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

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2023 CUMMINGS FOR PRESIDENT

VOL. 13 NO. 175

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023

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Gov't heightens security measures



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-Following election violence in Lofa

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Continental News

Malaria vaccine big advance against child killer

A cheap malaria vaccine that can be produced on a massive scale has been recommended for use by the complex parasite, which is spread by the bite of blood-sucking mosquitoes. It is far more sophisticated than a virus as it hides from our immune system by



World Health Organization. The vaccine has been developed by the University of Oxford and is only the second malaria vaccine to be developed. Malaria kills mostly babies and infants, and has been one of the biggest scourges on humanity. There are already agreements in place to manufacture more than 100 million doses a year. It has taken more than a century of scientific effort to develop effective vaccines against malaria. The disease is caused by a

The WHO said the effectiveness of the two vaccines was "very similar" and there was no evidence one was better than the other. However, the key difference is the ability to manufacture the University of Oxford vaccine - called R21 - at scale.

The world's largest vaccine manufacturer - the Serum Institute of India - is already lined up to make more than 100 million doses a year and plans to scale up to 200 million doses a year. So far there are only 18 million doses of RTS,S.

The World Health Organization said the new R21 vaccine would be a "vital additional tool". Each dose costs US\$2-4 and four doses is needed per person. That is about half the price of RTS,S.

The two vaccines use similar technologies and target the same stage of the malaria parasite's lifecycle. However, the newer vaccine is easier to manufacture as it requires a smaller dose and uses a simpler adjuvant (a chemical given in the vaccine that jolts the immune system into action). In 2021, there were 247 million cases of malaria and 619,000 people died, most of them children under the age of five. More than 95% of malaria is found in Africa. Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO regional director for Africa, said: BBC

constantly shape-shifting inside the human body.

That makes it hard to build up immunity naturally through catching malaria, and difficult to develop a vaccine against it.

It is almost two years to the day since the first vaccine - called RTS,S and developed by GSK - was backed by the World Health Organization. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the WHO, said today was a moment of "great pleasure".

"I used to dream of the day we would have a safe and effective vaccine against malaria, now we have two," he said.

Kenya to ban children's homes over trafficking fears

Kenya's government will abolish all privately owned orphanages and children's homes within the next eight years, a government minister has said. Minister of Social Protection Florence Bore said their closure was aimed at ending child trafficking. She said the children would be placed in family and community care, which offered a better environment for them. A 2017 UN children's agency report estimated that 40,000 children lived in 811 registered institutions in Kenya.

Data on the number of children in unregistered institutions is unavailable.

Ms Bore posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, that the government was already in the process of reforming children's homes and orphanages. "In the next eight years private homes will not exist. We need to prepare in order to absorb those children," she said on Sunday during an inspection of children's care facilities under construction by Kenya's government.

Ms Bore has said that the government will, however, continue housing children in facilities managed by the Child Welfare Society of Kenya, the government agency tasked with the care, protection, welfare and adoption of children in Kenya.

Kenya has planned to phase out private children's homes and orphanages since the 2022 Children's Act was passed.

The law recommended placing children without families in alternative care such as

guardianship, foster care placement and adoption to curb the abuse and trafficking of children.

There have been widespread concerns about the exploitation of children in Kenya's orphanages and children's homes.

In 2017, a non-governmental organisation, Stahili Foundation, said that some orphanages and children's homes in Kenya convince families to give away their children before using them to solicit donations. BBC



Minister of Social Protection Florence Bore says that only government-run children care facilities will operate

Nobel Prize winner vies for DR Congo presidency

In 2012, Nobel Prize-winner Dr Denis Mukwege was attacked by gunmen - a consequence, he believes, of criticising the Democratic Republic of Congo government's policies on gender-based violence.

A decade later, living under the protection of UN peacekeepers, Dr Mukwege has launched another challenge against the nation's leadership. He will be running for president in elections due in December, he announced on Monday.

Warning: This article contains details some readers may find upsetting

Known as "Dr Miracle", the 68-year-old rose to global fame for performing reconstructive surgery on women who had been raped in the country's war-torn east. His hospital has so far treated more than 50,000 survivors of sexual violence, while he has

groups.

In 2013, Dr Mukwege told the BBC that rape in eastern DR Congo was part of a "strategy" to force communities away from their land and resources. For three decades the region has been wracked by conflict, with numerous armed groups battling for gold and other valuable resources. Different militias have been accused of carrying out indiscriminate rape - tens of thousands of women are thought to have been attacked over the course of the conflict, Amnesty International has reported.

Mr Mukwege told the BBC about his first experience of treating a woman who had been raped and mutilated by armed men.

"After being raped, bullets had been fired into her genitals and thighs," Dr Mukwege said of the first rape survivor that came to his clinic. "The real shock came three months later. Forty-five women came to us with the same story."

Along with his colleagues, Dr



Dr Denis Mukwege has often used his position on the world stage to advocate for peace in DR Congo

cemented himself as one of the world's foremost experts in his field.

Dr Mukwege was born in 1955 in Bukavu, a city in eastern DR Congo. After numerous visits to see sick members of the community with his preacher father, he decided he wanted to become a doctor.

He began his training at a medical school across the border in Burundi, later studying gynaecology and obstetrics at the University of Angers in France.

In 1998, he set up a clinic in his home city. The doctor intended Panzi hospital to be for maternal health, with his team treating new or expecting mothers. However, when war broke out, more and more women came to the clinic with gruesome injuries from sexual violence committed by various armed

Mukwege has since treated tens of thousands of victims and become "the world's leading specialist in the treatment of wartime sexual violence", according to the Nobel Prize. Panzi hospital now cares for more than 3,500 women a year. Along with medical treatment, survivors of sexual violence can also access psychological and legal help.

In 2012, in a speech at the UN, Dr Mukwege criticised then-President Joseph Kabila's government and other countries for not doing enough to stop what he called "an unjust war that has used violence against women and rape as a strategy of war".

The following month he was targeted by gunmen who broke into his home and briefly held his daughters hostage.

According to his organisation's website, his trusted friend and security guard was killed during the attack. BBC

EDITORIAL

Sporadic violence threatens democratic elections

LAST WEEK'S (SEPTEMBER 29, 2023) violence in Lofa County that reportedly left two persons dead is not only unfortunate but poses serious threat to next Tuesday's October 10th polls.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS, violence erupted between rival supporters of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the opposition Unity Party (UP) on Friday, leaving at least two dead, and several others injured.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS INCLUDING ECOWAS and the United States are calling on the Government of Liberia to investigate the violence to bring perpetrators to book, particularly as Liberians go to elections just days away.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS failed to investigate previous political violence that left several persons wounded when rival supporters of the CDC and the UP clashed in Monrovia, and similarly in Nimba County.

IT IS IMPORTANT that the authorities exercise political will by taking immediate action in bringing to book, those who instigated the violence in Lofa that caused the death of two persons which will serve as a deterrence.

WE CALL ON leaders of both parties to demonstrate leadership by prevailing on their supporters to refrain from violence, and instead, engage in peaceful campaign for the remaining days before the elections.

VIOLENCE HAS NEVER benefited the people of Liberia in the past and will not do in these electioneering periods.

The elections will come and past, but Liberia will remain and we must do everything as citizens to keep the Motherland safe, not only for the current generation, but posterity.

THE UNITED STATES Government recently sounded a caveat that it will impose visa restrictions on those who will undermine Liberia's democracy, including their family members.

IT IS VERY important that all Liberians pay heed to statement coming from the U.S. Government, Liberia's traditional partner in keeping our dear country on the path of peace, democracy, justice and economic stability.

U.S. DEPUTY ASSISTANT Secretary of State for West Africa in the Bureau of African Affairs, Michael Heath, who visited Liberia last and sounded the caveat, lauded President George Manneh Weah for his promise before world leaders at the recent UN General Assembly that his government will ensure free, fair, transparent, peaceful, inclusive and credible elections.

CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL parties in the race, with support of our international partners should do everything to hold him to his words and avoid acts that could jeopardize the polls and revert this country to chaos that no patriotic Liberian want following 14 years of bloody civil war.

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COMMENTARY

By Mark Malloch-Brown

Africa Is the Future of Multilateralism

NEW YORK - "We do not seem to have any common values on which we can all agree, nor common goals to which we all aspire." Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo hit the nail on the head when he made this observation during his address to the United Nations General Assembly last week.

At a time when interlocking crises are escalating, the international order appears increasingly fractured, and there is profound uncertainty about the role of the UN itself. Where can we find the impetus and direction needed to restore multilateralism?

Answering that question requires a deeper understanding of the attitudes, concerns, and hopes of people around the world.

To this end, Open Society Foundations, the philanthropic organization I lead, recently ran one of the largest studies of global public opinion ever conducted.

Our Open Society Barometer surveyed more than 36,000 people from a diverse group of 30 countries that represent roughly two-thirds of the world's population.

