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# CDC regime responsible

**-Gongloe Team alleges**



# Women lead Cummings' 2023 bid

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# Continental News

## Cameroon Becomes a Go-To Country for Foreign Fishing Vessels

**D**OUALA, CAMEROON – Off the coast of West Africa, the Trondheim is a familiar sight: a soccer field-sized ship, plying the waters from Nigeria to Mauritania as it pulls in tons of mackerel and

Once, it operated under the name of the King Fisher and sailed under the flag of the Caribbean nation St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Then it switched to Georgia, the former Soviet republic. It was only in 2019 that it began flying the banner of Cameroon.

The Trondheim is one of

are owned or managed by companies based in European Union member states: Belgium, Malta, Latvia and Cyprus.

The AP examined over 80 ship profiles on MarineTraffic, a maritime analytics provider, and matched them with company records through IHS Maritime & Trade and the International Maritime Organization or IMO.

“They’re interested in the flag. They’re not interested in Cameroon,” said Beatrice Gorez, coordinator for the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements, a group of organizations highlighting the impacts of EU-African fisheries arrangements that identified the recent connection between companies in EU member states and the Cameroon fleet.

Each of the vessels changed flags to Cameroon between 2019 and 2021, though they had no obvious link to the country and did not fish in its waters. The Trondheim and at least five others have a history of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, according to a report by the

environmental group Greenpeace. Both the vessels and their owners conceal what they catch, where it goes and who is financially benefiting from it, maritime and company records show.

In recent years, Cameroon has emerged as one of several go-to countries for the widely criticized “flags of convenience” system, under which companies can – for a fee – register their ships in a foreign country even though there is no link between the vessel and the nation whose flag it flies.

The ships are supposed to abide by that nation’s fishing

agreements with other countries. But experts say weak oversight and enforcement of fishing fleets by countries with open registries like Cameroon offer shipping companies a veil of secrecy that allows them to mask their operations.

That secrecy, the experts say, also undermines global attempts to sustainably manage fisheries and threatens the livelihoods of millions of people in regions like West Africa. Cameroonian officials say all the ships that fly its flag are legally registered and abide by all of its laws. But regulators in Europe recently warned the country that its inability to provide oversight of its fishing fleet could lead to a ban on fish from the country. VOA



A Cameroonian flag flies on a ship at the port in Douala, Cameroon

sardines – and flying the red, yellow and green flag of Cameroon.

But aside from the flag, there is almost nothing about the Trondheim that is Cameroonian.

several vessels reflagged under Cameroon’s growing fishing fleet that have changed names and been accused of illicit activities at sea. Currently, an investigation by The Associated Press found, 14 of these vessels

## Algerian leader in bold move to promote English at junior school

**A**lgerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has announced that the former French colony will start teaching English in primary schools later this year.

“French is a spoil of war, but English is an international language,” he said.

Algeria gained independence from France in 1962 after a bloody eight-year war that continues to complicate relations between the two countries.

The continued use of French at institutions and the administration of business is a sensitive topic.

Arabic and Tamazight, which is spoken by the Amazigh or Berber minority, are the country’s official languages.

President Tebboune, in an interview recorded by state-run TV on Saturday, was responding to growing demands from academics and undergraduates.

They say English should be offered as a subject earlier as it is the language of instruction at university for

those studying medicine and engineering.

Under the current curriculum, English is offered at secondary school to students from the age of 14, while pupils start French when they are nine years old.

The president’s comments come from an extract of a wide-ranging interview to be broadcast in full later on Sunday.

A similar initiative was

launched in the early 1990s for parents to be given the right to choose between French and English for their children at junior school.

But it caused outrage in France and a pro-French lobby within the Algerian government called for the scheme to be dropped. In the end the education minister was sacked. BBC



Arabic is Algeria’s most widely spoken language and French is introduced to pupils aged nine

## US Envoy Urges Progress on Ethiopia Peace Talks, Aid



**A**DDIS ABABA – The new U.S. envoy for the Horn of Africa called Saturday for progress in holding Ethiopian peace talks and for unrestricted aid deliveries to stricken areas of the country.

Mike Hammer, who arrived in Addis Ababa Friday, held talks with Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen, the U.S. embassy said.

They discussed the “need for continued progress on ensuring unfettered humanitarian assistance delivery, human rights accountability & political talks to end the conflict & achieve a lasting peace”, the embassy said on Twitter.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s government and the rival Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) have both raised the prospect of peace talks to end the brutal conflict that erupted in November 2020.

But major obstacles have emerged, not least over who

should mediate any negotiations.

Abiy wants the African Union, which is based in Addis Ababa, to broker any talks, while the TPLF is insisting that the negotiations are led by neighboring Kenya.

Abiy’s national security adviser Redwan Hussein said on Twitter this week that the government was ready to talk “anytime anywhere” and that negotiations should begin “without preconditions.”

Meanwhile, TPLF-linked Tigray TV quoted the rebels’ leader Debretsion Gebremichael warning that basic services would have to be restored in Tigray before negotiations could begin.

Fighting has eased in northern Ethiopia since a humanitarian truce was declared at the end of March, allowing the resumption of desperately needed aid convoys.

Malnutrition and food insecurity

Untold numbers of people were killed in the war and the UN says more than 13 million people need food aid across Tigray and the neighboring regions of Afar and Amhara, with high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. VOA

# EDITORIAL

## Christopher's pains cry for justice

**THE WOUNDS AND** pains of Student Christopher Walter Sisulu Sivili of the University of Liberia along with his colleagues who were brutally attacked by pro-government supporters on Independence Day (July 26, 2022) before the Embassy of the United States near Monrovia cry for justice. The only crime those students committed was to peacefully protest in Monrovia against the 175th Independence celebration of Liberia.

**IN THEIR MIND**, there is nothing to celebrate because Liberia is engulfed by hardship and poverty, as a result of massive corruption in government that has deprived citizens of basic services such as health and education, among others.

**IN FACT, THE** students under the banner, Vanguard Students Unification Party (SUP) of the University of Liberia staged their protest far away from the main venue of the official Independence Day celebration held at the Centennial Pavilion on Ashmun Street, but yet, they were chased and attacked by the pro-government group, CDC-Council of Patriot, inflicting wounds that left several of them taken to hospital, including Student Christopher Walter Sisulu.

**SADLY, AND REGRETTABLY**, the government has turned a blind eye on the violence with the Police saying that they have no knowledge about those who perpetrated it, in what obviously amounts to complacency.

**IN A DELIBERATE** lack of political will to go after suspected perpetrators, the Police are instead, asking the public to identify individuals who might have staged the attack against peaceful students exercising their constitutional and democratic franchise.

**THE GOVERNMENT OF** Liberia thru the Ministry of Justice had earlier condemned the violence and ordered full investigation, but in a 60-degree turnaround, the Police say they lack information to make any arrest thus, breeding impunity.

**THIS IS WHY** we welcome call by the Liberia Council of Churches for government to provide full account of the violence that occurred under its watch. In fact, Police presence was reinforced near the Embassy of the United States during the violence, so it is very incomprehensible when Police Spokesperson Moses Carter, asked the public to help the Police with clue on who might have ignited the bloody attack.

**WE ALSO LAUD** rights campaigner and Presidential hopeful, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, for taking on the government and personally promising to take the matter to court upon his return from the United States.

**AS CLLR. GONGLOE** observed via a statement from America, the lack of respect for the rule of law and human rights under the Weah administration, is fast turning Liberia, a constitutional democracy, into a fascist state, evidenced by current violence and lawlessness in the country.

**MAKE NO MISTAKE**, Tuesday, July 26 violence against peaceful students expressing their minds is just a tip of the iceberg of what to expect under this administration, as the nation prepares for Presidential and General Elections in 2023 when state-sponsored violence would take centerstage to suppress dissenting views. It is about time Liberian stand up against rule by terror and brutal force.

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# COMMENTARY

By Kenneth Rogoff

## Is the Peace Dividend Over?

**C**AMBRIDGE - Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine should be a wake-up call for Western politicians, corporate leaders, and economists who advocate a green and equitable future but lack any practical or strategic sense of how to get there. Regardless of what short-term tactics Europe and the United States use in responding to the current crisis, their long-run strategy needs to put energy security on a par with environmental sustainability, and funding essential military deterrence on a par with financing social priorities.

The Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 in no small part because Russia's leaders, most of all President Boris Yeltsin and his economic advisers, recognized that the Soviet communist military-industrial complex could not afford to keep up with the West's superior economic might and technological prowess. Today, with Russia's economy less than one-twentieth the combined size of the US and EU economies, the same strategy of vastly outspending Russia on defense should be much easier to execute. Unfortunately, there is a hesitancy in many Western societies, particularly on the left, to admit that defense spending is sometimes a necessity, not a luxury.

For many decades, Western living standards have been boosted by a massive "peace dividend." For example, US defense spending fell from 11.1% of GDP in 1967, during the Vietnam War, to 6.9% of GDP in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell, to just over 3.5% of GDP today. If US defense spending as a share of GDP was still at the Vietnam-era level, defense outlays in 2021 would have been \$1.5 trillion higher - more than the government spent on social security last year, and almost triple government spending on non-defense consumption and investment. Even at the level of the late 1980s, defense spending would be more than \$600 billion higher than today. The extra cost would have to be funded by higher taxes, greater borrowing, or lower government spending in other areas.

Europe's defense spending has long been far lower than that of the US. Today, the United Kingdom and France spend just over 2% of their national income on defense, and Germany and Italy only around 1.5%. Moreover, national interests and domestic lobbying mean that European defense spending is highly inefficient, with the whole being considerably less than the sum of its parts. I am amazed by how many of my otherwise well-informed friends have been asking why Europe does not mount a stronger military response to Russia's attack on Ukraine and looming threats to the Baltic states. Part of the answer, of course, is Europe's dependence on Russian gas, but the larger reason is its egregious lack of preparedness.

