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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, JULY 25, 2022	L\$152.4266/US\$1.00	L\$154.1161/US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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VOL. 12 NO. 130 MONDAY, JULY 25, 2022 PRICE LD\$40.00

NEC rejects Liberty Party Constitution



NEC Chair Madam Davidetta Browne-Lansanah

-Says it needs proof from Supreme Court



GT Bank to cough out US\$3.6m

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Continental News

Arrests as Madagascar Opposition Protest Living Costs

and police presence. Police said they arrested Rina Randriamasinoro, the secretary general of the opposition Tiako I Madagasikara (TIM) party, and its national coordinator Jean-Claude Rakotonirina following tensions between demonstrators and security forces. The pair

Ravelonarivo told AFP. Inflation has soared to the highest level in decades in many countries, fueled by the war in Ukraine and the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

Organizers had wanted to hold the rally inside a warehouse belonging to opposition leader Marc Ravalomanana, but demonstrators arrived to find security forces blocking access to the venue. Protesters then staged a sit-in outside the building.

Footage shared on social media showed police pulling Randriamasinoro and Rakotonirina from the crowd before taking them away in a police vehicle.

"The rally was authorized yesterday by the prefect and then this morning we discovered the police outside the gate," said opposition lawmaker Fetra Ralambozafimbololona.

The arrests sparked further remonstrations, with demonstrators vowing not to leave the area until the two men were released -- before eventually dispersing in the afternoon.

Randriamasinoro and Rakotonirina were eventually

let go early in the evening, a police spokesperson said, adding authorities were yet to decide whether to press charges against them.

Protests are rare in the country with the opposition and rights groups accusing the government of President Andry Rajoelina of stifling dissent and rarely allowing demonstrations.

"We can't say anything anymore," said Samuel Ravelarison, a 63-year-old accountant attending the rally. "We came to

demonstrate against the high cost of living."

Ravelonarivo, the prefect, said that while the demonstration had not been banned, he had suggested it be held at a different location away from the city center.

One of the poorest nations in the world, Madagascar is still reeling from the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic and a series of extreme weather events.

Tropical storms and cyclones have battered the country this year, killing more than 200 people, adding to the damage of a severe drought that has ravaged the island's south leading to malnutrition and instances of famine. VOA

ANTANANARIVO, MADAGASCAR — Police in Madagascar detained two leading members of the main opposition party on Saturday during a protest in the capital against rising living costs and



Madagascar police watch over opposition supporters close to former President Marc Ravalomanana

economic hardship. Several hundred anti-government demonstrators gathered in the center of Antananarivo in the morning, watched by a heavy military

were later released. "They were arrested and placed in police custody because they made comments inciting hatred and public unrest," Antananarivo's prefect Angelo

Al-Qaida Affiliate Claims Attack on Mali's Main Military Base

DAKAR, SENEGAL — Al-Qaida's affiliate in Mali claimed responsibility Saturday for an attack on the country's main military base, which it said was a response to governmental collaboration with Russian mercenaries.

Friday's raid on the Kati base 15 kilometers outside the capital Bamako killed at least one soldier and represented the first time in Mali's decade-long insurgency that Islamist militants have hit a military camp so close to Bamako.

The raid, carried out using two car bombs, also wounded six people, while seven assailants were killed and eight arrested, Mali's military said.

The media unit for al-Qaida's local affiliate, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM), said in a statement its Katiba Macina branch had carried out the attack, according to a translation by the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist statements.

The Malian military had blamed Katiba Macina for the attack in a statement Friday.

The JNIM statement said a Malian fighter had detonated a car bomb at the base's gate and a fighter from Burkina Faso detonated another inside the base, allowing additional fighters to enter the camp.

It justified the attack by citing the presence in Mali of mercenaries from Russia's Wagner Group, which began

supplying hundreds of fighters last year to support the Malian military and has since been accused by human rights groups and local residents of participating in massacres of civilians.

"We say to the Bamako government: if you have the right to hire mercenaries to kill the defenseless innocent people, then we have the right to destroy you and target you," it said.

The Russian government has acknowledged Wagner personnel are in Mali, but the



Malian soldiers are cheered by the population

Nearly 1,200 arrive by boat in 24 hours



Nearly 1,200 undocumented migrants have arrived in Italy over the past 24 hours, authorities say.

The migrants, who hail from several African and Middle Eastern nations, landed at several ports in Sicily.

Officials say 674 people were rescued and five dead bodies recovered from an overcrowded fishing boat off the coast of Calabria.

Another 522 people rescued from some 15 boats were brought to Lampedusa on Saturday.

The boats had departed from Libya and Tunisia. Lampedusa is one of the main arrival ports for people wanting to reach Europe.

Those rescued included migrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia.

According to Italian media, the island's immigration centre has been overwhelmed by a huge increase in landings in recent weeks. The Ansa news agency reports that the centre is well over its 350 person capacity, with some 1,184 people currently being held at the site.

The Coast Guard and non-governmental organisations rescue hundreds more in distress from the sea every year.

The Mediterranean is one of the most dangerous routes for clandestine migration. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) some 3,231 people were recorded as being either dead or missing in the Mediterranean and the northwest Atlantic in 2021.

Many of those making the perilous crossing do so aboard makeshift vessels supplied by people smugglers and are often left abandoned in the middle of the sea once the boats fail. BBC

Malian government has described them as instructors from the Russian military rather than private security contractors.

Wagner has no public representation and has not commented on the

accusations of human rights violations.

In a separate statement on Saturday, JNIM also claimed responsibility for attacks in five central and southern Mali towns on Thursday, which the Malian military said had killed one soldier and wounded 15. VOA

EDITORIAL

Judge Cornelius F. Wennah deserves a national recognition

IT IS AN understatement to suggest that Bong County Residential Judge Cornelius Flomo Wennah, who was honoured on Tuesday, 19 July by United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken as one of six (6) Heroes of the 2022 Trafficking In Persons Report, for lifting Liberia on the world stage as one of the countries striving to curtailing trafficking in persons.

JUDGE WENNAH PRESIDES over Criminal Court “E”, Ninth Judicial Circuit in Bong County. He was honoured by the U.S. Department of State for positively impacting the fight against human trafficking in Liberia, leading to the elevation of this country to Tier Two, up from the 2021 Tier Two Watch List. That’s a remarkable progress in minimizing, if not curtailing, trafficking in persons globally.

SECRETARY OF STATE Blinken noted at the release of the 2022 Trafficking In Persons Report held inside the Benjiman Franklin Room at the State Department in Washington DC that currently, about 25 million people around the world are victims of trafficking, and stressed that trafficking destabilizes societies, undermines economies, harms workers, enriches those who exploit them, undercuts legitimate business, and most fundamentally, it is profoundly wrong.

ACCORDING TO MR. Blinken, Judge Wennah was called out for his resolute efforts to build capacity in Liberia’s criminal justice sector to successfully prosecute human traffickers as well as his strong advocacy for the active inclusion of traditional leaders and civil society organizations in Liberia’s national Anti-Trafficking Task Force.

JUDGE WENNAH DOES not operate on his own or in isolation, which we know, but his resilient and uncompromising commitment to this fight stands tall thus, winning international attention, and taking this government and the entire country alone.

IT IS IMPORTANT that we celebrate our very best always to motivate others making similar strive elsewhere in our governance structure and even outside of the public sector. Thousands of other ‘Cornelius Wennahes’ are across this country making honest strives to moving the Motherland forward, but their activities are not being brought to limelight.