The responses shed some light on the unifying values and goals that are conspicuously absent from today's global governance system.

They show that people around the world still have faith in democracy, but in an age of crisis and inequality, they want it to deliver tangible improvements in their own lives.

The figures from Africa were particularly striking. Eight of the 30 countries we surveyed - Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia - are on the continent.

Of course, responses varied significantly on some questions, reflecting different historical and political circumstances.

For example, 63% of Egyptians believe that military rule is a good way of running a country, compared to 40% of Ethiopians and only 20% of Senegalese.

At the same time, an even higher proportion of Egyptians yearn for democracy; evidently, they are unsure whether their brief experimentation with it could be considered a success.

Notably, while most respondents across the 30 countries we surveyed expressed feelings of insecurity and inequity, these sentiments were most pronounced in Africa.

Similarly, respondents from the continent were among the most anxious about climate change's negative impact on their lives and livelihoods. In Kenya and Ethiopia, for example, 83% of respondents voiced such concerns.

Of the five countries where our polling found the greatest fear that political unrest would lead to violence within the next year, four were in Africa: Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, and Senegal.

African respondents were also the most likely to say that inequality between countries is a bigger challenge now than it was in 2022.

This sense was strongest in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Senegal, but all eight African countries were in the top half of that chart.

Likewise, while a majority of respondents in most countries shared certain views regarding the necessity of global changes, those majorities were generally the largest in Africa.

For example, African respondents, led by those in Nigeria and Kenya, were the most inclined to say that "human rights reflect values I believe in" and among the most likely to agree that "tools such as travel bans and freezing bank accounts are useful ways to bring human rights violators to justice."

Africans, more so than respondents from other continents, agreed that countries should open more safe and legal routes for refugees.

They strongly backed the rebalancing of international institutions, with many advocating for lower-income countries to have a greater say in global decision-making.

Seven of the ten national groups most supportive of the statement "high-income countries should give more money to the World Bank" were from Africa.

Taken together, these results suggest that Africa is like the rest of the world - just more so. Given that the continent is on the front lines of the so-called "polycrisis," Africans experience its pressures more immediately than most.

But they are also most likely to embrace the necessary solutions, such as reforming global governance structures and the international financial architecture, stabilizing today's chaotic interdependence, and making massive new investments in sustainable development.

At the global level, the poll suggests that people are much more forward-leaning in their expectations of multilateralism than their political leaders.

They want effective international solutions to the pressing problems in their lives. Nowhere is this truer than in Africa.

For those of us seeking future champions and ideas for multilateral reform, it is clear that we must look beyond the usual suspects - Western governments zealously protecting their power and privilege - and instead tap into the wellspring of the Global South. This is where the future lies.

OP-ED

By Antara Haldar

Laying Chicago Economics to Rest

CAMBRIDGE - September 2023 marks two important milestones in the history of economics - the 50th anniversary of the event that led to the rise of the "Chicago School of Economics" and the 15th anniversary of the one that precipitated its fall.

Half a century ago, the "Chicago Boys" embarked on an experiment in Augusto Pinochet's post-coup Chile that would become the dominant economic-policy framework of our time, introducing a raft of radical measures inspired by the ideas of Milton Friedman and the rest of the Chicago School.

These ideas - born of an absolute faith in markets and an equally absolute suspicion of government - went on to rule the economics discipline and, more importantly, economic policymaking for the next 35 years. Not until the collapse of Lehman Brothers in September 2008, soon followed by the global financial crisis, did the Chicago School's ascendancy end.

The question now, 15 years later, is whether this longstanding economic orthodoxy is gravely injured or whether its advocates are merely licking their wounds and biding their time. The answer will depend on whether we have developed a proper understanding of the factors that led to the 2008 crisis, and of the challenges that have plagued many economies ever since.

For Friedman, no other economic pathology was of greater concern than inflation, which he viewed as a kind of macroeconomic fever. The cure, reminiscent of traditional medical wisdom, was that it needed to be starved or bled, in this case by reducing the supply of money and letting the economy sweat out the sickness. By contrast, his arch-nemesis, John Maynard Keynes, worried more about the factors that caused an economy to perform below its potential. These cases were more like the proverbial cold, where the patient needs to be fed and served ample fluids, in this case through government spending.

Following the stagflation of the 1970s, which amounted to a crisis for Keynesianism, Friedman's prescription of disciplining government spending and freeing markets through deregulation and trade liberalization was carried out widely. It was implemented not only in Chile but also in the United States under President Ronald Reagan and the United Kingdom under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s.

Moreover, the same policies were also introduced - some might say imposed - globally through the Washington Consensus: a package of free-market measures pushed on developing countries when they sought assistance from the International Monetary Fund; on post-Cold War Russia (through "shock therapy"); and on the UK and southern European countries during the post-2008 austerity years. In each case, Friedman's favored treatment - letting the economy sweat out its fever, rather than suppressing it with government assistance - was meticulously administered.

But what if many of the biggest problems confronting the global economy have been misdiagnosed? What if, as behavioral economics argues, they are more psychological than material?

While Friedman's account of self-equilibrating markets involved economic agents whose features were largely implicit, his Chicago School colleague Robert Lucas's rational-expectations model imputed concrete cognitive characteristics to those agents. And it is Lucas's approach that has dominated economic thought since the 1970s. Lucas's model makes explicit the idea that we are all constantly processing large volumes of information to maximize our own welfare for any given economic context.

Yet behavioral economics - incorporating more recent insights from psychology, particularly Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky's work on the mental shortcuts, heuristics, and biases that shape our thinking - has shown the "rational actor" to be a chimera. Similarly, Cass Sunstein and Richard Thaler's scholarship has established that people do not exhibit rationality in some abstract sense. Rather, we make decisions based on "bounded rationality" (limited information), "bounded willpower" (knowing better, but doing something anyway), and, as I have noted, bounded self-interest (showing concern for more than one's own material welfare).

Behavioral economists' more limited policy prescriptions have been grudgingly accepted in microeconomic theory, with everyone now recognizing that individuals' and firms' actions routinely deviate from economic rationality. However, as I have argued previously, macroeconomics has remained impervious to behavioral insights, dismissing the field's findings as quirky digressions from rationality that will ultimately offset each other and come out in the wash. Longstanding models that assume rational welfare-maximizing behavior thus remain fully entrenched.

Yet, with the rise of populist politics, departures from hard-nosed rationality in policymaking are becoming more frequent and more dramatic. As a result, there is increasing empirical evidence from around the world underscoring the fact that economic agents are more likely to resemble the excitable Trumpian "Joe the Plumber" than former German Chancellor Angela Merkel's proverbial "Swabian housewife," the frugal, hyper-rational poster girl for austerity.

Where does this leave the economic orthodoxy of the past 50 years? The prognosis is not good. With one foot already in the grave, the Chicago School's remaining exponents would do well to reckon with its gory Chilean origin story. If neoliberalism's core assumptions bear no resemblance to real-world outcomes, economists owe it to themselves - and above all to the public - to acknowledge its true nature.

Antara Haldar, Associate Professor of Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge, is a visiting faculty member at Harvard University and the principal investigator on a European Research Council grant on law and cognition.

OPINION

By J. Bradford DeLong

America's Broken Civic Bargain

BERKELEY - Allow me to offer high praise for *The Civic Bargain: How Democracy Survives*, the new book by the independent scholar Brook Manville and Josiah Ober of Stanford University's Hoover Institution. While the entire book is well-written and insightful, its historical overview is a veritable treasure trove for anyone who wants to understand the events leading up to our experiment in self-government, the challenges encountered along the way (human nature being what it is), and the patterns that are most likely to be repeated in the future.

But then comes the question of what we should do now. This part of the book left me depressed and empty, with nothing constructive to say, because I agree with the authors' big conclusion that democracies survive only when they are underpinned by civic friendship between their members.

Looking back to the Roman Republic before 150 BC, Plutarch observed that points of contention "though neither trifling nor raised for trifling objects, were settled by mutual concessions, the nobles yielding from fear of the multitude, and the people out of respect for the senate." If only such a description applied to the United States today. Instead, one of our two main political parties, the Republican Party, has become so constituted that acknowledging the other party as a civic friend would be tantamount to its own ideological bankruptcy. To regard Democrats as anything other than alien mortal enemies is to hand in one's GOP card - and for many party professionals, one's livelihood. It simply cannot be done.

I date the start of this democratic decline to 1993, by which point the neoliberal (market-fundamentalist) Reagan Revolution had already failed in policy terms. In the 1994 midterm election, Newt Gingrich, then the House Minority Whip, concluded that since the Republicans could not campaign on policy successes, they would instead run on scorn and fear - of black people, "feminazis," gays, Mexicans, professors and other clever types, and anyone who had gotten rich the wrong way or would never come to Jesus.