Thanks to Russian President Vladimir Putin, this may all change. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's announcement on February 27 that Germany will increase its defense spending to more than 2% of GDP suggests that Europe may finally be getting its act together. But

such commitments will have major fiscal implications - and, after the large pandemic-era fiscal stimulus, these may be difficult to digest. As Europe rethinks its fiscal rules, policymakers must consider how to make enough space to deal with unexpected large-scale military buildups.

Many seem to have forgotten that wartime spikes in expenditures were once a major driver of government spending volatility. In a war, not only do government expenditures and budget deficits typically increase sharply, but interest rates sometimes go up as well. Nowadays, policymakers (along with many well-intentioned economists) have become convinced that big global economic shocks such as pandemics or financial crises will invariably drive down interest rates, and make large debts easier to finance. But in wartime, the need to front-load massive temporary expenditures can easily push up borrowing costs.

True, in today's complex world of drones, cyberwar, and automated battlefields, how governments spend their defense budgets matters greatly. Still, it is magical thinking to assume that every time defense budgets are cut, military planners will make up the difference with increased efficiency.

It would also help if the West could avoid further strategic energy-policy blunders of the sort that led us to this point. In particular, Germany, which relies on Russia for more than half of its gas needs, appears to have made a historic mistake in decommissioning all its nuclear power plants after the 2011 Fukushima disaster. By contrast, France, which meets 75% of its energy needs through nuclear power, is significantly less vulnerable to Russian threats.

In the US, the cancellation of the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline may have been based on sound environmental logic. But now the timing seems awkward. Measures intended to protect the environment do little good if they lead to strategic weakness that increases the possibility of conventional wars in Europe - leaving aside the large-scale radioactive pollution that would result if neutron bombs or tactical nuclear weapons were deployed.

Stiff Ukrainian resistance, swift and severe economic and financial sanctions, and domestic dissent could yet force Putin to recognize that his decision to invade Ukraine was a spectacular miscalculation. But even if the current crisis subsides, the horrific attack on Ukraine ought to remind even the most committed peace advocate that the world can be harsh and unpredictable.

Everyone hopes for lasting peace. But hard-headed analyses of how countries can achieve sustainable and equitable growth requires leaving fiscal space - including emergency borrowing capacity - for the costs of guarding against external aggression.

*Kenneth Rogoff, a former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at Harvard University.*

O-PED

By Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

## Rate Hikes Alone Won't Curb Inflation

**N**EW HAVEN - As inflation in the United States reaches new heights, economists are debating how high the Federal Reserve will need to hike interest rates to curb demand and rein in price growth. Some commentators believe that the Fed will need to be as aggressive as Fed Chair Paul Volcker in the early 1980s, who ended up raising interest rates to as high as 20%.

Such figures understandably raise concerns that the effort to contain inflation will result in a recession and a sharp increase in unemployment. As a recent Peterson Institute for International Economics policy brief observes, reductions in job vacancies engineered through contractionary policies empirically go hand in hand with increases in unemployment.

Worse, while interest-rate hikes would likely increase unemployment over time, they will be insufficient to rein in inflation in the short run. Recent price increases may have been triggered by extraordinarily high demand following the pandemic, but supply-side factors - especially labor shortages and the energy crisis caused by Russia's war in Ukraine - have also played a significant role. Inflation cannot be contained unless these factors are addressed, too.

The situation calls for three supplementary initiatives. First, the conflict in Ukraine must be de-escalated. Although the war did not "cause" inflation, it has certainly contributed to rising prices - especially in the food and energy sectors - by exacerbating shortages that were previously expected to recede as COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.

As long as the war continues, energy and food prices will remain high, and uncertainty will keep rattling markets. Trade flows may be reoriented to phase out energy imports from "unfriendly" countries (to use the current jargon); but such realignments cannot happen fast enough to ease the current food and energy shortages. While diplomacy could still de-escalate the conflict (given that all sides have strong incentives to do so), time is running out. With each passing week, a face-saving settlement becomes harder to reach.

Second, America needs to move past COVID-19 in order to address labor shortages in specific sectors. Vaccines are widely available and have been shown to prevent serious illness in most cases. It is past time to abandon rules requiring workers to take multiple days off if they test positive, even when they are asymptomatic. Such policies have resulted in severe bottlenecks in key sectors, with the airline industry being a prominent example.

Third, the US urgently needs policies to push its labor force participation rate back up to its pre-COVID level. Many commentators have drawn parallels between the current economic environment and the stagflationary 1970s. But one feature that is unique to our time is the "Great Resignation." The pandemic has left Americans tired, demoralized, and unwilling to accept work that doesn't meet a higher standard of job satisfaction.

People are increasingly demanding "good jobs" with decent pay, benefits, and security (which often means that they are sheltered from unbridled foreign competition). But these are not the kinds of jobs that many firms offer. Plenty of essential jobs are neither particularly lucrative nor satisfying - whether it be loading and unloading trucks or container ships, washing dishes and bussing tables in restaurants, or working in construction or heavy manufacturing. Moreover, even high-paying finance and tech jobs in New York and San Francisco may fall short of workers' expectations if they require long daily commutes.

In a tight job market, it is not surprising that more Americans are saying "no" to work they perceive as unpleasant. But someone has got to do it, and for every American who upgrades their job or drops out of the labor force, there are several immigrants who would be happy to do the work that has been left behind. These immigrants, by definition, do not take work away from Americans; rather, they provide a net benefit to the economy. And the same goes for international trade, which can ease production bottlenecks and supply-chain shortages - effectively "importing" labor without immigration.

Unfortunately, US President Joe Biden's administration has stuck with much of the protectionist rhetoric used by its predecessor. Promising American workers well-paid, secure jobs, the administration has done little to increase immigration or permit more foreign competition, thus contributing to today's labor shortages. We have been reminded once again that protectionism ultimately harms the very people that it is supposed to help - especially during periods of supply-side shortages.

This cool-headed economic logic may sound inconsistent with progressive ideals and the Biden administration's commitment to empowering American workers. But we need to remind ourselves what is at stake here. High inflation undermines the entire progressive agenda. It makes the average worker worse off, and when it shows up in food and gasoline prices, it is deeply regressive. Because poorer households must spend a larger share of their limited incomes on basic needs, they fall even further behind the well off.

In an era of rapidly rising interest rates, higher debt-servicing costs will inevitably lead to fiscal spending cuts, including to much-needed infrastructure investment. Policies to address climate change and foster green growth are already being abandoned as policymakers focus on alleviating people's short-run pain (through performative gestures like a gasoline tax holiday). The Biden administration and congressional Democrats are right to be worried about this year's midterm elections - which makes it all the more surprising that they haven't embraced supply-side inflation-fighting strategies.

*Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, a former World Bank Group chief economist and editor-in-chief of the American Economic Review, is Professor of Economics at Yale University.*

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OPINION

By Daron Acemoglu

## Environmental Tariffs Could Be a Game Changer

**B**OSTON - Environmental tariffs may be humanity's last hope for mitigating climate change, which is on course to become increasingly devastating if we do not curb our greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions.

The most straightforward way to confront this unprecedented global threat is through a multilateral agreement that locks in a "green transition" in all (or most) countries. The key is to boost renewable-energy production while significantly reducing fossil-fuel consumption, a process that calls for coordinated policies on three fronts: regulation, subsidies for cleaner technologies (including renewables), and carbon taxes.

Unfortunately, this type of global agreement seems out of reach, both because the fossil-fuel industry remains politically powerful, and because some of the world's biggest emitters - including the United States, China, and India - are not adopting the necessary policies.

Although regulation and subsidies are essential to achieve an effective energy transition, the carbon tax is the bedrock, because that is what will increase the costs of emitting carbon dioxide, methane, and other GHGs. Several countries have already adopted such taxes, including Sweden, which has the world's highest carbon tax (approximately \$117 per ton). But many others, including the US and China, have not followed suit.

This lack of consistency gives rise to "carbon leakage." High-emissions activities tend to move away from countries with carbon taxes to those without. While a country that unilaterally adopts a higher carbon tax benefits everyone (by reducing its own GHG emissions), it also unwittingly encourages others to do less. Or, as an economist would put it, one should expect that unilateral climate-mitigation policies function as "strategic substitutes" across countries: The higher one country's carbon tax, the less other countries will do for mitigation.

A high carbon tax creates an opportunity for "carbon arbitrage." Since the steel industry emits 1.85 tons of carbon for every ton of steel produced, Sweden's carbon tax increases the cost of its steel production by about \$210 per ton, which in turn makes Chinese steel imports much more attractive for steel-users and their customers.

Worse, Chinese authorities have an incentive to maintain this arrangement. Without a Chinese carbon tax, Chinese steel exports will thrive, and that will help Chinese industry, workers, and politicians (who can claim credit for generating an economic boom). Even if they recognize the need to combat climate change, Chinese authorities may end up doing less than they might have done without Sweden's carbon tax.

Hence the need for environmental tariffs, which would reverse this logic by imposing a carbon tax on imports. Sweden would apply a border tax adjustment equivalent to the difference between its carbon tax and the carbon tax of the exporting country, multiplied by the tonnage of the CO2 emissions generated in the production of the imported products.

An environmental tariff's most obvious benefit is that it reduces carbon leakage. By nullifying the artificial cost advantage of imports from low-carbon-tax countries, it encourages steel consumption to shift toward cleaner domestic sources or less-polluting exporters.