IT WOULD BE a serious disservice if Judge Wennah’s success story were to be treated ordinarily by the Government of Liberia, for he deserves not just a rousing welcome, but a national recognition because he has achieved a legacy not only for himself and his family, but the entire country that has gone down in history.

AT THE SAME time, we laud the Government of Liberia under President George Weah for demonstrating commitment and supporting the fight against trafficking in person. We are vividly aware of government’s efforts in bringing our daughters and sisters back home from Oman, where they were trafficked and subjected to dehumanizing conditions, including sexual abuse.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD also be hailed for bringing suspects to book. We also stress a need to strengthen laws on the book to make human trafficking very difficult and near impossible for would-be traffickers.

WE HOLD NO doubt that Judge Cornelius Flomo Wennah deserves to be included in the National Image Award and also recognized by the State for bringing pride to Liberians both at home and abroad with service of distinction that should not be ignored.

New Dawn
DAILY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Gordon Brown

Prosecuting Putin Starts Now

EDINBURGH - The world has responded to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine with sanctions, travel bans, and deliveries of humanitarian and military aid, all of which have been stepped up as Russian President Vladimir Putin’s war crimes claim more lives every day. Now, with the Ukrainian people’s courage and solidarity having stirred the collective conscience of Europe and much of the world, pressure is growing to complement these measures with criminal indictments of Putin and his closest associates.

The momentum is global. Some 140 prominent jurists and former leaders have issued a declaration of support for a “special tribunal for the punishment of the crime of aggression against Ukraine” - an idea first proposed by Philippe Sands of University College London. Indeed, Ukraine’s lead prosecutor has announced that she is already compiling evidence of war crimes committed by Putin and his forces, and legal authorities in Germany and Poland are launching investigations of their own. In Spain, a magistrate has been building a case upon which to issue international arrest warrants for Putin’s inner circle, as was done 20 years ago to arraign Chile’s former dictator, Augusto Pinochet.

Moreover, following requests from at least 39 countries, the lead prosecutor of the International Criminal Court is opening an investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine (though the ICC cannot prosecute Russia for the specific crime of aggression). And Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has announced that a UN Human Rights Council commission of inquiry will compile a dossier documenting crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression.

Meanwhile, Russia’s own hired legal gun at the International Court of Justice has resigned, saying, “Enough is enough. It’s become impossible for me to represent a country that so cynically despises the law.”

Putin’s crimes are so grave that all investigations are both essential and welcome. But the priority now is to move fast. The world needs to send a message to the people of Ukraine that the world will act, and to Russia’s current leadership that anyone helping to sustain Putin’s war of aggression will not escape with impunity and would do well to distance themselves from the regime and start turning over evidence.

A decision on a special international tribunal has been requested by Ukraine, and we need European governments to support that call. But we could already

establish an interim office to investigate all incidents that may constitute the crime of aggression. An interim prosecutor could be appointed to compile the evidence and consider the basic questions - the nature of prosecution, the issue of immunity, and the rules of procedure. This operation would preferably be based in The Hague, and it need not involve more than ten staff members. With financial support from one or two governments, it could work closely with the ICC in their respective but complementary investigations.

The crime of aggression is a relatively straightforward offense to investigate and prosecute. It applies to all those who plan, initiate, influence, or shape an overall policy of aggression. A group of American lawyers has already done impressive work documenting what they consider to be acts of aggression committed by Putin, starting with his 2014 decisions to seize Crimea and to deploy troops in Ukraine’s Donbas region.

Putin’s crime of aggression against Ukraine does not end with the invasion that began on February 24. It has continued with each deliberate attack on Ukrainian cities and towns, with his targeting of innocent civilians, with his refusal to honor humanitarian corridors and ceasefires, and with his use of nuclear power stations to extort the Ukrainian government.

When war crimes committed in Yugoslavia and Rwanda were on the agenda 30 years ago, US President Bill Clinton led a bold initiative to create special tribunals that were eventually endorsed by the UN Security Council. The justifications given then are no less relevant today. The Americans saw a need for moral leadership. A tribunal was not there to favor any one race, religion, or ethnic group, Clinton explained. But it would, as he said then, draw a line between those who had decided to wield a clenched fist and those who were willing to extend an open hand. That, he said, is ultimately the one dividing line that really matters.

Our task today is the same. We must draw a line between those who see the world as a never-ending struggle between “us” and “them,” and those who would embrace our common humanity. By beginning the process of investigating, documenting, and prosecuting Russia’s international crimes, we can give the people of Ukraine - and the world - a realistic hope that justice will be done and our common humanity acknowledged.

Gordon Brown, a former prime minister of the United Kingdom, is United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education and Chair of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity.



MANO RIVER UNION UNION DU FLEUVE MANO

Office of the Secretary General

Independence Day Greetings

The Secretary General, Management and Staff of the Mano River Union extend heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to
The Republic of Liberia



H.E. Dr. George M. Weah,

Vice President, H.E. Chief Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor.

We also extend celebratory greetings to:

The Speaker, President Pro Tempore and Members of the National
Legislature,

The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Liberia,

Members of the Cabinet,

The Doyen and Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Peace loving Liberians and all of our cherished and valued People in
Liberia.

May peace and unity prevail in Liberia and throughout the Mano River
Union sub region.

Happy 175th Independence Day

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Solway, Arcelor Mittal Mining War, and the media propaganda (Pt2)

*Why the other side not reporting this?

The Liberian media over the past weeks have been dominated by favorable articles in favor of Arcelor Mittal Liberia (AML), while tearing apart Solway Mining Company, one of the former's competitors.

Some of the reports have suggested that the delay in the ratification of AML's new MDA could sink the newly recast national budget into a shortfall-meaning, the company will not be able to remit additional taxes to government during this period.

Why others appeared to be toting this narrative as a way of mounting pressure on members of the Liberian Legislature to ratify AML's new deal, others took on the Executive by linking Solway to Russian ties.

What these various publications are suggesting is that President George Weah Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) government seems to prefer a Russian Company (Solway) over a British-American interest-AML-their intend speaks volume amid the ongoing Russia/ Ukraine war.

Some of the reports went further to question Solway's exploration license and the president's interest in the company when he was quoted as saying "let the Indian boy and the Liberian boy" dialogue.

But interestingly, these publications have fallen short of explaining the merits and demerits of Arcelor Mittal's new deal and what could be hindering it.

Instead, they have targeted all their reportage at other companies seeking mining rights here, while at the same time mounting pressure on members of the Legislature to ratify AML's third MDA.

So, what are they not reporting?

The media has failed to report that the third proposed amendment of the ArcelorMittal's MDA is not in the best interest of the country if the deal is ratified in its current state.

The proposed MDA among other things will see Mittal Steel undertaking the expansion of the railroad and the port of Buchanan in Grand Bassa County but also seeks some exclusive control to the detriment of other future users-something that could deny the government and country much-needed revenue for development and increase the pocket of the company.

For instance, the debate over the exclusive right the company seeks as it relates to its proposed expansion project will grant exclusive rights, thereby denying other users.

The ArcelorMittal MDA also seeks ad hoc committee on controversy. On page 11 of its MDA under the User Access and Future Expansion of the Railroad Article 3. e, 8e states: 3. e "If there is a Temporary Unused Capacity and condition A to D above are met, the Concessionaire will enter into the relevant rental agreement to the effect of subparagraph 7 above."

