmah & McGill Families  
Following the Death of Ma Watta Varmah  
Mother of Honorable Nathaniel F. McGill  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS



JUNE 26, 2021

Today we have received with deep sadness news of the unfortunate passing of Madam Ma Watta Varmah, Mother of the Honorable Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel McGill. Mother Ma Watta Varmah succumbed to the cold hands of death earlier today.

I came to know her personally and we created a special bond.

On behalf of First Lady Mrs. Clar Marie Weah, the entire Weah family and in my own name, I extend my profound sympathy to the bereaved family. The deceased offered invaluable counsel,

especially during the 2017 elections whenever we stopped by her house. She was a loving and wonderful woman.

She was one of the biggest supporters of the Coalition for Democratic Change, and we cannot thank her enough for all her contributions.

Her passing has created a deep void in our hearts.

We pray that the Lord consoles the McGill family and all Liberians afflicted in similar manner.

May her soul and the souls of all faithful departed rest in perfect peace and may light perpetual shines upon them.

H.E. George Manneh Weah  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Republic of Liberia  
**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA  
(www.mofa.gov.lr)

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to announce to public that it will commence the interview of Passport Applications beginning July 8, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic which necessitates adherence to prescribed health protocols for the safety of staff and the public, the Ministry will be receiving applications for passport by appointment only.

Applicants wishing to acquire Passport should follow the procedures:

Go online and fill out the application form @ www.liberiapassport.com

- (1.) Secure an online appointment after filling of the application
- (2.) Print the completed application form as well as the appointment date secured and come to the Ministry on the date of appointment.  
  
(Person without an appointment date will not be served and should not come to the Ministry.)
- (3.) The Ministry will receive only 50 applicants a day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for regular processing of passport which will be processed in seven (7) working days.
- (4.) The Ministry will receive 50 (Fifty) applicants on Tuesday and Thursday for persons wishing to take advantage of the expedited application process. Expedited application will be processed within 24 hours.
- (5.) No applicants will be allowed into the building unescorted by the designated passport officer.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
David K. B. Akoi  
Officer-In-Charge /Public Affairs

**Announcement**

A reputable printing press is seeking marketers to market its printing services. Interested applicants should be able to seek for contracts / attract customers. Salaries are negotiable.

Interested applicants should address their applications to:

The Management of Searchlight Communications Inc., /  
NewDawn, U.N. Drive  
Monrovia, Liberia  
Email: Info@thenewdawnliberia.com

**Child custody argument**

Cont'd from page 7

Cllr. Wright explained that from the commencement of the custody sharing arrangement up to present, Mr. Bility's former wife has constantly and consistently taken the children to school very late or sometimes not at all, especially every Monday, leading to the school officially writing to the father and raising concerns.

Cllr. Wright said Bility's ex-wife Madam Warti Robertson-Clarke is in the constant habit of leaving the children at home unattended and unsupervised by an adult to the extent that the younger brother put an object in the ears of his older brother, something which led to him seeking medical attention at a health facility.

The astute lawyer stated that the respondent (Children's Mother) lives in an abusive relationship that is dangerous for the children, explaining that on a particular night as she and her current husband fought, she drove the kids at 4 a.m. to their father, which suggests she lacks everything of a capable mother to take care of the kids.

He claimed that Madam Clarke

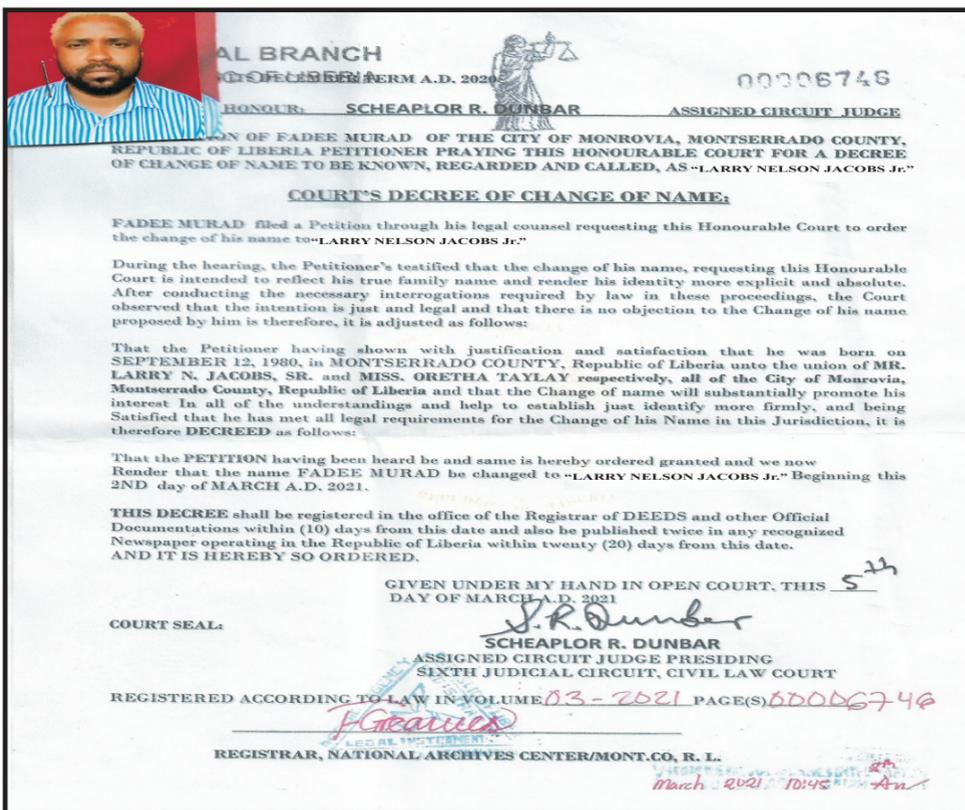
does not have the financial capability to take care of the children because she does not have a job or other visible means of income and has never worked in her life.