But an environmental tariff's indirect effects may be even more important. Most importantly, a tariff makes climate-change mitigation policies "strategic complements" rather than strategic substitutes; this means that Swedish carbon taxes will encourage, rather than discourage, other countries to adopt similar policies of their own.

The logic is simple. Without environmental tariffs, Sweden's carbon tax gives Chinese steel producers an arbitrage opportunity. But once more countries have begun to apply border adjustments on imports, the Chinese authorities will want to help China's steel exporters clean up their operations. Regardless of whether they do this through carbon taxes, regulations, or subsidies for clean energy, Chinese CO2 emissions will decline. And once Chinese producers start meaningfully reducing their emissions, China's authorities will have an incentive to introduce environmental tariffs of their own.

For the most part, what's standing in the way of aggressive environmental tariffs are excuses and misleading arguments. The fossil-fuel industry and major polluters, including China, are dead set against environmental tariffs and have been campaigning aggressively to block them. But this position is wholly selfish and thus should be disregarded.

A second argument is that environmental tariffs are protectionist measures, and that we should not "risk giving protectionists another opening," as The Economist puts it. This claim does not hold water. Because carbon tariffs level the playing field, they do not function like traditional protectionist measures. Moreover, the classic theory of trade does not imply that arbitraging domestic policies produces welfare gains - especially considering that such policies are essential for combating climate change.

A third objection is that environmental tariffs may not be legal under World Trade Organization rules. In fact, a straightforward reading of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) suggests that they are indeed legal. Article III allows for environmental taxes, stating that "[imported products] shall not be subject, directly or indirectly, to internal taxes or other internal charges of any kind in excess of those applied, directly or indirectly, to like domestic products." It follows that if a country has a domestic carbon tax on "like domestic products," it is permitted to apply the same tax to imports through border adjustments.

This rule has long provided the basis for border adjustments on value-added taxes, and it was also the reasoning behind a GATT panel's 1987 ruling (in United States - Taxes on Petroleum and Certain Important Substances) that border tax adjustments could be applied to chemicals. Furthermore, Article XX of the GATT provides additional exemptions for trade restrictions "necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health," and there is now a strong scientific case that carbon taxes meet that criteria.

Finally, some commentators worry that in a "liberal international order," important global policy decisions should be pursued primarily through multilateral cooperation. That may well be true. But the fact is that multilateral agreements are not going to work fast enough to keep the world anywhere close to the Paris climate agreement's 1.5° Celsius warming pathway. We cannot allow faith in multilateralism to become an alibi for inaction. Environmental tariffs could create a positive cascade of climate-mitigation policies around the world. There should be no delay in implementing them.

*Daron Acemoglu, Professor of Economics at MIT, is co-author (with James A. Robinson) of Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty (Profile, 2019) and The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty (Penguin, 2020).*

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# ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

## Is CDC sending the wrong message ahead of 2023?

The attack on protesting University students by an auxiliary group of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), on July 26, 2022, sends a wrong message to all well-meaning Liberians and foreign residents ahead of the 2023 general and presidential elections.

Students of the campus-based Vanguard Student Unification Party (SUP) of the University of Liberia had gathered early that morning in front of the United States Embassy in Monrovia to read out their petition statement as part of their protest plan announced days earlier.

The students' protest was against the celebration of the 175th Independence Day celebration. They believed that instead of celebrating the CDC Government should rather focus on the hardship and poverty in the country brought to bear by massive corruption in government that has deprived citizens of basic services such as health and education, among others.

Their peaceful gathering was in line with Article 17 of the 1986 Liberian Constitution which guarantees the rights of citizens to peacefully assemble at all times. However, their rights to enjoy this constitutional provision was short lived by acts of brutalization meted against them by a group of CDC zealots. This action by the CDC auxiliary group is no doubt anti-democratic, inhumane, and more so a gross disrespect for the rule of law.

What is more despicable about this attack is the presence of police officers on the scene who watched this gruesome episode unfolding right before their eyes in amusement-they chose to do nothing but watch the brutality unfolds.

Such acts executed by an auxiliary group of the ruling CDC, a party led by former Peace Ambassador George Weah in the presence of law enforcement officers who chose to watch in amusement and do nothing speaks volumes.

Moreover, this barbaric act carried out against these peaceful students occurred at the time there have been reports of the ruling party recruiting militant brigades in parts of the country ahead of the 2023 elections-this is worrisome. Could this be their modus operandi?

These anti-democratic tenets tend to threaten the peace of the country, especially at the time the nation is headed for the much-anticipated 2023 elections where the stakes are high.

Come to think of it, if a group of peacefully assembled students can be gruesomely brutalized in the presence of uniform law enforcement officers with impunity, the outcome of similar action against bitter political opponents would be unimaginable.

Thus, let it be noted that maintaining the peace is not just the absence of war but the presence of justice, tolerance, freedom from fear of violence between individuals or group and the ability of people to express themselves freely without fear or favor. The absence of these depicts a troubling sign for a country headed to a major election.

Meanwhile, it has been exactly six days since the unfortunate incident occurred right before the eyes of uniform officers, yet no arrest of the perpetrators has been made.

Police Inspector General Patrick Sudue will want the public to believe that his outfit is doing what it can to bring the perpetrators to justice when even his own men who took oaths to protect lives and properties were on the scene while a life was nearly taken and did nothing.

It's a scary signal coming from the police. This leaves many to wonder whether the police is only there to protect people acting on behalf of the ruling CDC or were the officers on the scene partisan police?

From whichever side of the political divide, one belongs to, this act by auxiliaries of the CDC is a wrong message to all Liberians both home and abroad. That a party which protested for twelve-unbroken years during the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf regime is not tolerant enough in entertaining critical voices, is sad.

These anti-democratic tendencies are reminiscent of Liberia's immediate past and they have the propensity to rollback all that this nation has achieved over the past 19-years.

Although there has been a platitude of condemnations with some coming from the government itself, but in the absence of arrest and prosecution, it remains an outright endorsement by the CDC in disguise.

President Weah has continued to preach the message of peace, calling on all and sundry to keep the peace, now is the time to show this by first letting heads roll at the Liberian National Police, failing to do so will bring his reputation as a man of Peace under scrutiny.

The political atmosphere around him may say to the contrary that these acts are necessary to instill fears in both citizens and political opponents for the sole purpose of capturing a second six-year term. However, should he choose the latter, this would make him a dictator rather than the Peace Ambassador he is known to be.

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# The fragility of the Liberian State under George Weah

By S. Karweaye

On July 26, 2022 (Independence Day), members of the University of Liberia campus-based political party known as the Student Unification Party (SUP) were attacked by a group calling itself Coalition for Democratic Change Council of Patriots (CDC-COP), an auxiliary group of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) of President George M. Weah during the SUP's "Fix The Country" protest in Monrovia.

An unsettling video from the scene shows Christopher Walter Sisulu Sivili, a SUP member, being beaten and abused. The student was observed being beaten up by a mob of CDC supporters who were around him, in what seemed to be a disturbing echo of the past in which President Samuel Doe was naked, beaten, and tortured by Warlord Prince Johnson, now Senator and a firm supporter of Weah during our violent civil war in Liberia. As blood dripped from his mouth and nose, they stripped him naked. Some cursed him, tortured him, and accused him and his colleagues of being unappreciative of President Weah, who has provided them with free tuition among other things. To the surprise of journalists, some witnesses, and motorcyclists who subsequently came to his rescue when he was abandoned by his tormentors, anti-riot police did nothing to save him while he was being brutalized. Paul Dolo, another SUP member, also sustained injuries. According to SUP officials, a few members are still missing. Since then, they have claimed that the violent acts committed against their members were planned and carried out by the ruling party.

There are increasing concerns amongst citizens about the fragility of the Liberian state under the CDC-led government. The 1986 Liberia constitution states that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government. The 2020 suspicious deaths of four public-sector internal auditors in Liberia sent shock waves throughout the country. Occurring over eight days, from October 3-10, the four deaths involved Emmanuel Barten Nyeswua, director general, Liberia Internal Audit Agency, Albert Peters, Gifty Lama, and George F. Fanbutu, all with the Liberia Revenue Authority. All four reportedly were conducting audits of Liberia government accounts over allegations of misappropriation of funds. Nyeswua died of an apparent fall, while the others died in apparent car accidents. In February of 2022, Melvin Earley, a presidential guard-Executive Protective Service (EPS) traveling with the president on a nationwide tour died from a gunshot. According to EPS, Melvin Earley committed suicide, however, the family of Melvin Early said under no circumstance he would have killed

himself. According to the family, Melvin was executed.

The 2022 Fragile States Index (FSI) ranked Liberia as the 33rd most fragile state in the world and 21st in Africa. According to the Index, Yemen is the "most failed" state, followed closely by Somalia, while Finland, Norway, Iceland, New Zealand, Denmark, and Switzerland are among the best and most stable states on earth. FSI, a yearly report by Washington, DC-based think tank Fund for Peace, ranks 178 countries "across" 12 indicators of the risks and vulnerabilities faced by individual nations. Some of the risk indicators include security, group grievances, economic decline, brain drain, state legitimacy/human rights and rule of law, demographic pressures, and internally displaced persons or refugees. These indicators assessed: "the vulnerability of states to collapse" by measuring "vulnerability in pre-conflict, active conflict, and post-conflict situations. The 2022 FSI report identified Liberia as one of the states the international community must keep in view, having scored a relatively high figure which places it in the "alert" category, trailed only by countries with long-standing political and security woes like the Central African Republic, Sudan, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Nigeria and the like.