Subparagraph 7 on page 10 of the MDA states: "In the event the ongoing Railroad Capacity Expansion has been completed to haul 15MWMTA of finished products, but the expansion of the Concessionaire's mining and processing operation reach 15MWMTA, production (including its commissioning or ramp-up) has been delayed, leading to the temporary availability of an annualized unused capacity of at least 1.5 MWMTA on the Railroad for the following 12-months period as determined by the Concessionaire, acting reasonably and the latest forecasted progress project completion and ramp-up schedule for the mine and concentrator (the temporary Unused Capacity), the Concessionaire shall upon request and subject to the principles set out in subparagraph 9, below make available for rental such temporary Railroad unused capacity to an authorized eligible applicant using such eligible applicant's own rolling stock, a portion of the totality of such unused Railroad capacity up to a maximum volume of 3MWMTA, subject to conditions" listed in A, B, C, D and C.

There is no mechanism for a binding decision on this aspect of the AML MDA, meaning the decision is not binding.

AML plans to seek more rights beyond the ongoing and additional expansion as captured on page 9 of the same User Access and Future Expansion of Railroad in Article 3. e -6 2nd paragraph which states: "For the avoidance of doubt, in addition to the expansion rights set out above, the Concessionaire shall at any time have the right to apply for further Railroad expansions to meet the needs of Operations, in accordance with the Railroad System Operating Principles."

This will give AML the right to request more capacity above 30MTA, maxing out the capacity of the rail.

The AML deal also seeks exclusive rights that are its additional railroad capacity to reach 30MTA with a payment of US\$55million to the Government of Liberia. This is under Page 6 of User Access and Future Expansion of the Railroad. Page 6 Article 3. e.2, while page 7 Article 3. E.2B speaks of the payment and Article 3. E. 2D (i) on construction exclusion.

Engaging the press

AML has failed in its attempt to muscle the government into ratifying its new deal and has resorted to the media spew its propaganda war.

AML failed attempt is evidence by a barrage of written communications between the company and the Government as each side holds its own ground with self-interpretations of the MDA.

In its concerns addressed to the Government of Liberia on Friday 22 April 2022, AML's parent body ArcelorMittal, says it has become aware of the existence of certain agreements that the government has sought to conclude with third parties, including licenses that it notes, the Minister of Mines and Energy has purportedly issued to third parties, which it observes that on their face, and based on the limited information presently available, gives rise to breaches of AM's rights under the MDA.

"These apparent violations are at odds with the government's legal obligations towards AM, and if remained undressed, risk bringing about irreparable harm to AM's current operations and future business plan", AML's letter to the government read.

It notes that most importantly, these alleged breaches call into question the government's commitment to its longstanding partnership with AM.

AM in its letter also reminded the government that it has in previous communication with the government thru its letters dated 19 June 2020 and 13 July 2020, respectively about the Solway Mining Incorporated exploration license.

AM further contends that under the MDA, it (AM) enjoys "exclusive" right to conduct exploration, development, production and marketing of "iron ore and associated products", as well as rehabilitation of the associated infrastructure in the Concession Area, citing Article IV(1) of the MDA.

This communication prompted the government to respond thus: "Since you appear to be undeniably oblivious of our previous communications which lay clear the legal and technical premises for our decision to issue these licenses, we wish to restate that the issuance of mineral right over the former LAMCO Concession Area by the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the assertion that the affected rights fall within AML's Concession Area was done in line with the definition of the Mineral and Mining Laws of 2000 that clearly created the platform for said discussion", a Ministry of Mines and Energy's letter dated 23 May 2022 to ArcelorMittal read.

This letter was issued under the signature of Minister Gesler E. Murray. Murray argues that while AML obtained assets of the former LAMCO Concession Area under the MDA of 2005 and subsequent Amendment of 2006/2007, the company did not automatically acquire any production or exploration areas for the exploration and exploitation of iron ore thereon.

The Government insists that because AML declared Production Area in 2005 and was issued a Class A Mining License over the declared area (Mts. Tokedeh, Gangra, Yuelliton) on September 1, 2005, its mineral rights over the former LAMCO Concession areas were trimmed and restricted to the Class A Mineral License area, and areas containing the assets and facilities of the former LAMCO for operation.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Cummings Returns Home After Month-Long Tour in Europe and U.S.

The Political Leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC), Mr. Alexander Cummings, returned home over the weekend after a successful visit to Italy, Germany, and the United States of America. Mr. Cummings, the leading opposition leader, is also the Presumptive Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP).

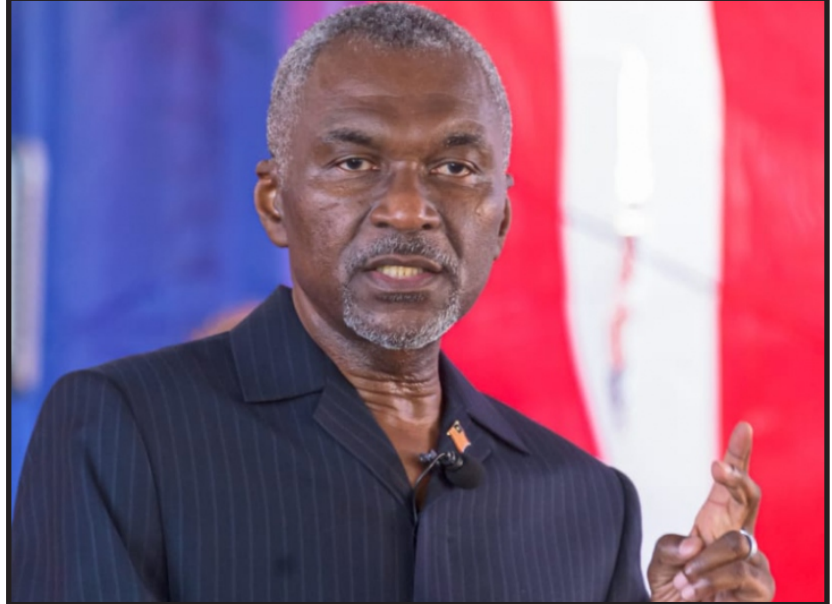
Cummings also held discussions with the Liberian Diaspora in the three

with former world leaders including, Presidents, Vice Presidents and Prime Ministers discussed the need for global peace.

Cummings used the opportunity to highlight and share Liberia's peace-keeping experiences and emphasized the need to ensure that the process of peacekeeping is inclusive of all gender. He emphasized that women and youths, are often the most vulnerable and usually the victims in armed conflicts worldwide.

public forum with hundreds of Liberians who expressed concerns about prevailing conditions in Liberia, especially, persistent international reports of corruption, growing insecurities, rising crime rates, deteriorating social services and extreme poverty.

Cummings spoke of the dire and urgent need for genuine real change to alleviate the suffering of the vast majority, restore basic social services, and redeem the country's lost international image and dignity, by voting out President George Weah in the 2023 General and Presidential elections.



Liberian citizens in Germany expressed disappointment in the administration and inept leadership style of President Weah. They empathized with their fellow Liberians, pledging their support and commitment to the real change agenda of the Alternative National Congress.

The Liberian Diaspora across Europe demonstrated their support by the launching of a special fundraising drive and urged Mr. Cummings to continue his efforts aimed at redeeming the country from the corrupt and inept management of President Weah and gang of officials and friends.

countries about prevailing economic and political conditions in Liberia and the need for their continuous engagements and involvement in Liberia.