In the multiracial, multidominational, pluralistic America of the late twentieth century, it was Gingrich who broke the democratic civic bargain of treating one's political adversaries as fellow citizens in the expectation that they would do the same. In doing so, he secured an electoral victory for his party and the office of Speaker of the House for himself. Since then, whenever Republican activists, politicians, intellectuals, and donors have faced the choice of continuing down the Gingrich path or returning to the high road, an overwhelming majority has opted for the former.

As for the failure of the Reagan Revolution, it played out across four dimensions. First, tax cuts for the rich and measures designed to prevent the poor from shirking their duties as laborers had not restored private-sector growth to post-war Golden Age levels, as had been promised. Second, the austerity policies used to clean up the mess from the Reagan administration's 1981 budget blowout ultimately cut more public-sector muscle than fat, setting the stage for three decades of anemic public investments in infrastructure and research and development.

Third, the Reagan Revolution's impact on the dollar and interest rates had unleashed a market-driven dismantling of America's valuable Midwestern manufacturing, engineering, and production complex. And fourth, there had been no moral recalibration of American society. On the contrary, rising wealth inequality and the rhetoric of the time had made the super-rich even more spiteful, and everyone else even more envious and resentful of them. Meanwhile, the authors of the Reagan Revolution had been taking credit for the successful end of the Cold War, even though they had merely been supportive bystanders.

This was the context in which Bill Clinton won the 1992 presidential election. When those of us working for the new administration arrived in Washington, DC, in early 1993, we expected to meet Republicans eager and willing to undertake the kind of rethinking that the Democratic Party itself had undertaken in the 1970s after the collapse of the post-war New Deal order. When that did not happen, we placed our hopes in the idea that eight years of Clinton-Gore policies - characterized as "left neoliberalism," "New Deal wolves in neoliberal sheep's clothing," or some other blend of old and new - would be so successful as to force the matter. But that did not happen, either.

Then George W. Bush won the 2000 presidential election by a 5-4 vote at the Supreme Court, where the Republican-appointed justices in the majority showed no reservations about deciding an election in favor of the candidate who had received fewer overall votes.

In 2009, the cycle repeated itself. Democrats arriving in Washington to staff the new Obama administration expected to meet Republicans eager and willing to undertake the kind of rethinking that the Democratic Party had undertaken in the 1970s, but that did not happen. Even so, Barack Obama pursued an agenda that could be described as George H.W. Bush's foreign policy combined with John McCain's climate policy, Mitt Romney's health-care policy, modest financial reforms, and another round of austerity - including threats to veto any spending increases that congressional Democrats proposed.

And how did Republicans respond? By doubling down on rhetoric to arouse scorn and fear of black people, "feminazis," gays, Mexicans, professors and other clever types, and anyone who had gotten rich the wrong way or would never come to Jesus.

I worry that Manville and Ober are correct about what it takes for democracies to survive. You need a civic bargain, with everyone treating each other the way that most Democrats do: as civic friends. This means that even if you believe members of the other party are misguided or misinformed, you still regard them as fellow passengers on the same boat (or swimming in the same shipwreck, as the case may be).

America's problem now is that Republicans have made this impossible for themselves. To foster such a sensibility would undermine the grifter ecology that the party has been marinating in for many years. That ecology depends on people keeping their wallets open and their eyeballs glued to the screen, where they receive a steady drip of fear and loathing of their fellow citizens. From state-level races all the way up to the Supreme Court, there is simply too much money at stake to allow for points of contention to be settled through mutual concessions.

Brooke Manville and Josiah Ober, *The Civic Bargain: How Democracy Survives*, Princeton University Press, 2023.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Change Vs Continuity:

The respective campaign launching of the Liberty, All Liberian and the Unity Parties in Liberia for Election 2017

By: *Dagbayonoh Kiah Nyanfore II*

INTRODUCTION

In September 2017, I covered the launchings of the Liberty, All Liberian, and Unity parties for the October 10, 2017, presidential election in Liberia. In reflection, I am re-publishing the article in consideration of the upcoming election this October 2023.

This report continues the coverage of the Liberian presidential election, scheduled for October 10, 2017. On July 31, the Liberian National Elections Commission, NEC, announced the opening of a campaign for political parties and independent candidates certified to contest the 2017 elections. On August 19, the Coalition for Democratic Change, CDC, officially launched in Montserrado County, the nation's largest county. That rally, as reported, was an Amanda for change.

Like CDC, the respective rallies of the Liberty Party and the All Liberian Party are calling for change from the ruling Unity Party (UP), which has ruled Liberia since 2006. UP, on the other hand, vows to continue its led government.



LAUNCHING OF THE LIBERTY PARTY

I attended the official campaign launching of the Liberty Party on September 9. I rode a taxi to the party headquarters in Congo Town, Monrovia. This time, I went alone. On my way, the passengers in the back seats started discussing the rally as partisans and sympathizers of the party walked in large numbers to the headquarters, an approximately one-lot compound. One passenger said that some crowd members of the CDC party would come from the rally to CDC headquarters, a distance from the launch.

If you visit Liberia and want to hear political rundowns or low-downs, take public transportation. Most often, passengers would discuss what is and is not happening in the country. As an observer, I usually close my mouth and listen. We Liberians are generally polite, giving respect to older people, one like me.

If you are a Liberian from abroad or speak with an American accent, they call it "Seree." Our people will listen to you respectfully. Understandably, some resent Liberians from the Diasporas who are given good jobs in the government at the disadvantage of Liberians educated and trained at home. Anyway, let's go back to our subject.

The crowd at the headquarters was enormous, covering the compound and adjunct areas, including the Catholic Hospital junction, the SP gas station, and part of the street facing the headquarters. A stage was constructed in the middle of the street, blocking traffic from the ELWA Junction. The music was playing; the crowd was jumping, and some were singing the songs.

In his speech, Charles Brumskine, standard bearer of the party, said that Liberians should not reelect members of the House of Representatives who pledged support to Vice President Joseph Boakai, the UP presidential candidate. Brumskine considered that their action was not in the best interest of the Liberian people. He said that if elected, he would reduce government ministers' salaries by 30% and also reduce his and that of the vice president by 30%. He vowed to create jobs, expand private sector investments, and social-economic improvements, including infrastructure and education. He also promised to provide all Liberians equal justice and improve the judiciary system. Brumskine's speech at the rally was well received. The crowd was considered his biggest this year.

In a previous speech to marketers at the Dulai market, he promised, if elected, to empower market people selling on stalls to own their stores. He would build a daycare center where market women would have their children taken care of while the mothers sold.

After the launch, I walked to the CDC headquarters to verify what the taxi passengers said regarding crowd crossover. Many youngsters from the Liberty Party rally in the party T-shirts were at the CDC compound, where a jamboree took place. One crossover group said they came to the festival to meet friends. Another told a different story: Eric said he went to the Liberty Party rally because he was paid \$10 US, but he is a CDCian. He opened his wallet to show me the money. Also, Beyon told me that his mother, whom Beyon believed received money, gave him the liberty T-shirt to wear to the launch. He added, "But CDC is my party". He and Eric pointed to other individuals they wanted me to talk to.

"I get the picture, but thanks," I said and left.

The DJ at the CDC compound announced a special dance group. As a picture shows, the group was

"The passenger was right," I said to myself.

LAUNCHING OF THE ALL LIBERIAN PARTY

The following week, September 15, was officially launching the All Liberian Party (ALP) campaign. I went to the rally. The day was good; the weather was great, sunshine, no rain. Unlike the CDC and LP rallies, the ALP launched at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS), an estimated 15,000-capacity arena. The rally was widely publicized. Specifically, the Costa Show, which rightfully boasts of its popularity as the most listening talk show in Liberia, carried the announcement of the launch for days. Henry Costa, the show host, is a representative aspirant in this election. He is a staunch member of the party and a diehard supporter of the party standard bearer, Benoni Urey.

I arrived at the event at about 4 p.m. Urey, and his entourage had yet to come. I sat on a spectator step far from a European Union Election Observers group. A man wearing the party T-shirt saw me taking notes and pictures. He ordered me to stop, thinking I was a foreigner writing nasty things about the party. He kept harassing me, so I told him, "Look, I am a Liberian and have the right to write and take picture of a public event. I will inform the authorities if you continue to harass me". He backed off. I later saw him talking to the European Union observers. In a few minutes, they left the area to another spot.

I was surprised by the turnout. The attendants covered about 25% of the stadium space. Children used part of the empty space to play soccer. Looking at the situation, I asked a man standing near me when Urey would come and whether people had left the stadium? He told me Urey was on the way and a group outside would come in.