On September 6-13, 2019, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) secretariat visited Liberia to observe "key impressions" to determine if the country is "Fit for Fragility Project." The group collected cutting-edge data and research to advise and direct donor policy in delicate situations. It compiles information and research on fragility, adopts a fact-based understanding of what makes certain contexts vulnerable, contributes to keeping issues related to fragility at the top of the international development agenda, and encourages more productive programming on the ground. The OECD 2020 report titled "The States of Fragility," stated Liberia is becoming a fragile state. According to the report, the lack of faith in the government continued impunity for war crimes, and corruption remains ingrained in the Liberian state. State fragility is also manifested in the failure of the state to deliver basic services to citizens. And, of course, Liberia lacks the ability to get things done, to provide basic things that are taken for granted in many other states! Liberia probably has one of the worst public sectors in West Africa, with poor quality of policy delivery and public investment management.

There is no disputing the fact that Liberia merits her position. Government legitimacy is not just about winning elections, it's also about the social contract. If a government doesn't meet the needs of the people, it would lack legitimacy in their eyes.

CONT'D ON NEXT EDITION

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## LIMPAC trains Payroll Analysts within the Department of Budget and Development Planning

The Liberia Macroeconomic Policy Analysis Center (LIMPAC) within the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning today held graduation exercise for eleven analysts within the Department of Budget and Development Planning after two weeks of intensive training on utilization of the Government of Liberia Automated Payroll System (ATAPs)

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, the Deputy Minister for Budget

analysts and encouraged them to use their knowledge wisely to support the mandate of the Ministry of Finance, recognize and uphold the confidentiality of payroll information.

According to Hon. Brunson, the certification is first major step towards adequate budget analysis including payroll, and the new automated system provide the tools to perfect their understanding and analyses.

“Analysts who are trained should implement

She ended by saying “Working as a budget analyst is key, and privacy matters”

For his part, the Executive Director of the Liberia Macroeconomic Policy Analysis Center (LIMPAC), Mr. Del Francis Wreh reminded the analysts that the Department of Budget remains the primary entry point for all the expenditure for the Government, including the payroll of spending entities which currently constitutes more than 40% of the National Budget.

According to him, Payroll is one of the key parts of the budget like other components such as goods and service, debt payments, capital investment, and as such the Budget Department through its analyst should detailed understanding and involvement with payroll process including the system and control mechanisms on the automated payroll system.

This means analysts should access to the detailed payroll of their assigned agencies to track variation in actual payroll versus personnel listing, and track and analyze trend in payrolls.

The LIMPAC Executive Director also praised senior Management for supporting the trainings and future trainings for other departments with the Ministry of Finance.

He praised Deputy Minister Brunson for her dedicated support and commitment shown during the entire training process.



and Development Planning, Hon. Tanneh G. Brunson lamented that the certification of eleven analysts within the Department of Budget and Development Planning is a milestone and great achievement for the Ministry of Finance, specifically the Department of Budget.

She congratulated the

what was taught during the training and apply it to their work ethic and professionalism” she explained.

She also encouraged the analysts to keep focus and use what was taught them to directly improve their work and be open minded on the various issues during the payroll analyses process.

## Miss Liberia joins Jeety on food distribution

Newly crowned Miss Liberia, Veralyn Vonleh, on Friday, 29 July 2022 joined renowned Indian businessman and philanthropist Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Mr. Jeety) to distribute hot - cooked meals to kids and disadvantaged youth in Vai Town, Bushrod Island.

In his regular food distribution exercises to inmates, disadvantaged youth and underprivileged kids, Mr. Jeety has urged all business people in Liberia and across the globe to do more charity work for a heavenly reward.

He distributed food in July in observance of Liberia’s 175th Independence Day celebration.

“So I urge all my business people in Liberia and across the globe to do more such work for which the reward is waiting for you in heaven,” he said on 26 July at the Monrovia Central Prison.

“Because reward for that business is on earth. But whatever charity we do, whatever God’s work we do, the reward for that work is in heaven,” said Mr. Jeety.

Following the food distribution exercise, Ms. Vonleh said she felt very excited joining Mr. Jeety in undertaking the worthy cause of touching the lives of the underprivileged.

“I feel really excited, and he said today will not be the only time ... so we look forward to seeing more of this,” said Ms. Vonleh.

She lauded Mr. Jeety for always taking up his time to give to people, and also called on others to follow his good example.



## LoneStar Cell MTN MoMo Waysay-Wasa gives out Kehkeh, other prizes

By Lincoln G. Peters

The commercial hub of Duala on Bushrod Island was a scene of attraction and happiness over the weekend as Liberia’s giant GSM company gave out several prizes to subscribers, including a tricycle or kehkeh, to a lucky winner.

Emmett Gbotto and several mobile money subscribers of LoneStar Cell MTN walked away with cash and non-cash prestigious prizes during the weekend raffle.

Gbotto is a heavy-duty operator of the Sethi Brothers Dura Plast Company between Jamaica Road and Saryon Town Community on Bushrod Island.

Over the weekend, he won a brand new Kehkeh from LoneStar Cell MTN.

The prizes won were in continuation of the GSM company’s mega promo initiative “MoMo Waysay-Wasa Version 2 week five.

Through the promo, the company gave away over US\$5,000 cash prizes and items

Sinkor.

The raffle draw put smiles on the faces of customers from Margibi, River Cess, River Gee and Sinoe Counties who won the US\$50 cash prize each.

Speaking to journalists after receiving the grand prize for the day, Emmett Gbotto expressed excitement over winning the kehkeh. He said he never even dreamt of such a moment.

“I was at work [and] they called me [to] say I won Kehkeh. I did not believe it and so I decided never to come,” Gbotto explained.

“[The] other girl took my number and told me that it’s not [a] scam, still I did not believe it,” he added.

Gbotto noted that his friend convinced him and when they went to check it out, he realized that it was true.

“I am super happy but all I want to say to my Liberian people, it’s true, but let’s keep using LoneStar Cell money for transactions,” he concluded.

Narrating how they won, Ms. Rebecca Kiadii of Sinkor, Patricia



to lucky customers and agents in several parts of Liberia.

On 24 June this year, LoneStar Cell MTN launched its second mega promo life-changing program of amazing prizes for lucky customers and agents. The company named 3 Reno jeeps, a cash prize of USD\$50 each to 1,000 customers, USD\$200 each to 150 agents, 20 bikes, and 9 kehkeh available for lucky winners.

Under the campaign named and styled MoMo Waysay- Wasa Version 2, LoneStar Cell MTN is conducting a raffle every week up to the end of September 2022 and will contact winners to pick up their prizes.

As usual, 15 customers from Montserrado County won US\$50 each, while 15 agents from Central Montserrado and its environs also won US\$200 each.

The raffle draw also gave out two Techo Spark Smartphones to a resident of the South Beach community and a lady from

M. Doe and Comfort Kpogbah said they use LoneStar Cell Mobile Money to pay their Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) bills, DSTV and do regular transactions by sending and receiving money via the platform.

They said they were excited to be lucky customers.

In an overview, Bobby S. Lekpyee, LoneStar Cell MTN Mobile Money Operations Manager, told the gathering that it was a great day for the company’s customers and agents.

“That is what LoneStar Cell MTN MoMo Waysaywasa is all about. Anything you win from LoneStar MTN MoMo Waysaywasa 2 you don’t have to pay anything for it,” he said.

He cautioned that people will take advantage of this to call and say you won a prize, but would demand money from you or you pin before receiving your prize.--

**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Angie Brooks Center dialogues on drugs, women's security

By Kruah Thompson

The Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC) for Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security in partnership with

Women Situation Room (WSR) with the project titled; Sustainable and Inclusive Peace in Liberia through Promoting Women Leadership and Participation in Civic and Political Life and their Strengthened Role in Conflict Resolution.

their irrespective communities in Montserrado and Bong counties, respectively.

On Friday, July 29th, 2022 these communities met in Gbarnga, Bong county to dialogue and strategize a way forward through substantive exchanges on sensitive issues about drug and electoral violence among women, chiefs, and youth leaders ahead of the 2023 general and presidential elections.

Observing the current growth of substance abuse and midterm electoral violence already occurring ahead of the 2023 general elections, ABIC worries that without a timely intervention, there could be more violence if issues are not treated with urgency.

The Center thinks there is a need to engage women and community leadership to dialogue and strategize a way forward in preventing the increase as the country gradually moves to elections.

Day one of the dialogue on Friday, participants discussed how drugs are coming into their communities, consumption level, and the risk it imposes on community residents.

Twenty (20) communities including PHP community, Kingray community, Todee, West Point, Gardnersville, Clara Town and Bentol, among others were represented by 200 women and youth leaderships that embody 4000 population of



ZOA-Liberia with funding from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund has held a Two-day mediation dialogue on safety and security of women before, during and after election.

The dialogue was under the flagship program of the

## Kemeyah welcomes Liberia Pilgrims Hajj 2022 representatives

Liberia's Foreign Minister Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemeyah Sr. on Friday welcome one hundred and twenty-four Liberia Pilgrims from the Holy Land of Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 2022. Representing Liberian Leader George Manneh Weah, the foreign minister expressed joy that the Weah government made it possible for the country to be represented despite the numerous challenges.

Minister Kemayah said the Muslim community that President Weah has an interest in all Liberians and those living in Liberia, including the Muslim community. Sharing with the returnees his experience, Amb. Kemeyah said he shares the same attitude as President Weah's love for the Muslim community in Liberia. He named some prominent Muslim leaders he had worked with notifying his religious tolerance. Amb. Kemeyah also expressed President Weah's goodwill and tolerance to the religious community by appointing a Muslim as his

special aid and appointing a Muslim religious advisor as part of his government officials.

Foreign Minister Kemeyah at the same time reminded the Muslim gathering that as part of President Weah's way of identifying with the Muslim community, he visited the New Georgia Mosque on Friday, July 17, 2022, as part of the 2022 July 26 National Independence Day celebration. He preached the good news of peace among all Liberians and the religious group, noting that President George Weah is a man of peace, and

always speaks of maintaining the peace of Liberia.