In Italy where he attended an international retreat at the invitation of the Brenthurst Foundation, a pro-democracy, leadership, and research organization based in South Africa, the ANC Political Leader, along

He stressed the need to also ensure economic equality, strengthen the fight against public corruption, improve electoral processes, and provide equal access to justice, which he said are critical in maintaining world peace and stability.

From Italy, the ANC Political Leader visited Hannover, Germany where he participated in a major

In the United States of America, the ANC Political Leader met and held talks with U.S officials as well as major key stakeholders, pleading with them not to give up on Liberia in the face of the worsening political and economic conditions.

Whapoe endorses July 26 protest

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) political leader Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe has endorsed a planned protest due on Liberia's 175th Independence Day, 26 July 2022.

fix the country.

But Dr. Whapoe said this is not only about SUP, but the entire nation and every patriotic Liberian.

"We have nothing to show and celebrate as a country and people," he claimed.

"Our security, health and economy are all damaged

and stolen by vampires. I am part of this call because it's a national request," he added.

Moreover, Dr. Whapoe stated that the gathering to call the government's attention to bad governance and other issues is a fundamental right under the law.

In an exclusive interview with this paper at the weekend, Dr. Whapoe said the protest is laudable and necessary.

"Everybody needs to come together so that we can call our government again to the prevailing hardship and poverty in the country," he told this paper.

The campus - based Student Unification Party (SUP) at the University of Liberia plans to stage a protest on 26 July demanding the Government of Liberia to



Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

Verolyn Vonleh is Miss Liberia 2022

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Miss Verolyn Veseh Vonleh, a 21-year-old indigene of Rivercess County, South-Central Liberia, has been crowned Miss Liberia 2022.

She won the crown in a very competitive pageant during the early hours of Sunday, 24 July 2022 after weeks of rigorous mentoring and modeling sessions as well as voting process via TipMe Liberia.

She defeated fellow contestants Miss Kindness Wilson of (Grand Gedeh County) as 1st Runner-up and Miss Joicet Jartu Fodey of (Grand Cape

the final stage, including Faith Flourishing Collins of Gbarpolu County, Amb. Linda Doe of Bomi County, Favour Topoe of Grand Kru County, Kindness Wilson of Grand Gedeh County, Kariah Dorley of Rivergee County, Georgia Leela Bemah of Bong County, and Tracy T. Nagbo of Lofa County, respectively.

Others are Antoinette Benson, County Sinoe; Julia D. Moore, Grand Bassa County; Alice Rozel Quaye, Maryland County; Joicet Jartu Foday, Grand Cape Mount County; Rebina Carson, Nimba County; Lelai Bendu Yekelorde, Margibi County; and Willimena Lela- Murlyne- Brown,



Mount) as 2nd Runner-up thus, replacing beautiful Nimba County Model, Wokie Dolo, who held the title for the last five years after she won the crown in 2016.

Miss Verolyn, who entertained and impressed judges during the 12 hours program, went home with mouth-watering prizes. She will represent Liberia in the 2023 Miss World Pageant.

She is a student of the African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU) and shares ties with Nimba County where her father, Mr. Vonlehtay Vonleh, hails from, specifically, Gbor Wehplay, Nimba County.

In an interview with reporters after the competition the elated winner said: "I am very happy and I hope to use my position to put smiles on the faces of children and above focus on other societal issues soon."

A total 15 beautiful ladies from the 15 political subdivisions of Liberia, who participated in the preliminary round of the pageant made it to

Montserrado County.

The contestants faced simple but thorny questions from judges on the role of a woman in society, among others.

The filled-to-capacity Centennial Pavilion Hall came alive when the show started amidst cheers from the crowd for their contestants.

The ladies introduced the day undertaking a routine drill to the delight of the crowd that jam-packed the Centennial Pavilion in the heart of Monrovia, despite fears that various events being held around the capital would have overshadowed the nation's foremost beauty pageant.

On May 13, 2022, the 25th Edition of Miss Liberia kicked off at the Monrovia City Hall when four contestants from Montserrado, Grand Gedeh, Grand Cape Mount and Maryland Counties were dropped.

It was a night of culture, entertainment and competition, and some of Liberia's biggest stars, fashion promoters and socialites were featured as they graced the occasion, which also honored past and present icons.



HAPPY

INDEPENDENCE DAY

LIBERIA
26TH OF JULY





LIBERIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY



**PRESIDENT &
VICE PRESIDENT**



Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Independent Day Message

On the auspicious occasion which marks the 175th Independence Day Celebration of the Republic of Liberia on July 26, 2022; the Minister of Finance and Development Planning Hon. Samuel D. Tweah Jr., Deputies, Assistants, Directors and Employees of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning extend warmest congratulations and best wishes to His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces; The First Lady Madam Clar Marie Weah, the Vice President Her Excellency Chief Dr. Jewel Howard Taylor; the Honorable Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers and members of the National Legislature, The Chief Justice and Members of the Judiciary, The

Doyen and Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Development Partners, Employees of Government and the peace loving people of Liberia.

As we celebrate Liberia's 175th independence in the year of our bicentennial and post-COVID-19 and Ukraine war-induced supply chain challenges, may the Almighty God continue to bestow upon his His Excellency bountiful wisdom to steer our national ship through vicissitudes of progress, as we together forge a Pro-Poor destiny undreamed of the annals of our History.

Happy Independence Day to His Excellency, the Government and Peaceful people of Liberia.

Français

L'UE salue l'abolition de la peine de mort au Libéria

L'Union européenne et ses États membres représentés au Libéria, à savoir l'Allemagne, l'Irlande, la France et la Suède, félicitent le gouvernement libérien d'avoir légalement aboli la peine de mort dans le pays.

Dans un communiqué de presse publié à Monrovia, l'UE a décrit la peine de mort comme une peine cruelle, inhumaine et dégradante contraire au droit à la vie. Elle est incompatible avec la dignité humaine et rend toute erreur judiciaire irréversible.

« Un moratoire sur l'application de la peine de mort était certes en vigueur au Libéria depuis 2005, mais son abolition légale complète constitue désormais une étape importante et essentielle pour assurer le plein respect de la dignité humaine », a-t-elle dit.

Elle estime que cette décision renforce la perception globale du Libéria en tant que démocratie libre et libérale et envoie des signaux positifs au monde des affaires pour des investissements potentiels

créateurs d'emplois et aux citoyens européens désireux de visiter le Libéria.

L'UE indique en outre son communiqué que la démarche du gouvernement libérien vers l'abolition de la peine de mort est une démonstration concrète des valeurs partagées par les peuples du Libéria et d'Europe.

« Nous sommes impatients de poursuivre nos efforts communs pour assurer le respect des droits de l'homme aux niveaux multilatéral et régional. »

L'UE dit reconnaître que la

République du Libéria joue actuellement un rôle important dans le rétablissement de la paix, de la sécurité, de la stabilité, de la démocratie et de l'ordre constitutionnel dans les républiques sœurs de la région, et réaffirme sa volonté de soutenir le Libéria et la CEDEAO dans ces efforts.

« Ces mêmes valeurs inspirent les positions fortes adoptées par la République du Libéria après l'agression

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Libéria : Attaqués ou condamnés, les journalistes pris pour cible

Une journaliste d'investigation condamnée à un mois de prison, trois journalistes agressés en deux jours... Reporters sans frontières (RSF) condamne la montée des exactions envers les journalistes, depuis fin juin, au Libéria et appelle les autorités à les protéger, surtout en cette année pré-

électorale.