When he arrived about 5 p.m., Urey and his convoy arrived. The audience went wild, singing, "Papa Urey, Papa Urey; "The papa will fix it"! They shouted in unison. Although those outside came in, the arena was only partially full to 30% of its capacity. A young Liberian who has returned from studies in South Korea remarked that it would have been better had the party held the rally at the headquarters instead of at the stadium. "It just does not look good here," the man said, pointing out the empty space. But why did the ALP, a new party, decide to launch its first campaign rally at the stadium? I pondered.

In his address at the rally, Urey promised a new change, a fundamental change for the betterment of all Liberians. He called his party a movement that started a couple of years ago to make Liberia a better place for all Liberians and not for only a few. If elected, Urey will make the Liberian economy agro-based. "We will create jobs for you and put money in your pocket," he cried. He promised to reduce the price of rice, the country's stable food.

Considering that Liberian education "is a mess," the healthcare system is terrible, the economy is down, and the roads are deplorable, Urey assured that a new change is coming. He said:

"I know that our education system is a mess. I know our healthcare is also in a bad shape and I know our road network is also bad, but I can assure you my people come January 18 after the All Liberian Party has taken over the government, changes will take place in this country".

Urey took a punch at the Supreme Court, particularly at its recent ruling, which made the constitutionally mandatory Code of Conduct useless. He promised a system that would respect the law of the land. He told the crowd:

"Our constitution has continually been violated. The Supreme Court made a decision that violated the constitution, but your party, the All Liberian Party, will ensure that our laws are respected".

LAUNCHING OF THE CAMPAIGN OF THE UNITY PARTY

The next day of the ALP launch, the ruling Unity Party had its rally at the ATS. Unlike the previous day's weather, the UP launch occurred on a rainy Saturday. In the morning, many people thought the party would postpone the event to another day or change the location. However, the rally continued.

I arrived at the event about 4. Lynch Street was packed from the Anderson Funeral Home to the stadium. A crowd was standing on the street leading to the stadium. I managed to get to my yesterday's spot. At first, I stood because the concrete was wet. The field was jam-packed. The party standard bearer, Vice President Joseph Boakai, and his entourage have yet to come. The DJ entertained the crowd with music, and the audience on the ground were dancing and singing. Some young men took off



their T-shirts and danced in the rain like kids playing in the shower.

The rain was coming down strong. Two members of the crowd asked to go under my umbrella. I said OK. They were shaking their heads in response to the sounds and the beats. They were young, they were enjoying the event. I could not take any notes. I had my notepad in my bag, securing it from the rain.

Emmanuel Nuquay, UP vice standard bearer, arrived at about 6. The crowd jumped up, calling his name, "Nuquay, the man da we want." He had both hands with white handkerchiefs waving to the crowd. Within 45 minutes,

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Liberians want peace before and after October 10

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan

In eight days from now, Liberia will go to its fourth presidential and Legislative elections since the end of the last civil war in

peace everywhere," Nowai Togbah, a potato green seller at the Gbarnga central market told journalists.

Nowai said she prefers struggling to fend for her kids in

years old concluded. Our Correspondent said to further spread the message of peace and a violence free election, the Rural Women United for Community Development, a local women group in Zota recently concluded a one-day peace submit geared towards sensitizing rural women on the importance of peace.

The head of the group, Annie Nushean said they are a local farming group but decided to focus on the maintenance of the country's peace since it is going to a very crucial election. "If we don't have peace, we won't make our farms, our kids will not go to school so it is import for us to keep carrying on peace messages," she said.

At the same time, a Lecturer of the Joseph Saye Guannue Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution at Cuttington University, Sam McGill stressed the need for Liberians to reflect on the dark days of the country and also on the gains the Nation has made over the last two decades. Mr. McGill said Liberia had suffered and that the efforts of the country and its international partners in sustaining the peace should not be wasted for those he considered as mere politicians. "Without peace, it will not be possible to achieve the levels of trust, cooperation and inclusiveness needed for societies to be resilient to shocks, manage disputes and adapt to changes in their environments" McGill said. McGill said with peace, Liberians will be directed to embrace diversity and support one another to the fullest extent possible.

an even more difficult economy rather than supporting things that trigger instability. "My children need to continue going to school, I know it something becomes difficult for me to cater to their needs as a widow but I think I will enjoy in the absence of war."

"We know what the war did; we know the negative impact it has had on us. My late husband was beaten and his leg got cut due to gunshot wounds. He suffered throughout until he died two years ago and I am the only one taking care of my children. In this kind of situation, do you expect me to support someone who will want to undermine our peace? You expect me to tell people to fight on Election Day? No I can't because even though I don't have money, I am enjoying the life God wants me to live" the 56

2003. The Country has made remarkable peace gains over the last two decades having had its first post war transition in 2018. As the big day draws closer, rural Liberians are not only concerned about exercising their democratic franchise, one of the most important things people are concerned about in Bong is the maintenance of the already existing peace.

Our Correspondent in Bong County says there have been different groups that comprise market women, students and religious leaders organizing and conducting peace forums ahead of the election.

"Right now, anyone who has a future and wants to do something for himself/herself will not support violence. The person will always talk about

UP and CDC must take shared responsibility

-MRUYP-Liberia

By Lewis S. Teh

The Mano River Union Youth Parliament-Liberia Chapter has termed as anti-democratic, uncivilized and a recipe for civil crisis the recent brutal violent clash which led to the death of at least 2 citizens in Foya, Lofa County Electoral District #1.

The electoral violence, according to multiple sources, ensued between some partisans believed to be members of the opposition Unity Party and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change at the weekend.

In a press statement issued Sunday, October 1, 2023, the Speaker of the MRUYP - Liberia Chapter, Daniel Nills categorically denounced the incident and its perpetrators regardless of their political

affiliation.

Nills believes that the life of any citizen does not deserve to be taken away by another due to political, socio and ideological disagreement, especially so when the nation approaches the October 10, 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections.

"The unwarranted and unacceptable brutal action which caused panic in several peaceful people in the area by those citizens believed to be supporters and or partisans of the CDC and UP totally contravened the Farmington River

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Liberia Labor Congress inducts new leadership

By: Naneka Hoffman

The Liberia Labor Congress (LLC) has inducted new corps of officials in office, to steer the affairs of the Congress in the next four years. Those inducted include James T. Greaves, president; Winston Wreh, vice president for Administration; Marcus S. Blama, secretary general; and Obadiah D. Tarlue, deputy secretary for administration. Others are George Gibson, deputy secretary for operations; Abel Dada Darwin, treasure; Macauley Gedeo, Jr., national youth chair and Amelia Draper, chaplain, respectively.

Speaking at the induction ceremony over the weekend in Gardernsville, the newly elected President, James T. Greaves, said he and his team have come with experience and expertise to make sure that labor in Liberia is protected and given the needed courtesies due every laborer.

He said the priority of the leadership is to have equity, better representation and others spread across every working

Justice Assistant Minister for Codification, Abraham Mitchell, called on the new leadership to reunite members and reconcile every crisis that held them inactive for the parts more than five years.

Mr. Mitchell said a united labor force like the Liberia Labor Congress will improve nearly every sector of the society because labor is the beacon that sustains and moves all factors of production.

He said there will be no existence of capital and other factors of investments that are used by enterprises for profit maximization and other purposes with labor.

"Labor has to recognize its relevance and should be able with in its relevance so that it can be respected and start playing its role in the society. The history of labor in Liberia has been suppressions, marginalization and other challenges, this leadership represents the totality of all laborers in the country," Mitchell continued.

Also speaking, Labor Minister Cllr. Charles Gibson, said that the



group or institutions both former and informer.

According to him the labor congress will work with the tripartite arrangement it has within the decent work law and constitutional provisions to safeguard the congress election.

Mr. Greaves urged past and present leaders to put away their difference and come on board to work together as team, adding that reconciliation, unity are best ways to moving the Congress forward.

He called on all partners of the labor congress to work with the leadership in achieving their dreams and aspirations to give Liberia a valuable labor sector that will empower and bring economic growth. For his part, the keynote speaker, Ministry of

independent elections conducted that brought together those elected were on the basis of the rule of law taking it course.