The Dean of the Cabinet thanked the group for representing Liberia in the Arab world and encourage them to work closely with other groups including the Weah government in promoting the good image of Liberia. He assured the Liberian Muslims that they will always be a part of national development and promised to work with the Islamic community.

Minister Kemeyah encouraged the leaders of the Muslim Council to prepare



They recommended a need for awareness that will educate non-users and users of substances on the danger it poses to their health thus, discouraging the use of illicit drugs in communities.

The women urged parents to observe the behavior of their children at home, and report dealers within their communities to relevant authority for prosecution.

They called for the establishment of rehab and TVET training centers that will enhance and give skill training and empowerment opportunity to at-risk youth to deter them from the use of illicit drugs.

On political violence in communities and the danger it places on the security of Liberia, the women also called for more stakeholders' dialogue

and training for electoral staff and how to coordinate and resolve conflict at the various polling stations where they will be assigned to avoid election violence.

Participants stressed a need to cash violence in elections, including trucking of voters, as well as violence from political candidates themselves.

Since the constitutional referendum of May 7, 1946, and its coming into force on December 10, 1946, which was preceded by a change in the Constitution of Liberia by the national legislature granting women voting rights, women have impacted the development and maintenance of Liberia's peace positively both locally and internationally, which has given the country an outstanding proud globally.

## CSOs condemn rights violations and abuses

Liberia's Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and human rights defenders within the CSOs say they are deeply concerned about the increasing wave of human rights abuses and violations occurring on a daily basis in Liberia, allegedly perpetrated by the ruling Coalition for Democratic

representatives, to petition the government or other functionaries for the redress of grievances.

CSOs said democracy emphasizes the value of every human being, noting that human rights include freedom of expression, freedom of association, freedom of assembly, right to equality and



Change/Council of Patriots.

"This action is posing a greater security threat amongst citizens, pro-democracy groups and human rights defenders", the CSOs announced.

It reminds the Government of Liberia, as a state party to regional and international human rights instruments to ensure full protection of all fundamental rights of people living in Liberia.

The group laments that attack on the personal integrity, security, and dignity of protesters on July 26, 2022, in Monrovia is worrisome and undermines security of the state.

"We remind the Government about its obligation under Chapter 3, Article 17 of the 1986 Liberian Constitution which provides that: all persons at all times, in an orderly peaceful manner, shall have the right to assemble and consult upon the common good, to instruct their

the right to education.

The CSOs and human rights community demand that urgent action should be taken to arrest, investigate and prosecute these illegal groups to avoid anything that would undermine the peace and security of the state especially going towards the 2023 general and presidential elections in Liberia.

They observe that the posture and behavior of these self-style militant groups sponsored by political parties and politicians threaten national security, undermines the rule of law and democratic gains made so far.

The CSOs and the human rights community said the attitudes of some national security officers, especially the Liberia National Police (LNP) while human rights defenders call on the Government of Liberia through President George M. Weah to protect all residents of Liberia.

# Français

## Une autre victime de la manifestation soigne ses blessures

Le manifestant Christopher Walter Sisulu, qui a été assailli et humilié par le CDC-Council of Patriots lors de la manifestation du mardi 26 juillet, le Jour de l'Indépendance devant l'ambassade des États-Unis près de Monrovia, est actuellement traité dans un hôpital local.

Une manifestation dite pacifique avait été organisée par le Parti de l'Unification des Étudiants (SUP), une organisation syndicale estudiantine basée à l'Université du Libéria, pour dénoncer la cherté de la vie et exiger une amélioration des conditions de vie des populations.

Mais la manifestation a tourné au sang lorsque le CDC-Council of Patriots s'est violemment attaquée aux étudiants protestataires. Il s'en est suivi un affrontement sanglant entre les manifestants et des partisans pro-Weah.

La violence sanglante a suscité un tollé public. D'aucuns exigent que les

auteurs présumés soient traduits en justice. C'est le cas du Congrès national alternatif (ANC), un parti de l'opposition qui, dans un communiqué rendu public mercredi 27 juillet 2022, a appelé le ministre de la Justice d'ordonner immédiatement une enquête complète sur l'incident.

L'ANC désapprouve avec véhémence ce qu'il dit sembler être un schéma persistant de préparation et d'institutionnalisation de la

terreur à l'intérieur de l'État afin de terroriser l'opposition et bâillonner les voix dissidentes.

La police nationale libérienne n'a encore procédé à aucune arrestation. Le porte-parole de la police, Moses Carter, qui avait précédemment déclaré qu'une enquête approfondie avait été ouverte sur l'incident, appelle le public à aider la police avec des informations.



## Cummings obtient plus de soutien chez les femmes

L'ambition présidentielle de l'ancien dirigeant de Coca-Cola pour l'Afrique, Alexander B. Cummings, a reçu un coup de pouce le jeudi 28 juillet, lorsque plus d'un millier de femmes de la communauté Cotton Tree du comté de Margibi ont promis de soutenir sa candidature à l'élection présidentielle de 2023.

Les femmes, toutes membres d'une organisation de commerçantes, estiment que le leader politique du

Congrès national alternatif est la bonne personne qui pourra sortir le pays de ses difficultés économiques.

Créée en 2019, l'organisation compte plusieurs centaines de membres dispersés dans plusieurs parties de la région de Firestone. Elle a également habillé le chef politique de l'ANC lors de l'événement impressionnant, qui a attiré des centaines d'autres sympathisants à la mairie de Cotton Tree.

Un groupe de jeunes, The Youth for Better Liberia, qui compte plus de 100 membres,

créé en 2019, a participé au programme et a également promis son soutien au Congrès national alternatif dans le cadre de sa quête de la présidence en 2023.

Madame Cecelia Sammey, présidente du groupe des femmes déterminées, a parlé des programmes d'assistance humanitaire et éducative inégalés de M. Cummings dont bénéficieraient les groupes de femmes et de jeunes ainsi que des écoles.

Madame Sammey a décrit le leader politique de l'ANC comme la meilleure alternative qui possède les qualifications et les compétences nécessaires, capable de sortir le Libéria du cachot de la stagnation économique pour en faire une nation prospère.

Elle a dénoncé la négligence continue des femmes par le gouvernement actuel et le besoin urgent d'autonomisation économique et de protection des femmes contre la violence sexuelle et le viol.

Dans sa déclaration, le chef politique de l'ANC, M. Cummings, a remercié les



## Éditorial

### La mort de la LACC

La dissolution de la direction actuelle de la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria par le parlement est une tentative calculée de l'administration Weah de faire de la commission un bulldog édenté.

La structure qui émergera du stratagème actuel ne sera rien d'autre qu'une agence sans aucun pouvoir pour lutter contre la corruption dans le secteur public, à en juger par la manière dont le parlement procède.

Il est tout à fait incompréhensible que l'Assemblée législative entame un processus qui vise à dissoudre la direction actuelle de la Commission alors que celle-ci déploie des efforts dans la lutte contre la corruption en publiant récemment un rapport d'audit qui inculpe des responsables de trois institutions gouvernementales.

Pendant que l'exécutif dit qu'il cherche à accorder à la LACC le pouvoir de poursuivre les fonctionnaires corrompus, il l'affaiblit. Nous pensons que le stratagème est intelligemment orchestré pour rendre cette importante institution d'intégrité impuissante afin de permettre à la corruption de prospérer en toute impunité.

Le président exécutif de LACC a dit qu'il contesterait l'amendement de l'Assemblée législative devant les tribunaux.

Si Me Edwin Klar Martin et son corps de commissaires n'avaient pas publié des rapports d'audit sur le National Road Fund, le National Census Fund et le ministère de l'Agriculture, qui inculpent les responsables de ces institutions, il ne serait jamais question d'amendement.

Il est regrettable que ce gouvernement fasse semblant de parler de lutte contre la corruption qui dévore l'existence même de ce pays sans aucune considération pour les milliers de citoyens pauvres qui se couchent chaque jour le ventre vide, alors que les écoles et les hôpitaux de tout le pays manquent de soutien essentiel.

Par leur geste singulier, les membres du parlement veulent permettre aux fonctionnaires corrompus de se remplir les poches en dépouillant les casses de l'État.

La corruption sape la gouvernance démocratique et le président George Weah devrait expliquer lors du prochain sommet du leadership africain à Washington, DC, c'est-à-dire, s'il se rend en Amérique, comment sa gouvernance du Libéria a-t-elle promu la responsabilité et la transparence dans l'utilisation des fonds publics lorsque les institutions d'intégrité sont massacrées sous sa surveillance.

Davantage de bébés, de femmes enceintes et de personnes âgées continuent de mourir dans tout le pays, tandis que les fonds publics qui devraient être affectés à l'amélioration de notre système de santé, à la formation et au paiement de meilleurs salaires aux médecins et aux enseignants sont détournés.



# Français

## Cummings obtient plus de soutien chez les femmes

femmes de l'avoir habillé, et de s'être engagées à soutenir sa candidature à la présidentielle de 2023.

M. Cummings a parlé du rôle important des femmes dans l'accélération du développement national, s'engageant à aider les femmes à atteindre l'autonomisation économique par le biais d'un programme de prêts et d'opportunités commerciales.

Il a expliqué aux femmes que si l'ANC est élu, le pays connaîtra une amélioration massive des services sociaux de base, y compris les services de soins de santé et l'éducation, ainsi qu'une amélioration du niveau de vie des Libériens.

C'est le troisième groupe de femmes ces derniers temps, qui ont promis leur soutien indéfectible à la candidature du leader politique de l'ANC.