Après sa condamnation, le 5 juillet, à un mois de prison par un tribunal de Paynesville, banlieue à l'est de Monrovia, capitale du Libéria, pour "trouble à l'ordre public" dans une affaire l'opposant à un homme politique, Marvin Cole, la journaliste d'investigation Bettie K. Johnson Mbayo est formelle : "Ces accusations portées contre moi ont pour but de me faire

taire."

Dans le pays, outre cette condamnation de Bettie K. Johnson Mbayo, des agressions de la part des forces de sécurité ou de responsables politiques ont visé trois journalistes depuis fin juin.

"Qu'il s'agisse d'attaques physiques, d'arrestations arbitraires ou de condamnations sur la base de prétextes fallacieux, les violations commises contre les journalistes se multiplient ces derniers jours au Libéria, déclare Sadibou Marong, directeur du bureau Afrique de l'Ouest à RSF. La condamnation de Bettie K. Johnson Mbayo est disproportionnée et elle doit être annulée en appel. Cette décision envoie un signal désastreux pour la liberté de la presse dans le pays, déjà mise à mal depuis plusieurs semaines. Les autorités doivent tout faire pour mettre un terme aux attaques, menaces et intimidations envers les journalistes, alors que le pays

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Éditorial

Le juge Cornelius F. Wennah mérite une reconnaissance nationale

Ce serait un euphémisme de dire que le juge résident du comté de Bong, qui a été honoré le mardi 19 juillet par le secrétaire d'État américain Antony Blinken comme l'un des six (6) héros du rapport 2022 sur la traite des êtres humains, mérite une reconnaissance nationale, car il a élevé le Libéria, l'un des pays qui s'efforcent à réduire la traite des êtres humains, sur la scène mondiale.

Le juge Cornelius Flomo Wennah, préside le tribunal pénal « E » du comté de Bong. Il a été honoré par le Département d'État américain pour sa contribution positive à la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains au Libéria, ce qui a conduit à l'élévation de ce pays au niveau deux, en hausse par rapport à la liste de surveillance du niveau de 2021. Il s'agit d'un progrès remarquable dans la réduction de la traite des êtres humains dans le monde.

Le secrétaire d'État Blinken a affirmé lors de la publication du rapport 2022 sur la traite des êtres humains dans la salle Benjamin Franklin du département d'État à Washington DC qu'actuellement, environ 25 millions d'êtres humains sont victimes de la traite dans le monde. Il a fait observer que la traite déstabilise les sociétés, sape les économies, nuit aux travailleurs, enrichit ceux qui les exploitent, sape les entreprises légitimes et, plus fondamentalement, c'est un mal profond.

A en croire M. Blinken, le juge Wennah a été appelé pour ses efforts résolus visant à renforcer les capacités du secteur de la justice pénale du Libéria afin de poursuivre avec succès les trafiquants d'êtres humains, ainsi que pour son solide plaidoyer en faveur de l'inclusion active des chefs traditionnels et des organisations de la société civile dans la lutte nationale contre la traite.

Le juge Wennah n'opère pas seul ou de manière isolée, nous savons cela, mais son engagement résilient et sans compromis dans cette lutte se démarque ainsi, attirant l'attention internationale.

Il est important que nous célébrions toujours notre meilleur pour motiver les autres qui font des efforts similaires ailleurs dans notre structure de gouvernance et même en dehors du secteur public. Des milliers d'autres "Cornelius Wennahs" sont à travers ce pays et s'efforcent honnêtement de faire avancer la Patrie, mais leurs activités ne sont pas mises en lumière.

Ce serait malheureux si le Gouvernement libérien traite la réussite du juge Wennah comme quelque chose d'ordinaire, car il mérite non seulement un accueil enthousiaste, mais aussi une reconnaissance nationale parce qu'il a laissé des empruntes pour, non seulement lui-même et sa famille, mais aussi tout le pays qui est entré dans l'histoire.

Dans le même temps, nous félicitons le Gouvernement du Libéria sous la présidence de George Weah d'avoir fait preuve d'engagement et d'avoir soutenu la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains. Nous sommes parfaitement conscients des efforts déployés par le gouvernement pour ramener nos filles et nos sœurs d'Oman, où elles ont été victimes de la traite et soumises à des conditions déshumanisantes, y compris des abus sexuels.

Le gouvernement devrait également être salué pour avoir mis des suspects en examen. Nous soulignons également la nécessité de renforcer les lois pour rendre la traite des êtres humains très difficile et presque impossible pour les trafiquants potentiels.

Nous ne doutons pas que le juge Cornelius Flomo Wennah mérite d'être inclus dans le prix national de l'image et également reconnu par l'État pour avoir fait la fierté des Libériens tant au pays qu'à l'étranger avec un service de distinction qui ne doit pas être ignoré.

Français

L'UE salue l'abolition de la

illégal et non provoquée de l'Ukraine par la Russie, et sa position ferme et décisive sur les droits de l'homme aux Nations Unies grâce aux initiatives diplomatiques inlassables du Ministre des affaires étrangères, l'ambassadeur Dee -Maxwell Saah Kemayah ».

En attendant, l'Union européenne et ses États membres apprécient les échanges constructifs et réguliers fondés sur des valeurs partagées avec le

ministre Kemayah et le ministre de la Justice Musa F. Dean aux échanges fructueux dans le cadre du 10e dialogue politique UE-Libéria et dans d'autres formats.

« L'UE et ses États membres se réjouissent de poursuivre leur coopération active pour garantir le plein respect des droits de l'homme et la promotion des valeurs de la démocratie libérale dans les enceintes multilatérales et au sein de la région », indique le communiqué.

Libéria : Attaqués ou condamnés

s'achemine vers des échéances électorales décisives l'année prochaine.”

“Tentative d'intimidation”

Journaliste d'investigation réputée et primée dans son pays, dont le travail a permis de révéler des scandales majeurs impliquant de grandes institutions de sécurité au Libéria, Bettie Mbayo est convaincue que cette affaire est un prétexte pour l'empêcher de faire son travail. Elle déclare à RSF : “C'est une tentative d'intimidation. Lorsque le jugement a été lu, l'homme politique a dit que je passerai un long moment en prison pour que je ne puisse plus faire des reportages sur son parti”.

Le 15 janvier, Bettie Mbayo et son mari avaient garé leur véhicule devant la résidence de Marvin Cole pour rendre visite à un ami, et avaient été agressés physiquement par ce dernier et ses employés qui leur demandaient de quitter les lieux. La journaliste avait alors reçu un coup de pied à la jambe gauche, occasionnant plusieurs contusions.

Portée devant le tribunal, l'affaire s'est soldée, le 5 juillet, par la condamnation de la journaliste et de son mari. Ils ont fait appel auprès de la Cour suprême du Libéria et restent libres jusqu'à la décision finale.

La sécurité des journalistes mise à mal

Les attaques contre des journalistes, et tout particulièrement ceux couvrant des questions politiques, ont mis en lumière la fragilité de leur sécurité au

Libéria.

Le 29 juin, au lendemain de l'élection du gouverneur du comté de Lofa, dans le nord-ouest du pays, les journalistes Emmanuel Kollie, reporter et présentateur pour le groupe de médias publics Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) et Amos Korzawu, reporter pour le site d'information Fortune TV Liberia, ont été violemment agressés et menacés par des agents de sécurité. Ils étaient partis couvrir un affrontement post-électoral dans la rue.