He added that the government through the labor ministry is going to work with the new leadership of the congress as a means to ensure that the will laborers be respected. Minister Gibson said the decision of electing those in the new leadership as mandated by the Supreme Court is final and will have interference from any other force or organization. He further said that there is only one leadership now at the Liberia Labor Congress following the induction of the new officials presided over by James T. Greaves. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Gov't heightens security measures

-Following election violence in Lofa

By Kruah Thompson

Liberia's Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean has directed law enforcement agencies to heighten security

victims. Supporters of the rival parties clashed over the weekend in Foya, Lofa County, a political stronghold of UP presidential candidate Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

and order is maintained during this crucial period. The 2023 presidential and legislative election process has witnessed a series of electoral violence since the National Elections Commission (NEC) declared a



Justice Min. Musa Dean

measures to protect national peace security after fatal election violence in Foya, Lofa County. "The Joint Security shall be robust and fully equipped to take all legally permissible actions to protect the peace," Cllr. Dean told the public during a press conference on Monday, 2 October 2023. At least two persons were reported dead, 19 others wounded and several properties destroyed during the political violence on Friday, 29 September 2023. Liberia's two main rival political parties - the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the opposition Unity Party (UP) are trading accusations after clashes between their supporters reportedly resulted in the two deaths and injuries of other

Reports say the incident interrupted a buildup to receive U.S.-based Lofaians who were returning to the county to show support for Boakai, the main rival to incumbent President George Manneh Weah. The political violence is reported to have taken place at the Shiloh Junction adjacent to the compound of CDC's Montserrado County Electoral District #5 Representative Mr. Thomas P. Fallah. Fallah has left Montserrado to contest a legislative seat in Lofa. In the wake of electoral violence in Lofa County, Minister Dean has issued a stern warning against any actions that could jeopardize the peace in the lead-up to the upcoming elections. Dean emphasized the government's determination to ensure the rule of law prevails

political campaign opened in August this year. These brutal incidents have led to the loss of lives and featured threatening remarks targeting political leaders. But Minister Dean has warned the full force of the law will be applied against any attempt to disrupt the peace. "Any attempt to disrupt the peace will be met with the full force of the law," the Liberian Attorney General said. He underscored the government's commitment to preventing acts of violence, intimidation, or civil unrest that could undermine the electoral process or put citizens' safety at risk. The Minister highlighted the extensive preparations made by the Joint Security, composed of various law enforcement agencies, to safeguard the peace.

S/Court urged to protect democracy

By Lincoln G. Peters

The opposition Unity Party (UP) has warned that it is not joking with the 10 October elections, urging the Supreme Court to prove its readiness to protect Liberia's democracy.

UP Chairman Rev. Luther Tarpeh sounded the warning last week after the Supreme Court reserved ruling in an election case his party filed against the National Elections Commission (NEC).

"This election we are not joking with it. The Liberian people, the people's vote, we are not going to joke with anything. And we believe that this court (Supreme Court) must prove itself that it's ready to be on the side of democracy," said Rev. Mr. Tarpeh. The Unity Party has accused the NEC of violating the elections laws.

The election law here requires the NEC to publish the final voter registration roll (FRR) and share copies with political parties and independent candidates 30 days before election day.

peremptory writ requesting the NEC to produce, publish, and distribute or issue the FRR in keeping with the law.

Following the hearing of the case last week, Rev. Tarpeh told reporters that it was allegedly clear to the public that NEC has violated the Elections Law. Rev. Tarpeh argued that the Election Law provides that three thousand voters are to be registered and vote at a precinct. Instead, he said the NEC registered four thousand plus voters at some precincts.

He stated that if the NEC knows what is right and it fails to do it, the UP will not allow the electoral house to rest in the court of law.

Tarpeh stated that he does not have anything against the NEC, but his party just wants the commission to do the right thing.

According to Rev. Tarpeh, the Liberian people want a good country, they want their votes to count, adding that the UP will make sure that the people's votes count. "We will not allow them (NEC) to rest. Because if they know what is right and didn't do it, we will not allow them to rest," said Rev. Tarpeh. "Because this

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UP and CDC must take

Declaration signed by political actors to maintain the peace," the Parliament said in the statement.

Speaker Nills extends the body's heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the fallen Liberians.

He called on all patriotic citizens, including the Liberian government and all political parties and independent candidates to protect the peace before and after the October polls.

The Parliament has at the same time welcomed the joint statement of the ECOWAS and the United Nations, condemning the violence. He said the MRUYP - Liberia Chapter joins the two global bodies in calling on the Liberia National Police to speedily make public an impartial and investigative report on the matter. Meanwhile, the youth parliament speaker terms as troubling for the UP and the CDC, having been linked to the brutal electoral violence, to

shift blame on each other.

He urges the two major political institutions to be responsible enough to take full responsibility of the act and aid the police in the investigation process. "We caution those political institutions to warn their respective partisans to refrain from any action that undermines the peace and stability of the country," he emphasized. Editing by Jonathan Browne



The NEC has allegedly violated the legal requirement with less than 12 days before the 10 October presidential and legislative elections are conducted. UP which took the matter up to the Supreme Court, has over the past weeks been issuing threats against the government's alleged plot to rig the elections. In its petition for a writ of mandamus, the UP requested the court to issue a

country is important, and we have to protect the peace of this country. And for things to go well we must follow the law," Chairman Tarpeh explained.

He said that after listening to both sides of the argument, it's no longer a secret to everyone that NEC has violated the Election Guidelines concerning the registration of voters at a precinct.

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Français

Violences électorales : Le pouvoir et l'opposition s'accusent mutuellement

Les deux principaux partis politiques rivaux du Libéria - la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir et le Parti de l'unité (UP) - se renvoient

États-Unis et qui arrivent dans le comté pour montrer leur soutien à Boakai, le principal rival du président sortant George Manneh Weah.

Les violences ont éclaté le

campagne lorsque l'incident s'est produit.

M. Weah, s'adressant à ses partisans à Yekepa, dans le comté de Nimba, le vendredi 30 septembre, a condamné les violents affrontements, affirmant que la violence ne devrait pas avoir sa place dans notre pays.

« Aujourd'hui, chers CDCiens, Libériens, ce qui s'est passé aujourd'hui dans le comté de Lofa n'est pas bien. Je ne pense pas qu'un parti politique ou un groupe ait le droit de tuer des innocents pendant cette période de campagne », a déclaré M. Weah.

« Ce n'est pas bien, c'est triste. Nous sommes tous des Libériens, quel que soit votre parti, nous sommes tous des familles et des amis », a déclaré le président Weah, soulignant que « ce qui s'est passé à Lofa aujourd'hui est mauvais. J'ai prié pour qu'aucun autre comté ne permette qu'un tel comportement ne se reproduise. Les jours de guerre sont révolus.

La version de Fallah

Le représentant Fallah a quitté Montserrado pour briguer un siège législatif à Lofa.

Il a déclaré aux médias qu'il y avait eu deux morts, mais l'UP a

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Éditorial

Les violences sporadiques menacent les élections démocratiques

Les violences qui auraient fait deux morts la semaine dernière (29 septembre 2023) dans le comté de Lofa sont pour le moins regrettables. Elles constituent une menace sérieuse pour les élections du 10 octobre.

Selon certaines informations, des violences ont éclaté vendredi entre des partisans rivaux de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir et du Parti de l'unité (UP), un parti d'opposition, faisant au moins deux morts et plusieurs autres blessés.

Les partenaires internationaux, dont la CEDEAO et les États-Unis, appellent le gouvernement du Libéria à enquêter sur les violences afin de contraindre les auteurs à rendre des comptes, d'autant plus que les Libériens se rendront aux élections dans quelques jours.

Le gouvernement n'a pas enquêté sur les violences politiques antérieures qui ont fait plusieurs blessés lors d'affrontements entre partisans rivaux de la CDC et de l'UP à Monrovia, ainsi que dans le comté de Nimba.

Il est important que les autorités fassent preuve de volonté politique en prenant des mesures immédiates pour traduire en justice les auteurs des violences de Lofa qui ont causé la mort de deux personnes. Cela aura certainement un effet dissuasif. Nous appelons les dirigeants des deux partis à faire preuve de leadership en incitant leurs partisans à s'abstenir de toute violence et à s'engager plutôt dans une campagne pacifique pendant les jours restants avant les élections.

La violence n'a jamais profité au peuple libérien dans le passé et ne profitera pas en ces périodes de campagne électorale. Les élections viendront et auront lieu, mais le Libéria restera et nous devons tout faire en tant que citoyens pour assurer la sécurité de la patrie, non seulement pour la génération actuelle, mais aussi pour la postérité.

Le gouvernement américain a récemment menacé d'imposer des restrictions de visa à ceux qui porteraient atteinte à la démocratie au Libéria. Il est très important que tous les Libériens prêtent attention à la déclaration du gouvernement américain, le partenaire traditionnel du Libéria pour maintenir notre cher pays sur la voie de la paix, de la démocratie, de la justice et de la stabilité économique.

Le sous-secrétaire d'État américain pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest au Bureau des affaires africaines, Michael Heath, qui s'est rendu au Libéria pour la dernière fois et a lancé un avertissement, a félicité le président George Manneh Weah pour sa promesse devant les dirigeants du monde lors de la récente Assemblée générale des Nations Unies que son gouvernement veillerait à ce que des élections libres, équitables, transparentes, pacifiques, inclusives et crédibles.

Les candidats et les partis politiques en lice, avec le soutien de nos partenaires internationaux, devraient tout faire pour faire respecter ses paroles et éviter des actes qui pourraient compromettre les élections et plonger ce pays dans un chaos dont aucun Libérien patriote ne veut après 14 années de guerre civile sanglante.



la faute après que des affrontements ont éclaté entre leurs partisans et ont fait au moins deux morts.