## Une grève des professionnels de la santé se profile à l'hôpital Jackson Fiah Doe

Les professionnels de la santé de l'hôpital de Jackson Fiah Doe à Tappita, dans le comté de Lower Nimba, ont menacé de faire une grève afin d'exiger le paiement de 9 mois d'arriérés de salaires.

Le New Dawn a appris que depuis octobre 2021, les agents de santé et les médecins de l'hôpital de référence Jackson Fiah Doe ne reçoivent pas leurs salaires mensuels.

Contacté, l'administrateur de l'hôpital Ebenezer Strother, a confirmé le sort des

travailleurs et a déclaré qu'il était en route pour Monrovia pour rencontrer le ministère de la Santé.

L'hôpital Jackson Fiah Doe a été construit sous l'administration de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf pour servir de référence pour le nord-est du pays, mais l'établissement, à l'instar de tous les autres hôpitaux d'État, souffre d'un manque criard de médicaments. Les patients sont obligés d'aller acheter des médicaments en dehors de l'hôpital avant de se faire traiter.

## Législatives au Sénégal: les enjeux du scrutin de ce dimanche

Les Sénégalais votent ce dimanche pour les législatives. Les bureaux de vote ont ouvert à 8h. Cent soixante-cinq sièges de députés sont en jeu. Huit listes sont en compétition. La majorité espère conserver une majorité confortable à l'Assemblée tandis que les principales forces de l'opposition visent à imposer une cohabitation au président Macky Sall.

Un face-à-face télévisé en direct opposant deux candidats. C'était le 26 juillet dernier à Ziguinchor, en Casamance, entre Victorine Ndeye, tête de liste de la majorité Benno Bokk Yaakaar, et Guy Marius Sagna, de l'inter-coalition de l'opposition Yewwi Askan Wi / Wallu Sénégal.

L'événement a été qualifié d'« historique » par le défenseur des droits humains Alioune Tine, alors que la campagne a surtout été marquée par des caravanes sillonnant le pays, sonos au maximum.

Une campagne « terne », « sans réel débat de fond sur les programmes », regrette de son côté Mamadou Lamine Sarr, enseignant en sciences

politiques à l'Université virtuelle du Sénégal. Elle s'est déroulée sans incident majeur, après un début de processus électoral chaotique et le rejet par le Conseil Constitutionnel de la liste nationale de titulaires de Yewwi Askan Wi, la principale coalition de l'opposition menée par Ousmane Sonko.

Ousmane Sonko, pas candidat mais omniprésent

Le maire de Ziguinchor et député sortant n'est donc pas candidat : ce sont les suppléants, souvent inconnus du grand public, qui représenteront Yewwi Askan Wi au scrutin proportionnel. Des personnalités aux parcours souvent atypiques, comme Oumar Sy, cadre de l'aviation civile, tête de liste nationale des suppléants.

Pourtant, Ousmane Sonko aura été omniprésent durant la campagne, enchaînant les meetings et les visites de proximité. « Qu'on l'apprécie ou non, on ne peut pas nier sa capacité à mobiliser les foules, il y a un phénomène Sonko », estime un observateur de la vie politique.

Après sa troisième place à l'élection présidentielle de 2019, « il est devenu une locomotive auprès des jeunes ».

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Kenneth Rogoff

## Les dividendes de la paix, c'est fini ?

CAMBRIDGE - L'invasion brutale de l'Ukraine par la Russie devrait être un coup de semonce pour les responsables politiques, les dirigeants des grandes entreprises et les économistes occidentaux partisans d'un avenir vert et équitable, mais qui ne savent pas comment y parvenir. Au-delà des mesures immédiates, dans leur stratégie à long terme face à la crise actuelle, ils doivent accorder autant d'importance à la sécurité énergétique qu'à la protection de l'environnement, et au budget consacré à la dissuasion militaire qu'à celui consacré aux urgences sociales.

L'écroulement de l'Union soviétique en 1991 est dû en grande partie au fait que les dirigeants russes, avec au premier chef le président Eltsine et ses conseillers économiques, ont reconnu que le complexe militaro-industriel soviétique ne pouvait pas suivre le rythme de développement de l'Occident sur les plans économique et technologique. Aujourd'hui le PIB de la Russie représente moins de 5% de la somme du PIB de l'UE et des USA, aussi la stratégie visant à dépenser beaucoup plus que la Russie en matière de défense serait-elle beaucoup plus facile à mettre en œuvre. Malheureusement, dans nombre de pays occidentaux l'opinion publique (notamment à gauche) hésite à admettre que parfois les dépenses consacrées à la défense ne sont pas un luxe mais une nécessité.

Pendant de nombreuses décennies, le niveau de vie occidental a bénéficié massivement des "dividendes de la paix". Ainsi, rapportées au PIB les dépenses de défense des USA ont chuté de 11,1 % en 1967 pendant la guerre du Vietnam à 6,9% en 1989, année de la chute du mur de Berlin, et elles ont baissé aujourd'hui à 3,52%. Si les dépenses de défense des USA en pourcentage du PIB étaient aujourd'hui au même niveau qu'à l'époque de la guerre du Vietnam, elles auraient été supérieures de 1 500 milliards de dollars en 2021 (plus que ce que l'Etat a dépensé pour les retraites l'année dernière, et presque le triple des dépenses publiques consacrées à la consommation et aux investissements hors du secteur de la défense). Si elles étaient restées au niveau de la fin des années 1980, les dépenses de défense seraient supérieures de plus de 600 milliards de dollars à celles d'aujourd'hui. Ce coût supplémentaire devrait être financé par une augmentation des impôts, un recours accru à l'emprunt ou une réduction des dépenses publiques dans d'autres secteurs.

Depuis longtemps, les dépenses de défense de l'Europe sont très inférieures à celles des USA. Aujourd'hui, le Royaume-Uni et la France consacrent un peu plus de 2 % de leur revenu national à la défense, l'Allemagne et l'Italie seulement 1,5 %. Les intérêts nationaux et le lobbying national font que les dépenses de défense européennes sont très inefficaces, le tout étant très inférieur à la somme de ses parties. Je suis étonné de voir combien de mes amis, par ailleurs bien informés, se demandent pourquoi l'Europe n'organise pas une réponse militaire plus forte à l'attaque de la Russie contre l'Ukraine et aux menaces potentielles qui pèsent sur les pays baltes. Cela tient en partie à la dépendance de l'Europe au gaz russe, mais surtout à son manque flagrant de préparation.

Tout cela pourrait changer grâce à Poutine. La déclaration du chancelier allemand Olaf Scholz le 27 février, selon laquelle l'Allemagne va augmenter son budget militaire à un niveau supérieur à 2 % de son PIB montre que l'Europe pourrait enfin se ressaisir. Mais ce type d'engagement aura

d'énormes conséquences budgétaires. Elles pourraient être difficiles à absorber après les dépenses publiques massives destinées aux plans de secours liés à la pandémie. Alors que l'Europe réexamine ses règles budgétaires, les dirigeants politiques doivent réfléchir à la manière de dégager une marge de manœuvre pour faire face à une tension militaire inattendue et à grande échelle.

On a peut-être oublié que les pics de dépenses en temps de guerre étaient autrefois l'un des principaux facteurs de volatilité des dépenses publiques. En temps de guerre, non seulement les dépenses publiques et les déficits budgétaires augmentent fortement, mais il en est parfois de même pour les taux d'intérêt. Aujourd'hui, les responsables politiques (ainsi que de nombreux économistes bien intentionnés) sont convaincus que les grands chocs économiques mondiaux tels qu'une pandémie ou une crise financière conduisent à une baisse des taux d'intérêt et facilitent le financement des dettes importantes. Mais en temps de guerre, la nécessité d'engager des dépenses temporaires massives peut facilement faire grimper le coût des emprunts.

Dans le monde complexe d'aujourd'hui, avec les drones, les cyberattaques et les champs de bataille automatisés, la manière dont les Etats utilisent leur budget militaire est lourde de conséquences. Néanmoins, supposer que toute baisse des dépenses de défense peut être compensée par une efficacité accrue des armées relève de la pensée magique.

L'Occident ne doit plus commettre des erreurs stratégiques en matière de politique énergétique, comme celles qui nous ont conduits à la situation actuelle. Ainsi l'Allemagne, dépendante de la Russie pour plus de la moitié de ses besoins en gaz, a commis une erreur historique en mettant hors service toutes ses centrales nucléaires après la catastrophe de Fukushima en 2011. Par contre, la France qui satisfait 75% de ses besoins énergétiques grâce à l'énergie nucléaire est nettement moins vulnérable aux menaces russes.

Aux USA, l'annulation du projet d'oléoduc Keystone XL relevait peut-être d'une logique environnementale saine ; mais aujourd'hui le moment semble mal choisi. Les mesures destinées à protéger l'environnement ne servent pas à grand-chose si elles entraînent une faiblesse stratégique qui accroît le risque de guerre conventionnelle en Europe - sans parler de la pollution radioactive à grande échelle qui résulterait de l'utilisation de bombes à neutrons ou d'armes nucléaires tactiques.

Une résistance ukrainienne marquée, des sanctions économiques fortes et rapides et une opposition intérieure pourraient contraindre Poutine à reconnaître qu'il a commis une erreur spectaculaire en envahissant l'Ukraine. Même si la crise actuelle se dissipe, l'attaque cruelle contre l'Ukraine doit rappeler aux partisans les plus engagés en faveur du pacifisme que le monde peut être dur et imprévisible.

Tout le monde espère une paix durable. Mais une analyse réaliste de la manière dont on peut parvenir à une croissance durable et équitable montre qu'il y faut une marge de manœuvre budgétaire, notamment une capacité d'emprunt en cas d'urgence. C'est le prix à payer pour se protéger contre une agression extérieure.