As such, Cllr. Wright said she will be dependent on Mr. Bility to support his children and her unborn child begotten of another man, maintaining it's dangerous to entrust the kids in her care.

But lawyers representing Madam Warti Robertson-Clarke counter argued that the decision for custody of children under the Domestic Relations Law and the question of children's right provided for in the Children's Law and other statutes of Liberia is predicated and tenaciously hinged to the best interest of the children.

"This being the case, respondents vehemently contend that Mr. Bility is morally unfit to perform such parental, moral and legal and natural duties, and therefore prays your honor to deny his request for permanent custody of the minor children," the lawyer said.

The lawyers said as the result of the moral unfitness of Mr. Bility, the Judge should grant their client permanent custody for the best interest of the innocent children.



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# Liberia to get US\$350M IMF money

By Othello B. Garblah

Liberia is expected to bag a whopping sum of US\$350 million of IMF (International Monetary Fund) money that is if a proposal for general allocation submitted by the IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva is approved.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva submitted a proposal for a general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) equivalent to US\$650 billion to the Board of Governors for its approval on Friday July 9.

If approved, Liberia would get US\$350 based on its 0.05% quota to the IMF and the

would help many EMDCs that are liquidity constrained smooth needed adjustment and avoid distortionary policies, while providing scope for spending on crisis response and vaccines.

The proposal by the IMF Managing Director follows the Executive Board discussion of the general allocation of SDRs on June 25 and its formal support of the proposal on July 8.

On June 25, the Executive Board discussed a proposal for a historic US\$650 billion general allocation of SDRs to address the long-term global need to supplement existing reserve assets.

Approval of the general allocation of SDRs requires

which the allocation has been made; to support economic growth thru major infrastructure investment in the post COVID Era and to support Fight against COVID thru vaccinations and; to liquidate both domestic debt as a form of economic stimulus and to pay down some debt to the IMF.

The Liberian Government led by the Ministry of Finance Development Planning will also be expected to negotiate with the IMF for the usage of the money.

The funding amount would be given to the Central Bank of Liberia and the non-reserve portion on lent to the fiscal authority.

Key dates about Liberia and the IMF

Liberia join the IMF on March 2, 1962

It has a SDR quota of 25.4 million.

Special Drawing Rights of 136.9 million.

Background

The Articles of Agreement require periodic consideration and decisions on SDR allocations or cancellations in consecutive basic periods of normally five years. The Managing Director must make a proposal to the Board of Governors no later than six months before the end of each basic period regarding a general allocation or cancellation for the next basic period if the conditions under the Articles are met. If there is no proposal for an allocation (or cancellation) at that point, the Managing Director can bring the issue of a general allocation or cancellation of SDRs before the Executive Board for further discussion, if and when appropriate, during the course of the basic period. The Board of Governors or the Executive Board may also request that the Managing Director make proposals at any time. The current Eleventh Basic Period is scheduled to end on December 31, 2021 and the Twelfth Basic Period will commence on January 1, 2022.

support by members representing an 85 percent majority of the total voting power of SDR Department participants (currently all IMF members).

The Board of Governors is scheduled to vote on the proposal by August 2. Once approved, the allocation is expected to be implemented by end-August (during the current Eleventh Basic Period).

Liberia's usage of fund if approve

If approved Liberia is expected to use the US\$350 million for three purposes: to boost up Liberia reserve. This is one of the main reasons for



IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva

money would be used to boost its reserve, support economic growth and the fight against covid-19 thru vaccines.

The proposal makes a case for an allocation of US\$650 billion (about SDR 456 billion), based on an assessment of IMF member countries' long-term global reserve needs.

It also includes measures to enhance the transparency and accountability in the reporting and use of SDRs while preserving the reserve asset characteristic of the SDR.

The general allocation

# Liberia's covid cases on a decline

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's covid cases have seen a decline in the number of new infection in the last one week Chief Medical Officer Dr. Francis Karteh says, but warned the public to exercise caution.

"Definitely, there was a significant decline ... and I am so grateful to the people of Liberia, you know like I always said, nobody wants to restrict the privileges of individuals and so forth. But if we all can make a sacrifice, definitely the sooner we do that, the better we all can be," he told local broadcaster OK FM Monday morning, 12 July in Monrovia.