Les partisans des partis rivaux se sont affrontés ce week-end à Foya, dans le comté de Lofa, fief de l'opposant Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

Selon certaines informations, l'incident a interrompu une réunion visant à recevoir des fils de Lofa qui sont basés aux

vendredi 29 septembre 2023 à Shiloh Junction, à côté de la résidence du représentant de la circonscription électorale n°5 du comté de Montserrado, M. Thomas P. Fallah. Elles auraient fait au moins 19 autres blessés et plusieurs propriétés détruites.

Le président sortant George Weah et son équipe de campagne avaient quitté Lofa après y avoir fait campagne pour sa réélection, et son rival Boakai et son équipe de campagne UP se dirigeaient vers Lofa pour leur

Mali : l'armée malienne sur la route de Kidal

À Mali, une imposante colonne de l'armée malienne a pris ce lundi matin 2 octobre la direction de Kidal. Un mouvement de troupes qui ne passe pas inaperçu et qui survient au lendemain d'un week-end au cours duquel l'armée malienne a subi deux violentes attaques du CSP, le Cadre stratégique permanent, qui rassemble la plupart des groupes armés signataires de l'accord de paix de 2015. Ces groupes ont repris les armes contre les autorités maliennes de transition depuis le 12 septembre dernier, accusant Bamako d'avoir violé l'accord de paix.

La colonne de l'armée malienne est partie de Gao dans la direction d'Anéfis, qui est aussi celle de Kidal.

De source sécuritaire et civile malienne, cette colonne est composée de plus d'une centaine de véhicules. L'imposant convoi a marqué un arrêt au niveau de Tin Aouker, à quelques dizaines de kilomètres au nord de Gao. Une localité dans laquelle les groupes armés du CSP avaient accusé l'armée malienne et ses

supplétifs russes du groupe Wagner d'avoir « terrorisé » les populations civiles, mardi dernier.

Colonne des Fama vers Kidal: « On suit », commente le CSP

L'état-major des armées du Mali n'avait pas réagi à ces accusations, pas plus qu'elle n'a donné de précisions sur ce mouvement de troupes qui ne passe pas inaperçu et qui suscite déjà de nombreux commentaires, y compris sur les réseaux sociaux. Beaucoup y voient l'annonce de « la » ou « des » batailles à venir autour du fief des groupes rebelles : Kidal. Que les colonels qui ont pris le pouvoir à Bamako il y a un peu plus de trois ans apparaissent désormais déterminés à reconquérir par les

armes.

« On suit », commente de façon laconique un cadre du CSP.

Le CSP, qui n'a toujours communiqué aucun bilan de l'attaque, hier matin, du camp militaire de Bamba, dans la région de Gao. Aucun bilan non plus côté Fama.

Vendredi soir, c'était le camp de Dioura, région de Mopti, qui avait été la cible du CSP. Là encore, aucun bilan côté armée malienne. Le CSP affirme en revanche y avoir fait 81 morts, 5 prisonniers, et récupéré une importante

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Français

Sénégal : les collaborateurs d'Ousmane Sonko obtiennent des fiches de parrainage en leur nom



Ndiaye, Birame Souley Diop et Abass Fall. « Nous devons rester dans le jeu politique », explique Ousseynou Ly, de la cellule communication du parti.

Ousmane Sonko, en prison notamment pour appel à l'insurrection, voit ses chances de pouvoir participer au scrutin de février 2024 s'amincir : il n'a pas pu récupérer ses fiches de parrainage, faute d'être inscrit sur les listes électorales selon les autorités. Il serait donc inéligible.

Sa défense conteste, argumentant qu'il n'a jamais reçu la notification de sa radiation liée à ces deux ans de prison ferme pour corruption de la jeunesse dans le cadre du procès où il était accusé de viols. Selon Ousseynou Ly, un recours sera déposé lundi 2 octobre devant le tribunal de première instance de Ziguinchor, ville au sud du pays dirigée par le leader politique.

Garantir un filet de sécurité face au parti de Macky Sall

« Tant que toutes les voies de recours ne sont pas épuisées, nous n'avons pas d'autres candidats qu'Ousmane Sonko », explique Birame Souley Diop, président du groupe parlementaire de l'opposition Yewwi Askan Wi, qui a pourtant récupéré une fiche de parrainage.

Les cinq candidats à la candidature sont donc une sorte de filet de sécurité, même si la stratégie de récolte des parrainages n'a pas encore été dévoilée. « Nous ne ferons pas la même erreur que Khalifa Sall et Karim Wade en 2019 de ne pas présenter de candidat, car ce serait ouvrir un boulevard pour le parti du président Macky Sall », assure Amadou Ba, membre du cabinet d'Ousmane Sonko.

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Violences électorales :

affirmé que, d'après les informations qu'elle recevait du comté, quatre personnes seraient mortes et des dizaines d'autres blessées.

Pendant ce temps, la CDC et l'UP ont continué à échanger des accusations quant à l'origine des violences dans le comté.

Les violences auraient commencé lorsque des partisans du parti au pouvoir seraient venus et auraient commencé à insulter des militants de l'UP. Lors d'une conférence de presse après l'incident, M. Fallah a accusé le Parti de l'unité d'avoir prétendument brutalisé et assassiné des membres pacifiques de la CDC qui étaient venus manifester leur amour pour lui et pour la coalition.

« Je suis profondément attristé par les événements regrettables qui se sont produits aujourd'hui, vendredi 29 septembre, dans le district de Foya, comté de Lofa », a déclaré M. Fallah.

« Aujourd'hui, des membres du Parti de l'unité ont mené une attaque non provoquée, entraînant la mort de deux partisans de la CDC et la blessure de dix-neuf autres », a affirmé M. Fallah.

En réaction aux violences de Lofa, le candidat présidentiel de l'UP, Joseph Nyumah Boakai a exprimé ses regrets et sa tristesse face à ce malheureux incident.

M. Boakai a accusé la coalition au pouvoir d'avoir attaqué, provoqué, assassiné et blessé des partisans de l'UP qui préparaient sa visite dans le comté dimanche.

"Nous ne disposons pas de tous les détails pour le moment, mais ce que nous entendons, c'est que quatre personnes ont été tuées par des militants de la coalition au pouvoir devant la résidence du représentant Fallah", a affirmé Boakai.

"Nous avons également été informés que le commandant de la police de Foya a tiré à balle réelle, ce

qui a entraîné la mort d'un de nos partisans, une situation qui a aggravé la situation", a ajouté l'Ambassadeur.

Cependant, le chef de l'opposition a défié le pouvoir, affirmant qu'aucune de ses menaces ne peut empêcher sa visite à Lofa et qu'ils ont l'obligation, en tant que gouvernement, d'assurer sa protection et sa sécurité.

Les violences électorales de Lofa ont suscité un afflux de condamnations de la part des partenaires du Libéria, des missions étrangères, des citoyens et des institutions.

Le gouvernement des États-Unis, par l'intermédiaire de son ambassade près de Monrovia, a condamné les violences et les pertes en vies humaines. Dans une déclaration, le gouvernement américain a exprimé ses sincères condoléances aux familles des victimes et ont exhorté tout le monde à maintenir la paix.

« L'ambassade américaine appelle les autorités à traduire rapidement les auteurs en justice. Les différends politiques doivent être résolus par les urnes, de manière pacifique, et jamais par la violence. La violence n'est jamais la réponse », a déclaré l'ambassade.

Des dizaines de citoyens et d'habitants qui ont parlé à notre journaliste ont appelé la communauté internationale et la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) à contribuer rapidement au processus électoral du Libéria.

Mary Massaquoi, une habitante de Logan Town sur l'île de Bushrod, a déclaré qu'elle ne se sentait plus en sécurité en raison de l'énorme tension politique entre la CDC et l'UP.

"Ce n'est pas la première violence depuis le lancement de la campagne. Nous vivons dans une peur grave. Prendre la vie d'autrui que vous ne pouvez pas remplacer est une mauvaise chose. Nous voulons que la communauté internationale intervienne et veille à ce que nos vies soient sauvées", a déclaré Madame Massaquoi.

Le parti d'opposition sénégalais Pastef - officiellement dissous fin juillet - ne baisse pas les bras, alors que son leader Ousmane Sonko n'a pas pu retirer les fiches de parrainage pour commencer à récolter les signatures nécessaires pour valider sa candidature au scrutin présidentiel de février 2024. Si, officiellement, il n'existe pas de « plan B », cinq de ses proches collaborateurs ont réussi à récupérer des fiches de parrainage en leur nom.