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

Kenneth Rogoff est professeur d'économie et de sciences politiques à l'université de Harvard. Il a été économiste en chef du FMI.



## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- SOLICITATION NO: VA-669-22-000012**
- ISSUANCE DATE:** July 27, 2022
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** August 25, 2022, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
- POSITION TITLE:** PMS (HIV) Technical Specialist
- MARKET VALUE:** USD \$35,104 – \$56,160 FSN- 10  
In accordance with **AIDAR Appendix J** and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment.
- PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
- ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access

## II. STATEMENT OF DUTIES

### BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION

The US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) represents the US government response to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic and is the largest commitment by any nation to address a single disease in history. Thanks to American leadership and generosity, alongside the work of many partners, PEPFAR has saved millions of lives, averted millions of infections, and changed the course of the epidemic. As countries progress towards HIV/AIDS epidemic control, the point at which new HIV infections have decreased and fall below the total number of deaths among HIV-infected individuals, PEPFAR is now undertaking the challenge of controlling the pandemic.

The Project Management Specialist (HIV) will support planning, implementation, and monitoring of projects. S/He will provide programmatic and technical guidance and assist in the development and management of HIV-related programs. The jobholder will work collaboratively with other staff in the Health Office, other offices in the Mission, the Ministry of Health, and other development partners to support a coordinated, strategic approach to various HIV-related programming. S/he will serve as a Contract Officer's Representative/Agreement Officer's Representative (COR/AOR) or Activity Manager. The jobholder will support the implementation of the planning of new activities design; help Project Design Teams in drafting acquisition and assistance-related documents; develop project financial documents, revisions, and/or amendments; and generate reports on the status of project activities and finances including projection of expenditures, quarterly accrual of expenditures, and status reports. S/He will also Review project expense vouchers for completeness and accuracy.

The position is located in the USAID Office of Health. The jobholder reports to the HIV/AIDS Team Lead and has no supervisory responsibility.

### MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

#### PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

#### Technical Guidance and Program Planning

- Provide technical guidance on a broad range of HIV/AIDS-related interventions, including providing guidance in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluations of HIV/AIDS programs.
- Provide technical guidance in quality and performance improvement, working with key stakeholders to improve the quality of HIV/AIDS-related interventions, by applying evidence-based guidelines, approaches, and tools.
- Through literature review, research and regular communication with local and international stakeholders, stay abreast of emerging developments in the national and global HIV/AIDS landscape, and advise accordingly on how policies, strategies, and technical guidelines can most effectively be incorporated to enable the Mission to maintain fidelity and relevance in its HIV/AIDS programs.
- Provide technical guidance to other PEPFAR agencies, technical counterparts in Ministry of Health, and to other national stakeholders to advance USAID, USG and PEPFAR strategic objectives related to key HIV/AIDS interventions.
- Provide on-going technical assistance to USAID local partners to ensure that activities are evidence-based and that services are transparent, equitable, of high quality and responsive to client needs; that partners practice sound management and robust accounting; and that local partners are prepared to assume and sustain leadership. Work closely with other staff in the
- Health Office and across the Mission to optimize opportunities for cross-sectoral integration and leverage resources across the different program components.
- Effectively communicate and demonstrate technical leadership in interagency PEPFAR technical working groups to ensure USAID strategic priorities are represented, including participation in routine interagency technical discussions, presenting relevant sections of the quarterly PEPFAR country performance reviews, and annual PEPFAR COP strategic planning meetings.
- Ensure that the required audits, reports and evaluations and close-out actions are completed.
- Participate in technical evaluation committees, analyzing applications and evaluating offeror's proposals to develop recommendations on the selection of applicants or institutions based on their suitability and responsiveness of their proposed technical intervention, and their ability to successfully implement a particular project. S/he will facilitate site visits, public meetings, and discussions with officials as needed and will track overall team budget progress and funding priorities.
- Support in drafting technical documentation such as performance reports, scopes of work, briefing papers, concept papers and conduct analyses to develop strategies, monitor ongoing programs, and report on project achievements and interventions.

#### Project Management

- Serve as an AOR/COR or Activity Manager on designated HIV/AIDS programs.
- Work with IPs to develop strategic work plans with realistic and measurable targets to support effective implementation of the Mission's and PEPFAR HIV/AIDS programs.
- Review and approve annual work plans, monitoring and evaluation plans, quarterly reports and other key documents of assigned projects. Monitor program resources allocated for HIV/AIDS activities to ensure that they are being used rationally and that there are no cost overruns.
- Ensure quality of HIV/AIDS programs by monitoring compliance to national and international guidelines, approaches and tools and provision of supportive supervisions to IPs.
- Provide technical and organizational development guidance to local organizations entailing transfer of knowledge and skills in HIV/AIDS programming, implementation, monitoring and reporting, and quality improvement.
- Participate in project design for new activities, including drafting and obtaining approval for concept papers, writing scopes of work, evaluating applications/proposals, and starting up new projects.

#### Project Monitoring and Evaluation

- In collaboration with Strategic Information staff, regularly analyze and interpret HIV/AIDS data to generate key results and trends to assist the Mission maintain a highly nimble program with proven achievement across PEPFAR indicators.
- Contribute to data quality assessments to ensure the quality and reliability of program data.
- Participate in site visits to USAID supported programs to assess the quality of services, provide guidance to implementing partners on newly emerging and highly efficacious approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment interventions.

- Monitor project activities and make recommendations to resolve implementation obstacles to ensure judicious use of USG funds and effective implementation of HIV/AIDS interventions.

- Contribute to and participate in HIV/AIDS-related program evaluations to document and scale up proven best practices.

## REPRESENTATION AND REPORTING:

- Contribute to key annual and mid-term planning and reporting documents including the Country Operational Plan, Operational Plan, Congressional Budget Justifications, Technical Notifications, Quarterly, Semi-Annual and Annual Progress Reports, among others.
- Prepare reports and responses to a wide range of requirements including responding to requests for information from USAID/Washington, Congress and OGAC.
- Ensure that USAID successes, best practices and approaches are shared widely with partner country officials, private sector, civil society and other donors.
- Represent USAID and PEPFAR as needed at designated national, regional and international meetings that relate to HIV/AIDS.
- Prepare briefing papers, presentations and assist with site preparations for visits by delegations of high-level USG officials.

**Supervision controls:** This position has no supervisory responsibilities.

**Supervisory Relationship:** Works under the general supervision of the HIV/AIDS Team Lead. Assignments are made orally and in writing, with a discussion of overall objectives and expected results to be achieved. The supervisor assigns specific tasks, provides suggested approaches to consider and reviews completed reports and assignments. Achievements are regularly reviewed, and feedback provided.

## 12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

## III. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Medicine, Public Health, Health, Social Work, International Development, Social or Behavioral Sciences, Epidemiology, Biology, Infectious Disease, Organizational Development, Political Science or Business Administration.
- Prior Work Experience:** At least three (3) years of progressively responsible, professional experience in international development or global health. Of that experience, at least one (1) year with the USG, other multilateral or bi-lateral organizations, and/or NGOs is required. Increasingly responsible experience in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of health-related initiatives in developing countries. Experience in analyzing epidemiological data and translating data into practice.
- Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
- Language Proficiency:** Fluent (Level IV). Excellent English writing, editing and speaking skills, as well as an excellent ability to process information from a wide variety of sources into cohesive, polished documents are required.

## III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

The Evaluation Factor listed below will be the basis for evaluating and ranking applicants for the position. Applicants will be scored based on the documentation submitted within the application. Applicants must submit a supplemental document outlining their responses to the evaluation factor(s) in order to be considered.

### 1. Selection Process

After the closing date for receipt of applications, a committee will convene to review applications that meet the minimum requirements and evaluate them in accordance with the evaluation criteria. As part of the selection process, the most qualified candidates will be interviewed. Reference checks will be made only for applicants considered as finalists. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities.

### 2. Evaluation Factors

Those applicants who meet the minimum education and experience qualifications will be evaluated based on the content of their application as well as on the applicant's writing, presentation, and communication skills. Applicants should include their name and the announcement number at the top of each additional page. Failure to specifically address the Evaluation Factors will result in the applicant not receiving full credit for pertinent experience.

### FACTOR #1:

In 300 words or less, describe how you have demonstrated your knowledge and skills in HIV testing, care, and treatment services, as well as in efforts to reach the UNAIDS 95-95-95 global targets. Provide examples by describing your experience in providing, managing or overseeing approaches toward HIV case finding and index testing, linkage to care, treatment retention, preventing treatment interruption, and achieving virological suppression among HIV positive individuals.

### 3. Basis of Rating

Applicants determined to be competitively ranked will also be evaluated on their interview performance and satisfactory professional reference checks. The Applicant Rating System is as follows:

Evaluation Factors	20 points
Factor #1	20 points

### Timed writing sample exercise: 30 points

The writing sample will demonstrate the candidate's understanding of technical HIV-related issues, as well as ability to manage and communicate, in writing, information about HIV-related activities to the appropriate audience.

### Interview Performance 50 points

Interview questions will revolve around the candidate's ability to:

- Management abilities
- Teamwork and interpersonal skills
- Technical knowledge

Total Possible Points 100 points

## IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-22-000012**– PMS (HIV) Technical Specialist [LiberiaHR@usaid.gov](mailto:LiberiaHR@usaid.gov)

Applicants may submit an application prior to the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3 mentioned above unless revised.

Qualified applicants must submit the following documents or their applications will not be considered for this position:

- A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
- A minimum of three (3) professional references, who are not family members or relatives, with working telephone and email contacts. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities. At least one reference provided should be a current or former supervisor.
- A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factors.