Racontant à RSF les circonstances de cette attaque contre lui et son confrère, Emmanuel Kollie déclare “Nous avons été intimidés, agressés et même flagellés alors que nous n'étions sur les lieux de ces échauffourées que pour faire notre travail de journaliste. Malheureusement, nous n'étions pas en mesure d'identifier formellement les agents de sécurité impliqués car ils portaient des casques de protection.”.

Les journalistes ont signalé l'incident à la police, qui n'a pas encore donné suite à l'affaire.

La veille, la reporter R. Joyclyn Wea, travaillant pour le journal New Republic, a été attaquée par la cheffe du protocole de la présidence, Cleopatra Cummings, pour avoir pris sa photo dans un tribunal de Monrovia. Inculpée dans une affaire d'agression, Cleopatra Cummings, accompagnée de sa fille, est entrée de force dans la salle réservée aux journalistes pour demander que sa photo soit effacée, en insultant et menaçant la journaliste.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Gordon Brown

Le procès de Poutine commence dès aujourd'hui

ÉDIMBOURG - Le monde a répondu à l'invasion russe de l'Ukraine par des sanctions, interdictions de voyage, et fournitures d'aide humanitaire et militaire, autant de démarches intensifiées à mesure que les crimes de guerre commis par le président russe Vladimir Poutine fauchent toujours plus de vies chaque jour. Aujourd'hui, le courage et la solidarité du peuple ukrainien éveillant la conscience collective de l'Europe et d'une grande partie du monde, la pression s'accroît en faveur d'une approche consistant à accompagner ces mesures de poursuites criminelles à l'encontre de Poutine et ses plus proches collaborateurs.

Cette dynamique est planétaire. Pas moins de 140 éminents juristes et anciens dirigeants politiques ont publié ensemble une déclaration en faveur de la création d'un « tribunal spécial pour la poursuite du crime d'agression commis contre l'Ukraine » - une idée proposée pour la première fois par Philippe Sands, de l'University College de Londres. La procureure générale de l'Ukraine a d'ores et déjà annoncé qu'elle réunissait les preuves des crimes de guerre commis par Poutine et ses troupes, les autorités judiciaires d'Allemagne et de Pologne débutant également leurs propres enquêtes. En Espagne, un magistrat constitue actuellement un dossier pour l'émission de mandats d'arrêts internationaux à l'encontre de l'entourage de Poutine, comme le firent les juges il y a 20 ans pour traduire en justice Augusto Pinochet, ancien dictateur du Chili.

De même, suite à la demande d'au moins 39 États, le procureur de la Cour pénale internationale ouvre une enquête pour crimes de guerre et crimes contre l'humanité en Ukraine (la CPI n'étant pas en mesure de poursuivre la Russie pour le crime spécifique d'agression). La Haute-Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme, Michelle Bachelet, a annoncé que la commission d'enquête du Conseil des droits de l'homme de l'ONU constituerait un dossier documentant ces crimes contre l'humanité, ces crimes de guerre, et cette agression.

Dans le même temps, le propre bras droit juridique de la Russie devant la Cour internationale de justice a démissionné, déclarant « Trop c'est trop. Il devient pour moi impossible de représenter un pays qui méprise le droit avec autant de cynisme ».

Les crimes de Poutine sont si graves que toutes les enquêtes possibles s'avèrent à la fois essentielles et bienvenues. La priorité consiste néanmoins aujourd'hui à procéder rapidement. Il est nécessaire que le monde adresse à la population ukrainienne un message selon lequel il entend agir, et aux dirigeants russes actuels un message selon lequel quiconque aidera Poutine à poursuivre sa guerre d'agression n'en sortira pas impuni, et ferait bien de prendre ses distances avec le régime, ainsi que de commencer à livrer des preuves.

L'Ukraine demande que soit prise une décision sur la création d'un tribunal international spécial, et nous autres gouvernements européens devons répondre à cet appel. Nous

pourrions toutefois mettre en place dès aujourd'hui un bureau provisoire d'enquête autour de tous les incidents susceptibles de qualifier le crime d'agression. Un procureur intérimaire pourrait être nommé et chargé de réunir les preuves ainsi que de réfléchir aux interrogations préalables - nature du procès, question de l'immunité, et règles de procédure. Il serait préférable que cette démarche soit menée depuis La Haye, et qu'elle ne fasse intervenir qu'une équipe de dix personnes tout au plus. Avec le soutien financier d'un ou deux gouvernements, cette équipe pourrait travailler en étroite collaboration avec la CPI, dans le cadre de leurs enquêtes respectives mais complémentaires.

Le crime d'agression est un acte relativement simple à poursuivre et sur lequel enquêter. Il concerne tous ceux qui planifient, entreprennent, influencent ou élaborent une politique globale d'agression. Un groupe de juristes américains a d'ores et déjà fourni un impressionnant travail de documentation de ce qu'il considère comme des actes d'agression commis par Poutine, à commencer par ses décisions de 2014 ayant consisté à annexer la Crimée ainsi qu'à déployer des troupes dans la région ukrainienne du Donbass.

Le crime d'agression commis par Poutine contre l'Ukraine ne s'arrête pas à l'invasion ordonnée le 24 février. Ce crime se poursuit à travers chaque attaque délibérée contre des villes et villages ukrainiens, chaque tir contre des civils innocents, à travers le refus d'honorer les cessez-le-feu et les couloirs humanitaires, et via l'emploi des centrales nucléaires comme moyen de pression contre le gouvernement ukrainien.

Face aux crimes de guerre commis il y a 30 ans en Yougoslavie et au Rwanda, le président américain Bill Clinton avait mené une initiative audacieuse pour la création de tribunaux spéciaux, qui avaient été en fin de compte approuvés par le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU. Les faits l'avaient justifié à l'époque, et le justifient tout autant aujourd'hui. Les Américains avaient éprouvé la nécessité d'un leadership moral. Il ne s'agissait pas pour le tribunal de favoriser quelque appartenance raciale, religieuse ou ethnique, avait expliqué Clinton, précisant que l'enjeu consistait davantage à tracer une ligne entre ceux qui avaient décidé d'user de la brutalité, et ceux qui préféraient tendre la main. Telle était en fin de compte la ligne de démarcation la plus importante, avait-il déclaré.

Notre tâche est aujourd'hui la même. Nous devons tracer une ligne entre d'un côté ceux qui voient le monde comme un éternel champ de bataille entre « eux » et « les autres », et de l'autre ceux qui aspirent à une humanité commune. En débutant sans tarder le processus d'enquête, de documentation et de poursuite en justice des crimes internationaux perpétrés par la Russie, nous pouvons offrir au peuple d'Ukraine - et au monde - l'espoir réaliste que justice sera rendue, et notre humanité commune reconnue.

Traduit de l'anglais par Martin Morel

Gordon Brown, ancien Premier ministre du Royaume-Uni, est envoyé spécial des Nations Unies pour l'éducation mondiale, et président de la Commission internationale sur le financement des opportunités d'éducation à travers le monde.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Grand Gedeh caucus to boycott 26 celebrations

By Lincoln G. Peters

Grand Gedeh County Legislative Caucus has announced a total boycott of all activities connected to Liberia's 175th Independent Day celebration.