Dr. Karteh said with the sacrifices that everyone has made, Liberia has "seen a decline," but cautions that "we should not start celebrating" because when dealing with an infectious disease and you break the curve, it goes up and down until you get to a specific area.

"So this one week of intensive decline does not

significantly.

"Active cases now [are] about 2,465. We will be clearing that out because most of the people have either completed ... their home - based care treatment and so we will be clearing those out. So that would bring the number down significantly if we do not have a high rise in total new cases," he said.

The Chief Medical Officer stated that cumulative death is 144, and other deaths are still being investigated, pending confirmation from the rapid test.

He said for the entire last week, Liberia had a cumulative of 286 new Covid cases, compared to the week before when Liberia recorded its highest cumulative Covid cases of 1,134 in a single week since the outbreak last year.

"This week, cumulative for the week came down to 286. So for the entire week of last week we had 286 new cases," Dr. Karteh said.

He explained that at the start of this week, which was Sunday,



indicate that we are out of the woods. So ... we all need to continue to do what we are doing, wearing our masks, washing hands as often as we can, social distancing, and you know, decrease on this jolly, jolly a little and I think you know, if we all work together, we can get there," he added.

At the Covid treatment unit, he said there are 42 persons and there is also a decline in the number of admission there, noting that 37 of the 42 are oxygen - dependent, which means that they are severe.

He indicated further that five persons were discharged from the treatment unit and in the past 24 hours, there was no new death.

Dr. Karteh revealed that overall Liberia has about 2,465 active Coronavirus cases, but health authorities will be clearing out most of the people because they have either completed their home - based care treatment, and it will bring the number down

11 July, Liberia had 50 new Covid cases, adding that cumulatively since Covid hit Liberia, "We have now 5,215 ... cumulative cases."

Regarding vaccination, he said authorities are doing everything they can to make sure that they get vaccines in the country as soon as possible.

For those who took their first dose of the vaccines, he explained that they have between eight weeks to twelve weeks to take their second dose, noting that whatever it is, everyone will get their second dose taken.

He urged the public to be a little bit patient as authorities look at the probability of other vaccines that may come, saying even if the AstraZeneca does not come and Liberia gets the Johnson & Johnson or the Pfizer, the best decision will be made for the people.

"So like I said, there's a possibility of getting Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer or AstraZeneca. Whichever one we get first, then we can go into those discussions," he said.

Cont'd from page 7

## WAHO calls for social

economic impact on the population of West Africa, and that since its inception, WAHO has worked closely with all 15 Ministries of Health of ECOWAS Member States, the Africa Regional Office of WHO and key stakeholders, including more recently the Africa Centre for Disease Control, to drive its mandate of safeguarding and improving the health of the region's citizens.

The 34th anniversary of

the West Africa Health Organization was commemorated on 9 July 2021, with Professor OKOLO describing the past 18 months as the most challenging since the existence of the regional body.

However, he said despite recurrent disease outbreaks and epidemics that have challenged the fragile health systems of the region, WAHO has championed several health improvement programs including projects on reducing the number of women

dying during childbirth and the number of children dying before the age of 5 years; projects on increasing local manufacture of high quality drugs; and projects on strengthening the region's disease surveillance, preparedness and response architecture to ensure that infectious disease outbreaks are detected early and responded to robustly.

He said during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, WAHO

## ArcelorMittal Liberia boosts government's COVID-19 fight



The Management of ArcelorMittal Liberia has made another donation of medical supplies to the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Health to help accelerate response to the

Coronavirus pandemic in the country.

According to the company, the latest donation which is an initial portion of a bigger consignment of medical supplies valued at nearly US \$47,000 (forty-seven thousand dollars)

included thirty (30) Oxygen Canisters, thirty (30) medical regulators, and an announcement of three thousand, five hundred (3,500) PCR COVID Test kits

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

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## FA to investigate Euro 2020 final disorder

The Football Association (FA) will conduct a review into the "unprecedented level of public disorder" that marred Sunday's Euro 2020 final.

Italy beat England 3-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw at Wembley, although the hours building up to the game were dominated by scenes of unruly conduct on Wembley Way and in Leicester Square, both of which were left strewn with litter and debris.

That unrest was then

wrought upon the match venue itself as supporters without tickets - successfully in some cases - attempted to enter the stadium.

The FA will work in association with the Metropolitan Police, who made 49 arrests in connection with the final.

"We will carry out a full review and investigation into the events that took place at Wembley Stadium before and during the UEFA Euro 2020 Final," an FA statement read.

"This will be done in collaboration with the Police,



the Greater London Authority, the Safety Advisory Group and the tournament delivery stakeholders." Despite footage of security being apparently overwhelmed by people looking to charge the stadium, the FA said security provision "exceeded requirements for the match". "However, the behaviour of the people who illegally forced their way into the stadium was unacceptable, dangerous and showed total disregard for the safety and security protocols in place," the statement continued.

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