Officiellement, Ousmane Sonko est l'unique candidat du parti Patriotes africains du Sénégal pour le travail, l'éthique et la fraternité (Pastef). Mais vendredi 29 septembre, des mandataires ont récupéré les fiches de parrainage pour cinq autres responsables du parti : Guy Marius Sagna, Bassirou Diomaye Faye, El Malick

Mali : l'armée effectue des frappes aériennes dans la région de Kidal

Dans le nord du Mali, les armes ont encore parlé ce samedi. Les Forces armées maliennes ont mené des opérations dans le Nord-Est en partie sous contrôle de l'ex-rébellion. Au même moment, les ex-rebelles qui évoluent désormais au sein du Cadre Stratégique Permanent (CSP) ont revu à la hausse le bilan d'une attaque qu'ils ont récemment revendiqué au centre du pays.

L'armée malienne a effectué ce samedi des frappes aériennes dans la région de Kidal en grande partie contrôlée par les ex-rebelles qui ont repris depuis quelques semaines les armes. Au moins deux personnes ont été tuées.

Une source militaire malienne affirme que l'objectif de cette intervention était de « neutraliser » des groupes terroristes voulant mener des actions contre une position de l'armée nationale. Sur le terrain, les affrontements et les attaques se multiplient, rendant le conflit désormais de plus en plus ouvert au Nord, à l'Ouest et au centre du pays.

Dans un communiqué rendu public ce samedi, les ex-rebelles désormais réunis au sein du Cadre Stratégique Permanent (CSP) ont affirmé dans un bilan réactualisé avoir fait des dizaines de morts dans les rangs de la coalition armée malienne et mercenaires du groupe Wagner lors de la dernière attaque du camp de

l'armée dans la localité de Dioura au centre. Les troupes venues du nord dans leur bilan parlent également de véhicules et d'armements saisis. Côté ministère malien de la Défense, le bilan est tout autre. Sans donner de chiffres précis, un communiqué indique que l'ennemi a été mis hors d'état de nuire.



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quantité de matériel. Le CSP reconnaît seulement 5 combattants tués. Un bilan invérifiable de source indépendante. Les photos et vidéos transmises par le CSP des attaques de Bamba et de Dioura montrent en tout cas que les combattants du CSP se sont à chaque fois et sans équivoque rendu maîtres des lieux. Spirale En dépit des appels à faire taire les armes, lancés par la quasi-totalité des partis politiques maliens ces derniers jours, en dépit des risques pour les

populations civiles du Nord, et en dépit des déclarations des deux camps pour la sauvegarde de l'accord de paix de 2015, les autorités de transition et les groupes armés signataires du Nord sont engagés dans une spirale de violence qui ne semble pas près de s'arrêter. Une situation dont ne peuvent par ailleurs que profiter les groupes jihadistes du Jnim, lié à al-Qaïda, et de l'État islamique, qui ont eux-mêmes revendiqué récemment des attaques particulièrement sanglantes et annoncé une série de blocus sur des axes routiers du nord du Mali.

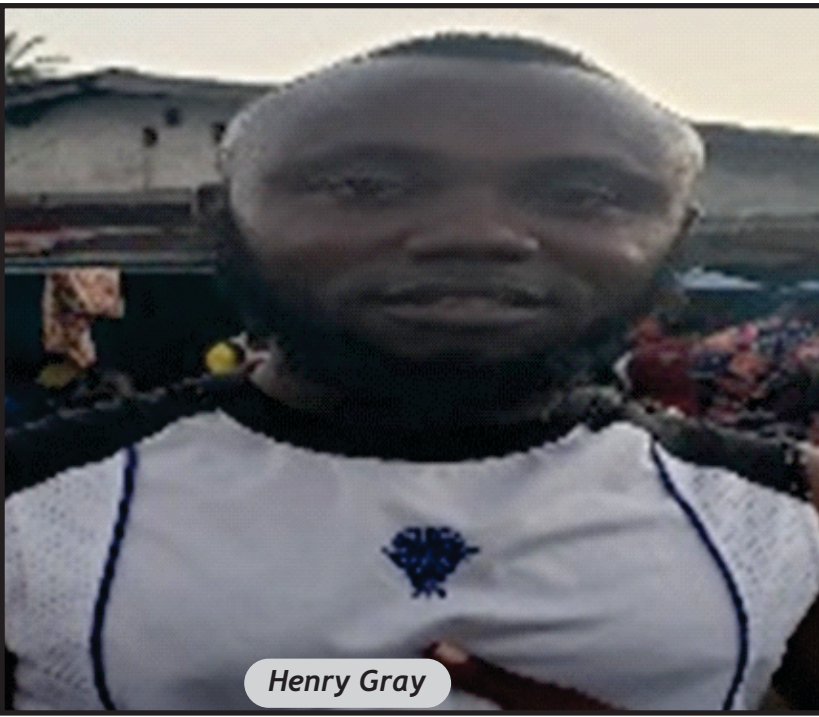
LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Voter's Roll Delay

By Naneka Hoffman

Ordinary Liberians, candidates and political parties are restless over delay by the National Elections Commission to publish the final voter's roll for the Presidential and Legislative Elections before Election Day next Tuesday, October 10th.

The law requires that the final roll must be published 30 days before elections, which has not happened. Read below comments of some ordinary Liberians on this matter that has been taken before the Supreme Court by the opposition Unity Party. The High Court has heard both sides and reserved ruling amid countdown to October 10th.

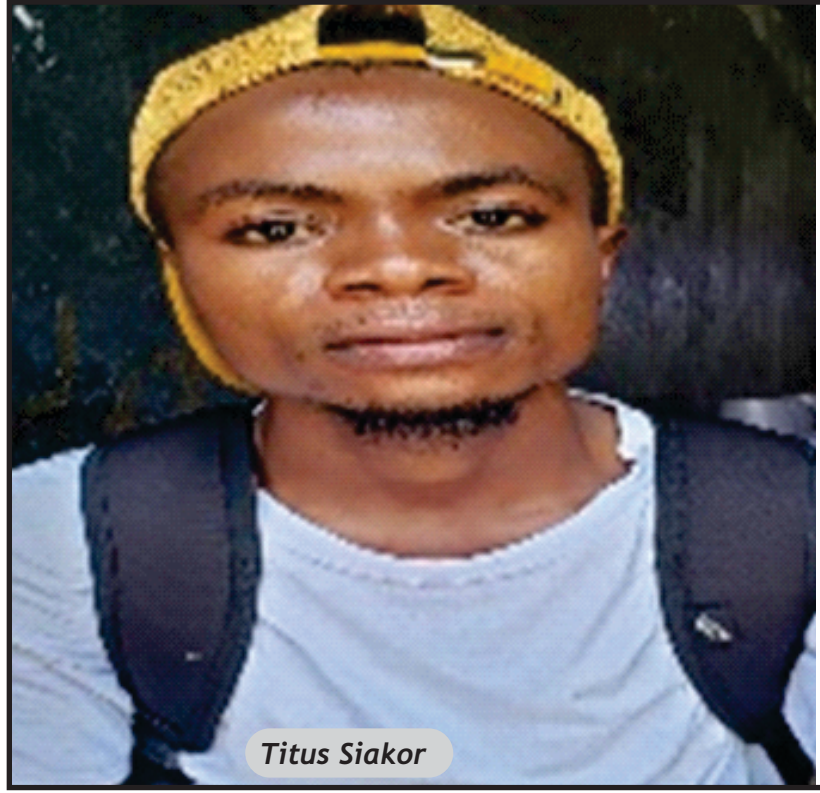


Henry Gray

Browne Lansanah and her colleagues, I think in my mind, it is just to bring fear and chaos to these elections to be credible, because you can't do anything without the publication of the voters roll. The roll should be published 30 days prior to elections. They should publish the voters roll and every candidate should have copy. She said she will send it through email, Madam Lansanah, are you killing me? The law says it should be printed out and shared among the candidates."

"The first thing is cleaning up and in that the voters roll is that particular very much important cleaning up, we don't because the voters want anything to be roll tells us the total added; we only want amount of voters subtraction or it qualified to vote. should be stable so, National Elections Commission should for the publication of the voters roll to be make us to delayed by NEC understand after the Chairman Davidetta

The delay of the voter roll has a very negative impact and it is very surprising, because according to the law, it supposed to be printed in 30 days before elections. And should have sufficient time to be verified through validation. And all the political parties should be satisfied with it before the elections are conducted. But



Titus Siakor

looking at the short period of time and up to now, voters roll has not yet been printed, it raises a lot of eyebrows for the credibility of these elections. It could

also mean that makeup numbers or bought voting cards will be entering the system because there is a possibility as long there is not a specific number the National Elections

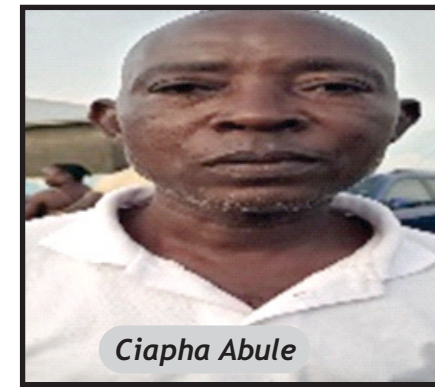
Commission will bring out. It will cause serious problem. It is the National Elections Commission's responsibility to conduct credible and peaceful elections."