Candidates who are applying for this position must fully meet the education requirement (graduated and degree and/or diploma already received) as specified. Candidates must also meet the full work experience requirement and demonstrate in their application that they are an eligible offeror as required in I.9 above. There is no exception to these requirements.

Short-listed candidates may be requested to provide educational documents such as transcripts for degrees, diplomas, certificates, and other pertinent documents as needed.

Any attachments provided via email must be compatible with Microsoft Word or PDF and not zipped. Note that attachments to email must not exceed 25 MB. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Agency retains the right to cancel or amend the solicitation and associated actions at any stage of the recruitment process.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** The U.S. Mission provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

# CDC regime responsible for students' blood

Liberian presidential hopeful and human rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe's support base says it holds the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) regime responsible for the brutality meted against students of the University of Liberia (UL).

The statement titled

July. "This said, we hold the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) regime responsible for the brutality meted against some members of the Student Unification Party (SUP) of University of Liberia," the statement said.

"We would like to add that the stains of the

right of people to assemble and express their displeasure - in the form of protest - at their government's failure to deliver.

Once they do so civilly, Cllr. Gongloe's supporters contend that any heavy hand in dealing with them is arbitrary and unlawful.

During Liberia's 175th Independence Day

public attention to the dismal performance of the government under President George Manneh Weah's watch.

But the independence celebration turned bloody when government supporters calling themselves CDC Council of Patriots (CDC-COP) attacked and wounded several students outside the Embassy.

The government is yet to make any arrest despite videos and photos of the perpetrators flooding social media, in addition to the suspects holding a press conference to justify their action.

One of the attacked students was stripped naked and his video went viral on social media.

"The Liberians For Gongloe (LIFOGO) movement categorically condemns the barbaric act in the strongest terms," the group said.

It calls on all Liberians home and abroad, regardless of their political and religious shades, to speak out against the "creeping" despotism of CDC/President Weah.

The Gongloe supporters cautioned that Liberians cannot and should not allow this beautiful country to degenerate into barbarism

again. "Because the Liberia National Police took no actions to curb the so-called CDC Council of Patriots who were attacking the student protesters, irrefutably the Weah-led Administration sanctioned the ruthlessness," the Gongloe Team claims.

It says the government must bear in mind that its ringleaders will account for this despicable act.

"For history teaches us that regardless of how long degenerate kings may stay in power, nemesis always has a way of catching up with them," the group warns.

It states that the unbridled fact is the performance of this government is nothing to write home about.

The group accuses the government of rendering Liberia uncomfortable to inhabit, adding that its citizens have become poorer than they were prior to the coming in of the CDC Government.

"Yet the regime does not care about the wellbeing of its people. What concerns its principals is corruption/daylight stealing of our taxes and other resources - fully aware that their actions impair Liberia's progress."



"STUDENTS' BLOOD STAINS ON THE HANDS OF GOVERNMENT-AIDED THUGS," was released Sunday, 31 July 2022, condemning the brutal attack against some members of the Student Unification Party (SUP) on 26

students' blood are on the hands of the thugs, ruffians or hoodlums the government aided and unleashed to harm the students," the statement added.

The group argued that part of the ingredients of democracy is the inalienable

celebration, members of the campus - based SUP party gathered outside the United States Embassy near Monrovia to protest against the CDC regime, far from where the indoor program was being held.

They had gathered to call

Starts from back page

## Government must ensure

against members of the students Unification Party particularly Christopher Walter, and calls on government to investigate and take serious actions."

According to reports, Christopher Walter was mobbed and script naked, and was paraded within the environs of the United States Embassy near Monrovia with said incident live-streamed on various social media platforms, Cllr. Brown noted.

In a related development, the President of the Liberia Council of Churches (LCC) Dr. Samuel B.

Reeves has condemned the July 26 Violence and called on the government to investigate and take concrete action against those that will be found liable.

"We all have seen the pictures and videos of those that are perpetrating the crime against their young friend, and we want to show to the world that as we gear up for elections next year, we should have a peaceful, transparent and credible election to keep our democracy steady, for it to be respected by the world", Dr. Reeves said.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Sayon spoke of the need for Liberian authorities to shift focus on tilting the soil, and expressed confidence that with a Cummings Presidency, Liberia will raise again to prosperity.

Leaders of the three Women organizations stated that their support and pledged of allegiances to Cummings Presidential bid is based on his track records and need for a competent and qualified Liberian to restore the hopes of prosperity and dignity of the country in the comity of nations.

In accepting the statements of support, Mr. Cummings expressed thanks and gratitude for the warmth welcome and reception by the three women organizations.

Mr. Cummings spoke of the enormous challenge facing the nation and the need for Liberians to soberly reflect and choose their next President who will be up to the task to lift the vast majority of Liberians

out of extreme poverty. He said by all standards of leadership, the Weah administration has miserably failed and unable to find solutions to the vexing economic challenges of Liberia.

Mr. Cummings assured the hundreds of women that as the foundation and backbone of the nation, he will remain committed to their struggle for economic empowerment and protection against gender-based violence and rape.

He urged women in Liberia to remain resolute in their strong desires for real and genuine change that will better their families and restore hope for prosperity and a better future for all Liberians.

The endorsement ceremony of the ANC Political Leader was also attended several other grassroots organizations including the Friends of Patmandela in Support of Cummings 2023 Presidency.

# Women lead Cummings 2023 bid

On Sunday three women groups with the combined total membership of over 2000 in the densely populated suburb of Logan Town on the Busrod Island joined women nationwide to endorse the Alternative National Congress (ANC) Political Leader.

Women constitutes an estimated 50 percent of Liberia's electorate, according to recent statistics by the National Elections Commission.

Last month, four women organizations including the Lofa Women United Group, the Successful Women Group, and the Successful Determined Women in Margibi County pledged their unflinching support and endorsed Mr. Cummings 2023 Presidential bid.

At a well turnout joint ceremony organized by the Women for Progress, the Nyannapo Foundation and Women of Vision, and attended by hundreds of well-wishers, the women gowned Cummings and pledged their support to his Presidential quest in the October 2023 general

elections. The women in their statements of support said after careful researched and profiling of Presidential Candidates in the 2023 race, they selected Mr. Cummings as the best alternative leader for his farsightedness, competence and accomplishment not only in Liberia but worldwide.

Madam Regina W. Gaye of the Women Together for Progress noted that the deteriorating economic conditions and the resulting effect, which has rendered

most Liberians including their husbands and children jobless, requires the leadership of someone with such wealth of experience.

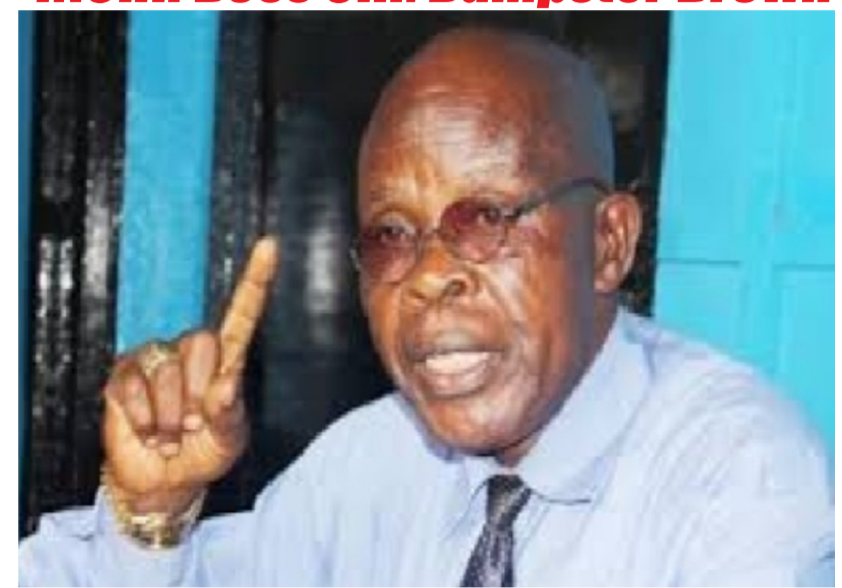
Also speaking, the spokesperson for Women of Vision, Madam Amelia Atta spoke of need for real change in Liberia that will better the lives of children and Orphans, who are badly affected by the worsening economic conditions and believed only Mr. Cummings can alleviate the extreme suffering of the Liberian people.

The Nyannapo Foundation spokesperson, Pastor Joseph



# Government must ensure safe space

**-INCHR Boss Cllr. Dampster Brown**



assembling, adding that Liberia being a signatory to the universal human rights declaration, government is obliged by Article 5, which he says, provides that no one should be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment.

Cllr. Brown continued that under Article 8, everyone has right to an effective remedy in a competent tribunal for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the Constitution or by law.

He condemned the July 26 Independence Day violence meted against some members of the campus-based Vanguard Students Unification Party (SUP) by a pro-government group, CDC-CoP.

He stressed that such attack should never be swept under the carpet, adding "The INCHR in the strongest of terms condemn the acts of violence and inhumane treatment meted

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

By Lewis S. Teh  
The Chairperson of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) Cllr. Dampster Brown has reminded government of its obligation to ensure a safe space where people can exercise their rights to free speech and expression.

(July 26, 2022) bloody violence before the United States Embassy near Monrovia that led to injuries, the INCHR Boss said, "Failure of the government to provide security to the protesters under the guise that the State was not sought is no excuse."

At a news conference held over the weekend, Cllr. Brown said, civil spaces must be free of violence, pressure and threats with freedom of expression, freedom of assembling and association.

He cited Article 17 of the Constitution of Liberia, which he says, gives every citizen the right to

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