The caucus told a press conference on Saturday, 24 July 2022 that its planned boycott is due to the government's alleged failure to conduct a full-scale investigation into the mysterious disappearance in

The Grand Gedeh County legislative caucus accused the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Justice of intentionally sweeping the alleged mysterious disappearance of Mr. Dunn under the carpet.

The press conference was graced by Senator Marshall A. Dennis, Representative George S. Boley and Representative Eros Madison Gwion.

Reading the press statement, Grand Gedeh

one of its promising sons, Mr. Alfred T. Dunner," said Rep. Gwion.

He also stated that several other alleged secret killings and mysterious deaths were a reason for the caucus' decision.

According to him, the caucus has called the attention of the government, but it has allegedly refused to address the matters.

He further indicated that they continue to be very concerned about the mysterious disappearance of Mr. Dunner because it's been more than two months since the incident.

Rep. Gwion noted that the caucus still does not know the whereabouts of Mr. Dunner, and it does not know what has happened to him.

He alleged that the government has refused to communicate with the caucus.

In early May of this Year, Rep. Gwion noted, Liberia and the world woke up to the extreme sad news of the mysterious disappearance of Mr. Dunner.

He added that Mr. Dunner got missing from a nearby town where he had been taken to seek herbal treatment.

County Electoral District #1 Representative Eros Madison Gwion said the caucus is boycotting all events for this year's Independence Day celebration because Grand Gedeh is enduring grief.

"The county as a people, is saddened at the mysterious disappearance of

Gwion explained that in the wake of Dunner's disappearance, tension mounted in the county.

He said Dunner's kinsmen got furious over the situation and demanded answers, but they are yet to get any. -- Edited by Winston W. Parley



May this year of Mr. Alfred Tailey Dunner.

Mr. Dunner was working as National Elections Commission (NEC's) County Logistic Officer for Grand Gedeh when he reportedly went missing. His whereabouts remain unknown.

Govt. finally releases Prince Cooper's body

By Kruah Thompson

The Government of Liberia has finally released the corpse of the late Princess Cooper to her family for burial following disagreement and recent standoff.

The remains of the late Princess Cooper were released to the family on Saturday, July 23, 2022, at the John F. Kennedy hospital in Sinkor, Monrovia.

The body of the deceased is currently deposited at the K-five Funeral Home in Caldwell Township, Montserrado County, The New Dawn has gathered.

Family members expressed delight that the body of their dead relative has been turned over to them for a befitting burial. "We wanted it and we have it; that's okay", one family member said.

The late twenty-five (25)-year-old Princess Cooper was discovered dead on March

24, 2022 inside the compound of the Fawaz Building Materials Store in Paynesville with blood oozing from her mouth.

She was an entrepreneur and a professional caterer, according to family members.

Police preliminary investigation said there was no foul play in the death, but that claim was greeted by public condemnation.

However, an autopsy conducted by the Government of Liberia attributed the cause of death to Tuberculosis.



CSOs reject Weah's demand on LACC

--say amendment undermines LACC robustness and effectiveness

By Lewis S Teh

Following the amendment of the 2008 Act establishing the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), six Civil Society Organizations have rejected the request from the Executive to grant direct prosecutorial power to the Commission.

"Based on careful review of what the Lower House passed on and concurred with by the Liberian Senate on July 21, 2022, we like to express our deep disappointment about the decision and inform the general public that the action of the Legislature is generally not in good faith, as it undermines robustness and effectiveness of the LACC than strengthening it", says Mr. Harold Aidoo, head of Integrity Watch Liberia.

process of the LACC Board of Commissioners and the Direct Prosecutorial Power itself, which he says removes the 90 Days restriction/bottleneck provided for in the 2008 Act.

However, he notes that other removals and insertions generally render the Law as not being in the very best interest of the Commission, particularly the fight against corruption, and the Liberian people generally.

"This action on the part of the Legislature is a complete deviation from the true spirit and intent of the direct Prosecutorial Power", he argues.

He says CSOs' disagreement and disappointment in the actions of the Legislature stem from few reasons including the dissolution of the Commission and creation of reputational issues, including unnecessary



Reading a five-page Press Statement on behalf of the six CSOs in a news conference held over the weekend, Mr. Aidoo said they acknowledge few good additions such as a clear and inclusive process involving civil society and development partners in the recruitment

financial liabilities for the government.

Mr. Aidoo continues that the amendment, as proposed by President Weah, sought to make a simple amendment to the 2008 LACC Act to grant the Commission direct power to prosecute.

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a surprise, but a continuation of what the Indian philanthropist has been doing.

"I like what he said, 'give not to receive, but to impact.' That is an innovation for all of us in this country," said Mr. Gbankpala.

Welcoming Mr. Jeety and his delegation, Prison Superintendent Major Nelson P. Woah expressed appreciation to the Indian businessman for his continued support.

He said he was happy that Mr. Jeety is about to undertake a project to electrify the Kakata Central Prison to boost security at the facility.

Jeety receives humanitarian

"On behalf of the Bureau of Corrections, we are very much happy to receive the donation from Mr. Jeety. Only people who fear God can do this for people who have come in conflict with the law of the land," said Major Woah.

According to Major Woah, the facility has been out of electricity since the solar panel installed there by UN Peacekeepers spoiled.

He appealed to other businesspeople in the country to follow the good example of Mr. Jeety and extend help to prison facilities in the country.

NEC rejects Liberty Party Constitution

The Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission (NEC) has rejected recent augmented Liberty Party Constitution filed by Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrance.

the Liberty Party (LP) that the LP's 2021 notarized constitution - filed with the Commission on February 26, 2021-- is presumed proper and remains as such until successfully challenged in keeping with due process or

and resubmit same to the Commission, the "Justices" did not see the need to issue the writ.

Two days after receipt of your July 11th communication, the Commission received a letter under the signatures of

Mr. Musa Bility and Mr. Martin Kollah in which they stated that Justice Yuoh did not give any instruction regarding the referenced July 11, 2022 submission made to the Commission; and that they did not sanction the said July 11th submission.

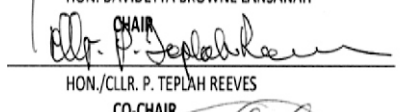
The Commission observes that Justice Yuoh's decision, which the Court served on the Commission and is included as an exhibit in your July 11th communication, does not make any mention of an instruction or commitment by the parties regarding the July 11th submission. Without proof to the contrary, the Commission can only

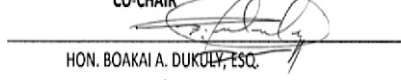
act within the confines of the decision the Honorable Supreme Court served on it, which states that Her Honor declined to issue the writ prayed for.

Because your July 11, 2022 communication follows the referenced prohibition proceedings at the Honorable Supreme Court and cites "commitment" reportedly made by the parties during the said proceedings at the Honorable Supreme Court, the Commission will need proof of same and its effect, if any, before it may act on the referenced July 11th submission to the Commission.

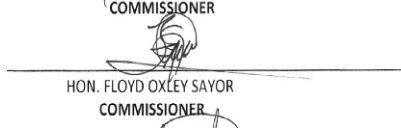
Sincerely,


HON. DAVIDETTA BROWNE LANSANAH
CHAIR

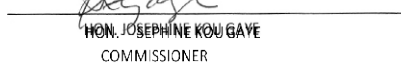

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CO-CHAIR


HON. BOAKAI A. DUKOLEY, ESQ.