"The delay of the voters roll from National Elections Commission is a problem because last elections, we all recalled in this country, the voters roll was published long before political parties and leaders started requesting for it. Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah, who is pretty seated to conduct these elections and political parties and leaders begin to make request that they even visited NEC office on 9th Street, that is bad for the upcoming October 10th presidential and general elections. So I want for this NEC Boss, and the entire team at the Commission to be



Laha D. Sonii

proactive, in that they will print out voter registration roll and distribute copies to political parties and their leaders, because if this is not done, the signal are we getting is that people will start going on the rampage. This is what we're trying to avoid. We want peaceful, free and fair elections."



Ciapha Abule

"The delay of the voter's roll in these

elections, as for me, I see it as a dangerous for the elections because all political parties will want to know the total number of voters, so the final voters roll has an important part to play in the elections."

"The delay of the voters roll has a major impact on these elections because people will have to verify if their names are on the roll at the various polling centers so political parties will know definitely how many persons supposed to be at the center. So if the voters roll is delaying definitely, it is sometime that can cause problem. Let us observe that few days ago, Senator Darius Dillon and the rest of the other senators were making claims that the voters roll should be published. If it is not publishing,



Isaiah J. Gbainhea

they will sue them to the Supreme Court. I can tell you that if the NEC Boss can't come out to say anything concerning that then they are looking for violence from political parties because it is must that the voters roll be published and people should be able to have access to it so that we can have free, fair and transparent elections."

7 died in collapsed building

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

At least seven persons are confirmed dead and several others are

rest are admitted at the Pleebo Health Center, receiving medication. Speaking to reporters on the scene, Pleebo Police

responding to medical treatments at the Pleebo Health Center in Pleebo Sodoken district. He expresses regret



Dead bodies ready for burial

said to be critical condition from the collapse of a two-storey residential building in Pleebo, Maryland County Electoral district#2 on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

The incident occurred during evening hours while a group of Muslim women, predominantly Fulani, had gathered in the building for a reception to welcome a fellow Muslim, who returned from performing the annual hajj in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The building was constructed in the 60s with cement bricks, but contains wooded floors that have depreciated, according to sources. According to reports, the gathering brought together 31 persons out of which seven (7) were pronounced dead, including six females and a minor. Three other persons are in critical condition and have been transferred to the J. J. Dossen Referral Hospital in Harper City, Maryland while the

Commander J. Max Roberts, described the situation as 'quite unfortunate,' expressing sadness over the matter.

Commander Roberts cautioned residents, who had gone to witness the situation to leave the scene, noting that the entire building is no longer safe for citizens.

"It's just unfortunate and worrisome to see these things happening now though we have urged all of our citizens to be patient as we launch investigation into the matter because it's totally embarrassing", the Pleebo police commander said.

For his part, Dr. Shadrach Gono of the Pleebo Health Center said, the center admitted a total of 31 persons following the incident but seven persons died upon arrival, while 21 others are currently

over the situation, pointing out that this is his first time to have experienced such situation since he was assigned at the facility in January 2023.

Doctor Gono assured that the center will do everything possible to treat those taken there.

However, Pleebo District#2 Representative and Speaker of the House, Bhofal Chambers, including citizens regretted the incident and called on fellow Liberians to keep the bereaved families in their daily prayers.

Meanwhile, the NEW DAWN tried contacting the head of the Muslim community in the district, who has promised to speak to the press today, Tuesday, October 3, following burial ceremonies on Monday.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

CDC, UP trade accusations

-amidst the influx of condemnations over electoral violence in Lofa

Liberia's two main rival political parties - the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the opposition Unity Party (UP) are trading accusations after clashes between their supporters reportedly resulted in at least two deaths.

Supporters of the rival parties clashed over the weekend in Foya, Lofa County, a political stronghold of UP presidential candidate Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai. Reports say the incident interrupted a buildup to receive U.S.-based Lofaians who were returning to the county to show support for Boakai, the main rival to incumbent President George Manneh Weah.

The political violence is reported to have taken place Friday, 29 September 2023 at the Shiloh Junction adjacent to the compound of CDC's Montserrado County Electoral District #5 Representative Mr. Thomas P. Fallah.

At least 19 other victims were reported to have sustained wounds and several properties were destroyed during the political

The violence is reported to have started when CDC supporters allegedly came and began engaging UP supporters.

During a press conference after the incident, Mr. Fallah accused the Unity Party of allegedly brutalizing and murdering peaceful CDCians who came out to demonstrate their love for him and the party.

"I am deeply saddened by the regrettable events that transpired today, Friday, September 29 in Foya District, Lofa County," said Mr. Fallah. "Today, members of the Unity Party led an unprovoked attack, resulting in the death of two supporters of the CDC and the injury of nineteen others," Mr. Fallah alleged.

Reacting to the Lofa violence, UP presidential candidate Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai expressed regret and sadness over the unfortunate incident. Mr. Boakai accused the CDC of allegedly attacking, provoking, murdering, and injuring UP partisans who were preparing for his visit to the county on Sunday. "We don't have the full details now but what we are hearing is that four persons have been killed by CDC before



violence. Fallah has left Montserrado to contest a legislative seat in Lofa.

Mr. Fallah told the media that there were two deaths, but the UP claimed that from the information it was receiving from the county, four persons were feared dead and dozens more were injured.

Meanwhile, both the CDC and UP continued to trade accusations regarding who engineered the violence in the county.

Incumbent President Weah and his CDC campaign team had departed Lofa after campaigning there for re-election, and his rival Amb. Boakai and his UP campaign team were heading to Lofa for their campaign when the incident occurred.

Supporters of the UP and CDC were said to have met at the Shiloh Junction in Foya around Mr. Fallah's compound after a motorbike belonging to UP supporters broke down.

Representative Fallah's compound," Boakai alleged.

"We have also been informed that the police commander of Foya shot a live bullet which resulted in the death of one of our partisans, a situation that escalated the situation," Amb. Alleged further. However, the opposition leader has challenged the ruling CDC, saying no threat from the ruling party can stop his visit to Lofa they are under obligation as a government to provide protection and security. The Lofa election violence has prompted an influx of condemnation from Liberia's partners, foreign missions, citizens, and institutions. The United States government through its Embassy near Monrovia has condemned the violence and loss of life that reportedly occurred in Foya, Lofa County on 29 September. Through a statement issued here, the U.S. expressed sincere condolences to the families of the victims and urged everyone to maintain the peace.

Starts from back page Uphold the sanctity of Liberia's democracy

with international partners and made it clear that considering that they don't have the proper logistics in place, the Commission will revert to manual voting process. But Gonquoi describes such decision as a recipe for chaos. The NEC conducted

electronic biometric voter registration for the October elections aimed at curtailing fraudulent or double registrations.

Prior to the official launch of campaign, the EFFL pledged support for Unity Party standard bearer,

former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai and his Rescue Ticket describing Ambassador Boakai as the best candidate in the race. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Uphold the sanctity of Liberia's democracy

-EFFL urges NEC

By Lewis S Teh

Exactly a week to the conduct of the October 10th Presidential and Legislative Elections, the opposition Economic Freedom

sanity of Liberia by conducting free, fair, transparent and credible elections", says EFFL Commander Emmanuel Gonquoi. Commander Gonquoi made the call on Monday, October 2, in a news conference held at the party's

electoral dispute constitutes about 90% of conflicts globally. "We do not want to see a repeat of the 1985 situation and that's exactly why the EFFL is very consistent about flagging issues that borders around integrity of the election", he added.

The EFFL leader vows to hold all stakeholders, including the NEC's feet to the fire to ensure the upcoming elections are free, void of influence and to ensure that the rights of the people are protected.

He reveals that the EFFL has observed for the past weeks and months that there are alleged plot and conspiracy by the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC and the NEC to deny the will of the Liberian people at the ballot box without providing evidence. He warns that the party will take no solace in any groups or institutions that will work against the interest of the people.

He claims that over the past week, the NEC met



EFFL Commander Emmanuel Gonquoi

Fighters of Liberia (EFFL) is urging the National Elections Commission (NEC) to refrain from acts that will hinder peace and tranquility in Liberia. "Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, our country is at the crossroads; we want to urge the national elections commission to uphold the

headquarters in Congo town. He says the institution responsible to conduct free, fair and transparent election is the NEC, so it must do all it can to uphold the sanity of Liberia's democracy. Gonquoi underscores that the NEC must prevent chaos in the country, noting that in every country

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