HON./ CLLR. ERNESTINE MORGAN-AWAR
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HON. FLOYD OXLEY SAYOR
COMMISSIONER


HON. BARSEE LEO KPANGBAI
COMMISSIONER


HON. JOSEPHINE KOU GAYE
COMMISSIONER

CC: Hon. Musa H. Bility
Hon. Martin S. Kollah

GT Bank to cough out US\$3.6m

The Civil Law Court "B" in Monrovia has ordered the Guaranty Trust Bank Liberia Limited (GT Bank) to pay over US\$3.6m to Liberian lawyer and businessman Cllr. George Kailondo.

The court's order came on 20 July 2022 after hearing an action of damages case filed against the commercial Bank by Cllr. Kailondo before Judge Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay.

The judge has held the bank liable and ordered the payment of US\$3,250,000 as general damages for all the inconveniences, losses and embarrassment caused Cllr. Kailondo.

It also ordered the payment of US\$420,000 plus six percent legal interest per annum calculated from 2015 up to the date of the final judgment on 20 July 2022.

"... It is the determination and Final Judgment of this Court that the claim of the Plaintiff is hereby sustained, and the defense and counterclaim of the Defendant are overruled, denied and dismissed," judge Gbeisay ruled.

On 28 September 2021, Cllr. Kailondo filed a complaint against GT Bank, praying the Court to hold the bank liable for illegally debiting his accounts for various amounts without any authorization from him.

He alleged that the bank withheld the amounts debited (withdrawn) from his accounts.

He asked the court to award General Damages in an amount not less than US\$2,500,000.00 for the injury and tortuous action carried out by the bank against him by illegally debiting his accounts without authorization.

He said the bank's action destroyed his character and

business image through a Non-Compliance letter written on 12 August 2020, to all commercial banks, making him to appear as a risk for doing business.

"Plaintiff also claimed Special Damages in the amount of US\$420,000.00 (Four Hundred and Twenty Thousand United States Dollars) representing the balance of the money illegally debited from Plaintiff's Accounts and being withheld by the Defendant," he added.

According to the court document, the defendant on September 22, 2021, filed its answer containing 51 counts and along with it, also filed a Motion to Dismiss the case.

In its Motion, the bank requested the court to dismiss Kailondo's entire action because prior to filing this suit, he, as private prosecutor, filed a criminal action against the bank by and through the Republic.

The bank contended that Kailondo had demanded restitution of the amount he alleged was wrongfully debited by the bank.

On 15 October 2021, the court continued, Kailondo filed his reply consisting of eighteen counts to the defense's answer along with his resistance to the bank's motion to dismiss.

The Court heard and denied the bank's motion to dismiss and ruled the case to trial on its merits.

The Court, in its ruling on the motion, held that the law rely on by the defense was inapplicable because the causes of action, as well as the parties, and the reliefs sought to be granted were not one and the same.

"One case is criminal (Public wrong) where the Party Plaintiff is the Republic of Liberia and the other case is civil (Private wrong) where the party Plaintiff is Kailondo Petroleum Inc," the Judge ruled.

Starts from back page

time ... this [facility] will be electrified," said Mr. Jeety.

He also promised to provide a generator for the Kakata Prison compound so that it can be used to provide electricity in case there's no power.

In December last year, Mr. Jeety put smiles on the faces of inmates and workers at the Monrovia Central Prison by providing running water in all its housing units, clinics, bakery and other sites that needed water.

He also included in the project the installation of two 500 liters of poly tanks for water storage along with a 5.5KVA generator for the supply of water at the Monrovia Central Prison whenever there is a power outage from the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC).

In observance of Liberia's

Jeety receives humanitarian

175th Independence Day celebration, which is due on 26 July 2022, Mr. Jeety said he thought to begin the festivity by sharing with the inmates at the Kakata prison center.

"It's not my first time coming here; I have been here before, and I have come, brought the hot-cooked meal as usual," he said.

In these festive times Mr. Jeety urged that people give to inspire others, reminding them that the reward of what they do here is with God.

He thanked the Superintendent of the Kakata Central Prison, and the county authorities for the reception.

Mr. M. Kpakany Gbankpala, County Inspector, Margibi County, thanked Mr. Jeety for his humanitarian services.

He said Jeety's visit and provision of food for inmates at the Kakata Central Prison was not



The NEC Board of Commissioners in a letter dated July 21, 2022, says it will need proof of the prohibition proceeding referenced by Sen. Karnga-Lawrance in her July 11, 2022 communications before acting on her request.

The electoral body stated that the proof of proceedings is necessary because two days after it received Sen. Karnga-Lawrence's communication, it also received a letter under the signatures of Mr. Musa Bility and Mr. Martin Kollah stating that Justice Yuoh did not give any instruction regarding the referenced July 11, 2022 letter.

Therefore, the NEC asserts that a proof referencing said prohibition proceedings at the Supreme Court which cites "commitment" made by both parties during said proceedings is necessary.

Excerpts of NEC's communication to Sen. Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence:

Dear Hon. Karnga-Lawrence,

We present compliments on behalf of the National Elections Commission, and write in reference to your July 11, 2022 communication.

As you will recall, Honorable Senator, in responding to your previous requests to replace the Liberty Party's 2021 constitution with the 2015 constitution, the Board of Commissioners on January 10, 2022 repeated the information to partisans of

via amendment by the Party.

Subsequent to the Board's January 10th communication, the Commission received an assignment from the Honorable Supreme Court, citing the Commission to an April 29, 2022 conference in relation to the petition for a writ of prohibition filed by you and others in the case: IN RE: Karnga-Lawrence et al v. Bility, Kollah and NEC. We note that the information contained in the Board's January 10th communication was a subject of that petition.

On June 29, 2022, the Commission received the Court's decision, in which the Justice in Chambers, Her Honor, Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, declined to issue the writ prayed for. Hence, the Commission's information to the Party, concerning how the LP's 2021 notarized constitution may be challenged or amended by the Party, remains undisturbed.

Subsequent to the herein cited decision of the Supreme Court, the Commission on July 11, 2022 received the instant communication from you, attached to which were a convention report; a notarized constitution signed on July 11, 2022; and the Court's decision in the matter. In the referenced communication, you stated, among others, that "based on the acknowledgment and commitment of the both parties" to make corrections to the LP's 2021 constitution

Jeety receives humanitarian award

-Takes estimates to electrify Kakata Central Prison



the Monrovia City Hall.

The organizers indicated that Mr. Jeety's profile proved captivating, and it possessed all the attributes listed in the selection criteria.

"...[Hence], the committee selected you as the Winner of the National Humanitarian Award," the organizers said.

President George Manneh Weah served as the Convener for the Award.

Days after the event, Mr. Jeety continued his humanitarian work in Margibi County on Saturday, 23 July, providing hot - cooked meals for all 177 inmates held at the Kakata Central Prison compound.

On his way to the prison compound, Mr. Jeety was accompanied by Engineers to do an estimate for the electricity project.

He assured the authorities at the prison compound during his visit in Kakata that before he returns next time, the place will be electrified.

"So, I have brought the Engineer who will [do] the estimate. When I come here next

By Winston W. Parley

Renowned Indian businessman and philanthropist Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Mr. Jeety) has been certificated as winner of the National Humanitarian Award.

The National Secretariat of the Golden Image Awards, the Liberia Crusaders for Peace and partners in association with the Government of Liberia awarded Mr. Jeety during an event held on 21 July 2022 at

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